

David Thorn
Presiding Judge



Niltza Flores
Court Administrator

Joel Larson
Associate Presiding Judge

**SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA
COCHISE COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR**

MEMORANDUM

To: Sharon Gilman, County Administrator
From: Rita Shipley, Judicial Budget and Finance Director
Date: November 7, 2025
Subject: FY25 Fill the Gap Revenue Certification

In 1999, the Arizona Legislature enacted A.R.S. §41-2421, a law enhancing collections in the courts, setting forth the allocation of those revenues to criminal justice entities (popularly referred to as the Fill the Gap initiative). Pursuant to A.R.S. §41-2421, a base year of revenue thresholds was established as Fiscal Year 1998. Thereafter, 5% of revenues collected by the courts were to be “set-aside” until the determination that a subsequent year’s revenues exceeded that of the base year. If so, those “set-aside” dollars are to be disbursed to the below-outlined criminal justice agencies. The certification of each year’s revenues exceeding the base year must be done by the Board of Supervisors for those funds to be properly allocated.

In this agenda item, the court is requesting certification that total court revenues for FY2025 exceeded total court revenues for the base FY1998. This certification is necessary to enable the courts, the county attorney, and the public defender to receive their respective share of the revenue set-aside funds in compliance with the Fill the Gap initiative.

Total court revenues for FY2025 were \$8,226,455.51 compared to FY1998 total of \$2,100,024, an increase of \$6,126,431.51. The total amount of the 5% set-aside for FY2025 was \$338,073.20, which upon the Board’s action, will be distributed as follows:

Percentage	Department/Agency	Amount
57.37%	Courts	\$193,952.59
21.61%	County Attorney	\$73,057.62
20.53%	Indigent Defense – Public Defender	\$69,406.43
<u>0.49%</u>	State Treasurer (Dept of Law)	\$1,656.56
100.00%	Total	\$338,073.20

The court’s share of this fund will be utilized to support the Superior Court criminal case processing and other court projects which has been the established utilization of these funds in Cochise County since the creation of A.R.S. §41-2421. Inasmuch the annual certification of court revenues is a statutory requirement for disbursement of the 5% set-aside funds, I respectfully request that the item be placed on the action agenda of the Board’s November 18, 2025 meeting.

cc: Niltza Flores – Court Administrator
Lori Zucco – County Attorney
Charles Kendall – Public Defender

Cochise County
Fill the Gap 5% Set Aside by Month
FY 2025

Collections by Month			Collections by Court	
<u>Year</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Superior Court</u>	<u>Justice Courts</u>
2024	Jul	\$29,622.06	\$6,663.17	\$22,958.89
2024	Aug	\$25,483.07	\$6,316.22	\$19,166.85
2024	Sep	\$30,296.19	\$6,178.98	\$24,117.21
2024	Oct	\$24,750.95	\$5,813.75	\$18,937.20
2024	Nov	\$20,267.23	\$4,969.69	\$15,297.54
2024	Dec	\$22,208.33	\$4,795.96	\$17,412.37
2025	Jan	\$27,804.01	\$5,614.51	\$22,189.50
2025	Feb	\$28,350.36	\$6,671.58	\$21,678.78
2025	Mar	\$34,876.25	\$7,830.46	\$27,045.79
2025	Apr	\$33,756.72	\$7,841.95	\$25,914.77
2025	May	\$32,264.16	\$7,142.73	\$25,121.43
2025	Jun	\$28,393.87	\$6,354.14	\$22,039.73
		\$338,073.20	\$76,193.14	\$261,880.06

Total Revenue Received by the Courts

	FY2025	FY1998 (1)
Superior Court	\$1,601,758.95	
Justice Courts	\$6,624,696.56	
	\$8,226,455.51	\$2,100,024.00

(1) Breakout by court is unavailable due to records retention schedule

APPROVAL

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100.00%	Total	\$338,073.20

The annual certification of the court revenue is required by the Board of Supervisors for disbursement of the 5% set-aside funds.

APPROVED:

Frank Antenori, Chairman
Cochise County Board of Supervisors

Date

ATTEST:

Lara Loewenheim, Clerk of the Board

Date