

FEDERAL JUDICIAL CENTER
Salaries and Expenses
SUMMARY STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT REQUIREMENTS

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriation | \$35,121,000 |
| Fiscal Year 2027 Requested Appropriation | \$35,578,000 |
| Requested Increase from Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriation | \$457,000 |

APPROPRIATION LANGUAGE

FEDERAL JUDICIAL CENTER
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Federal Judicial Center, as authorized by Public Law 90-219, [\$35,121,000]*\$35,578,000*; of which \$1,800,000 shall remain available through September 30, [2027]*2028*, 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.

(Division E, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 – P.L. 119-75)

**SUMMARY OF REQUEST
FEDERAL JUDICIAL CENTER
SALARIES AND EXPENSES
FISCAL YEAR 2027
(Dollar amounts in thousands)**

Fiscal Year 2027 Resource Requirements:

| | <u>FTEs</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|---|-------------|----------------|
| Fiscal Year 2026 Obligations..... | 128 | 36,193 |
| Less Obligations from Supplemental Appropriation (P.L. 119-21)..... | - | (1,000) |
| Less Obligations from Collections from Federal Accounts and FJC Foundation..... | - | (72) |
| Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriation..... | 128 | 35,121 |

Adjustments to Base to Maintain Current Services:

Page

A. PERSONNEL

No.

Pay and Benefit Adjustments

| | | | |
|------|--|---|------|
| 9.10 | 1. Annualization of the FY 2026 Pay Adjustments (1.0% for three months)..... | - | 65 |
| 9.10 | 2. Promotions and Within-grade Increases..... | - | 197 |
| | 3. Benefits Adjustments | | |
| 9.10 | a. Health Benefits..... | - | 78 |
| 9.10 | b. FICA Adjustment..... | - | 20 |
| 9.10 | c. FERS Adjustment..... | - | (96) |

B. OTHER ADJUSTMENTS

General Inflationary Adjustments

| | | | |
|------|--|------------|---------------|
| 9.11 | 4. Inflationary Increases in Charges for Contracts, Services, Supplies, and Equipment..... | - | 193 |
| | Subtotal, Adjustments to Base to Maintain Current Services..... | - | 457 |
| | Total Current Services Appropriation Required | 128 | 35,578 |
| | Total Fiscal Year 2027 Appropriation Required..... | 128 | 35,578 |
| | Total Appropriation Increase..... | - | 457 |

Financing the Fiscal Year 2027 Request:

| | | | |
|------|--|---------------|---------------|
| | 128 | 35,578 | |
| 9.11 | 5. Estimated Collections from Federal Accounts and the FJC Foundation..... | - | 85 |
| 9.11 | 6. Obligations from Supplemental Appropriation (P.L. 119-21)..... | - | 1,000 |
| | Total Estimated Obligations, Fiscal Year 2027..... | 128 | 36,663 |

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

| Activity | FY 2025 Actuals ¹ | | | FY 2026 Enacted | | | FY 2027 Request | | |
|--|---------------------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| | Direct | Collections | Total | Direct | Offsetting Collections | Total | Direct | Offsetting Collections | Total |
| Education and Training (annual and multiyear) | 23,304 | 121 | 23,425 | 24,475 | 72 | 24,547 | 24,785 | 85 | 24,870 |
| Research | 7,266 | - | 7,266 | 7,219 | - | 7,219 | 7,310 | - | 7,310 |
| Program Support | 4,707 | - | 4,707 | 5,053 | - | 5,053 | 4,483 | - | 4,483 |
| Total Obligations | 35,277 | 121 | 35,398 | 36,747 | 72 | 36,819 | 36,578 | 85 | 36,663 |
| Unobligated Balance, Start of Year: | | | | | | | | | |
| Judiciary Information Technology Fund | (949) | - | (949) | (949) | - | (949) | (323) | - | (323) |
| Deposits and Other Adjustments: | | | | | | | | | |
| Judiciary Information Technology Fund | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Unobligated Balance, End of Year: | | | | | | | | | |
| Judiciary Information Technology Fund | 949 | - | 949 | 323 | - | 323 | 323 | - | 323 |
| <i>Subtotal, Judiciary Information Technology Fund Obligations</i> | <i>-</i> | <i>-</i> | <i>-</i> | <i>(626)</i> | <i>-</i> | <i>(626)</i> | <i>-</i> | <i>-</i> | <i>-</i> |
| Total Direct Obligations | 35,277 | 121 | 35,398 | 36,121 | 72 | 36,193 | 36,578 | 85 | 36,663 |
| FJC Unobligated Balance, Start-of Year (multiyear) | (811) | - | (811) | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| FJC Unobligated Balance, End of Year (annual and multiyear) | 795 | - | 795 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Less Offsetting Collections | - | (121) | (121) | - | (72) | (72) | - | (85) | (85) |
| Available Appropriation | 35,261 | - | 35,261 | 36,121 | - | 36,121 | 36,578 | - | 36,578 |
| Appropriation - Discretionary | 34,261 | - | 34,261 | 35,121 | - | 35,121 | 35,578 | - | 35,578 |
| Appropriation - Supplemental (P. L. 119-21) | 1,000 | - | 1,000 | 1,000 | - | 1,000 | 1,000 | - | 1,000 |

¹ As of the end of FY 2025, the Center's obligations, as detailed in the table above, cover both annual and multi-year funding, including FY 2025 (with OBBBA funds), FY 2025–2026, and FY 2024–2025 funds. Among the total direct obligations, \$1,026,143.04 of FY 2025–2026 funds are committed specifically for programs scheduled in the first quarter of FY 2026. Consequently, expenditures for these programs will not be finalized and reported until FY 2027.

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

| Description | FY 2025 Actuals | | | FY 2026 Enacted | | | FY 2027 Request | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| | Direct | Offsetting Collections | Total Oblig. | Direct | Offsetting Collections | Total Oblig. | Direct | Offsetting Collections | Total Oblig. |
| 11 Personnel Compensation | 18,858 | 49 | 18,907 | 19,151 | - | 19,151 | 19,413 | - | 19,413 |
| 12 Personnel Benefits | 6,839 | 22 | 6,861 | 6,788 | - | 6,788 | 6,790 | - | 6,790 |
| 21 Travel | 4,860 | 50 | 4,910 | 6,460 | 72 | 6,532 | 6,582 | 85 | 6,667 |
| 22 Transportation of Things | 78 | - | 78 | 50 | - | 50 | 51 | - | 51 |
| 23 Communications, Utilities, & Misc. | 609 | - | 609 | 738 | - | 738 | 752 | - | 752 |
| 24 Printing and Reproduction | 26 | - | 26 | 30 | - | 30 | 31 | - | 31 |
| 25 Other Services | 2,013 | - | 2,013 | 1,313 | - | 1,313 | 1,338 | - | 1,338 |
| 26 Supplies and Materials | 426 | - | 426 | 426 | - | 426 | 434 | - | 434 |
| 31 Equipment | 1,568 | - | 1,568 | 1,165 | - | 1,165 | 1,187 | - | 1,187 |
| Direct Obligations | 35,277 | 121 | 35,398 | 36,121 | 72 | 36,193 | 36,578 | 85 | 36,663 |
| Other Obligations (JITF) | 0 | | 0 | 626 | - | 626 | - | - | - |
| Total Obligations | 35,277 | 121 | 35,398 | 36,747 | 72 | 36,819 | 36,578 | 85 | 36,663 |

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

| | FY 2025 | FY 2026 | FY 2027 | Difference |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| | Actual | Enacted | Request | (+) or (-) |
| Total Obligations | 35,398 | 36,193 | 36,663 | 470 |
| Obligated Balance, Start of Year | 3,939 | 4,223 | 4,338 | 115 |
| Adjustment of Prior Year Activity | (377) | - | - | |
| Obligated Balance, End of Year | <u>(4,223)</u> | <u>(4,338)</u> | <u>(4,446)</u> | <u>(108)</u> |
| Total Outlays | 34,737 | 36,078 | 36,555 | 477 |
| Less Offsets | (132) | - | - | - |
| Net Outlays | 34,605 | 36,078 | 36,555 | 477 |

FEDERAL JUDICIAL CENTER
Salaries and Expenses
Full Time Equivalents by Activity

| Activity | FY 2025 Actual | | | FY 2026 Enacted | | | FY 2027 Request | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------|
| | Direct | Offsetting Collec. | Total | Direct | Offsetting Collec. | Total | Direct | Offsetting Collec. | Total |
| Education and Training | 82 | - | 82 | 86 | - | 86 | 86 | - | 86 |
| Research | 30 | - | 30 | 31 | - | 31 | 31 | - | 31 |
| Program Support | 10 | - | 10 | 11 | - | 11 | 11 | - | 11 |
| Total, Full Time Equivalents | 122 | - | 122 | 128 | - | 128 | 128 | - | 128 |

GENERAL STATEMENT AND INFORMATION

The fiscal year (FY) 2027 request for the Federal Judicial Center (Center) totals \$35.6 million to support the operations of the 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 also provides education for experienced probation and pretrial services officers. 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 judge is 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 Accomplishments

In FY 2025, the Center completed 30 research projects and related activities. This research included the development and maintenance of dashboards that show each court how slowly or quickly that court terminated types of cases relative to the national average; updated and expanded research on privacy rules and on redaction of Social Security numbers in court filings; and the development of valuable resources for judges including the *Benchbook for U.S. District Courts*, among others. The Center also conducted research on case weights for bankruptcy cases, which inform the number of judgeships requested.

The Center delivered educational programming for judges and judiciary personnel across the country, specifically 139 in-person, virtual, and blended learning programs; 28 videos, podcasts, and webcasts; and maintained 16 e-learning programs. These programs included orientation programs for all new appellate, district, magistrate, and bankruptcy judges. They also included leadership seminars for court executives and chief judges to help them effectively lead their courts.

The Center also obligated nearly all of its annual increment of \$1 million of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) funds on educational and other mission-oriented initiatives under 28 U.S.C. § 620(b)(3) and as provided for in the Act.

Fiscal Year 2026 Planned Activities

In FY 2026, the Center will continue its research initiatives and anticipates maintaining a full portfolio of projects comparable to FY 2025. These include projects on district variation in early termination of supervised release, factors influencing pretrial detention rates, development of a guide for judges on conducting jury trials, and an update on courts' use of remote proceedings in bankruptcy cases.

The Center plans to offer a wide range of educational programming, across in-person, virtual, blended formats, and multimedia resources in FY 2026 to include ten orientation programs for all new appellate, district, magistrate, and bankruptcy judges and hold six national

workshops, two each for district, bankruptcy, and magistrate judges. The Center is also developing new programs on administrative law and employment law and is building a practical web-based educational resource on artificial intelligence (AI) for judges. In addition to a range of programs for court staff on topics including leadership, management, and ethics, the Center will also offer programs for experienced probation and pretrial services officers including a national conference on presentence practice and programs on science-informed decision-making. The Center plans to fully spend its annual increment of \$1 million of OBBBA funds on educational and other mission-oriented initiatives under 28 U.S.C. § 620(b)(3) and as provided for in the Act.

Fiscal Year 2027 Planned Activities

In FY 2027, the Center plans to continue with a similar number of research projects as in FY 2026 with topics dependent on Judicial Conference committee requests. The Center will also offer a similar number of educational programs across in-person, virtual, blended formats, and multimedia resources. This will include a range of programs for judges, court staff, and probation and pretrial services officers. The Center plans to fully spend its annual increment of \$1 million of OBBBA funds on educational and other mission-oriented initiatives under 28 U.S.C. § 620(b)(3) and as provided for in the Act.

FISCAL YEAR 2026 APPROPRIATIONS

The judiciary's starting point for developing its FY 2027 budget request reflects bill language and appropriations levels enacted in the FY 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 119-75). The FY 2026 enacted level for the Center of \$35.1 million is consistent with the judiciary's FY 2026 Conference Appeal. With this funding, the Center is able to carry out its full portfolio of planned educational and research initiatives.

ADJUSTMENT TO BASE TO MAINTIAN CURRENT SERVICES

The Center’s FY 2027 appropriation request is \$35.6 million, an increase of \$457,000 over the enacted FY 2026 appropriation of \$35.1 million (exclusive of the OBBBA funds).

A. PERSONNEL

Pay and Benefit Adjustments

1. Annualization of 2026 pay adjustment

Requested Increase: \$64,912

The requested increase provides for the annualized costs of the 2026 pay adjustment of 1.0 percent, effective January 2026. The requested increase provides for the cost associated with three months of the 2026 pay increase (from October to December 2026) in FY 2027.

2. Promotions and within-grade increases

Requested Increase: \$196,683

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 adjustments

a. Health benefits

Requested Increase: \$77,612

Based on information from the Office of Personnel Management, health benefit premium contributions are projected to increase by an average of 10.1 percent in January 2026 and increase by 5.0 percent in January 2027. The requested increase annualizes the 2026 premium increase and includes a nine-month provision for the increase anticipated for FY 2027.

b. FICA adjustment

Requested Increase: \$20,297

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 2026. The salary cap for OASDI increased from \$176,100 to \$184,500 in January 2026. The requested amount is needed to pay the judiciary’s contribution in FY 2027, based on the annualized 2026 increase and the 2027 projected increase in the 2025 Social Security Trustees Report.

c. FERS adjustment

Requested Decrease: (\$95,753)

Consistent with guidance from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), there is a projected decrease in the agency contribution rate to Federal Employees Retirement Systems

(FERS) plans for FY 2027. For most employees, the agency contribution will decrease from 18.4 percent to 17.9 percent. Any FERS decrease is in accordance with revised estimates of the cost of providing benefits by the Board of Actuaries of the Civil Service Retirement and Disability System.

B. OTHER ADJUSTMENTS

General Inflationary Adjustments

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

Requested Increase: \$192,846

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 2027 REQUEST

OFFSETTING COLLECTIONS

5. Estimated collections from federal accounts and the FJC Foundation

Estimated Collections: \$85,000

The Center enters into reimbursable agreements to provide additional services to, or to allow economizing by, the 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 2027, the Center estimates \$85,000 in reimbursements.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION

6. Public Law 119-21: The One Big Beautiful Bill Act

Supplemental Appropriation: \$1,000,000

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act provides the Center with \$1.0 million in FY 2027 to support the development and delivery of educational programs and resources for the federal judiciary. These funds will be directed toward expanding training curricula, instructional materials, and related educational tools, including programming that addresses legal principles surrounding non-party relief, commonly known as nationwide injunctions.