



# Superior Court of California County of San Francisco

## BUDGET SNAPSHOT

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JUDICIAL COUNCIL  
OF CALIFORNIA  
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

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### Court Service Highlights in the Current Year

- Proactive implementation of traffic ticket/infraction amnesty program
- Continued implementation and improvement of mandatory e-filing for civil cases
- Increased use of technology to better serve the public

### Court Service Highlights in Detail

#### Proactive implementation of traffic ticket/infraction amnesty program

The Court has worked with community organizations and local government to heighten awareness of traffic amnesty. The shared goal is to have as many people who are eligible for amnesty take advantage of it.

#### Continued implementation and improvement of mandatory e-filing for civil cases

The Court is entering its second year of mandatory e-filing in civil cases. The intent is to make filing more convenient to court users by allowing them to file from the convenience of their own surroundings and not have to endure long lines at the courthouse. Additionally, as more filings are received electronically, the Court's processes become more efficient, which helps us serve the public despite shrinking budgets. There are now 18 different options for the public to e-file. This includes 17 vendors and the Court's own e-filing web service. Multiple choices for the public promote competition, leading to enhanced service to the public.

#### Increased use of technology to better serve the public

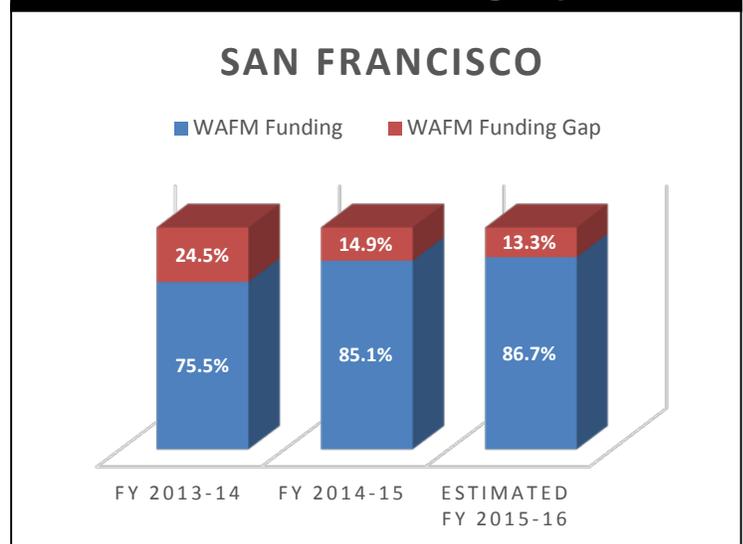
Technology is being utilized to increase services to the public. This includes implementing digital recording in limited civil cases (that were previously not recorded or reported), installing new electronic signage, and making more calendar information accessible on the Court's website.

### Budget Challenges and Priorities

#### Implementation of a new case management system

The WAFM formula has the impact of siphoning funds from our court for redistribution to others. Therefore, we must become more efficient; the largest step in this direction is the implementation of a new case management system (CMS). The CMS was implemented in our Traffic Division in August 2015. The Criminal Division will be included in 2016, followed by the rest of the Court in 2017.

### Workload Allocation & Funding Gap (see reverse)



### Court Demographics

Population Served	837,442
Square Miles Covered	232
Total Number of Court Facilities	4

## 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' traditional share of the statewide funding. The WAFM calculation tells us what the trial courts need to function based on current filings, whereas the traditional share was based on the amount each court received from its county not taking into consideration the courts' filings or staff needs.)

Unfortunately, the total WAFM funding needed for all 58 courts exceeds the funding currently appropriated in the state budget. (This is the WAFM funding gap.) California's trial courts are underfunded by at least a collective \$444 million. The underfunding is made worse for those courts that experience a reduction of funding based on their WAFM share. 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, applying it fully only to new money appropriated in the budget.

The rules of application adopted by the Judicial Council are:

- Each year beginning in FY 2013-14, and through/including to 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 12-13 base is distributed according to WAFM;
- All new state funding is 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.