



# Court Security Fund

## Unified Judicial System

### Overview

Governor Noem's recommended budget includes \$5,000,000 in one-time funding to partner with counties to improve courthouse security across the state. The Unified Judicial System will work with select counties to implement courthouse security best practices by providing grants to those counties to encourage upgrades and offset court related security costs. The recommended appropriation would cover 75% of the total project costs, with the remaining 25% matched by the counties.

### Security Upgrades

The security changes would focus on improvements in areas such as courtrooms, judges' chambers, entrance screening, public services areas, and court staff offices as well as building access and perimeter issues. Within each area there are a number of projects that have been identified as a priority, such as the installation of panic alarms and ballistic glass, more secure entry-way configurations for judges and the public, and upgrades to courtroom cameras.

### Current Security Practices

The UJS worked with all 65 court locations across the state to evaluate current security practices. That survey revealed many areas where improvements could be made:

- 89% of respondents indicated that public transaction counters are not equipped, at least partially, with duress alarms.
- 97% of respondents indicated that their courthouse does not have ballistic resistant glass on exposed doors and windows.
- 95% of respondents indicated that their courthouse does not have alarmed exterior doors and accessible windows.
- 78% of respondents indicated that their courthouse does not have a dedicated exterior entrance for transporting in-custody persons.