



# Superior Court of California County of San Benito BUDGET SNAPSHOT



February 2015

## Budget and Program Priorities for FY 2015-16

- *Allocate reduced revenue with the priority of maintaining current hours open/available to the public.*
- *Manage reduced budget so that existing programs can continue at the same level of service throughout the fiscal year.*

### Staff Impacts / Furloughs / Layoffs / Unfilled Vacancies

- 1.0 layoff for FY 2014-15
- 3.0 voluntary separations for FY 2014-15
- 1.0 resignation for FY 2014-15
- 5.0 reduction in staff is budgeted for entire FY 2014-15.
- Anticipated reduction in FY 2015-16 budget prevents filling any of the vacant positions
- Entire staff is on furlough one day per month: 12 days for FY 2014-15 and 12 days for FY 2015-16

### Self-Help / Mediation / Family Law Facilitator Services

- Despite reduction in staff and budget, we did not reduce self-help/mediator/FLF services in FY 2014-15
- Owing, however, to anticipated reductions in FY 2015-16, we may reduce self-help/mediator/FLF services in order to maintain balanced budget

### Counters / Clerks / Telephones

- Despite reduction in staff and budget, we did not reduce hours we are open/available to the public in FY 2014-15
- Owing, however, to anticipated reductions in FY 2015-16, we may be forced to reduce the hours we are open/available to the public to maintain balanced budget

### Court Reporters / Interpreter Services

- Despite reduction in staff and budget, we have not reduced expenditures for court reporters or interpreters
- Owing, however, to anticipated reductions in FY 2015-16, our budget may affect the level of related expenditures

### New Court Facilities

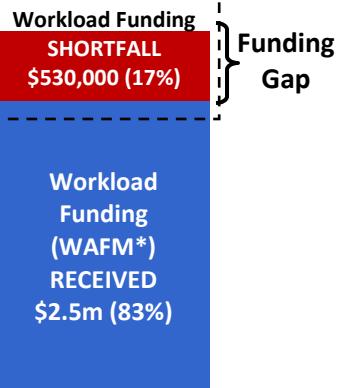
New and/or increased expenditures (e.g., janitorial services, equipment maintenance, etc.) must be absorbed with existing resources

### Availability of Judicial Officers

We reduced the 1058 commissioner from half to one-third time

## Funding Shortfall

\*WAFM is the Workload-based Allocation & Funding Methodology. It describes how much funding courts need based on their workload. In the current year, the workload-based allocation *needed* in San Benito was calculated at \$3.0 million but the court received \$2.5 million. See reverse for a detailed explanation of how WAFM is calculated.



## Court Demographics

Population Served	57,517
Square Miles Covered	1,391
Total Number of Court Facilities	1

## Court Leadership

Presiding Judge Court Executive Officer Executive Office Contact	Hon. Harry J. Tobias Gil Solorio (831) 636-4057 ext 211
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## Budget Challenges for FY 2015-16

- *Ensuring that the 1% cap on reserves is sufficient to pay for any unplanned expenditure that, otherwise, would be a normal occurrence (e.g., increase in CalPERS rates)*
- *Ensuring that the vacancy of 5 positions does not result in a backlog of work that affects day-to-day operations*

## **The Workload-based Allocation & Funding Methodology (WAFM)**

The Workload-based Allocation & Funding Methodology (WAFM) calculates the total funding needed for California's 58 trial courts based on case filings, workload and other factors.

To do this, WAFM relies on results from what we call the Resource Assessment Study (RAS) model to estimate total staffing needed using a weighted caseload model. Developed in partnership with national experts, the RAS model is based on a time study of over 5,000 case processing staff in 24 California trial courts. The study established a set of caseweights (amount of time in minutes to process a case from initial filing through any post-disposition activity) understanding that certain types of filings take more time and resources to handle than others. The weighted filings are used to estimate total staff needed in each court.

The WAFM model converts the staff need data into dollars, taking into account average salaries, benefits, operating expenses and equipment, and the local cost of labor using the Bureau of Labor Statistics as a benchmark. A "funding floor" is applied to the smallest trial courts because there is a basic operating threshold that must be met in order to provide service to the public. In other words, California's small courts do not have economies of scale, and yet there are basic expenditures that even the smallest courts must make. The result is, for each court, an estimate of the core operations funding required to adequately process its workload. This is known as the court's WAFM share.

Starting in FY 2013-14, a portion of each court's allocation is being recalculated according to its WAFM share. (A court's WAFM share is different from the courts' historical share of the statewide funding. The WAFM calculation tells us what the trial courts need to function based on current filings, whereas the historical share was based on the amount each court received from its county.)

Unfortunately, the total WAFM funding needed for all 58 courts exceeds the funding currently appropriated in the state budget by as much as \$800 million. (This is the WAFM funding gap.) To manage the budget reductions resulting from the implementation of WAFM in the absence of full trial court funding, the Judicial Council approved applying WAFM incrementally to each court's historical share of statewide funding, applying it 100% only to "new" money appropriated in the budget. New money is any undesignated general court operations funding increase above the FY 2012-13 State funding level.

The rules of application adopted by the Judicial Council are as follows:

- Each year beginning in FY 2013-14, and through/including FY 2017-18, incrementally more of the historical (base) funding (using FY 2012-13 as the base) will be subject to WAFM, until 50% of the FY 2012-13 base is distributed according to WAFM;
- All undesignated court operations state funding increases after FY 2012-13 are distributed according to the WAFM shares; and
- For each dollar of new state funding, one dollar of the historical base will be reallocated using WAFM.