

Protection Order Reimbursement & Training (PORT) Project

Fiscal Year 2025 Report

Period covered: October 21, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Introduction

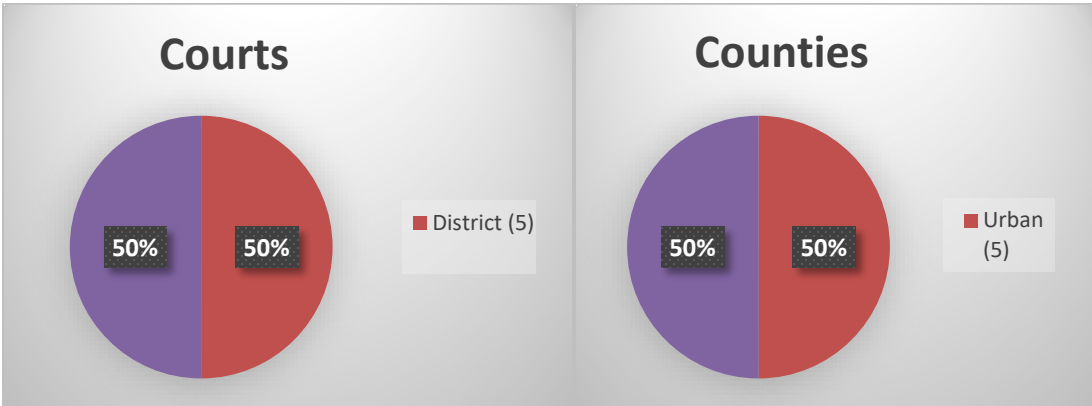
Since 2021, Washington courts have adapted to major and ongoing changes to the state’s civil protection order (CPO) laws through the passage and implementation of Chapter 7.105 RCW. Courts have seen an increase in filings, number of hearings, length of time to conduct hearings, and length of time to prepare for hearings, largely without additional funding.

In 2024, the Administrative Office of the Courts sought funding to support courts with these changes. The Protection Order Reimbursement & Training (PORT) Project was created using pass-through funding appropriated by the Legislature to reimburse participating trial courts for:

- Utilizing pro tem coverage for:
 - Civil protection order (CPO) hearings
 - Judicial time spent training pro tems on CPOs
- Other expenditures related to providing pro tem training on CPOs

FY 2025 Highlights

In its first year, the PORT Project reimbursed 10 courts through interagency agreements, including District and Superior Courts in urban and rural counties, and trained 52 pro tems.



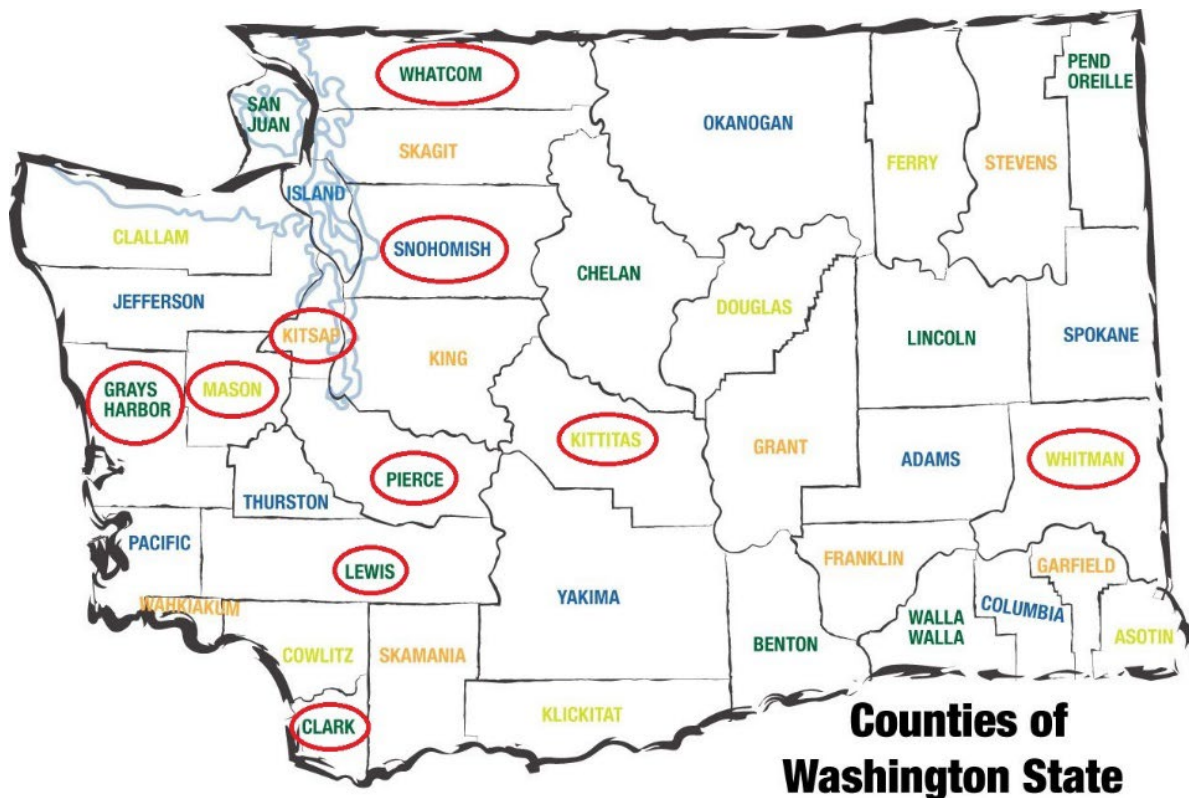
FY 25 Participating Courts

District Courts

- Grays Harbor County
- Kitsap County
- Kittitas (Upper) County
- Pierce County
- Whitman County

Superior Courts

- Clark County
- Lewis County
- Mason County
- Snohomish County
- Whatcom County



Local Implementation

The goal of the PORT Project is to support courts in implementing the updated CPO laws while providing flexibility for courts to use the funds within program parameters. Participating courts use the funds in a variety of ways:

- Adding CPO dockets: one court, for example, added CPO dockets on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday that are all covered by the same pro tem.
- Providing coverage on an as-needed basis: some courts have one dedicated pro tem that provides coverage on CPO dockets, while others have multiple pro tems that provide coverage on a rotating basis.
- Reviewing ex parte CPO filings: pro tems review online ex parte petitions, which allows the presiding judge to be in the courtroom for hearings and in-person ex parte petitions.

Training

In FY 2025, the PORT Project provided participating pro tems with 12 hours of required and optional training opportunities.

Required eLearning Modules

- Gender-Based Violence Dynamics (1 hour)
- Coercive Control (1 hour)

Optional Training Opportunities

- Monthly pro tem forums with Ret. Commissioner Jennie Laird (4 hours)
- Procedural Justice Training with Center for Justice Innovation (6 hours)

AOC Support

Participating courts receive support from dedicated AOC staff. Staff provide outreach, technical assistance, training resources, and invoice forms. In FY 2025, staff also conducted site visits and viewed remote dockets to assess courts' needs and determine what resources and training are needed to best support the courts.

Looking Ahead

Applications for FY 2026 were open June 1-30 and AOC received 14 applications, including all 10 FY 25 participating courts. All 14 courts have been accepted to the Project for FY 26.

In addition to the Gender-Based Violence Dynamics and Coercive Control eLearning modules, pro tems from FY 26 courts will be required to take the Teen Dating Violence and Elder and Disability Abuse eLearning modules. The PORT Project will continue to offer monthly pro tem forums September through December 2025, which were very well-received in FY 25. Additional training opportunities are in development.

In FY 26, AOC's Washington State Center for Court Research will support the PORT Project in collecting data to help demonstrate the effectiveness and impact of the Project on local courts and communities.

For questions, comments, or suggestions, contact **Jessica Janét, PORT Project Coordinator**, Jessica.Janet@courts.wa.gov.
