

STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

Under supervision of the Chief Justice, who is the administrative head of the Unified Judicial System, the State Court Administrator is the non-judicial officer who implements the rules and policies of the Supreme Court as they apply to the operations and administration of the courts. The State Court Administrator serves as the liaison between the judicial branch and the other branches of state and local government. To ensure efficient and responsive operation, the State Court Administrator's Office (SCAO) provides centralized administrative assistance and support services to the entire Unified Judicial System.

The following is a brief summary of the functions of the SCAO:

- ▶ Assists in the formulation of fundamental policies, principles, and standards for court administration in South Dakota including initiating, researching, developing, implementing, and evaluating proposed policies, principles, and standards;
- ▶ Facilitates cooperation, consultation, and exchange of information by and among the circuit courts, the State Court Administrator's Office, the Supreme Court, and national, state, and local offices and organizations directly concerned with court administration, including tribal entities;
- ▶ Fosters the use of the principles and techniques of modern management in the field of court and judicial administration; and
- ▶ Endeavors to improve administrative practice and procedure in all state courts in South Dakota as well as increase the services received by the public.

FINANCING THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM

The State Court Administrator's Office manages the fiscal operations of the Unified Judicial System. This office prepares and submits the annual budget, administers the annual operating budget, and manages a uniform accounting system for the receipt and disbursement of all funds handled by circuit and magistrate courts.

In addition to state funding, city and county governments are required by state law to pay for certain court-related expenses. Each county is responsible for supporting court operations by paying all jury and witness fees, transcript and interpreter costs, and attorney fees incurred while defending the indigent. Counties are also required to provide operational facilities for the court. Operational facilities include office space, courtrooms, jury rooms, and other space needed to support the court's operations. In addition, many counties maintain their own county law libraries, funded in part by a law library fee collected by the UJS on each civil filing made in circuit court.

FY2021 Expenditures

Chart 4. Budget Breakdown
FY2021 Expenditures by Program

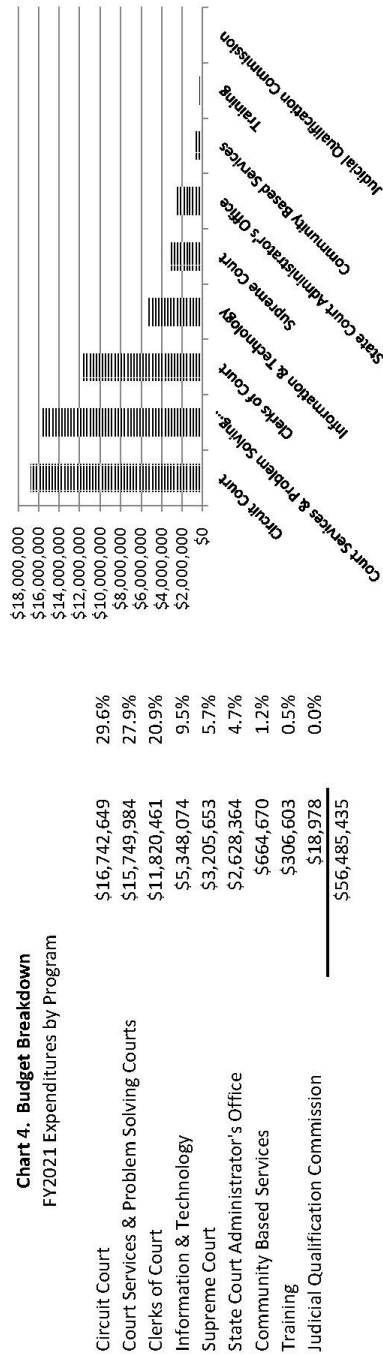
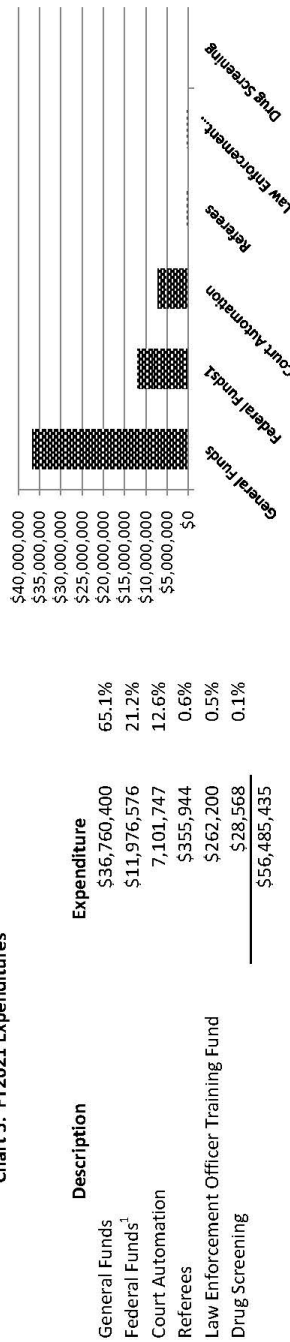


Chart 5. FY2021 Expenditures



¹The Treasury Guidance states under "Supplemental Guidance on Use of Funds to Cover Payroll and Benefits of Public Employees" that "In recognition of the particular importance of public health and public safety workers to State, local, and tribal government responses to the public health emergency, Treasury has provided, as an administrative accommodation, that a State, local, or tribal government may presume that public health and public safety employees meet the substantially indicated test, unless the chief executive (or equivalent) of the relevant government determines that specific circumstances indicate otherwise. This means that, if this presumption applies, work performed by such employees is considered to be a substantially different use than accounted for in the most recently approved budget as of March 22, 2020. All costs of such employees may be covered using payments from the fund for services provided during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 31, 2020." Further guidance published on 1/15/21 extended the period where these costs would be covered. Section 2001 of Division II of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 amended section 6021(f)(3) of the Social Security Act by extending the end of the covered period for Coronavirus Relief Fund expenditures from December 31, 2020 to December 31, 2021.