

FEDERAL JUDICIAL CENTER
Salaries and Expenses
SUMMARY STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT REQUIREMENTS

Fiscal Year 2025 Appropriation	\$34,261,000
Fiscal Year 2026 Requested Appropriation	\$34,928,654
Requested Increase from Fiscal Year 2025 Appropriation	\$667,654

APPROPRIATION LANGUAGE

FEDERAL JUDICIAL CENTER
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Federal Judicial Center, as authorized by Public Law 90-219, [\$34,261,000]*\$34,928,654*; of which \$1,800,000 shall remain available until September 30, [2026]*2027*, to provide education and training to Federal court personnel; and of which not to exceed \$1,500 is authorized for official reception and representation expenses.

Based on enactment of the FY 2025 Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act (P.L. 119-4), the judiciary’s starting point for developing its FY 2026 budget request reflects bill language and appropriations levels enacted in the FY 2024 Financial Services and General Government appropriations bill (division B, title III, P.L. 118-47).

**SUMMARY OF REQUEST
FEDERAL JUDICIAL CENTER
SALARIES AND EXPENSES
FISCAL YEAR 2026
(Dollar amounts in thousands)**

Fiscal Year 2026 Resource Requirements:

	<u>FTEs</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Fiscal Year 2025 Assumed Obligations.....	128	34,399
Less Obligations from Collections from Federal Accounts and FJC Foundation.....	-	138
Fiscal Year 2025 Appropriation.....	128	34,261

Adjustments to Base to Maintain Current Services:

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	Total Current Services Appropriation Required	128	34,929
	Total Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriation Required.....	128	34,929
	Total Appropriation Increase.....	-	668

Financing the Fiscal Year 2026 Request:

	Total Appropriation Required, Fiscal Year 2026.....	128	34,929
9.4	5. Estimated Collections from Federal Accounts and the FJC Foundation.....	-	250
	Total Estimated Obligations, Fiscal Year 2026.....	128	35,179

FEDERAL JUDICIAL CENTER
Salaries and Expenses
Obligations by Activity (\$000)

Activity	FY 2024 Actuals ¹			FY 2025 Enacted			FY 2026 Request		
	Direct	Offsetting Collections	Total	Direct	Offsetting Collections	Total	Direct	Offsetting Collections	Total
Education and Training (annual and multiyear)	23,053	691	23,744	23,238	138	23,376	23,691	250	23,941
Research	6,869	-	6,869	7,058	-	7,058	7,195	-	7,195
Program Support	4,587	-	4,587	3,965	-	3,965	4,042	-	4,042
Total Obligations	34,509	691	35,200	34,261	138	34,399	34,929	250	35,179
Unobligated Balance, Start of Year:									
Judiciary Information Technology Fund	(987)	-	(987)	(949)	-	(949)	(949)	-	(949)
Deposits and Other Adjustments:									
Judiciary Information Technology Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unobligated Balance, End of Year:									
Judiciary Information Technology Fund	949	-	949	949	-	949	949	-	949
<i>Subtotal, Judiciary Information Technology Fund Obligations²</i>	<i>(38)</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>(38)</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>
Total Direct Obligations	34,471	691	35,162	34,261	138	34,399	34,929	250	35,179
FJC Unobligated Balance, Start-of Year (multiyear)	(834)	-	(834)	-	-	-	-	-	-
FJC Unobligated Balance, End of Year (annual and multiyear)	624	-	624						
Less Offsetting Collections	-	(691)	(691)	-	(138)	(138)	-	(250)	(250)
Available Appropriation	34,261	-	34,261	34,261	-	34,261	34,929	-	34,929

¹ By the end of FY 2024, the Center's obligations in the table above include both annual and multiyear funds (FY 2023/2024, FY 2024, and FY 2024/2025), as well as JITF. It is important to note that the Center's reported FY 2024 annual and multiyear funds in the table above include obligations of \$1,328,207.10 for Education and Training activities planned for FY 2025.

² The JITF obligation of \$38,000 covered the Center's share of the Ashburn servers. As of the end of FY 2024, the remaining JITF balance is \$949,156.30. For FY 2025, the Center may need to tap into this balance to cover its share of the Ashburn data center fee and to fund information technology equipment lifecycle replacements and repairs, depending on the availability of year-end funds from expected travel de-obligations. If those funds do not materialize, the Center expects to carry forward about \$0.7 million of the JITF balance into FY 2026.

FEDERAL JUDICIAL CENTER
Salaries & Expenses
Obligations by Object Class (\$000)

Description	FY 2024 Actuals			FY 2025 Enacted			FY 2026 Request		
	Direct	Offsetting Collections	Total Oblig.	Direct	Offsetting Collections	Total Oblig.	Direct	Offsetting Collections	Total Oblig.
11 Personnel Compensation	18,402	158	18,560	18,857	49	18,906	19,184	-	19,184
12 Personnel Benefits	6,653	59	6,712	6,626	22	6,648	6,782	-	6,782
21 Travel	4,462	306	4,768	5,415	67	5,482	5,529	250	5,779
22 Transportation of Things	40	-	40	45	-	45	46	-	46
23 Communications, Utilities, & Misc.	713	100	813	868	-	868	886	-	886
24 Printing and Reproduction	34	-	34	42	-	42	43	-	43
25 Other Services	1,047	10	1,057	1,108	-	1,108	1,131	-	1,131
26 Supplies and Materials	669	58	727	335	-	335	342	-	342
31 Equipment	1,123	-	1,123	965	-	965	985	-	985
FY 2024/2025 Obligations	1,328	-	1,328	-	-	-	-	-	-
Direct Obligations	34,471	691	35,162	34,261	138	34,399	34,929	250	35,179
Other Obligations (JITF)	38		38	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Obligations	34,509	691	35,200	34,261	138	34,399	34,929	250	35,179

FEDERAL JUDICIAL CENTER
Salaries & Expenses
Relation of Obligations to Outlays (\$000)

	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	Difference
	Actual	Enacted	Request	(+) or (-)
Total Obligations	35,162	34,399	35,179	780
Obligated Balance, Start of Year	4,064	3,939	1,640	(2,299)
Adjustment of Prior Year Activity	(415)	-	-	-
Obligated Balance, End of Year	(3,939)	(1,640)	(945)	695
Total Outlays	34,872	36,261	34,896	(823)
Less Offsets	(699)	(138)	(250)	(112)
Net Outlays	34,173	36,123	34,646	(935)

FEDERAL JUDICIAL CENTER
Salaries and Expenses
Full Time Equivalents by Activity

Activity	FY 2024 Actual			FY 2025 Enacted			FY 2026 Request		
	Direct	Offsetting Collec.	Total	Direct	Offsetting Collec.	Total	Direct	Offsetting Collec.	Total
Education and Training	83	-	83	88	-	88	88	-	88
Research	30	-	30	29	-	29	29	-	29
Program Support	11	-	11	11	-	11	11	-	11
Total, Full Time Equivalents	124	-	124	128	-	128	128	-	128

GENERAL STATEMENT AND INFORMATION

The fiscal year (FY) 2026 request for the Federal Judicial Center totals \$34,928,654 to support the operations of the Federal Judicial Center (Center), which was established by P.L. 90-219 (81 Stat. 664) on December 20, 1967. This statute directs the Center “to further the development and adoption of improved judicial administration” in the federal courts.

Functional Responsibilities of the Center

The Federal Judicial Center is the research and education agency of the judicial branch of the U.S. government. The Center supports the efficient and effective administration of justice and judicial independence. The Center’s functions are outlined in statute, especially 28 U.S.C. §§ 620(b) and 623(a). Pursuant to those mandates, it teaches judges and other Judicial Branch personnel about legal developments and efficient litigation management and court administration. Examples include various educational programs that teach judges and court legal staff about new laws and emerging issues; programs that help judges and court executives promote efficiency in the just resolution of cases and in court administration; and programs that educate court staff on effective court operations. Center programs for judges, executives, and all court staff also address ethics, cybersecurity, and workplace conduct. The Center uses a combination of virtual programs (e-learning, web conferences, videos, and more) and in-person travel-based programs.

The Center also conducts empirical research into court operations and activities. The Center is an independent agency and does not make policy recommendations. Most Center research is performed at the request of the Judicial Conference of the United States to provide objective and rigorous research to inform policy decisions of the Conference. Center research also contributes to improved judicial administration by assessing the efficacy of case and court management procedures. For example, it continues to assess case management tools for complex litigation. (The Center’s statute also assigns its other duties regarding state-federal judicial relations, assistance to foreign judiciaries, and federal judicial history, which it also performs.) Program planning is coordinated among the Center, the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (AO), and the U.S. Sentencing Commission to maximize efficiency in meeting their distinct responsibilities.

Duties of the Board

A Board of nine supervises the Center. The Chief Justice of the United States is the Board Chairman. The Board includes two judges of the U.S. Courts of Appeals, three judges of the U.S. District Courts, one bankruptcy judge, and one magistrate judge; each elected by the Judicial Conference of the United States for a four-year term. The Director of the AO is an ex-officio Board member. By statute, the Board is responsible for developing overall policy to guide the Center’s operations and approving the Center’s

appropriations requests. The Board appoints a Director and a Deputy Director, who are responsible for supervising the Center's staff and carrying out the Center's programs. The Center coordinates as necessary with the Judicial Conference's Budget Committee and the AO in developing the Center's appropriation requests.

FISCAL YEAR 2025 APPROPRIATIONS

Based on enactment of the FY 2025 Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act (P.L. 119-4), the judiciary's starting point for developing its FY 2026 budget request reflects bill language and appropriations levels enacted in the FY 2024 Financial Services and General Government appropriations bill (division B, title III, P.L. 118-47). The FY 2025 full-year continuing resolution appropriation for the Federal Judicial Center is \$34,261,000, equal to the FY 2024 level. This funding level for FY 2025 results in a shortfall of \$1,239,229 compared to the judiciary's FY 2025 conference appeal.

Due to this funding gap, the FJC will face limitations in projects and program execution, which will impact the services the Center provides to both the judiciary and the public. Educational programs on legal topics, effective court management, emerging technologies, and other essential areas will be scaled back significantly. Additionally, research projects focused on identifying efficiencies and improvements in court operations will be delayed.

JUSTIFICATION OF CHANGES

The Federal Judicial Center's FY 2026 appropriation request is \$34,928,654 an increase of \$667,654 over the enacted FY 2025 appropriation of \$34,261,000. The total requested increase is for adjustments to base to maintain current services. The request will support the Center's planned in-person and virtual programs for judges, court unit executives, managers, supervisors, and other court staff. Furthermore, it enables the Center to develop and update educational resources, publications, and programs in relations to research, federal judicial history, and international judicial relations.

ADJUSTMENTS TO BASE TO MAINTAIN CURRENT SERVICES

A. PERSONNEL

Pay and Benefit Adjustments

1. Annualization of 2025 pay adjustment

Requested Increase: \$128,877

The requested increase provides for the annualized costs of the 2025 pay adjustment of 2.0 percent, effective January 2025. The requested increase provides for the cost associated with three months of the 2025 pay increase (from October to December 2025) in FY 2026.

2. Promotions and within-grade increases

Requested Increase: \$198,329

The requested increase provides for promotions and within-grade increases for personnel. The salary plan for judicial support personnel provides for periodic within-grade increases for staff who receive a performance rating of satisfactory or higher.

3. Benefits increases

a. Health benefits

Requested Increase: \$134,125

Based on information from the Office of Personnel Management, health benefit premium contributions are projected to increase by an average of 5.0 percent in January 2025 and 10.1 percent in January 2026. The requested increase annualizes the 2025 premium increase and includes a nine-month provision for the increase anticipated for FY 2026.

b. FICA adjustment

Requested Increase: \$22,000

Based on information from the Social Security Administration, employer contributions to the Old Age, Survivor, and Disability Insurance (OASDI) portion of the FICA tax increased in 2025. The salary cap for OASDI increased from \$168,600 to \$176,100 in January 2025. The requested amount is needed to pay the judiciary's contribution in FY 2026.

B. OTHER ADJUSTMENTS

General Inflationary Adjustments

4. Inflationary increases in charges for contracts, services, supplies, and equipment

Requested Increase: \$184,323

Consistent with guidance from OMB, the requested increase is required to fund inflationary adjustments of 2.1 percent for operating expenses such as travel, communications, printing, contractual services, supplies and materials, and furniture and equipment.

FINANCING THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 REQUEST

OFFSETTING COLLECTIONS

5. Estimated collections from federal accounts and the FJC Foundation

Estimated Collections: \$250,000

FTE: 0

The Center enters into reimbursable agreements to provide additional services to, or to allow economizing by, the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (AO), the courts, and non-judicial federal entities. For example, on occasion, the AO will add on to scheduled Center programs additional training days for judges and thereby avoid incurring duplicative transportation costs for such efforts. In addition, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 629, the Center receives support from occasional donations to the Federal Judicial Center Foundation, which the

Center uses to conduct additional educational programs for judges. In FY 2026, the Center estimates \$250,000 in reimbursements.