



NORTH CAROLINA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
of the COURTS

2015 Report on Court Information Technology Fund [G.S. 7A-343.2]

August 1, 2015



INTRODUCTION

The North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts (NCAOC) is required to report annually to the General Assembly on the Court Information Technology Fund (the “Fund”). Specifically, G.S. 7A-343.2 provides as follows:

§ 7A-343.2 Court Information Technology Fund

(c) Report. – The Director must report annually by August 1 of each year to the Chairs of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety and the Chairs of the Senate and House Appropriations Subcommittees on Justice and Public Safety. The report must include the following:

- (1) Amounts credited in the preceding fiscal year to the Fund.
- (2) Amounts expended in the preceding fiscal year from the Fund and the purposes of the expenditures.
- (3) Proposed expenditures of the monies in the Fund.

NCAOC respectfully submits this report in compliance with the statutory mandate.

ANALYSIS

The Fund consists of designated facilities fees¹ generated from court costs and fees for remote public access.² Per G.S. 7A-343.2(b), money from the Fund is used to upgrade, maintain, and operate the judicial and county courthouse telecommunications and data connectivity, and to supplement funds otherwise available to the Judicial Branch for technology needs.

The tables below represent summary and detailed amounts credited and the amounts expended for FY 2014–15, and the proposed expenditures of monies in the Fund for FY 2015–16.

Table 1. Summary Court Information Technology Fund

SUMMARY	AMOUNT
Amounts Credited / Source FY 2014-15	\$13,731,887
Amounts Expended by Purpose FY 2014-15	\$15,523,729
Anticipated Expenditures FY 2015-16	\$21,337,862

¹ See G.S. 7A-304(a)(2a), 7A-305(a)(1a), 7A-306(a)(1a), and 7A-307(a)(1a).

² See G.S. 7A-109(d).



Table 2. Amounts Credited to the Court Information Technology Fund (FY 2014–15)

AMOUNTS CREDITED / SOURCE	AMOUNT
Remote public access – online access fees	\$8,343,617
Remote public access – extracts fees	\$227,082
Facilities fees for telephone system replacement and maintenance	\$5,095,052
Interest	\$66,136
TOTAL	\$13,731,887

Table 3. Amounts Expended from the Court Information Technology Fund (FY 2014–15)

EXPENDITURE	PURPOSE	AMOUNT
Personnel	Augment personnel to support ongoing technology programs and services	\$4,787,589
Purchased services	Provide services, including telephone services, required to ensure ongoing technology operations	\$6,450,273
Equipment, supplies, and other expenses	Replace obsolete computer equipment and software and purchase supplies	\$4,285,866
TOTAL		\$15,523,729

Table 4. Proposed Expenditure from the Court Information Technology Fund (FY 2015–16)

EXPENDITURE	PURPOSE	AMOUNT
Personnel	Augment personnel to support ongoing technology programs and services	\$4,787,589
Purchased services	Provide computer hardware and software maintenance and telephone services	\$6,450,273
Equipment	Replace obsolete computer and audiovisual equipment; upgrade and expand capacity of computer hardware and software	\$7,550,000
Contingency reserve		\$2,550,000
TOTAL		\$21,337,862



SUMMARY

NCAOC continues to use money from the Fund to provide and maintain the basic technological infrastructure and applications necessary to serve the public in courthouses and other Judicial Branch locations throughout the State. For FY 2015-16, the funds will be used for critical technology equipment upgrades such as the evaluation and procurement of court digital recording hardware and software to improve reliability and availability of digital courtroom recording; the evaluation and procurement of an enterprise information management system to enable the scanning and digitization of court documents which will provide “anytime, anywhere” access to documents; and lifecycle replacement of courthouse computing equipment including desktops, laptops, printers, scanners, servers, and network components. NCAOC also will upgrade foundational infrastructure equipment to meet the needs of the eCourts initiative, which will include improving network capacity and speed, providing necessary disk storage, expanding data replication capabilities and improving business continuity/disaster recovery readiness. These efforts will allow NCAOC to solidify the foundation critical to the administration of justice in North Carolina state courts from a twenty-first century perspective.

