

# Legislative Update

March 1, 2026



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Background.....	2
Activities Completed.....	3
Strategic Roadmap.....	4
Activities in Progress.....	5
Court Implementation Metrics.....	7
Financials.....	9
Conclusion.....	12

## Background

After decades of debate, a clear consensus has developed in support of a unified statewide case management system for Michigan trial courts. Key support for this consensus was the [2019 Trial Court Funding Commission report](#) that recommended Michigan’s trial courts move towards a more stable and consistent funding model and an integrated technology infrastructure.<sup>1</sup> To achieve that recommendation, the [Michigan Judicial Council 2022-25 Strategic Agenda](#)<sup>2</sup> envisioned the adoption of a single statewide unified Case Management System (CMS) to achieve the following goals:

- increase the consistency and reliability of data gathering and reporting for improved decision-making at both the state and local level;
- reduce the cost and labor required to compile data for reporting;
- improve access to the justice system by enabling the broader use of online court services;
- reduce or eliminate duplication of costs to local governments; and,
- better position the judicial branch for integration with other justice system stakeholders such as law enforcement, corrections, and child and social welfare agencies.

This vision was supported by all three branches of state government in the historic appropriation signed in 2022 to fund one-time costs to support the build out of the technology infrastructure for a statewide CMS.

---

<sup>1</sup> [Trial Court Funding Commission Final Report](#) (September 6, 2019)

<sup>2</sup> [Michigan Judicial Council, 2022-25 Strategic Agenda](#) (April 13, 2022)

In October 2022, the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) began a six-month engagement with the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) to analyze and evaluate Michigan trial court technology and business needs to assess the feasibility of expanding the existing Judicial Information Services (JIS) Case Management System (CMS) platform statewide. The NCSC issued their final report in late March 2023 and concluded:

“...the JIS CMS is a viable and appropriate solution for the Michigan trial courts to expand and successfully implement as a statewide case management system. JIS provides an existing and more cost-effective solution than commercial packages that would come with higher costs and a much longer timeline for implementation.”

The NCSC report also offered a number of recommendations to assist SCAO in successfully implementing a statewide expansion of this CMS platform.

The enhancements to the JIS platform and the implementation activities described in this report are mutually supporting initiatives to achieve Michigan’s goal of a statewide CMS by expanding the JIS unified, modern court case life-cycle management solution.

## Activities Completed

Described in more detail later in this report, the following are major activities completed in 2025 related to long-term strategic goals:

- implemented the foundation of a modern data analytics platform;
- round seven MiFILE courts implemented;
- released MiCOURT Forms—a modern, accessible, web-centric court forms solution; and,
- moved legacy multi-tenant to modern multi-tenant environment.

## Completion of NCSC-Recommended Planning Activities

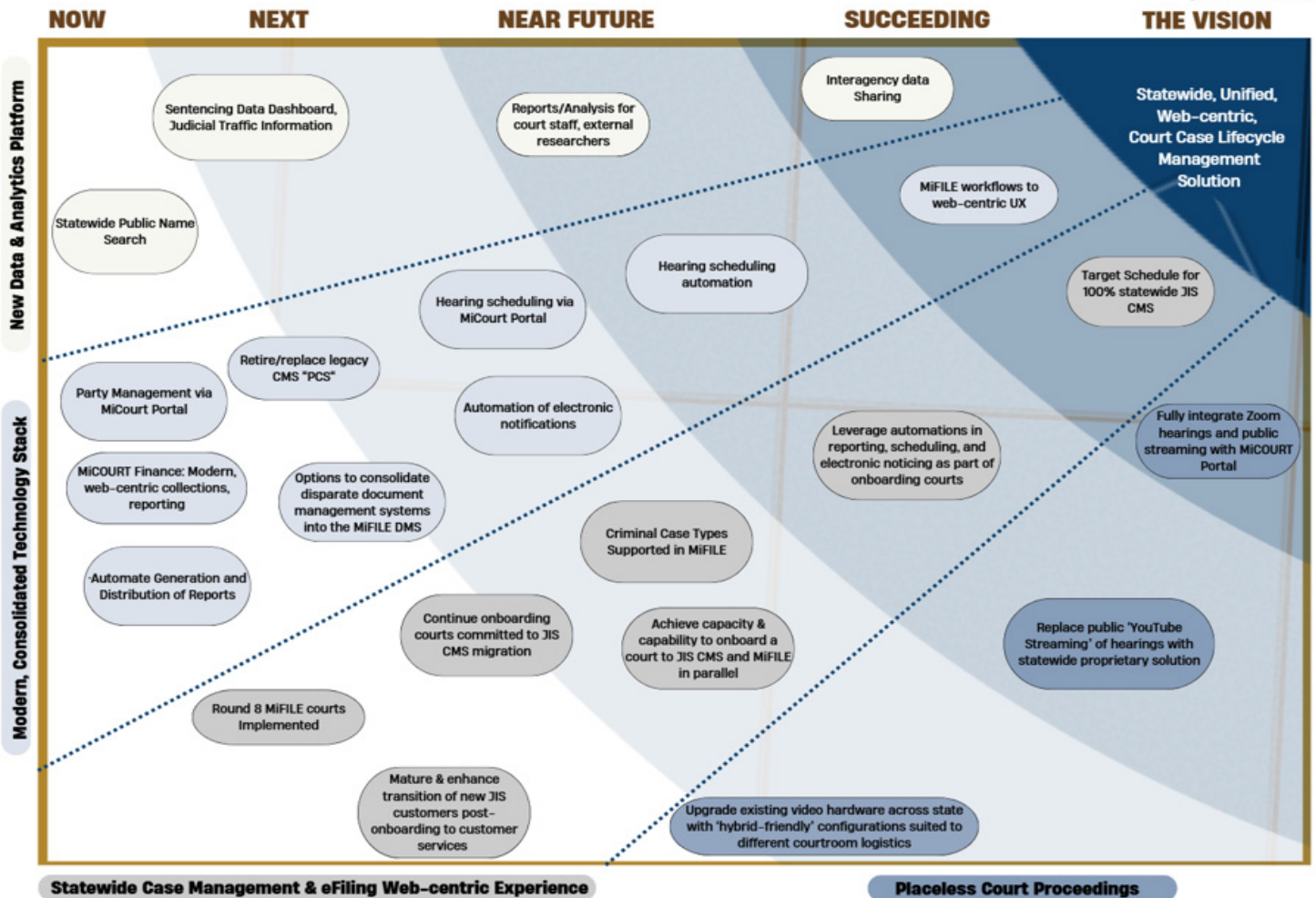
SCAO and JIS have implemented concrete processes and/or outcomes for the majority of the NCSC recommendations referred to in our 2024 Update. Specifically, the following strategic plans have been created and are being actively executed going forward to meet our long-term goals:

- JIS Strategic Roadmap: This plan identifies the key strategic projects, strategies, and policies for the fiscal year, aligned to the Michigan Judicial Council’s strategic agenda and operating plan, and identifies the critical path activities supporting the statewide unified CMS. [See following diagram.]
- Statewide CMS Implementation Prioritization and Onboarding Plans
- JIS Staffing Plan
- Statewide Unified CMS Governance Plan: A Judicial Information Advisory Council has been chartered with membership representing diverse judicial stakeholders. The Council will convene in the first quarter of 2026 to inaugurate the governance framework for statewide CMS implementation.

# Strategic Roadmap

The following diagram shows updated, relative timing of key Now, Next, and Future activities supporting the long-term strategic goals necessary to achieve the goals of the statewide unified CMS.

## JIS STRATEGIC ROADMAP – FY2026



## Continued Execution of Staffing Plan to Scale Up

JIS developed a staffing plan to appropriately scale up resources following the NCSC analysis. In FY 2025, SCAO received authorization and funding for five (5) new FTEs. Over the last year, those positions were all filled following JIS's staffing plan. In FY 2026, SCAO requested but was not granted an additional 12 FTE positions. These positions were and are expected to remain essential to support, update, enhance, and secure a statewide unified CMS long-term. The intended use of these requested positions is listed in the following chart.

FY2025 FTE Positions – Filled (5)	FY2026 FTE Positions – not authorized
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Software Delivery Lead and Scrum Master</li> <li>• Service Desk Supervisor</li> <li>• UX/UI Engineer</li> <li>• IT Security Manager</li> <li>• Data Architect</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service Desk Agents (3)</li> <li>• Project Manager, Infrastructure Operations</li> <li>• Information Security Analyst</li> <li>• <u>DevSecOps</u> Engineer</li> <li>• Software Engineer</li> <li>• ITSM Manager</li> <li>• Release Manager</li> <li>• Technical Business Analyst</li> <li>• Instructional Trainer</li> <li>• Instructional Designer</li> </ul>

Contract resources will continue to be leveraged to fill needs in the near term while JIS advances the platform enhancements and completes onboarding courts. SCAO is requesting these unfilled FTEs, as well as additional FTEs as outlined in our staffing plan, to meet our staffing needs for FY 2027. Failure to authorize these positions will result in slowed expansion efforts, as they are necessary to maintain the larger system. Also, expansion without maintenance would become unsustainable.

## Activities in Progress

### Continuing to advance and enhance the JIS Platform

In accordance with the recommendations from NCSC, JIS has identified several upgrades to our current JIS CMS. These upgrades will ensure the unified system can meet the usability demands of courts statewide and ensure that the ultimate unified case management system is efficient, supports decision-making, and meets the needs of courts and the public.

- **New Data & Analytics Platform:** The modern Judicial Data Lakehouse, development of which began in September 2024, will replace the Judicial Data Warehouse (JDW) to enhance statewide data availability, accessibility, trustworthiness, and completeness. The platform has established secure, scalable intake, storage, and analytics capabilities, and has onboarded high-value judicial data sets for operational reporting and policy analysis. We have also implemented data governance and compliance measures, ensuring legal, privacy, and disclosure requirements are met. Additionally, we have engaged stakeholders to validate requirements and prioritize use cases, ensuring a smooth transition from JDW to the Lakehouse with minimal disruption to court operations. This initiative will continue building capabilities and releasing functionality throughout 2026 and beyond.
- **Enhancing Reporting Capabilities to Offer Scheduling & Distribution:** JIS has provided a robust and modern reporting tier for our CMS for several years, based on proven Microsoft PowerBI architecture. A new initiative will enhance reporting by allowing courts to automatically run and distribute reports to court users and court-affiliated stakeholders on a set schedule.

- **Automatic Hearing Scheduling and Calendar Management:** In conjunction with courts maintaining high-volume dockets, JIS is enhancing the capabilities of the CMS to allow certain court activities/hearing types to be auto-scheduled following court rules, policies, and judge availability. This initiative, in complement to electronic notification (see next bullet), will greatly improve the efficiency of court operations, especially those with large caseloads and complex scheduling requirements.
- **Expanded Electronic Notification Options:** JIS is enhancing electronic notifications to better serve courts with large caseloads and meet the growing preference (in the public and the legal community) for e-notifications. This will include sending various notices automatically via email based on case workflow and scheduling. This enhancement will eventually eliminate much of the printing and physical mailing activities for courts, thereby increasing efficiency and reducing costs.
- **Enhanced Integration between MiFILE and JIS CMS:** Continuing to support robust integration between MiFILE (the statewide e-filing platform) and JIS CMS remains a priority as the MiFILE standard solution expands to support criminal case types, and leverages CMS enhancements such as automatic hearing scheduling and expanded e-notification.
- **Transition of existing JIS Customers to New JIS Web-Enabled Solutions:** While most JIS circuit courts, and all recently onboarded JIS courts use the modern, web-based JIS CMS solution, JIS continues efforts to transition all JIS courts to our most modern portfolio of products. In 2025, JIS piloted migrations with several probate courts that had been using a legacy CMS to our web-based CMS. In 2026, plans are in place to move more than 60 probate courts beginning. In addition to their enhanced CMS experience, these 60+ courts will now be qualified to implement MiFILE, increasing adoption of the statewide e-filing solution.

## Resolving Court Onboarding Challenges to Achieve Successes

JIS continues to work with courts committed to transitioning to our case management solution and have achieved significant successes in the past 12 months (see Court Implementation Metrics, below). The challenges with these transitions continue to be the data migration effort and the availability of local court/jurisdiction key resources.

- **Data Migration:** The complexity, inconsistency, and proprietary/limited access nature of historical data from onboarding courts have presented challenges to achieving target schedules for overall onboarding.
  - o **Mitigation Approach:** With successful data transitions from the same vendor's systems to various non-JIS courts across the state, we have improved our migration process in both timing and quality. Repeatability drastically shortens timeframes and improves quality. By the end of 2026, JIS expects to have migrated data from all but one vendor's case management system in use by Michigan trial courts. Establishing business process patterns and data transformations for these systems will simplify and accelerate future court transitions to JIS.

- **Local Court Effort/Availability of Key Resources:** The work required by onboarding courts to provide the subject matter expertise on the workings of their legacy systems, validating data migration accuracy, and managing the organizational change required to adopt a new CMS continues to prove challenging for local trial court staff. Local courts have difficulty providing a significant percentage of key resources needed to support the onboarding processes in real time and still maintain adequate court operations.
  - o **Mitigation Approach:** As outlined in last year’s update, SCAO has implemented a program to provide reimbursement for expenditures at the local funding unit level to cover hourly overtime or temporary staff costs in order to allow for dedicated effort from the court for onboarding. JIS has also begun to work more closely with SCAO Regional Administrators to enact targeted opportunities for local courts to dedicate resources to the overall onboarding effort.

However, challenges remain in the ability of some courts to focus on and achieve onboarding commitments. SCAO and JIS will continue to work with individual courts and court leadership to emphasize the importance of these onboarding activities and support courts in their efforts to accomplish their onboarding commitments.

## Court Implementation Metrics

At the beginning of FY 2023, 243 of Michigan’s 302 courts were using JIS CMS:

- 67 circuit
- 103 district
- 73 probate

As of February 27, 2026, 260 of 302 courts are using JIS CMS:

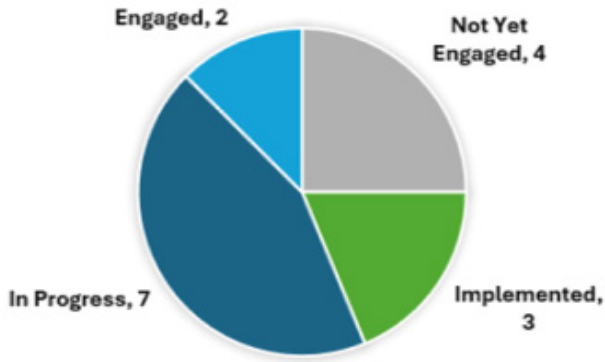
- 70 circuit
- 116 district
- 74 probate

From October 2022 through February 2024, SCAO and JIS were engaged in activities to validate our approach to statewide expansion, scale operational teams up appropriately, and plan for the overall statewide expansion while implementing one court (refer to the March 1, 2024 Legislative Report, pages 3-4). From March 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024, six courts were implemented.

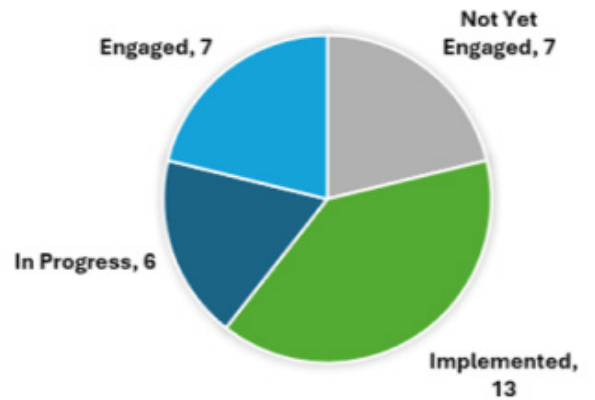
**From March 1, 2025, through February 27, 2026, 10 courts were implemented. As we continue through this process, our timelines and scalability continue to improve. This dramatic increase in implementations reflects substantial progress and is the result of lessons learned.**

## Current Status of Implementations

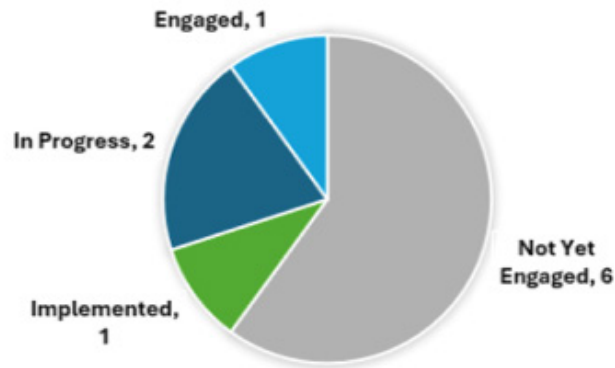
### CIRCUIT COURTS



### DISTRICT COURTS



### PROBATE COURTS



### Implementations Completed

Ten courts have migrated to the statewide system since our last report in March 2025: Benzie County District, Manistee County District, Crawford County District, Kalkaska County District, St. Joseph County Circuit, Alcona County District, Arenac County District, Iosco County District, Oscoda County District, and Delta County District.

## Implementations in Progress

As of February 27, 2026, 15 courts are in the process of implementation, and an additional 10 courts have engaged with JIS in discussions or software demonstrations.

Court	Progress
D84-1 Missaukee & D84-2 Wexford Districts	80% complete
C30 & P33 Ingham Circuit & Probate	60% complete
D70 Saginaw District	30% complete
C10 & P73 Saginaw Circuit & Probate	30% complete
C27-2 Lake Circuit	10% complete
D78-2 Lake District	10% complete
D78-1 Newaygo District	5% complete
D61 Kent (Grand Rapids) District	5% complete
C13 Circuit (Antrim, Grand Traverse, Leelanau)	1% complete
C06 Oakland Circuit	10% complete

JIS requests frequent feedback to continuously improve the ease and efficiency of onboarding courts. This is an example of feedback from a court migration in 2025:

“JIS staff have the patience of a saint, are competent, knowledgeable, an incredible resource and truly help what is a very complicated and stressful situation become much more tolerable. They go above and beyond to try to make our transition as seamless as possible ... being one of the few four-county circuit/districts in the state. Not only have they been a pleasure to work with during our District Court transition, but our experience was similar for our Circuit Court transition.”

## Financials

### \$150 million one-time appropriation

A detailed breakdown of expenditures from the \$150 million one-time appropriation for the current and previous fiscal years is provided in the table below, followed by a narrative. Funds currently obligated by contract for work underway are also noted. JIS continues to follow the plan to accelerate and scale court onboarding and related supporting initiatives which will significantly increase spending in subsequent fiscal years.

<b>Expenditures</b>	
<b>FY2023 -\$150M One-time appropriation</b>	<b>\$5,879,452</b>
<b>FY2024 -\$150M One-time appropriation</b>	<b>\$15,762,352</b>
• Contractors/Consultants	\$11,964,874
• Data Migrations	\$2,446,459
• FTE Staffing	\$664,573
• Software & Hardware Licensing/Purchase	\$637,573
• Misc.	\$48,971
<b>FY2025 -\$150M One-time appropriation</b>	<b>\$32,421,485</b>
• Contractors/Consultants	\$23,303,520
• Data Migrations	\$8,078,195
• FTE Staffing	\$701,938
• Software & Hardware Licensing/Purchase	\$336,832
• Misc.	\$999
<b>FY2026 -\$150M One-time appropriation (1<sup>st</sup> 3 months)</b>	<b>\$6,207,174</b>
• Contractors/Consultants	\$4,838,887
• Data Migrations	\$1,192,820
• FTE Staffing	\$170,973
• Software & Hardware Licensing/Purchase	\$4,184
• Misc.	\$310
<b>Expenditures Total</b>	<b>\$60,270,463</b>
<b>Obligated Funds</b>	<b>\$24,784,062</b>
<b>Expenditures &amp; Obligated Funds Total</b>	<b>\$85,054,525</b>

## Contractors/Consultants

JIS has strategically planned this project as a broad partnership that includes private sector participation. This approach leverages contract resources and consultants (experts with specialized skills and other IT professionals to supplement capacity) working in collaboration with FTE staff to accelerate development efforts as JIS matures the platform and provides more capacity and specialized skills for implementation efforts. As JIS approaches the completion of the statewide expansion, the use of contractors and consultants can be reduced as we transition to steady state.

## Data Migrations

JIS has partnered with two vendors who provide expertise and capacity to migrate legacy court case management data to the JIS CMS platform. This ensures that courts going through a data migration have access to their active and historical data in the statewide platform. The use of these partners will continue to increase.

## Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Staffing

JIS supports staff dedicated to the expansion of the statewide platform and the maturation of CMS functionality. JIS is in the process of adding staff as detailed in the staffing plan described above. The FTE expenditures identified during FY 2024 and FY 2025 under the \$150 million one-time appropriation (see p. 9-10) include current JIS employees who are temporarily shifting focus to the CMS expansion and coding time to that project. Once the expansion is fully implemented, those FTEs will transition back to work on other SCAO prioritized IT projects.

## Software & Hardware Licensing/Purchase

JIS is investing in additional licensing and capacity for the needs of the CMS platform as it is expanding and to enable the functional maturation of that platform. This includes high utilization of cloud-based computing, increasing information security tools and monitoring, and expanding the networking capabilities needed for additional courts to use the statewide platform. These investments will require additional ongoing annual funding to provide the larger footprint and modern platform capabilities to support the statewide expansion.

## Miscellaneous

These expenditures include telecommunications, travel, print materials, and other miscellaneous items associated with CMS platform maturity and engagement with non-JIS courts.

## Increased Ongoing Operating Costs

As a part of SCAO's FY 2023 request to the Legislature to fund a statewide case management system, SCAO requested ongoing funding of \$38 million to support, update, enhance, and secure the system. As courts are added to the statewide CMS, operational costs increase in order to support and maintain service to the public. As with a hospital expansion, there are increased costs involved in providing more services to maintain and update new systems and manage additional patient capacity, including more doctors and nurses.

ONE-TIME EXPENDITURES	INCREASED ONGOING EXPENDITURES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Modernizing and replacing legacy CMS platform architecture.</li><li>• Planning, including evaluation of resources and development of the Strategic Roadmap.</li><li>• Data conversions/migration. This includes the challenge of converting more than a dozen alternate CMS into the JIS system.</li><li>• Implementation activities, including providing training, educational support and work process materials for trial court employees.</li><li>• Developing and implementing a new data and analytics platform to replace the Judicial Data Warehouse (JDW).</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Scaling up of JIS team with FTEs needed across a wide range of activities, including database administrators; network, server, and storage managers; application developers; and customer success specialists, etc.</li><li>• More computing resources and ongoing increases in support and additional licensing in areas including Microsoft Azure government cloud services, IBM iSeries hosting, on premise servers and network, network bandwidth, and redundancies.</li><li>• Ongoing increase in costs to support disaster recovery and high availability of critical court systems.</li><li>• Ongoing increase in costs for security tools, security monitoring, and compliance.</li></ul>

The requested \$38 million in ongoing maintenance costs were not initially funded in FY 2023 and therefore, each year as the system grows and expands, SCAO has returned to the Legislature asking for a portion of the costs necessary to maintain the larger system. Those requests have been consistently underfunded, leaving SCAO without the necessary resources to maintain the system once fully built.

Year	Portion of Ongoing Maintenance Costs Requested	Portion of Ongoing Maintenance Costs Received
FY 2024	\$12,500,000	\$11,899,100
FY 2025	\$4,600,000	\$1,600,000
FY 2026	\$7,200,000	\$1,800,000

## Conclusion

We are confident and excited for the opportunity to continue progress towards a unified statewide case management system and offer continued gratitude for the Legislature’s support of this important strategic endeavor. Working together, our CMS will ultimately be a model for other states across the nation.

