



# Oregon State Courts: 2021 Chief Justice Budget Request

*A summary of Policy Option Packages from the Chief Justice's Recommended 2021-23 Budget*

*The Chief Justice's Recommended 2021-2023 Budget includes current service level funding and adds targeted resources to better serve Oregonians. The budget request aligns Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) resources with the commitments and initiatives made in OJD's Strategic Campaign, specifically focusing on those initiatives that are effective, offer a positive return on investment, and provide measurable outcomes.*

## **Strategic Campaign Commitments:**

1. Improve services and outcomes for people who are underserved, vulnerable, or marginalized.
2. Eliminate barriers to access to justice by simplifying and streamlining processes and forms, enhancing service options, leveraging technology, improving interpreter services, and keeping courts open, safe, and secure.
3. Enhance the public's trust and confidence in Oregon's state government by listening and responding to the needs of those we serve, holding ourselves to high standards, and communicating the role of our courts in providing justice for all.
4. Create a workplace and courthouse culture that is supportive, inclusive, welcoming, and affirming; that embraces diversity; and where all people can thrive and are treated with respect and dignity.

## **Policy Option Package Measurable Outcomes:**

- Address the needs of people with **mental illness** locally while limiting admissions to the Oregon State Hospital.
- Develop and begin implementing a **statewide pretrial release** system to reduce the number of people held in jail before trial while protecting public safety.
- Expand efforts to address racial inequality, develop and analyze data to **reduce disproportionate outcomes**; and improve workplace and courthouse culture.
- Develop and maintain **secure technology options** to support remote proceedings and better connect rural communities and vulnerable populations with court services.
- Improve access to judicial services in **child support cases and underserved communities**.
- Remedy **unsafe court** facilities (Oregon Supreme Court Building; Benton, Crook, Curry, Josephine, Lane, Linn, and Clackamas Counties).
- Provide professional staff and project management to acquire and implement a technology solution to improve administrative and financial management of **public defense services**.

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Questions? Please contact Nancy Cozine, State Court Administrator, [Nancy.Cozine@ojd.state.or.us](mailto:Nancy.Cozine@ojd.state.or.us); or Phil Lemman, Deputy State Court Administrator, [Phillip.Lemman@ojd.state.or.us](mailto:Phillip.Lemman@ojd.state.or.us).

## **Package #101 – Ensuring Equitable Outcomes**

- Collect and analyze data and provide education to track and reduce disparate outcomes. Adds staff to analyze data, develop and implement statewide business processes, develop trainings for judges and staff to provide real-time performance and impact data. (17.5 FTE, \$3.7M GF)
- Develop and implement a statewide pretrial release program. Develop and begin implementing a statewide court-sponsored pretrial release program focused on risk-based release to ensure consistency and best use of public resources, and to reduce disproportionate outcomes while protecting public safety. (20.65 FTE, \$4.1M GF)
- Aid-and-assist coordinators and treatment court coordinators statewide to reduce State Hospital admissions and promote effective, local treatment of persons with substance abuse disorder and/or mental illness. (8.75 FTE, \$1.9M GF)

## **Package #102 – Connect Rural Communities and Vulnerable Populations with Court Services**

- Develop online dispute resolution system with 24/7 access mediation services to resolve disputes. (1.76 FTE, \$2.5M GF)
- Adequate technology and security for remote judicial services. Ensure adequate current hardware and software; add IT maintenance/security staff. (1.5 FTE, \$5.2M GF)
- Technology Fund Revenues. OF limitation for new technology services revenue. (\$3.3M OF)

## **Package #103 – Better Outcomes for Children and Families**

- Develop centralized child support adjudication process. Leverage available federal funds to begin centralizing and streamlining child support dockets and services. (7.44 FTE, \$709,263 GF, \$921,909 OF)

## **Package #104 – Expand Court Capacity to Increase Access to Justice**

- Add circuit court judges and staff in high-need counties. Adds three judges (plus staff) in three counties, including Deschutes and Douglas counties. (11.64 FTE, \$2.8M GF)
- Add statewide court resources to address workload. Adds a Tax Court clerk to handle expected Corporate Activity Tax litigation and funds a clerk position in the Appellate Commissioner's office to expedite appellate court motions. (2 FTE, \$410,316 GF)

## **Package #105 – Safe Court Facilities**

- Authorize bonds to complete Supreme Court Building project. Final funding for seismic protection and building system modernization. (\$22M OF)
- State matching funds to assist counties to replace unsafe courthouses. Approve state construction bonds for courthouse replacement projects in Lane, Clackamas, Benton, and Linn counties; and provide state matching funds to plan new replacement projects in Crook, Curry, and Josephine counties. (\$4.9M GF, \$401.3M OF, includes county matching funds)
- State assistance for courthouse improvements. Fund security and efficiency improvements in Josephine and Klamath County courthouses. (\$950,000 OF)

## **Package #106 – Other Fund Limitation for Collaborative Projects.**

- Office of Public Defense Services. Funds OJD staff to support ongoing maintenance of IT systems while planning and acquiring an efficient, effective case and financial management system. (6 FTE, \$1.6M OF)
- Multnomah County Legal Resource Center. Authorize circuit court to receive county law library funds to operate the LRC in the new downtown courthouse. (5 FTE, \$1.5M OF)
- Drug Court/other grants. Authority to accept specialty court, other grant funds. (18 FTE, \$5.1M OF)

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