



# **Board for Judicial Administration Court Security Task Force**



## **Overview and Funding Activities**

**Washington State  
Administrative Office of the Courts**

**December 2021**

# BJA Court Security Task Force



**Goal: Ensure that all trial courts can comply with GR 36 minimum standards by 2025**



Convened in 2018 to address the chronic underfunding of security in many Washington Courts



24 members representing all levels of court, elected officials and justice stakeholders.

# How we approached the work



- Conducted a security needs assessment survey of participating trials courts in December 2019.
- Developed a funding strategy based on a two-phased, prioritized grant pool
- Submitted a \$767K budget decision package to the state legislature for the 2021-2023 biennium
- Received \$750K in state funding in July 2021

# Security Needs Assessment Findings



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**A comprehensive security needs assessment survey was sent to PJs and Administrators in December 2019. Over 111 courts responded that they did not meet one or more of the minimum security standards in GR 36.**



Courthouses with the most security needs are located in small, rural lower-resourced counties and jurisdictions.



## **Data Highlights**

- 57% reported no entry screening takes place in their courthouse.
- 50% reported they do not have adequate camera surveillance.
- 60% reported they do not have duress alarms.
- 75% reported they have not had a security audit in the last five years.

# Phased & Prioritized Funding Strategy



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## Phase 1

**2021-2023 biennium**  
**\$750, 000**

- First priority funding is for “shared sites” in which a Superior and District or Municipal court share a building and do not have the resources to conduct entry screening or meet other minimum GR 36 standards.

## Phase 2

**2022 Supplemental**  
**\$4.6 million**

- First priority for funding goes to “single sites’ courts that do not have the resources to conduct entry screening or meet other minimum security standards.
- Remaining funds for any court that does not meet minimum GR 36 standards.

# Phased & Prioritized Funding Strategy



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## Phase 1

**2021-2023 biennium**  
**\$750,000**

### **Security Equipment**

Magnetometers, X-Ray Machines, Duress Alarm/Emergency Broadcast Systems, Security Cameras, Security Items (key card entry, locks, security film, etc.)

### **Security Audits**

Third party onsite assessments

### **AOC Staffing (2 years)**

Security Resource Coordinator & Fiscal Specialist

## Phase 2

**2022 Supplemental**  
**\$4.6 million**

- **More security equipment and security audits**
- **Security Training**  
Customized online training
- **Implementation Costs**  
Small infrastructure projects for security improvements
- **Court Security Officers**  
Unarmed officers procured from private vendors

# Current work and next steps



- **Continue updating the security resource page and incident reporting form on Inside Courts.**
- **Continue supporting the Courthouse Communication Network listserv and reference library.**
- **Hire for the AOC positions to support the granting program and get the funding to the courts by winter 2021.**
- **Coordinate advocacy plan for the supplemental budget request. We will need you to contact your state and local legislators!**

# Contact Information



## Court Security Task Force Co-Chairs Judge Rebecca Robertson & Judge Sean O'Donnell

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