

The Problem: "How should state dollars be distributed to provide for the dispensing of justice on behalf of Iowa citizens?"

Option 1. Distribute Clerk \$ on population.

Consequences: */Not just rural-urban issue because Polk also gets more.*

- Rewards counties with low crime rates & penalizes high crime counties.
- Penalizes counties with litigious culture.
- Penalizes counties with aggressive prosecutors.
- Penalizes counties with interstate highways & transient crime.

Option 2. Distribute Clerk \$ on equal staff FTEs per case by category.

Consequences: */Current distribution approach by Judicial Branch*

- Penalizes counties with low crime rates & rewards high crime counties.
- Rewards counties with litigious culture.
- Rewards counties with aggressive prosecutors.
- Holds harmless counties with interstates & transient crime.
- Assumes constant value of labor regardless of local market conditions.
- Arbitrarily rewards staff in counties with prevailing local wages below comparable worth & penalizes staff in counties with reverse condition.
- Arbitrarily assumes all counties at same place in economies of size.

Option 3. Distribute Clerk \$ on equal \$ per case by category.

Consequences: */Could accomplished by state & local contract partnerships.*

- Assumes local labor market conditions vary.
- Allows local flexibility to adjust wages or labor for local conditions.

First 3 Options *only consider partial budgeting and may be more prone to challenges regarding equal access due to fallacy of composition.*

Option 4. Distribute dollars to "equalize" access to justice.

- Might consider:
 - * Income, wealth, consumption;
 - * Distance to clerk services, hours of public access to court information, Internet access, availability and cost;
 - * Probabilities of apprehension and arrest by local law enforcement; &
 - * Probabilities of prosecution and out of court settlement.

Consequences: */Similar to School aid approach.*

- Less potential for equal access challenge.
- Assumes local decision-making process.