



Superior Court of California County of Plumas BUDGET SNAPSHOT



JUDICIAL COUNCIL
OF CALIFORNIA
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

February 2015

Budget and Program Priorities for FY 2015-16

- All case processing and traffic collection efforts remain backlogged
- Turnaround time has increased for document processing, and file retrieval; there are long lines at public counters, with a marked increase in "last minute" filings by litigants and agencies
- Records search requests previously done same day now take 5-7 days

Counters / Clerks / Telephones

- Counter hours reduced by 10 hours per week and telephone hours by 8 hours per week as fewer staff are available to provide service
- A single clerk now serves the public counter and telephones for some part of each day

Courtrooms and Court Houses

- Closed Greenville court location in October 2012
- Quincy Courthouse replacement project was cancelled in October 2012
- Closed Chester court location in July 2014
- Closed Plumas/Sierra Regional courthouse in November 2014

Staff Impacts / Furloughs / Layoffs / Unfilled Vacancies

Vacancy rate for clerical positions is currently 45%

Court Security / Safety / Facilities

Due to the closure of court locations storage of files and equipment has become an issue; cost of off-site storage is increasing

Availability of Judicial Officers

Plumas is a 2-judge, small court. If one judge is ill or takes time off, ours is a single judge court.

Self-Help / Mediation / Facilitator Services

- Reduced hours from 28 to 16 hours per week for self-help contract providers for family law and guardianship clients
- The Court financially supports the only self-help services in the County
- Litigants are ill-prepared due to reductions in self-help services; court staff are returning documents multiple times due to errors and omissions

Court Reporters / Interpreter Services

Court Reporter services by court employees are no longer offered in any civil or family law matters.

Court Demographics

Population Served	19,140
Square Miles Covered	2,613
Total Number of Court Facilities	1

Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. Ira R. Kaufman
Court Executive Officer	Deborah Norrie
Executive Office Contact	(530) 283-6016

Budget Challenges for FY 2015-16

Plumas County's large geographic area requires litigants, jurors and others with court business to travel long distances to get to the main courthouse; transportation options are limited in most areas and winter weather affects access by litigants in areas previously served by the now closed branch location. The reduction in court-supported self-help services and the lack of other self-help services in the County of Plumas are affecting the ability of the Court to provide timely access to justice for self-represented litigants