

# Judicial Council of California

## What is the Judicial Council?

The Judicial Council is the policymaking body of the California courts, the largest court system in the nation. Under the leadership of Chief Justice Patricia Guerrero and in accordance with the California Constitution, the council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice. Judicial Council staff help implement the council's policies.

## What is the Pretrial Release Program?

The statewide Pretrial Services Program is court-led programs and practices that ensure the safe, efficient, fair, and timely pretrial release of individuals booked into jail. Since 2021, the Legislature has allocated ongoing funding to the Judicial Council.

## What is the Purpose of the Program?

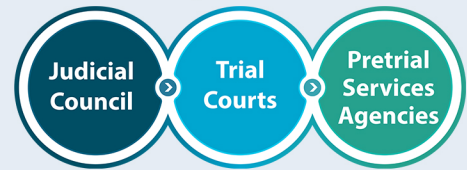
To support judicial officers in making pretrial release decisions that impose the least restrictive conditions necessary to address public safety concerns. Increase the likelihood that individuals return for their court hearings and address issues that may cause individuals to recidivate or decrease their chance of court appearance.

## How Much Funding Was Allocated?

In FY 25-26, the authorizing legislation allocates \$63.95 million for distribution to all trial courts based on each county's relative proportion of the state population aged 18 to 25 years of age. There is also a minimum funding floor in place to ensure that small and small-medium courts have the resources necessary to comply with the legislation.

## How is Pretrial Funding Allocated?

The Judicial Council of California is responsible for distributing funding to the courts. The Judicial Council distributes funding to all 58 trial courts for pretrial release activities. Courts may retain up to 30% of their jurisdiction's allocation and must contract with pretrial service providers—typically the county probation department—to use at least 70% of their pretrial funds.



## Program Highlights (At-A-Glance)

- **Risk Assessments:** All 58 counties have implemented risk assessments.
- **Pearraignment Review:** 35 courts are conducting earlier risk assessment and pearraignment decision-making.
- **Court Date Reminders:** 53 send court date reminders to people receiving pretrial services.
- **Expanded Monitoring and Support Services:** Increased access to court-ordered testing (alcohol/drug) and voluntary services such as substance use treatment, mental health treatment, and housing services.
- **Growing Caseloads:** In FY 2023-24, courts reviewed 172,456 risk assessments and ordered 41,961 cases to monitoring—7,718 more than in FY 2022-23.

For questions, contact the Judicial Council's Pretrial Services Unit at [pretrial@jud.ca.gov](mailto:pretrial@jud.ca.gov)



Scan or click the QR code to learn more

