

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND JUDICIAL BRANCH

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## DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) incarcerates people convicted of the most serious and violent felonies, supervises those released to parole, and provides rehabilitative programs to help them reintegrate into the community. The Department strives to facilitate the successful reintegration of individuals in its care back to their communities equipped with the tools to be drug-free, healthy, and employable members of society by providing education, treatment, and rehabilitative and restorative justice programs. The Budget includes total funding for CDCR of \$14.4 billion (\$14 billion General Fund and \$365.5 million other funds) in 2023-24.

The average daily adult incarcerated population for 2022-23 was 95,560, a decrease of 0.6 percent since the fall 2022 projections. Spring projections indicate the adult incarcerated population will trend downward, decreasing by 2,678 between 2022-23 and 2023-24, from 95,560 to 92,882, respectively. On January 1, 2020, prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the CDCR population was 123,977. The population is projected to continue its long-term downward trend, declining to 89,946 in 2025-26.

The average parolee daily population is projected to decrease from 39,646 in 2022-23 to 37,222 in 2023-24. The parole population is projected to decline to 36,061 by June 30, 2027.

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## PRISON CAPACITY AND CLOSURE

The adult prison population has steadily declined in recent years, which has provided opportunities for CDCR to eliminate its reliance on contract prison capacity. CDCR terminated its final remaining contract to house incarcerated persons out-of-state in June 2019 and terminated its final in-state contract community correctional facility in May 2021. In total, the discontinuation of these contracts has saved the state hundreds of millions of dollars in annual expenditures.

In September 2021, CDCR closed the Deuel Vocational Institution in Tracy, achieving savings of \$150.3 million General Fund annually beginning in 2022-23. CDCR completed the closure of a second prison in June 2023, the California Correctional Center (CCC) in Susanville, which is expected to achieve an estimated \$144.1 million in annual ongoing savings.

On December 6, 2022, CDCR announced its plan to terminate the lease of the California City Correctional Facility, its last privately-owned prison facility, by March 2024, ending its use as a state prison. This is expected to achieve an estimated \$155.7 million in annual ongoing savings. CDCR also announced the planned closure of Chuckawalla Valley State Prison in Blythe by March 2025. To continue the flexibility required to meet the needs of the incarcerated populations, CDCR also announced the deactivation of specified facilities within six prisons by December 2023. The facilities are located within the California Rehabilitation Center, the California Institution for Men, the California Correctional Institution, Pelican Bay State Prison, the California Men's Colony, and the Folsom Women's Facility within Folsom State Prison. In total, CDCR estimates approximately \$170 million in ongoing General Fund savings from these facility deactivations.

The Administration remains committed to meeting the needs of staff and the incarcerated population while right-sizing California's prison system as the prison population declines, and to addressing space needs as the state transforms the carceral system to one more focused on rehabilitation. To this end, the Budget includes statutory changes requiring the Department to complete and provide to the Legislature a preliminary assessment by August 15, 2023, and a full assessment by November 15, 2023, of systemwide capacity, including an estimate of the department's overall housing needs based on its population projections. The assessment will include, among other things, information related to the operating capacity for each prison, taking into consideration space for educational and rehabilitative programming, health care services, and specialized and flexible bed needs.

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## SAN QUENTIN STATE PRISON

In March 2023, the Administration announced the state's plan to transform San Quentin from a maximum-security prison into a facility focused on improving public safety through rehabilitation and education. In May, the Governor formed a multidisciplinary San Quentin Transformation Advisory Council that is tasked with helping to create this one-of-a-kind facility and informing the California Model—intended to serve as a nationwide rehabilitation-focused model to advance a more effective justice system that builds safer communities and reduces recidivism.

The Budget includes statutory changes to rename the prison as the “San Quentin Rehabilitation Center.” The Budget also includes funding for two capital projects, consistent with the Administration's vision to support the California Model:

(1) \$360.6 million Public Buildings Construction Fund for the Demolition of Building 38 and Construction of a New Educational and Vocational Center, and (2) \$20 million General Fund for various improvement projects. The final recommendations from the Advisory Council will closely inform the scope of the projects, which have planned completion dates in 2025.

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## MAINTAINING FAMILY AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

A challenge faced by many incarcerated persons is the loss of family and community connections during their time of incarceration. To help foster ongoing family and community connections, the Budget includes the following:

- \$522,000 one-time General Fund in 2023-24 to support implementation of the Family Dignity Act, which will facilitate an easier process for family and friends to visit their loved ones. Statutory changes expand items that visitors may bring, including additional items for infants and young children. The resources will provide additional staff to process the allowable items visitors may bring. In addition, by July 1, 2024, the Department will save scans in the departmental database of certain records, which will eliminate the need for visitors to bring the documents to each visit.
- \$28.8 million ongoing General Fund to provide incarcerated individuals with access to free voice calling, consistent with the requirements of Chapter 827, Statutes of 2022 (SB 1008).
- Beginning January 1, 2024, an individual who will be paroled will be provided the opportunity to select a different county or city of residence, where they may have educational or vocational training opportunities, employment, housing, specified

treatment, and/or family. This change will assist with reducing recidivism by allowing family reconnection, training, and work opportunities, and will provide support to formerly incarcerated individuals in successfully reentering society and rebuilding their lives.

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### REENTRY AND REHABILITATION

Increasing access to rehabilitative and reentry programs is integral to improving post-release outcomes for incarcerated individuals and reducing recidivism.

CDCR operates community correctional reentry programs that allow participants to serve a portion of their term of incarceration in the community, providing a range of rehabilitative services with the goal of facilitating their successful transition into their communities following their release.

Given the important role these programs have in supporting CDCR's mission, the Budget redirects existing funding on a one-time basis for current reentry providers in recognition of increased costs associated with providing reentry services. Additionally, the Budget signals the Administration's commitment to address future cost increases through the addition of an annual cost-of-living adjustment in future contracts to sustain these important reentry programs.

The Budget also includes \$21 million one-time General Fund for the Rehabilitative Investment Grants for Healing and Transformation (RIGHT) 2.0 Grant Program to support the delivery of in-prison programming that focuses on trauma-informed, rehabilitative, and/or restorative justice programming by community-based nonprofit organizations.

### SIGNIFICANT ADJUSTMENTS

- **Board of Parole Hearings Budget Augmentation to Support Core Functions—** \$4.2 million General Fund in 2023-24 and \$2.6 million ongoing to support several core Board of Parole Hearings functions. The Budget includes resources to increase the flat rate for state-appointed attorney fees with one-time funding in 2023-24 to remain competitive with market rates, a Supervising Administrative Law Judge position, the continuation of an attorney training and monitoring contract, and support for the Board's Information Technology System.

- **Sexual Assault Response and Prevention Working Group**—\$1 million one-time General Fund to establish a sexual assault response and prevention working group and ambassador program.
- **COVID-19 Prevention and Response Activities**—\$96.9 million one-time General Fund to support COVID-19-related prevention and mitigation activities.
- **Facility Improvements**—\$1.5 million General Fund in 2023-24 and \$62 million one-time General Fund in 2024-25 for the Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility roof replacement, as part of a multi-year plan to address aging facility roofs.
- **COVID-19 Workers' Compensation**—A reduction of \$30.9 million General Fund annually over four years to account for staff vacancy-related savings and to adjust funding for COVID-19-related workers' compensation claims in accordance with projected need.
- **Deferred Maintenance**—A reduction of \$30 million General Fund in deferred maintenance funding. The 2021 Budget Act included \$100 million one-time General Fund, available through June 30, 2024, to address critical infrastructure needs, of which \$70 million General Fund has been either spent or encumbered.

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## HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS

The Budget continues the state's commitment to the delivery of health care services to incarcerated individuals. The Budget includes \$3.9 billion General Fund in 2023-24 for health care programs, which provide incarcerated individuals with access to medical, mental health, and dental care services that are consistent with the standards and scope of care appropriate within a custodial environment.

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## THE JOINT COMMISSION ACCREDITATION

The Budget includes \$3.2 million General Fund and 15 positions in 2023-24, increasing to \$6.1 million and 38 positions in 2027-28 and ongoing, to support CDCR in working toward obtaining accreditation from The Joint Commission for all institutions statewide. To date, CDCR has achieved The Joint Commission accreditation for Psychiatric Inpatient Programs operating at two institutions and full accreditation at California Institute for Women and Folsom State Prison. The Joint Commission standards are based on a community standard of care that are updated annually and re-accreditation occurs every three years. Expanding accreditation efforts has the potential to improve the

delivery of health care services within prisons, while demonstrating CDCR's ability to deliver a systemwide community standard of care.

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### EXPANSION OF TELE-MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

In recent years, the use of telehealth services has proven successful in enhancing the Department's ability to effectively deliver critical medical and mental health care services to patients while supporting staff recruitment and retention for clinical positions that have historically been hard to fill. Building on the success of these models, the Budget includes \$11 million General Fund and 85 positions in 2023-24 and \$17.3 million and 144 positions beginning in 2024-25 to expand the use of tele-mental health within the Statewide Mental Health Program. This will include psychology and social work disciplines, in addition to psychiatry, which will equip the Department with more tools to deliver timely and quality mental health care to patients, and will also increase its ability to recruit and retain clinicians during a nationwide shortage of mental health professionals.

### SIGNIFICANT ADJUSTMENTS

- **Comprehensive Employee Health Program**—\$15 million General Fund in 2023-24, and \$14.7 million ongoing, to continue CDCR's Employee Health Program to address current and emerging employee health-related issues consistent with the SMARTER Plan, and to support CDCR in maintaining compliance with state and federal regulations.
- **Contract Medical Adjustments**—\$39.8 million one-time General Fund to address a projected deficit in the budget for Contract Medical services, which supports the provision of specialty care services for patients in prisons and community settings.
- **CalAIM Justice-Involved Initiative Medi-Cal Reimbursement System**—\$3.3 million one-time (\$200,000 General Fund and \$3.1 million in reimbursement authority) in 2023-24 to enable California Correctional Health Care Services to begin development of an information technology system to support the Medi-Cal billing process, which, in conjunction with implementation of the statewide CalAIM Justice-Involved Initiative, will enable the state to draw down federal reimbursements for certain health-related services provided to incarcerated individuals prior to their release.

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## DIVISION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

The Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) closed and ceased operations June 30, 2023, pursuant to Chapter 18, Statutes of 2021 (SB 92).

Youth previously committed to DJJ have been transferred to the county probation department within their county of commitment.

Consistent with the closure of DJJ, the Budget reflects a decrease of \$92.1 million (\$89.3 million General Fund and \$2.8 million various funds) in 2023-24, and \$95.8 million beginning in 2025-26 (\$93 million General Fund and \$2.8 million various funds) associated with the closure of DJJ. These adjustments, in addition to those made in the 2022 Budget Act, eliminate funding for DJJ with the exception of certain activities that CDCR will continue, such as the operation of Pine Grove Youth Conservation Camp.

The Budget also reflects an estimated \$194 million General Fund in 2023-24, consistent with Chapter 337, Statutes of 2020 (SB 823) and inclusive of the required county floor, for the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant to provide funding to counties to deliver appropriate rehabilitative housing and supervision services for realigned youth.

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## LOCAL PUBLIC SAFETY

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE INVESTMENTS FOR SAFER COMMUNITIES

In recent years, the state has made investments in programs that promote safer communities, including a focus on positive policing strategies, and resources to support peace officer wellness and training. Additionally, the state has made substantial investments in programs to reduce organized retail theft, gun violence, illegal drugs, and other crimes, which are maintained in the Budget.

### SIGNIFICANT ADJUSTMENTS

- **Nonprofit Security Grant Program**—\$20 million one-time General Fund to provide security assistance to nonprofit organizations at risk of hate-motivated violence, which includes members of the Asian American Pacific Islander, LGBTQIA+, Black, Latinx, and Jewish communities. Security enhancement projects include reinforced doors and gates, high-intensity lighting and alarms, and other security-related improvements.

- **Reducing Gun Violence**—The 2022 Budget Act established the Local Law Enforcement Gun Buyback Grant Program at the Board of State and Community Corrections, and included \$25 million one-time General Fund for that program to support competitive gun buyback grant programs structured to reduce firearm violence. Over the past year, there have been numerous mass shootings across the nation, including in Monterey Park and Half Moon Bay. The state is committed to getting firearms off the streets, and a competitive grant program is not conducive to quickly achieving this goal. Therefore, the Budget reallocates \$21 million one-time General Fund to the Office of Emergency Services (OES) to work directly with local law enforcement agencies to expedite targeted, coordinated gun buybacks. The Budget also includes \$4 million one-time General Fund for OES to conduct outreach and educate members of the public, law enforcement personnel, and others on how to obtain protective orders, such as gun violence restraining orders or domestic violence restraining orders to protect themselves and others from gun violence.
- **Grants for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons**—Indigenous persons experience crime and victimization at disproportionately higher rates than other populations. California has one of the largest and most diverse Native American populations in the United States. The 2022 Budget Act provided funding to address public safety on tribal lands by including \$12 million General Fund over three years for the Board of State and Community Corrections to establish a competitive grant program to help California tribes identify, collect case-level data, publicize, investigate, and solve cases involving missing Indigenous persons. These funds are available to provide resources for tribal police and prosecutors, counseling services, education, and other activities. The Budget includes an additional investment of \$12 million one-time General Fund for these purposes.
- **Public Defense Pilot Program**—The Budget restores \$40 million one-time General Fund to provide counties with funding for indigent defense providers, including public defenders, alternate defenders, and other qualifying entities that provide indigent defense for qualifying workload resulting from criminal matters. This funding is for the third year of a three-year pilot program, bringing the total three-year amount to \$140 million one-time General Fund.
- **Proposition 47 Savings**—The Budget includes \$112.9 million General Fund in savings for Proposition 47 in 2023-24. Proposition 47 invests savings from reduced prison utilization into prevention and support of community programs, and funds are allocated according to the formula specified in the voter-approved measure, which requires 65 percent be allocated for grants to public agencies to support various recidivism reduction programs (such as mental health and substance use



treatment services), 25 percent for grants to support truancy and dropout prevention programs, and 10 percent for grants for victims' services.

- **Post Release Community Supervision**—The Budget includes \$9.3 million General Fund for county probation departments to supervise the temporary increase of individuals on Post Release Community Supervision as a result of Proposition 57 credit-earning opportunities.

**One-Time Investments**—The Budget includes one-time General Fund for the following programs:

- \$5 million to purchase a site to co-locate a fire station and the Mobile Assistance Community Responders of Oakland.
- \$1 million for the Home After Harm program to provide services to prepare incarcerated people for parole hearings using therapeutic counseling methods.
- \$5 million to create the Southern California Reentry Hub in Los Angeles County.

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## CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

The California Highway Patrol provides uniform traffic law enforcement throughout the state and serves the public by assuring the safe, convenient, and efficient transportation of people and goods on the state's highway system.

### SIGNIFICANT ADJUSTMENT

- **Body-Worn Cameras**—The Budget provides \$9.8 million Motor Vehicle Account for the California Highway Patrol to implement a statewide body-worn camera program. Building on a pilot program in the Oakland and Stockton areas, the statewide body-worn camera program will enhance public safety, transparency, and accountability, and have a substantial positive impact on the successful prosecution of crimes.

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## DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

As chief law officer of the state, the Attorney General has the responsibility to see that the laws of California are uniformly and adequately enforced. This responsibility is fulfilled through the diverse programs of the Department of Justice (DOJ). The

Department provides legal services on behalf of the people of California; serves as legal counsel to state agencies; provides oversight, enforcement, education, and regulation of California's firearms laws; provides evaluation and analysis of physical evidence; and supports the data needs of California's criminal justice community. The Budget includes total funding of approximately \$1.3 billion, including \$487.4 million General Fund, in 2023-24 to support DOJ.

### SIGNIFICANT ADJUSTMENTS

- **Litigation Deposit Fund Loan**—\$400 million budgetary loan from the Litigation Deposit Fund to the General Fund in 2023-24 to assist in closing the projected statewide budgetary shortfall. The Budget also includes statutory changes to authorize this budgetary loan from idle resources not required for currently projected operational or programmatic needs.
- **Bureau of Forensic Services**—\$53.4 million General Fund annually for three years to continue backfilling a decline in fine and fee revenue to the DNA Identification Fund. This is necessary to maintain current service levels related to processing forensic evidence, such as DNA, for local jurisdictions.
- **Office of General Counsel**—Net-zero transfer of existing resources totaling \$13.8 million General Fund in 2023-24 and ongoing to establish the Office of General Counsel within the Department. The Office will provide internal legal guidance, ensure compliance with data confidentiality and document retention policies, and oversee legal ethics and conflict-of-interest concerns.
- **Ammunition Authorization Program Fee Increase**—\$4.3 million General Fund loan to the Ammunition Safety and Enforcement Special Fund in 2023-24 and 2024-25 to support operating costs for the Ammunition Authorization Program. The Administration will work with the Legislature over the summer on statutory changes to adjust the fee to align with the reasonable costs for regulating ammunition transactions in California.
- **Firearms Information Technology System Modernization Project**—\$7.5 million Dealers Record of Sale Account in 2023-24 and \$2.6 million ongoing to continue the Project Approval Lifecycle process and address ongoing workload pertaining to the Firearms Information Technology System Modernization Project.
- **Various Firearm Proposals**—\$7.5 million (\$1.6 million General Fund and \$5.9 million Dealers Record of Sale Special Account) in 2023-24, decreasing to \$4.1 million (\$1.2 million General Fund and \$2.9 million Dealers Record of Sale Special Account)

in 2026-27 and ongoing to address workload related to regulating the sale, transfer, and purchase of firearms in California.

- **Carry Concealed Weapon Permit**—\$5 million (\$3 million General Fund and \$2 million Fingerprint Fees Account) in 2023-24, and \$3.2 million (\$2.7 million General Fund and \$519,000 Fingerprint Fees Account) in 2024-25, to process additional carry concealed weapon permit applications. A recent federal court ruling has resulted in an increase in the number of carry concealed weapon permits that are processed by the Department.
- **eDiscovery Storage and Review Platform Augmentation**—\$1.9 million (\$702,000 General Fund and \$1.2 million various Special Funds) in 2023-24, increasing to \$4 million (\$1.5 million General Fund and \$2.5 million various Special Funds) in 2026-27 and ongoing, to collect, store, and process electronic discovery information related to litigation.
- **Tenant Protection Workload**—\$3 million ongoing Unfair Competition Law Fund for the Consumer Protection Section to support tenant protection and enforcement of tenant rights.
- **Criminal Records Relief (SB 731)**—\$1.8 million Special Fund in 2023-24 and \$1.5 million in 2024-25 to make information technology modifications to existing systems to provide criminal record relief for eligible individuals pursuant to Chapter 814, Statutes of 2022 (SB 731). The Budget includes statutory changes to delay implementation by one year to provide DOJ sufficient time to implement system modifications.
- **Police Practices Division (AB 1506)**—\$1.8 million ongoing General Fund to establish the Police Practices Division to review the use of deadly force policies and make best practice recommendations pursuant to Chapter 326, Statutes of 2020 (AB 1506).
- **Sex Offender Registration (SB 384)**—\$1.7 million ongoing General Fund to process workload and provide system support and maintenance to implement Chapter 541, Statutes of 2017 (SB 384), which established a tiered system for sexual offenders and specifies registration timelines and criteria for each tier.
- **Domestic Violence: Death Review Teams (SB 863)**—\$1.5 million General Fund in 2023-24, and \$1.1 million ongoing, to collect data on near-death domestic violence cases and prepare an annual report pursuant to Chapter 986, Statutes of 2022 (SB 863).

- **Crimes: Race-Blind Charging (AB 2778)**—\$817,000 General Fund in 2023-24, and \$2.4 million ongoing, to collaborate with local jurisdictions, develop guidelines and policies for race-blind charging, perform document redaction, and review additional criminal cases pursuant to Chapter 806, Statutes of 2022 (AB 2778).
- **Children’s Data Protection Working Group (AB 2273)**—\$750,000 one-time General Fund to establish a working group to develop recommendations for improving protections for children who utilize online social media platforms pursuant to Chapter 320, Statutes of 2022 (AB 2273). The Budget also includes statutory changes to establish the working group within DOJ and allow the meetings to be conducted remotely.
- **Advisory Council on Improving Interactions between Law Enforcement and the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Communities (SB 882)**—\$531,000 General Fund annually in 2023-24, 2024-25, and 2025-26 to establish an advisory council to evaluate and develop a report with recommendations on how to strengthen interactions and outcomes between peace officers and individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities pursuant to Chapter 899, Statutes of 2022 (SB 882).

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## JUDICIAL BRANCH

The Judicial Branch consists of the Supreme Court, courts of appeal, trial courts, the Habeas Corpus Resource Center, and the Judicial Council, which is responsible for managing the resources of the Judicial Branch. The trial courts are funded with a combination of General Fund, county maintenance-of-effort requirements, fines, fees, and other charges. Other levels of the Judicial Branch receive most of their funding from the General Fund. The Budget includes total funding of \$5 billion (\$3.1 billion General Fund and \$1.9 billion other funds) in 2023-24 for the Judicial Branch, of which \$2.9 billion is provided to support trial court operations.

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## COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE, RECOVERY, AND EMPOWERMENT (CARE) ACT

The Budget includes \$55.5 million General Fund in 2023-24, \$107 million in 2024-25, and \$133 million in 2025-26 for the Judicial Branch to implement the CARE Act (Chapter 319, Statutes of 2022). Of this amount, \$32.7 million in 2023-24, \$55.3 million in 2024-25, and \$68.5 million ongoing is for the administration of the program. The remaining \$22.8 million in 2023-24, \$51.7 million in 2024-25, and \$64.5 million ongoing will support public defender and legal service organizations that will provide legal counsel to CARE

participants. For county behavioral health funding, see the Health and Human Services Chapter.

## SIGNIFICANT ADJUSTMENTS

- **Trial Court Operations**—\$74.1 million ongoing General Fund to support trial court operations. This is in addition to general increases provided in the 2021 and 2022 Budget Acts, which included \$72.2 million and \$84.2 million, respectively. The 2022 Budget Act also included \$100 million ongoing General Fund to promote fiscal equity among the trial courts and to improve existing service levels.
- **Courts of Appeal Workload**—\$2.7 million Appellate Court Trust Fund in 2023-24, and \$2.3 million in 2024-25 and 2025-26, to address increased appellate case workload, and support data reporting and Appellate Self-Help Resource Center website enhancements. These resources will improve efficient case processing and avoid excessive case delays in the Courts of Appeal.
- **Trial Court Trust Fund Backfill**—\$105.1 million ongoing General Fund to continue backfilling the Trial Court Trust Fund for revenue declines expected in 2023-24.
- **State Court Facilities Construction Fund Backfill**—\$55.5 million General Fund in 2023-24, \$175.5 million in 2024-25, and \$174.5 million ongoing, to backfill a projected shortfall in the State Court Facilities Construction Fund and to maintain existing service levels.
- **Federal Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program Grant**—Reimbursement authority totaling \$5.9 million in 2023-24, and \$5.7 million in 2024-25 and 2025-26, to support an interagency agreement with the Board of State and Community Corrections to implement federal funds from the Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program. The Judicial Council will implement a statewide project that improves execution of firearm relinquishment orders, and expands and enhances collaborative courts by providing funding, training, and technical assistance.
- **Juror Compensation (AB 1981)**—\$19 million General Fund in 2023-24, \$17.5 million in 2024-25, and \$4.2 million ongoing, to expand juror mileage and public transit reimbursements, and to conduct a pilot program in at least six courts to study the impact of increased juror compensation on juror diversity and participation, pursuant to Chapter 326, Statutes of 2021 (AB 1981).
- **Ability-to-Pay Backfill Reduction**—Reductions totaling \$20.7 million General Fund in 2023-24 and \$30 million ongoing to reflect updated estimates of revenue losses due to the implementation of the Ability-to-Pay program established by Chapter 57,

Statutes of 2021 (AB 199). The associated revenue loss for all courts is lower than expected and is estimated to total \$26.4 million in 2023-24, and \$28.4 million ongoing.

- **Deferred Maintenance**—The 2021 Budget Act included \$188 million one-time General Fund, available through June 30, 2024, to support deferred maintenance projects in trial courts and Courts of Appeal. The Budget reduces this funding by \$49.5 million in 2022-23, maintaining \$138.5 million for existing projects.
- **Criminal Fee Elimination**—\$1.2 million ongoing General Fund to backfill the courts for lost revenues due to the repeal of administrative fees related to record sealing and post-conviction remedies.
- **Legal Aid Loan Repayment Assistance Program**—\$250,000 ongoing General Fund and statutory changes to establish a Loan Repayment Assistance program administered by the California Access to Justice Commission to support the recruitment and retention of legal aid attorneys, and to allow qualified legal services projects and support centers to use Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) Funds, Equal Access Funds, or other funds to provide the loan repayment assistance.

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## RACIAL JUSTICE ACT

The Racial Justice Act prohibits the state from seeking or obtaining a conviction or sentence on the basis of race, ethnicity, or national origin. This Act made it possible for a person charged or convicted of a crime to challenge racial bias in their case. Overall, the Budget includes \$10.3 million General Fund in 2023-24 to support implementation of the Racial Justice Act, as follows:

- \$2.9 million to the Judicial Council for legal representation on Racial Justice Act claims related to capital cases. The funds will support attorneys' fees, experts, investigators, or other ancillary needs to process the claim.
- \$5.1 million to the Office of the State Public Defender for legal resources on Racial Justice Act claims related to both capital and non-capital cases.
- \$2.3 million to the Department of Justice to address increased workload associated with appeals for cases related to the Racial Justice Act.