

JUDICIAL COUNCIL ARPA COMMITTEE'S GRANT APPLICATION FOR AN AWARD FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2026

BASIC INSTRUCTIONS

Please read the **Overview and Instructions** posted under Quick Links at <https://jcaoc.georgiacourts.gov/arpa/> for full details beyond the Basic Instructions presented below.

(B) CASE BACKLOGS REQUIRED TO JUSTIFY ARPA FUNDS

All applicants must objectively demonstrate that case backlogs exist to qualify for ARPA grant funds or continued funding. *All expenditures requested in this application must be “reasonably proportional” to the applicant’s objectively demonstrated need to address case backlogs, with priority given to serious violent felonies (as defined in OCGA § 17-10-6.1 (a)).* 87 Fed. Reg. 4,344; 4,388 (Jan. 27, 2022). When calculating the need for additional resources to respond to case backlogs, a court may provide statistics comparing its case volume from a “normal” pre-pandemic year (e.g., case volume in 2019) to its current case volume. Applicants should also identify what portion of case backlogs are serious violent felony cases, as defined in OCGA § 17-10-6.1 (a).

(D) ARPA GRANT FUNDS REQUESTED OR RECEIVED FROM OTHER SOURCES TO ADDRESS CASE BACKLOGS

Applicants (except appellate courts) must also request ARPA funds from their respective county governments. For ARPA grant funds requested or received by any court or other entity included in this application from any other sources (including a county, municipality (to include a “nonentitlement unit of local government”), or an eligible non-profit entity), attach documentation explaining how requested, received, expended, or obligated funds have been or will be used, including whether such funds have been or will be used to address the backlog of serious violent felonies, as defined in OCGA § 17-10-6.1 (a). Also attach any correspondence to and from each county from which ARPA funds were requested.

(E) ARPA FUNDS BY EXPENDITURE CATEGORY (EC)

(E) (1) Payroll-Public Sector Staff Responding to Case Backlogs (Federal EC 3.1)

More than 50 percent of total personnel costs awarded each calendar year under this EC must be dedicated to responding to serious violent felonies, as defined in OCGA § 17-10-6.1 (a). As used in EC (E) (1) (c), “total personnel costs” means the subtotal of funds requested under section (E) (1) only, as stated in (E) (1) (a). To get the percentage used in EC (E) (1) (c), divide the amount provided under EC (E) (1) (b) by the amount provided in EC (E) (1) (a).

New or existing staff may be used to respond to case backlogs, with priority given to serious violent felony cases (as defined in OCGA § 17-10-6.1 (a)). *However, only payroll for time spent actually responding to case backlogs may be reimbursed with ARPA grant funds.* 87 Fed. Reg. 4,341; 4,388 (Jan. 27, 2022) (Eligible use must “respond to the identified negative economic impact” of the pandemic, “e.g., backlogs in court systems”). This includes payroll of new personnel hired to backfill existing personnel responding to case backlogs (prioritizing cases involving serious violent felonies). Therefore, time spent responding to case backlogs (or

backfilling others so they can respond) must be tracked and documented for reimbursement and auditing purposes.

Per U.S. Treasury Compliance and Reporting Guidance, federal EC 3.1 is reserved for “Public Sector Workforce” payroll and benefits, so (E) (1) must exclude contractors, which fall under federal administrative ECs 3.5 and 7.1. 31 CFR § 35.6 (b) (3) (ii) (E) (1). To categorize contractors correctly under federal guidance, contractors responding to case backlogs generally (i.e., not performing mental health, substance use, or eviction prevention diversion services) should be included under EC (E) (6), which corresponds to federal administrative expenditure ECs 3.5 and 7.1. 31 CFR § 35.6 (b) (3) (ii) (E) (3)-(4).

(E) (2) Court-Based Mental Health Diversion (Federal EC 1.12)

Per Executive Branch limitations, ARPA funds for court-based mental health diversion services must: (a) respond to case backlogs; and (b) conserve staff time and resources to respond to case backlogs of serious violent felony cases, as defined in OCGA § 17-10-6.1 (a). Accordingly, for purposes of this expenditure category, grant applicants *must provide a numerical estimate* in the description regarding the staff hours and resources court-based mental health diversion services will conserve so staff may respond to serious violent felonies. As used in this section, “numerical” means containing one or more of the number symbols 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9; e.g., 20 hours of staff time per week, 18 percent of a judge’s caseload, or some other numerical measurement. *Please also note that ARPA funds allocated to the Judicial Council may be used for court-based services only and not for out of court mental health treatment services.*

Contractors performing court-based mental health diversion services to respond to case backlogs must be requested under EC (E) (2) and not EC (E) (6) because federal EC 1.12 applies to “Mental Health Services” generally. 31 CFR § 35.6 (b) (3) (i) (C).

(E) (3) Court-Based Substance Use Diversion (Federal EC 1.13)

Per Executive Branch limitations, ARPA funds for court-based substance use diversion services must: (a) respond to case backlogs; and (b) conserve staff time and resources to respond to case backlogs of serious violent felony cases, as defined in OCGA § 17-10-6.1 (a). Accordingly, for purposes of this expenditure category, grant applicants *must provide a numerical estimate* in the description regarding the staff hours and resources court-based substance use diversion services will conserve so staff may respond to serious violent felonies. As used in this section, “numerical” means containing one or more of the number symbols 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9; e.g., 20 hours of staff time per week, 18 percent of a judge’s caseload, or some other numerical measurement. *Please also note that ARPA funds allocated to the Judicial Council may be used for court-based services only and not for out of court substance use treatment services.*

Contractors performing court-based substance use diversion services to respond to case backlogs must be requested under (E) (3) and not (E) (6) because federal EC 1.13 applies to “Substance Use Services” generally. 31 CFR § 35.6 (b) (3) (i) (C).

(E) (4) Court-Based Eviction Prevention and Diversion (Federal ECs 2.2, 2.18)

Per Executive Branch limitations, ARPA funds for court-based eviction prevention and diversion

services must: (a) respond to case backlogs; and (b) conserve staff time and resources to respond to case backlogs of serious violent felony cases, as defined in OCGA § 17-10-6.1 (a). Accordingly, for purposes of this expenditure category, grant applicants *must provide a numerical estimate* in the description regarding the staff hours and resources court-based eviction prevention and diversion services will conserve so that staff may respond to serious violent felonies. As used in this section, “numerical” means containing one or more of the number symbols 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9; e.g., 20 hours of staff time per week, 18 percent of a judge’s caseload, or some other numerical measurement. *Please also note that ARPA funds allocated to the Judicial Council may not be used for direct payments to landlords or tenants.*

Contractors performing court-based eviction prevention and diversion services to respond to case backlogs must be requested under EC (E) (4) and not EC (E) (6) because federal ECs 2.2 and 2.18 respectively apply to “Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid” and “Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance” generally. 31 CFR § 35.6 (b) (3) (ii) (A) (1), (5).

(E) (6) ARPA-Eligible Administrative Expenses (Federal ECs 3.5, 7.1)

Describe proposed ARPA-eligible administrative expenses in the space provided. Contractors performing mental health, substance use, or eviction prevention diversion services must be requested under EC (E) (2), (3), or (4) respectively. All other contractors responding to case backlogs and contractors performing grant administration must be requested under EC (E) (6). 31 CFR § 35.6 (b) (3) (ii) (E) (1), (3)-(4).

Grant Administration Payroll

Please request all grant administration personnel, including staff and contractors, under EC (E) (6) ARPA-Eligible Administrative Expenses. Do not request grant administration personnel under EC (E) (1) Payroll-Public Sector Staff Responding to Case Backlogs.

Supplies, Materials, and Equipment

ARPA funds are authorized for supplies, furniture (valued at under \$5,000), and equipment (valued at under \$5,000; e.g., monitors, computers, *authorized* software licenses, phones, and printers) that are necessary for personnel to respond to case backlogs or perform ARPA grant administration. If valued at under \$5,000, such expenditures are generally classified as non-capital permitted expenditures and should be listed under EC (E) (6) and in the Administrative/Indirect Costs section of the **ARPA Budget Form** posted under Quick Links at <https://jcaoc.georgiacourts.gov/arpa/>. *Grant recipients should rent equipment (if possible, practical, and cost-effective) to avoid violating the prohibition on purchasing permanent infrastructure.* Special rules apply to software and audio-visual equipment, as explained below. See **FAQ 28.2** for procurement guidance.

Software

Effective July 26, 2023, the following are an ARPA-eligible expenditure: (1) legal research software for ARPA-funded staff attorneys and prosecutors; and (2) digital evidence management software. Per OPB requirements, however, the purchase of such software is subject to competitive procurement procedures regarding the purchase of equipment, supplies, services, or other items with public funds. *Basic computer operating and word processing software remains an ARPA-*

eligible expenditure. No other types of software are currently authorized. See FAQ 28.2 for procurement guidance.

Audio-Visual Equipment

Effective December 8, 2022, audio-visual equipment modernization in *existing* permanent courtrooms is an ARPA-eligible expenditure and not subject to the OPB prohibition on capital expenditures mentioned above. *Movable or temporary* audio-visual equipment for temporary courtrooms must be requested under (E) (6), not (E) (7). The purchase and installation of permanent audio-visual equipment (i.e., fixtures) in *existing* permanent courtrooms must be requested under section (E) (7) and is subject to specific rules and procedures.

New for CY 2026 - Pre-Trial Psychological Assessments

Effective January 1, 2026, contracts for services by a licensed psychologist or psychology doctoral student under the supervision of a licensed psychologist to conduct pre-trial psychological assessments as required by law or court order are ARPA-eligible expenditures. The cost of contracts for such services must be requested under EC (E)(6) “ARPA-Eligible Administrative Expenses” of an applicant’s application and budget form.

(E) (7) Audio-Visual Equipment Modernization (Federal ECs 3.5, 7.1)

On December 8, 2022, the ARPA Committee approved audio-visual equipment modernization in *existing* permanent courtrooms as an eligible expenditure, subject to certain rules and procedures. See the **Audio-Visual Equipment Modernization Policy** and the **Overview and Instructions** posted under Quick Links at <https://jcaoc.georgiacourts.gov/arpa/> for details and restrictions. Use the AV Policy checklist provided in (E) (7) (c) to assist with compliance. See **FAQ 28.2** for procurement guidance.

Per federal regulations and OPB requirements, audio-visual modernization costs must be *necessary, reasonable, and proportional* to the objectively demonstrated need to respond to case backlogs caused by the pandemic, with a primary focus on cases involving serious violent felonies. No staff or contractor positions should be requested under this EC, which is reserved for “audio-visual equipment modernization” expenditures only, as defined in the AV Policy. All personnel should be requested under sections (E) (1)-(4), (6) of this application. The overall ARPA-funded staff and contractor headcount in this application must be proportional to the number of courtrooms you intend to modernize to comply with federal regulations and OPB requirements. AV Policy § (d).

(F) SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION AND BUDGET FORM

The **ARPA Budget Form** posted under Quick Links at <https://jcaoc.georgiacourts.gov/arpa/> must be submitted in an Excel spreadsheet format and *not* a .pdf file format. Copies of correspondence requesting county ARPA funds must also be attached, as well as any response to such request. If requesting funds under (E) (7), attach all documents required under section (b) (2)-(4) of the **Audio-Visual Equipment Modernization Policy** (posted under Quick Links at <https://jcaoc.georgiacourts.gov/arpa/>). Attach any other supporting documentation the ARPA Committee will need to review your application sufficiently and efficiently. Use the checklist

provided in this section to assist with compliance.

(H) SUBMIT APPLICATION

The ARPA Grants Team will confirm receipt via e-mail and follow up with you regarding any issues with your application and next steps. Applications that are not timely completed during the application review window may need to be considered by the ARPA Committee in a subsequent application period. Promptly notify the ARPA Grants Team at ARPA@georgiacourts.gov if you need to revise or withdraw a submitted application. *If you do not receive a confirmation e-mail that your application has been received within three business days after submission, please promptly notify the ARPA Grants Team at ARPA@georgiacourts.gov and call 404-656-5171 to ensure receipt.*

The ARPA Committee has received approval from is currently seeking guidance and approval from OPB to include the cost of pre-trial psychological assessments, when required by law or court order and performed by a contractor, as an ARPA-eligible expenditure for CY 2026.

JUDICIAL COUNCIL ARPA COMMITTEE'S GRANT APPLICATION FOR AN AWARD FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2026

TYPE OF APPLICATION NOTES

Use this application only if you are requesting a new award for CY 2026. If you are applying to amend an award you received for CYs 2023, 2024, and/or 2025, use the Judicial Council ARPA Grant Application to Amend a Current Award, available under Quick Links at <https://jcaoc.georgiacourts.gov/arpa/>.

ATTENTION

- *Applications for awards for CY 2026 are being accepted during this application period. This may be the only opportunity to apply for an award for CY 2026. In the event an additional application period for CY 2026 is authorized by the ARPA Committee, a schedule will be posted at <https://jcaoc.georgiacourts.gov/arpa/>. The performance period for any award approved by the ARPA Committee for CY 2026, will be January 1, 2026, through September 30, 2026.*
- *All funds awarded for CY 2026 must be spent by September 30, 2026, and all invoices must be submitted for reimbursement by October 15, 2026. Under NO circumstances will funds spent after the September 30, 2026 deadline be reimbursed or untimely requests for reimbursement be considered.*
- *Effective January 1, 2026, contracts for services by a licensed psychologist or psychology doctoral student under the supervision of a licensed psychologist to conduct pre-trial psychological assessments as required by law or court order are ARPA-eligible expenditures. The cost of contracts for such services must be requested under EC (E)(6) "ARPA-Eligible Administrative Expenses" of an applicant's application and budget form.*

****An application for new funds does not guarantee an award****

***** ALL AWARDS ARE SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF ARPA FUNDS *****

Prior to completing this application, please review the ARPA **Overview and Instructions** posted under Quick Links at <https://jcaoc.georgiacourts.gov/arpa/> and the Basic Instructions directly above. Please complete all sections to receive full consideration for federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant funding allocated to the Judicial Branch. Type "N/A" if a particular section is not applicable.

Type of Grant Application (check all that apply):

- ☒ New application for CY 2026.
- ☒ Applicant *has* received a previous Judicial Council ARPA grant award.
- ☐ Applicant *has not* received a previous Judicial Council ARPA grant award.

Judicial Circuit or Appellate Court Name

Northeastern Judicial Circuit

Chief Judge/Justice of Judicial Circuit or Appellate Court Address
☐ *This information has changed since the last application was submitted.*

First Name	Last Name
Jason J.	Deal
Street	
P.O. Box 49	
City	ZIP Code
Gainesville	GA 30503
E-mail Address	Business Phone
jason.deal@nejcga.gov	770-531-6996

Application ContactName the *current* point of contact for application questions and status updates:
☐ *This information has changed since the last application was submitted.*

First Name	Last Name
Katie A.	Mincey
Job Title	Business Phone
Deputy Court Administrator	770-532-1895
E-mail Address (application status updates):	Katie.mincey@nejcga.gov

Grant Compliance Official

Name the person who will be responsible for ARPA grant compliance:

☐ *This information has changed since the last application was submitted.*

First Name	Last Name
Katie A.	Mincey
Job Title	Business Phone
Deputy Court Administrator	770-532-1895
E-mail Address (grant compliance/reporting):	Katie.mincey@nejcga.gov

Grant Reimbursement Official (Fiscal Agent)
☐ *This information has changed since the last application was submitted.*

Name the person from the lead county serving as the fiscal agent for the ARPA funds:

First Name	Last Name	
Taylor	Samples	
Job Title	Business Phone	
Financial Services Director	770-531-4940	
Street		
P.O. Drawer 1435		
City	ZIP Code	County
Gainesville	GA 30503	Hall
E-mail Address (grant reimbursement matters)	tsmaples@hallcounty.org	

(A) USE OF ARPA FUNDS SUMMARY

The Northeastern Judicial Circuit was awarded a total of \$1,680,497, in two separate cycles, for the year 2022, \$2.5M, in two separate cycles, for the year 2023, and \$2M for the year 2024/2025. The awards have been enormously helpful, as it included funding for a total of 32 positions across both Hall and Dawson Counties during the life cycle application from 2022 to 2025.

Still the biggest barrier to implementation has been hiring. New positions were awarded with our amendment in June 2025, and we struggled to fill those positions. We just recently filled all positions for ARPA with the exception of the Treatment Services coordinator. We are actively pursuing candidates that we feel would meet the needs of our programs. We are requesting this be continued in CY2026 so that we can fully staff this program and provide clinical oversight for all programs.

The availability of Senior Judges has continued to be a concern, and something closely monitored as circuits across the state continue to up their requests with the continued backlog of cases. This circuit has mitigated that concern by relying heavily on local, qualified judges from other classes of court assisting in Superior Court.

(B) CASE BACKLOGS REQUIRED TO JUSTIFY ARPA FUNDS**(1) Description of Case Backlogs**

Case backlogs have improved due to record-high clearance rates in both Hall and Dawson counties.

*Most significantly, the circuit achieved a 154% clearance rate of **serious violent felonies** in the first half of 2025, as the courts prioritized those cases for trial and disposition. This was a result of the resources provided by ARPA and the extraordinary efforts of all judicial stakeholders.*

The success of ARPA and the circuit's efforts at disposing of the front-end backlog of cases is also evidenced by the disposal and elimination of the backlog of unindicted cases in the District Attorney's Office. The number of unindicted cases has declined 50% since July 1, 2023.

Much of the remaining challenge for the circuit is to adequately manage and supervise the pandemic-delayed cases that have now moved to a post-adjudication stage. These cases continue to create significant challenges for both counties as census numbers in our Treatment Court programs and Probation departments have increased. This application reflects that shift, asking for increased resources in those stages of criminal resolutions.

(2) Case Backlog Data**(a) Cases Pending- *HALL + DAWSON SUPERIOR COURTS***

As of Date	Cases Pending by Case Type			
	All Cases (Civil & Criminal)	All Felony Cases	Serious Violent Felony Cases	Serious Violent Felony Cases % of All Felony Cases Pending
12/31/2019	3,503	1,542	97	6.3%
12/31/2020	4,208	1,821	86	4.7%
12/31/2021	3,960	1,523	113	7.4%
12/31/2022	3,646	1,101	71	6.4%
12/31/2023	3,446	1,396	58	4.2%
12/31/2024	3,822	1,552	83	5.3%
7/31/2025	3,795	1,395	69	4.9%

Note: For this chart, enter the number of cases pending in each box. Only include cases pending in the courts applying for ARPA funds. “Serious Violent Felony Cases” means the types of cases listed in OCGA § 17-10-6.1 (a) (1)-(7) only.

(b) Number of Jury Trials- *SUPERIOR + STATE COURTS*

Date Range	Number of Jury Trials by Case Type		
	All Cases (Civil & Criminal)	All Felony Cases	Serious Violent Felony Cases
1/1/19 - 12/31/19	75	43	12
1/1/20 - 12/31/20	40	21	4
1/1/21 - 12/31/21	68	48	16
1/1/22 - 12/31/22	80	50	18
1/1/23 - 12/31/23	67	55	20
1/1/24 - 12/31/24	42	36	14
1/1/25 - 7/31/25	37	17	6

Note: For this chart, include the total number of jury trials conducted during the date ranges indicated. “Serious Violent Felony Cases” means the types of cases listed in OCGA § 17-10-6.1 (a) (1)-(7) only.

(c) Clearance Rates- *HALL + DAWSON SUPERIOR COURTS*

Date Range	Clearance Rates (%) by Case Type		
	All Cases (Civil & Criminal)	All Felony Cases	Serious Violent Felony Cases
1/1/19 - 12/31/19	100%	108%	105%
1/1/20 - 12/31/20	89%	90%	132%
1/1/21 - 12/31/21	105%	120%	83%
1/1/22 - 12/31/22	113%	120%	146%
1/1/23 - 12/31/23	103%	104%	144%
1/1/24 - 12/31/24	104%	108%	162%
1/1/25 - 7/31/25	106%	111%	154%

Note: For this chart, include the number of disposed cases *as a percentage* of the number of filed cases for the date ranges indicated within each category. “Serious Violent Felony Cases” means the types of cases listed in OCGA § 17-10-6.1 (a) (1)-(7) only.

(d) Description of Pending Warrants and Unindicted Cases

Please see “Description of Case Backlogs” above.

(C) TOTAL ARPA GRANT FUNDS FROM THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL TO ADDRESS CASE BACKLOGS

- (1) Grand total of requested ARPA funds for CY 2026: \$ 1,319,689.
- (2) Amount of (C) (1) grand total ARPA funds for CY 2026 to be dedicated to backlogs of serious violent felonies (SVFs; OCGA § 17-10-6.1 (a)): \$ 1,171,689.
- (3) Overall number of staff and contractor positions for CY 2026: Twenty (20).
- (a) Overall number of *full-time staff* positions for CY 2026: Twelve (12).
- (b) Overall number of *part-time staff* positions for CY 2026: Six (6).
- (c) Overall number of *contractor* positions for CY 2026: Two (2).
- (4) Portion of overall number of staff and contractor positions that will be dedicated to backlogs of serious violent felonies in CY 2026 (OCGA § 17-10-6.1 (a)): Ten (10).
- (a) *Full-time staff* positions dedicated to serious violent felonies in CY 2026: Four (4).
- (b) *Part-time staff* positions dedicated to serious violent felonies in CY 2026: Six (6).
- (c) *Contractor* positions dedicated to serious violent felonies in CY 2026: Zero (0).
- Note:* As used throughout this application, “staff” means government employee.

(D) ARPA GRANT FUNDS REQUESTED OR RECEIVED FROM OTHER SOURCES TO ADDRESS CASE BACKLOGS

- (1) Applicants (except appellate courts) must request ARPA funds from one or more counties in their circuit. Have you requested ARPA funds from any counties in your circuit?
- ☒ Yes ☐ No (*Note:* answering “No” will create a compliance issue).

- (2) List the counties from which you have requested ARPA funds (*attach request & response*):

County	Purpose(s) For Which ARPA Funds Were Requested with Dates Requested	Amount Requested	Amount Approved
<i>HALL & DAWSON</i>	<i>Please see attached documentation for requests made in 2020-2021</i>	\$	\$
<i>HALL</i>	<i>Please see the attached letter and response from Hall County in 2022.</i>	\$	\$
<i>DAWSON</i>	<i>Please see attached letter to Dawson County in 2022. No response was received.</i>	\$	\$

Note: If your request for county ARPA funds and/or the county’s response was verbal (i.e., not in writing), please attach a memorandum documenting your request and/or the county’s response.

(3) County Resources Provided to Courts

The judicial system has worked closely with officials from both Hall and Dawson counties to respond to the COVID-19 crisis and the ensuing challenges presented by the backlog of cases. While early funding conversations focused narrowly on federal relief funds, subsequent discussions have focused less on the specific funding source and more on the project need. This has allowed both counties maximum flexibility to qualify and administer their ARPA and CARES Act funding as they deem fit.

As eligibility guidelines from OPB became clear, the courts have focused requests to the Judicial Council's ARPA committee on temporary positions and spaces, while the counties have provided needed infrastructure and facility upgrades. In addition, both counties have funded permanent, additional pretrial officer positions as a result of the pandemic.

Specifically, Hall County Commissioners have funded the installation of broadband internet at the courthouse, the conversion of every single trial courtroom into a "hybrid courtroom" capable of facilitating remote video hearings, the purchase of new software, and the redesign of the circuit website to facilitate livestreaming and public access. Most significantly, capital funds have been approved to purchase a new office building to house growing staff, and to construct a new, expanded jury assembly room. It is unknown if any of the monies for these projects come from County ARPA funds.

Dawson County Commissioners have also provided funding to enable remote video hearings in each courtroom and funded new invoicing software to handle growing caseloads. It is unknown if any of the monies came from County ARPA funds.

Finally, in an effort to address staff shortages, both counties have considered and approved various pay increases and cost-of-living adjustments for employees.

(4) Total ARPA grant funds *requested* from other sources: \$ 2,744,291.

(5) Total ARPA grant funds *received* from other sources: \$ Unknown.

(6) Total ARPA grant funds from other sources *expended* to date: \$ Unknown.

(7) Total ARPA grant funds from other sources *obligated* to date: \$ 126,796.

(E) ARPA FUNDS BY EXPENDITURE CATEGORY (EC)**(1) Payroll-Public Sector Staff Responding to Case Backlogs (EC 3.1; 31 CFR § 35.6 (b) (3))****(ii) (E) (1))**

(a) Total funds requested for this EC for CY 2026: \$ 410,689.

(b) Amount of (E) (1) (a) total dedicated to addressing the backlog of serious violent felonies ("SVFs" as defined in OCGA § 17-10-6.1 (a)): \$ 262,689.

(c) *More than 50 percent of total personnel costs awarded each calendar year under this EC must be dedicated to serious violent felonies, as defined in OCGA § 17-10-6.1 (a). What percentage of the total under EC (E) (1) (a) will be dedicated to responding to serious violent felonies in CY 2026?* 64 %.

Note: Please make sure that all percentages under (E) (1) (c) reflect the dollar amounts dedicated

to addressing backlogs of SVFs provided under (E) (1) (b).

(d) Overall number of staff positions to be funded under this EC in CY 2026: Thirteen (13).

(i) Full-time staff positions in CY 2026: Seven (7).

(ii) Part-time staff positions in CY 2026: Six (6).

(e) Number of staff positions under this EC dedicated to serious violent felonies in CY 2026, as defined in OCGA § 17-10-6.1 (a): Ten (10).

(i) Full-time staff positions in CY 2026: Four (4).

(ii) Part-time staff positions in CY 2026: Six (6).

(f) The following applies for this EC only (check one):

☒ This is a request for funds for this EC for CY 2026 (in the description box below, describe all requested expenditures in detail).

☐ No funds are requested for this EC (type "N/A" in the description box).

The Northeastern Judicial Circuit is comprised of two counties – Hall and Dawson. There are five sitting Superior Court judges handling an annual caseload of approximately 7,000 new filings. The judges are assisted by designated Juvenile judges, Magistrate judges and Senior Judges.

This request renews positions that were previously awarded in 2025: court reporter, administrative assistant – DA, deputy sheriff – Dawson, (5) bailiffs, 9th District senior judge funds, circuit-wide judicial assistance, (2) probation officers – Dawson, & a Hall County sentence writer. Every position requested will be used to prioritize serious violent felonies with the exception of two Dawson County probation officers and one sentence writer for Hall County. As previously mentioned, the case backlogs have improved; however, much of the remaining challenge for the circuit is to adequately manage and supervise the pandemic-delayed cases that have now moved to a post-adjudication stage.

(2) Court-Based Mental Health Diversion (EC 1.12; 31 CFR § 35.6 (b) (3) (i) (C))

(a) Total funds requested for this EC for CY 2026: \$ N/A.

(b) Overall number of staff and contractor positions to be funded under this EC in CY 2026: N/A.

(i) Full-time staff and contractor positions in CY 2026: N/A.

(ii) Part-time staff and contractor positions in CY 2026: N/A.

(c) The following applies for this EC only (check one):

☐ This is a request for funds for this EC for CY 2026 (in the description box below, describe all requested expenditures in detail).

☒ No funds are requested for this EC (type "N/A" in the description box).

N/A

(3) Court-Based Substance Use Diversion (EC 1.13; 31 CFR § 35.6 (b) (3) (i) (C))

(a) Total funds requested for this EC for CY 2026: \$ 314,000.

(b) Overall number of staff and contractor positions to be funded under this EC in CY 2026: Six (6).

- (i) Full-time staff and contractor positions in CY 2026: Four (4).
- (ii) Part-time staff and contractor positions in CY 2026: Two (2).
- (c) The following applies for this EC only (check one):
- ☒ This is a request for funds for this EC for CY 2026 (*in the description box below, describe all requested expenditures in detail*).
- ☐ No funds are requested for this EC (*type "N/A" in the description box*).

This request renews what positions were previously awarded in 2025: (2) case managers, operations coordinator, contract clinical supervision, and Treatment Services coordinator. As previously mentioned, we are actively pursuing candidates that we feel would meet the needs of our programs. With that being said, we are requesting the Treatment Services coordinator be continued in CY2026 so that we can fully staff this program and provide clinical oversight for all programs.

We are also requesting new funds for contract counseling to assist with staffing needs as vacancies arise. Treatment Services currently has six (6) vacancies as of September 16, 2025. We have continuously struggled with filling and retaining court counselor positions for all programs – Hall and Dawson counties.

Although the case backlogs have improved, much of the remaining challenge for the circuit is to adequately manage and supervise the pandemic-delayed cases that have now moved to a post-adjudication stage. All of these positions are vital to that endeavor.

Additional Information

The Northeastern Judicial Circuit is fortunate to have a robust accountability court system operated under the umbrella agency of Treatment Services.

One hundred percent (100%) of the funds requested will be used for court-based substance use services, and one-hundred percent (100%) of funds will be used to conserve resources in order to prioritize serious violent felonies.

Numerically, this request will facilitate the removal of approximately 300 felony cases from the circuit's trial calendars in 2024, allowing the judges to prioritize serious violent felony trials. This represents approximately 15% of the circuit's projected felony filings. Every drug case that our Treatment Services agency is able to staff appropriately is a non-serious case directly removed from the court's trial calendars. The six (6) requested positions will not directly touch serious violent felonies, since such cases are ineligible for Drug Court admission, but every hour devoted to diversion directly impacts the circuit's ability to prioritize serious cases for trial.

(4) Court-Based Eviction Prevention and Diversion (ECs 2.2, 2.18; 31 CFR § 35.6 (b) (3) (ii) (A) (1), (5))

- (a) Total funds requested for this EC for CY 2026: \$ N/A.
- (b) Overall number of *staff and contractor* positions to be funded under this EC in CY 2026: N/A.

(i) Full-time staff and contractor positions in CY 2026: N/A.

(ii) Part-time staff and contractor positions in CY 2026: N/A.

(c) The following applies for this EC only (check one):

☐ This is a request for funds for this EC for CY 2026 (*in the description box below, describe all requested expenditures in detail*).

☒ No funds are requested for this EC (*type "N/A" in the description box*).

N/A

(5) Temporary Facilities or Workspace to Respond to Case Backlogs (ECs 3.5, 7.1; 31 CFR § 35.6 (b) (3) (ii) (E) (4))

(a) Total funds requested for this EC for CY 2026: \$ N/A.

(b) Amount of total for this EC dedicated to addressing the backlog of serious violent felonies as defined in OCGA § 17-10-6.1 (a) for CY 2026: \$ N/A.

(c) The following applies for this EC only (check one):

☐ This is a request for funds for this EC for CY 2026 (*in the description box below, describe all requested expenditures in detail*).

☒ No funds are requested for this EC (*type "N/A" in the description box*).

N/A

(6) ARPA-Eligible Administrative Expenses (ECs 3.5, 7.1; 31 CFR § 35.6 (b) (3) (ii) (E) (3)-(4))

(a) Total funds requested for this EC for CY 2026: \$ 595,000.

(b) Overall number of *staff and contractor* positions to be funded under this EC in CY 2026: One (1).

(i) Full-time staff and contractor positions in CY 2026: One (1).

(ii) Part-time staff and contractor positions in CY 2026: Zero (0).

(c) The following applies for this EC only (check one):

☒ This is a request for funds for this EC for CY 2026 (*in the description box below, describe all requested expenditures in detail*).

☐ No funds are requested for this EC (*type "N/A" in the description box*).

(d) Procurement of legal research software or digital evidence management software (check one):

☐ By checking this box, the undersigned certifies that the purchase of (i) legal research software for ARPA-funded staff attorneys or prosecutors; or (ii) digital evidence management software will be subject to competitive bidding procedures regarding the purchase of equipment, supplies, services, or other items with public funds. See **FAQ 28.2**.

☒ This application does not request funding for legal research software for ARPA-funded staff attorneys or prosecutors or digital evidence management software.

This request renews what was previously awarded in 2025: (1) staff accountant and funds for juror expenses, court reporter transcripts and interpreters.

The staff accountant will continue to perform grant administration for the ARPA program.

Juror expenses, court reporter transcripts and interpreters are necessary in order to prioritize serious violent felonies as well.

(7) Audio-Visual Equipment Modernization (ECs 3.5, 7.1; 31 CFR § 35.6 (b) (3) (ii) (E) (4), (b) (4); 87 Fed. Reg. 4,389 (Jan. 27, 2022))

(a) Total funds requested for this EC for CY 2026: \$ N/A.

(b) The following applies for this EC only (check one):

☐ This is a request for funds for this EC for CY 2026 (*in the description box below, describe all requested expenditures in detail*).

☒ No funds are requested for this EC (*type "N/A" in the description box*).

(c) **AV Policy** checklist (check all that apply to indicate compliance):

☐ A detailed justification letter is attached stating that audio-visual equipment modernization in the courtrooms listed in table (7) (d) below is a necessary component of a response to court case backlogs caused by the pandemic, with a primary focus on cases involving serious violent felonies. Id. at § (b) (2).

☐ A detailed summary of each audio-visual modernization project requested under this EC is attached, including a complete project timeline demonstrating that the project will be completed by September 30, 2026. Id. at § (b) (3).

☐ A detailed proposal from each vendor is attached, including an estimate of the cost of each project and all equipment to be installed. Id. at § (b) (4).

☐ Each attached proposal was subject to competitive bidding procedures and reflects market prices for comparable goods and services for the geographic area where the courtroom is located. Id. at §§ (c)-(d). See **FAQ 28.2** for procurement guidance.

☐ The projects are requested for *existing* courtrooms only, as defined. Id. at § (a) (2).

☐ The projects are requested for courtrooms where personnel are responding to case backlogs caused by the pandemic, with first priority given to courtrooms where personnel are responding to cases involving serious violent felonies. Id. at §§ (b) (2), (d).

☐ The projects requested are compliant with all other provisions of the ARPA Committee's **Audio-Visual Equipment Modernization Policy** (posted under Quick Links at <https://jcaoc.georgiacourts.gov/arpa/>).

(d) For each *existing* permanent courtroom where new audio-visual equipment is to be installed, fill in the following information (add additional rows to table if needed):

County	Address of Courtroom	Classes of Court That Use Courtroom	Total Requested
			\$

			\$

(e) Audio-Visual Equipment Modernization Project(s) Description or Explanation:

N/A

(F) SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION AND BUDGET FORM

The following supporting documentation is attached to this application (check all that apply):

- ☐ A completed **ARPA Budget Form** in an Excel spreadsheet file format (required).
- ☐ Correspondence to and from county governments requesting ARPA funds (required).
- ☐ All documents required under section (b) (2)-(4) of the **Audio-Visual Equipment Modernization Policy** (if requesting funds under section EC (E) (7) of this application).
- ☐ Any other documentation needed to support this application (if applicable).

(G) CERTIFICATION

☐ By checking this box, I, the undersigned, certify that (1) the information in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge; and (2) the proposed activities are eligible expenditures under the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and 31 CFR Part 35 ("Final Rule"). *I understand that the use of ARPA grant funds is subject to certain reporting requirements, audits, and recoupment if put toward impermissible uses.* 31 CFR § 35.10.


Jason J. Deal (Sep 17, 2025 09:03:02 EDT)

Chief Judge/Justice Signature

Printed Name: Jason J. Deal

Title: Chief Judge, Superior Judge

Date: Sep 17, 2025

(H) SUBMIT APPLICATION

E-mail a .pdf of your completed, certified, and signed application (with supporting documentation) to ARPA@georgiacourts.gov. *If you do not receive a confirmation e-mail that your application has been received within three business days after submission, please promptly notify the ARPA Grants Team at ARPA@georgiacourts.gov and call 404-656-5171 to ensure receipt.*

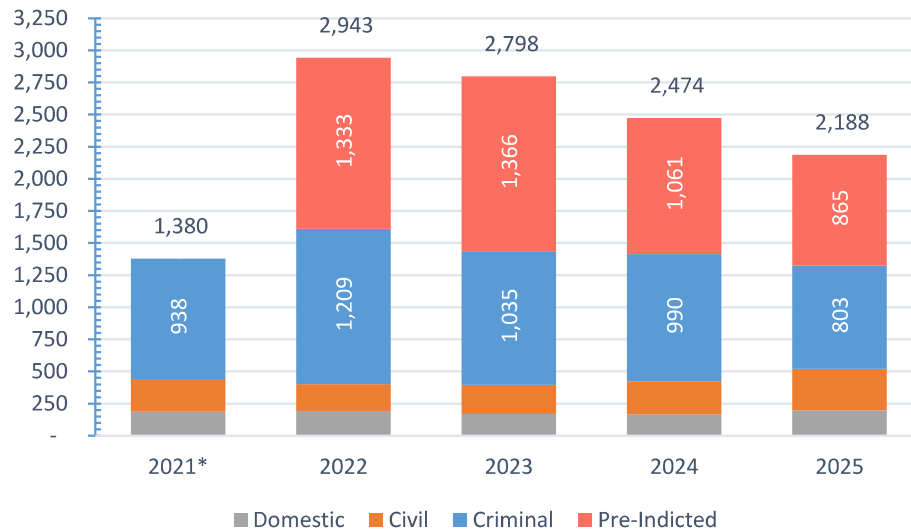


NORTHEASTERN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

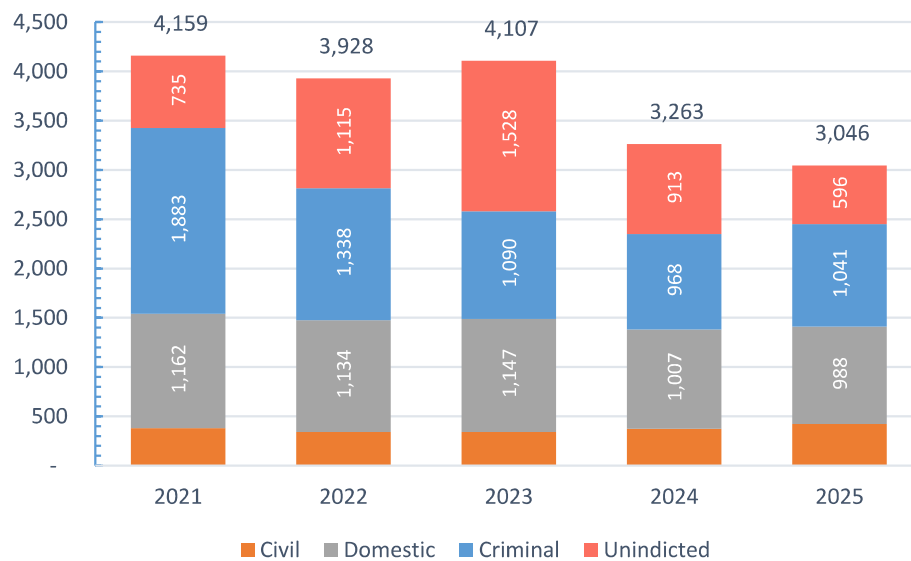
2025 Quarter 2 Caseload Report Judicial Information Sheet

CASES PENDING AT Q2 END Dawson Co. Superior Court

**Pre-Indicted numbers not available*



CASES PENDING AT Q2 END Hall County Superior Court



NORTHEASTERN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
Previous Funding Requests Made to Other Sources
American Rescue Plan -- Case Backlogs

HALL COUNTY				
Requesting Department	Project Description	Justification	Amount Requested	Received to Date
Superior & State Courts	PPE - Jury Proceedings	Masks, hand sanitizer, wipes, Lysol spray, etc.	\$ 20,000	\$ -
Superior Court	New Jury Assembly Room	Current CIP; Jurors now must spread out across three rooms/courtrooms	\$ 911,706	\$ 29,894
Superior Court	Broadband Fiber Internet	Upgraded due to COVID for virtual hearings (7/1/2020 - 6/30/2021)	\$ 18,081	\$ -
Superior Court	Broadband Fiber Internet	July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022	\$ 17,640	\$ -
Superior Court	Broadband Fiber Internet	July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023	\$ 17,640	\$ -
Superior Court	Broadband Fiber Internet	July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	\$ 17,640	\$ -
Superior Court	Website Design Update	Newly identified need based on virtual courts and livestream links	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Superior Court	Bailiff Hazard Pay	Increase from \$70 per day to \$104 per day (\$8.75 to \$13.00 per hour) - Avg. 90 bailiff days per pay period	\$ 61,200	\$ -
Juvenile Court	AV Upgrades	AV upgrades for virtual hearings (i.e. laptops, speakers, display directory)	\$ 40,000	\$ -
Juvenile Court	PPE - Jury Proceedings	Masks, hand sanitizer, wipes, Lysol spray, etc.	\$ 10,000	\$ -
Public Defender	Broadband Fiber Internet	Upgraded due to COVID for virtual hearings (4/1/2020 - 6/30/2021)	\$ 4,410	\$ -
Public Defender	Broadband Fiber Internet	July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022	\$ 17,640	\$ -
Public Defender	Broadband Fiber Internet	July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023	\$ 17,640	\$ -
Public Defender	Broadband Fiber Internet	July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024	\$ 17,640	\$ -
Sheriff's Department	Jail Virtual Courtrooms	Nearly all inmate hearings now conducted via Zoom	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -
Superior Court	Off-Site Felony Trial	Rental fees and other costs associated with an off-site trial location due to social distance requirements.	\$ 30,000	\$ -
State Court	Senior Judge Assistance	Additional help to address a backlog of cases.	\$ 12,270	\$ -
Superior & State Courts	Temporary Bailiffs	Additional bailiffs required in order to conduct trials under current emergency health protocols.	\$ 50,000	\$ -
Court Administration	Indigent Defense Software	To better and more quickly process high volume of applicants	\$ 46,875	\$ 46,875
Superior Court / Juvenile Court	New Juvenile Judge Salary	To work exclusively in Superior Court for 2022	\$ 215,541	\$ -
Superior Court / Juvenile Court	New Judge one-time equipment	To work exclusively in Superior Court for 2022	\$ 8,904	\$ -

DAWSON COUNTY				
Superior Court	AV Courtroom Technology Upgrades	Equip Courtroom C with the same technology as 11 other circuit courtrooms	\$ 75,000	\$ -
Superior Court	Bailiff Premium Pay	Increase from \$70 per day to \$85 per day	\$ 6,000	\$ -
Court Administration	PPE	Masks required	\$ 7,390	\$ -
Court Administration	New PreTrial Officer	Backlog of cases has resulted in a backlog of pretrial defendants	\$ 71,074	\$ -

Total Amount Requested \$ 2,744,291
Total Amount Received to Date \$ 126,769



POST OFFICE DRAWER 1435
GAINESVILLE, GA 30503

t: 770.535.8288 | f: 770.531.3972

CHAIRMAN
Richard P. Higgins

Kathy L. Cooper, District 1
Billy Powell, District 2
Shelly Echols, District 3
Jeff Stowe, District 4

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
Jock A. Connell

ASSISTANT
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
Zachary T. Propes

COUNTY CLERK
Jennifer Rivera

Hall County Government

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 21, 2022

Superior Courts of the Northeastern Judicial Circuit
Kathlene F. Gosselin, Chief Judge
P.O. Box 1778
Gainesville, Georgia 30503

Judge Gosselin,

First, please allow me to express my most sincere gratitude on behalf of the Hall County Board of Commissioners for your leadership within the Hall County Courts System. In particular, I'd like to thank you for the dedication that has been exemplified by you and your colleagues on a daily basis as you've continued to work through the significant backlog of cases brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Administration and the Board is aware of the challenges that backlog has created, and we remain hopeful that the approximately \$1.7 million state ARPA grant awarded to the Courts System will go a long way in managing that issue. Additionally, we acknowledge the potential impact addressing this backlog may have on the County budget in the future.

In response to your letter dated Aug. 25, 2022 regarding the state ARPA Funding Committee's request for details from Hall County on access to local ARPA funds for the Northeastern Judicial Circuit, Hall County's ARPA Funds have already been committed for various projects, including some projects that have or will benefit the Judicial Circuit. New expenditures for the court system related to the pandemic, that have been funded using both local ARPA and other Hall County funding sources, have included broadband internet installation, courtroom AV upgrades, livestreaming and website redesign, new invoicing software, the purchase of a new building to house growing staff, and funding of a new jury assembly room. There are no plans at this time to un-commit ARPA funding for planned projects and reallocate additional funding to the Judicial Circuit.

Please note that the Hall County Board of Commissioners fully supports the Circuit's 2023 state ARPA grant application for judicial expenditures and is optimistic that the Northeastern Judicial Circuit will receive at least the same amount of funding as was awarded in 2022 (\$1,773,057). As always, we appreciate your partnership and

look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts to manage through the impacts of the pandemic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. P. Higgins", written in a cursive style.

Richard P. Higgins

Chairman Hall County Board of Commissioners

CC: Hall County Board of Commissioners
Jock Connell, County Administrator
Jason Stephenson, Court Administrator



**Superior Courts
of the
Northeastern Judicial Circuit**

Kathlene F. Gosselin, Chief Judge
P.O. Box 1778
Gainesville, Georgia 30503
(770) 531-6990

**DAWSON AND HALL
COUNTIES**

Dawson County Board of Commissioners
Billy Thurmond, Chairman
25 Justice Way, Suite 2313
Dawsonville, GA 30534

August 25, 2022

Dear Chairman Thurmond,

On behalf of the Northeastern Judicial Circuit, we respectfully ask for consideration for use of some of the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds received by Dawson County. As you know, the pandemic has created significant challenges for the courts and resulted in a surge of cases that will take time to resolve. In 2022, this circuit applied for *state* ARPA grants and was awarded a total of \$1,773,057. These funds are covering judicial expenditures that would otherwise have burdened Hall and Dawson County budgets. As we prepare to reapply for similar state funding in 2023, we will be required to report that we have also made requests of each local jurisdiction for *county* ARPA funding.

At the state level, Georgia received \$4.8 billion of which only \$110 million was made available to the courts throughout the state via a grant process distributed by the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) in coordination with the Administrative Office of the Courts. Those funds are allocated to cover a 3-year period ending December 31, 2024, whereby each circuit must apply for funds each year. In addition to a cap limit on total funding each year, the judicial branch has been further restricted by OPB in what we may request funding for. Specifically, eligible expenditures may only be used:

- ✓ To provide additional, temporary court staff such as senior judges, bailiffs, court reporters, judicial officers, court staff, and other necessary persons.
- ✓ To contract with third party locations to conduct court proceedings in larger facilities.
- ✓ To pay for additional, temporary prosecutors, investigators, legal administrative positions, and contract legal services.
- ✓ To provide additional circuit and conflict attorneys for the Georgia Public Defenders Council.

In contrast, county ARPA funds are available to be spent for a longer period of time and have only those restrictions which the U.S. Treasury Department places on them. In short, the county's ARPA funds can be utilized in a much broader way than our funds accessed through the state.

From public records, Dawson County was allocated \$5,071,173.00 in such funds. Eligible expenses that intersect with our judicial needs include:

- ✓ Services to foster youth, including those aging out of the system, and child welfare involved families may encompass a wide array of financial, educational, child development, or health supports, or other supports necessary, including supports for kinship care.
- ✓ Technology infrastructure resources to improve access to government information systems, including upgrades to hardware and software.
- ✓ Broadband internet access in all judicial facilities, that reliably meets or exceeds symmetrical 100 Mbps download and upload speeds where practicable.
- ✓ Hiring additional court staff or attorneys to increase speed of case resolution, and other expenses to expedite case resolution.
- ✓ Premium pay for essential workers, which includes court employees, who were working in person to compensate them for their service during the pandemic. Such pay can also be made retroactive.
- ✓ Legal aid such as legal services or attorney's fees related to maintaining housing stability, court-based eviction prevention or eviction diversion programs, and other legal services that help households obtain housing.

As you can see, the federal requirements for the eligible use of ARPA funds appear to be much broader than what the state has limited our requests to. Our circuit is committed to efficiently disposing of the record number of cases in Dawson County Superior Court and, with access to county ARPA funds in conjunction with our state ARPA funds, we can continue to provide meaningful access to justice for the citizens of our circuit.

Therefore, we respectfully request to partner with the county to identify continuing expenditures appropriate for ARPA funding consideration. Our state ARPA Funding Committee has asked that we provide them with any details from you on our access to funds. The favor of a reply is requested by September 21, 2022.

Respectfully,



Kathlene F. Gosselin,
Chief Superior Court Judge
Northeastern Judicial Circuit

Cc: Judge Anthony Tarnacki, Magistrate Court
Judge Lindsay Burton, Juvenile Court
Judge Jennifer Burt, Probate Court
Justin Power, Clerk of Court
Lee Darragh, District Attorney
Brad Morris, Circuit Public Defender
Jason Stephenson, Court Administrator



Superior Courts of the Northeastern Judicial Circuit

Kathlene F. Gosselin, Chief Judge
P.O. Box 1778
Gainesville, Georgia 30503
(770) 531-6990

DAWSON AND HALL
COUNTIES

Hall County Board of Commissioners
Richard Higgins, Chairman
P.O. Drawer 1435
Gainesville, GA 30503

August 25, 2022

Dear Chairman Higgins,

On behalf of the Northeastern Judicial Circuit, we appreciate Hall County's use of federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the local court system. As you know, the pandemic has created significant challenges for the courts and resulted in a backlog of cases that will take years to resolve. In 2022, this circuit applied for *state* ARPA grants and was awarded a total of \$1,773,057. These funds are covering judicial expenditures that would otherwise have burdened Hall and Dawson County budgets. As we prepare to reapply for similar state funding in 2023, we will be required to report that we have also made requests of each local jurisdiction for *county* ARPA funding.

At the state level, Georgia received \$4.8 billion of which only \$110 million was made available to the courts throughout the state via a grant process distributed by the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) in coordination with the Administrative Office of the Courts. Those funds are allocated to cover a 3-year period ending December 31, 2024, whereby each circuit must apply for funds each year. In addition to a cap limit on total funding each year, the judicial branch has been further restricted by OPB in what we may request funding for. Specifically, eligible expenditures may only be used:

- ✓ To provide additional, temporary court staff such as senior judges, bailiffs, court reporters, judicial officers, court staff, and other necessary persons.
- ✓ To contract with third party locations to conduct court proceedings in larger facilities.
- ✓ To pay for additional, temporary prosecutors, investigators, legal administrative positions, and contract legal services.
- ✓ To provide additional circuit and conflict attorneys for the Georgia Public Defenders Council.

In contrast, county ARPA funds are available to be spent for a longer period of time and have only those restrictions which the U.S. Treasury Department places on them. In short, the county's ARPA funds can be utilized in a much broader way than our funds accessed through the state.

From public records, Hall County was allocated \$39,710,268.00 in such funds. In cooperation with County Administration, portions of those funds have been previously directed towards the construction of a new jury assembly room, an updated public website, and new invoicing software for the surge in criminal cases. Additional potential expenses that may meet eligibility requirements and intersect with our judicial needs include:

- ✓ Services to foster youth, including those aging out of the system, and child welfare involved families may encompass a wide array of financial, educational, child development, or health supports, or other supports necessary, including supports for kinship care.
- ✓ Technology infrastructure resources to improve access to government information systems, including upgrades to hardware and software.
- ✓ Broadband internet access in all judicial facilities, that reliably meets or exceeds symmetrical 100 Mbps download and upload speeds where practicable.
- ✓ Hiring additional court staff or attorneys to increase speed of case resolution, and other expenses to expedite case resolution.
- ✓ Premium pay for essential workers, which includes court employees, who were working in person to compensate them for their service during the pandemic. Such pay can also be made retroactive.
- ✓ Legal aid such as legal services or attorney's fees related to maintaining housing stability, court-based eviction prevention or eviction diversion programs, and other legal services that help households obtain housing.

As you can see, the federal requirements for the eligible use of ARPA funds appear to be much broader than what the state has limited our requests to. Our circuit is committed to reducing the backlog of cases and, with access to county ARPA funds in conjunction with our state ARPA funds, we can work through these cases and provide meaningful access to justice for the citizens of our circuit.

Hall County Administration has worked collaboratively and closely with our own Court Administration to respond appropriately and timely to the needs arising from the pandemic. We respectfully request to continue to partner with you on the use of local ARPA funds and to identify continuing expenditures appropriate for ARPA consideration. Our state ARPA Funding Committee has asked that we provide them with any details from you on our access to funds from our counties. The favor of a reply is requested by September 21, 2022.

Respectfully,



Kathlene F. Gosselin,
Chief Superior Court Judge
Northeastern Judicial Circuit

Cc: Judge B.E. Roberts, State Court
Judge Lindsay Burton, Juvenile Court
Judge Margaret Gregory, Magistrate Court
Judge Patty Laine, Probate Court
Charles Baker, Clerk of Court
Lee Darragh, District Attorney
Brad Morris, Circuit Public Defender
Jason Stephenson, Court Administrator



HALL COUNTY
GEORGIA *We have it **all** in Hall*

Please complete the tab that correlates with the type of position change you are requesting. Only include ONE request per worksheet. If requesting multiple personnel changes, please prioritize each worksheet in order of importance. For each personnel request, submit this form, along with the "New Position Request."

REQUEST TYPE: NEW FULL-TIME POSITION

832
Department #

ARPA- Superior Court
Department Name

Administrative Assistant, DA
Requested Position Title

Priority #

ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL COST CALCULATION

New Position

\$32,994.00	Salary Requested (use midpoint of paygrade)
2,524.04	Taxes
2,639.52	Retirement
16,254.24	Health
47.88	Dental
85.52	Life
23.76	AD&D
127.46	Short Term Disability
\$54,696.42	Total Additional Personnel Costs

JUSTIFICATION (please provide a short explanation of your request on the lines below):

--

PERSONNEL EQUIPMENT REQUEST (list all equipment required and estimated cost)

****Do not add these estimated costs to your department's operating budget. It is calculated separately by OMB.**

EQUIPMENT DESCRIPTION (uniform, gun, fire safety suit, vehicle, computer, cell phone etc.)	ESTIMATED COST
	\$ -
	\$ -
	\$ -



HALL COUNTY
GEORGIA *We have it **all** in Hall*

Please complete the tab that correlates with the type of position change you are requesting. Only include ONE request per worksheet. If requesting multiple personnel changes, please prioritize each worksheet in order of importance. For each personnel request, submit this form, along with the "New Position Request."

REQUEST TYPE: NEW FULL-TIME POSITION

832
Department #

ARPA- Superior Court
Department Name

Case Manager
Requested Position Title

Priority #

ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL COST CALCULATION

New Position

\$53,102.40	Salary Requested (use midpoint of paygrade)
4,062.33	Taxes
4,248.19	Retirement
32,508.48	Health
47.88	Dental
137.64	Life
38.23	AD&D
205.14	Short Term Disability
\$94,350.30	Total Additional Personnel Costs

JUSTIFICATION (please provide a short explanation of your request on the lines below):

--

PERSONNEL EQUIPMENT REQUEST (list all equipment required and estimated cost)

****Do not add these estimated costs to your department's operating budget. It is calculated separately by OMB.**

EQUIPMENT DESCRIPTION (uniform, gun, fire safety suit, vehicle, computer, cell phone etc.)	ESTIMATED COST
	\$ -
	\$ -
	\$ -



HALL COUNTY
GEORGIA *We have it **all** in Hall*

Please complete the tab that correlates with the type of position change you are requesting. Only include ONE request per worksheet. If requesting multiple personnel changes, please prioritize each worksheet in order of importance. For each personnel request, submit this form, along with the "New Position Request."

REQUEST TYPE: NEW FULL-TIME POSITION

832
Department #

ARPA- Superior Court
Department Name

Court Reporter
Requested Position Title

Priority #

ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL COST CALCULATION

New Position

\$74,703.20	Salary Requested (use midpoint of paygrade)
5,714.79	Taxes
5,976.26	Retirement
32,508.48	Health
47.88	Dental
193.63	Life
53.79	AD&D
288.58	Short Term Disability
\$119,486.61	Total Additional Personnel Costs

JUSTIFICATION (please provide a short explanation of your request on the lines below):

--

PERSONNEL EQUIPMENT REQUEST (list all equipment required and estimated cost)

****Do not add these estimated costs to your department's operating budget. It is calculated separately by OMB.**

EQUIPMENT DESCRIPTION (uniform, gun, fire safety suit, vehicle, computer, cell phone etc.)	ESTIMATED COST
	\$ -
	\$ -
	\$ -



HALL COUNTY
GEORGIA *We have it **all** in Hall*

Please complete the tab that correlates with the type of position change you are requesting. Only include ONE request per worksheet. If requesting multiple personnel changes, please prioritize each worksheet in order of importance. For each personnel request, submit this form, along with the "New Position Request."

REQUEST TYPE: NEW FULL-TIME POSITION

832
Department #

ARPA- Superior Court
Department Name

Deputy Sheriff (Dawson)
Requested Position Title

Priority #

ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL COST CALCULATION

New Position

\$59,254.00	Salary Requested (use midpoint of paygrade)
4,532.93	Taxes
4,740.32	Retirement
32,508.48	Health
47.88	Dental
153.59	Life
42.66	AD&D
228.90	Short Term Disability
\$101,508.76	Total Additional Personnel Costs

JUSTIFICATION (please provide a short explanation of your request on the lines below):

PERSONNEL EQUIPMENT REQUEST (list all equipment required and estimated cost)

****Do not add these estimated costs to your department's operating budget. It is calculated separately by OMB.**

EQUIPMENT DESCRIPTION (uniform, gun, fire safety suit, vehicle, computer, cell phone etc.)	ESTIMATED COST
	\$ -
	\$ -
	\$ -



HALL COUNTY
GEORGIA *We have it **all** in Hall*

Please complete the tab that correlates with the type of position change you are requesting. Only include ONE request per worksheet. If requesting multiple personnel changes, please prioritize each worksheet in order of importance. For each personnel request, submit this form, along with the "New Position Request."

REQUEST TYPE: NEW FULL-TIME POSITION

832
Department #

ARPA- Superior Court
Department Name

Operations Coordinator
Requested Position Title

Priority #

ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL COST CALCULATION

New Position

\$56,237.22	Salary Requested (use midpoint of paygrade)
4,302.15	Taxes
4,498.98	Retirement
32,508.48	Health
47.88	Dental
145.77	Life
40.49	AD&D
217.25	Short Term Disability
\$97,998.21	Total Additional Personnel Costs

JUSTIFICATION (please provide a short explanation of your request on the lines below):

--

PERSONNEL EQUIPMENT REQUEST (list all equipment required and estimated cost)

****Do not add these estimated costs to your department's operating budget. It is calculated separately by OMB.**

EQUIPMENT DESCRIPTION (uniform, gun, fire safety suit, vehicle, computer, cell phone etc.)	ESTIMATED COST
	\$ -
	\$ -
	\$ -



HALL COUNTY
GEORGIA *We have it **all** in Hall*

Please complete the tab that correlates with the type of position change you are requesting. Only include ONE request per worksheet. If requesting multiple personnel changes, please prioritize each worksheet in order of importance. For each personnel request, submit this form, along with the "New Position Request."

REQUEST TYPE: NEW FULL-TIME POSITION

832
Department #

ARPA- Superior Court
Department Name

Probation Officer (Dawson)
Requested Position Title

Priority #

ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL COST CALCULATION

New Position

\$56,160.00	Salary Requested (use midpoint of paygrade)
4,296.24	Taxes
4,492.80	Retirement
32,508.48	Health
47.88	Dental
145.57	Life
40.44	AD&D
216.95	Short Term Disability
\$97,908.35	Total Additional Personnel Costs

JUSTIFICATION (please provide a short explanation of your request on the lines below):

PERSONNEL EQUIPMENT REQUEST (list all equipment required and estimated cost)

****Do not add these estimated costs to your department's operating budget. It is calculated separately by OMB.**

EQUIPMENT DESCRIPTION (uniform, gun, fire safety suit, vehicle, computer, cell phone etc.)	ESTIMATED COST
	\$ -
	\$ -
	\$ -



HALL COUNTY
GEORGIA *We have it **all** in Hall*

Please complete the tab that correlates with the type of position change you are requesting. Only include ONE request per worksheet. If requesting multiple personnel changes, please prioritize each worksheet in order of importance. For each personnel request, submit this form, along with the "New Position Request."

REQUEST TYPE: NEW FULL-TIME POSITION

832

Department #

ARPA- Superior Court

Department Name

Probation Sentence Writer

Requested Position Title

Priority #

ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL COST CALCULATION

New Position

\$42,120.00	Salary Requested (use midpoint of paygrade)
3,222.18	Taxes
3,369.60	Retirement
32,508.48	Health
47.88	Dental
109.18	Life
30.33	AD&D
162.71	Short Term Disability
\$81,570.35	Total Additional Personnel Costs

JUSTIFICATION (please provide a short explanation of your request on the lines below):

PERSONNEL EQUIPMENT REQUEST (list all equipment required and estimated cost)

****Do not add these estimated costs to your department's operating budget. It is calculated separately by OMB.**

EQUIPMENT DESCRIPTION (uniform, gun, fire safety suit, vehicle, computer, cell phone etc.)	ESTIMATED COST
	\$ -
	\$ -
	\$ -



HALL COUNTY
GEORGIA *We have it **all** in Hall*

Please complete the tab that correlates with the type of position change you are requesting. Only include ONE request per worksheet. If requesting multiple personnel changes, please prioritize each worksheet in order of importance. For each personnel request, submit this form, along with the "New Position Request."

REQUEST TYPE: NEW FULL-TIME POSITION

832
Department #

ARPA- Superior Court
Department Name

Staff Accountant
Requested Position Title

Priority #

ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL COST CALCULATION

New Position

\$66,520.48	Salary Requested (use midpoint of paygrade)
5,088.82	Taxes
5,321.64	Retirement
32,508.48	Health
47.88	Dental
172.42	Life
47.89	AD&D
256.97	Short Term Disability
\$109,964.58	Total Additional Personnel Costs

JUSTIFICATION (please provide a short explanation of your request on the lines below):

--

PERSONNEL EQUIPMENT REQUEST (list all equipment required and estimated cost)

****Do not add these estimated costs to your department's operating budget. It is calculated separately by OMB.**

EQUIPMENT DESCRIPTION (uniform, gun, fire safety suit, vehicle, computer, cell phone etc.)	ESTIMATED COST
	\$ -
	\$ -
	\$ -



HALL COUNTY
GEORGIA *We have it **all** in Hall*

Please complete the tab that correlates with the type of position change you are requesting. Only include ONE request per worksheet. If requesting multiple personnel changes, please prioritize each worksheet in order of importance. For each personnel request, submit this form, along with the "New Position Request."

REQUEST TYPE: NEW FULL-TIME POSITION

832

Department #

ARPA- Superior Court

Department Name

Treatment Coordinator

Requested Position Title

Priority #

ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL COST CALCULATION

New Position

\$72,504.59	Salary Requested (use midpoint of paygrade)
5,546.60	Taxes
5,800.37	Retirement
32,508.48	Health
47.88	Dental
187.93	Life
52.20	AD&D
280.09	Short Term Disability
\$116,928.14	Total Additional Personnel Costs

JUSTIFICATION (please provide a short explanation of your request on the lines below):

PERSONNEL EQUIPMENT REQUEST (list all equipment required and estimated cost)

****Do not add these estimated costs to your department's operating budget. It is calculated separately by OMB.**

EQUIPMENT DESCRIPTION (uniform, gun, fire safety suit, vehicle, computer, cell phone etc.)	ESTIMATED COST
	\$ -
	\$ -
	\$ -

Northeastern Judicial Circuit - CY2026 (Packet)

Final Audit Report

2025-09-17

Created:	2025-09-17 (Pacific Daylight Time)
By:	Harley Martin (harley.martin@hallcounty.org)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAWfTpucf8lNoi6MRXoQKEkVXp-Kzl7Xjd

"Northeastern Judicial Circuit - CY2026 (Packet)" History

-  Document created by Harley Martin (harley.martin@hallcounty.org)
2025-09-17 - 6:01:27 AM PDT
-  Document emailed to Jason Deal (jason.deal@nejcga.gov) for signature
2025-09-17 - 6:02:15 AM PDT
-  Email viewed by Jason Deal (jason.deal@nejcga.gov)
2025-09-17 - 6:02:44 AM PDT
-  Document e-signed by Jason Deal (jason.deal@nejcga.gov)
Signature Date: 2025-09-17 - 6:03:02 AM PDT - Time Source: server
-  Agreement completed.
2025-09-17 - 6:03:02 AM PDT