

# The Texas Judicial Council's Centers of Excellence: A Judicial Branch Performance Initiative

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Update to Texas Judicial Council  
Office of Court Administration  
Research and Court Services Division  
June 30, 2017



# Court Performance Initiative

- Is designed to assist courts and court systems in assessing and improving their performance
- Is based on recognized approaches to studying and improving court performance
- Is supportive of local innovation and priorities
- **Is not** a “one-size-fits-all” approach to court management

# Pilot Jurisdictions

## Court Systems

El Paso County, District and County Courts

Hays County, District Courts

## Courts

Webb County, 49<sup>th</sup> District Court

Webb County, 406<sup>th</sup> District Court

Webb County, County Court at Law No.2

Seguin Municipal Court

# Program Overview – Phase 1

PHASE

1

Complete Readiness Assessment  
Consult with OCA  
Select jurisdiction representative



# Readiness Self-Assessment



## **Compelling Need**

There is a compelling need, pressing reason or opportunity in your court to undertake a performance improvement project.



## **Stability and Commitment**

Key actors (judges, administrators, managers, others) have time over the next 12-18 months to participate in developing and following through on a project to improve court performance.



## **Interest in Improvement**

Key actors (judges, administrators, managers, others) have an interest in undertaking a performance improvement project and making its pursuit a priority.

# Readiness Self-Assessment



## **Willingness to Assess**

Key actors (judges, administrators, managers, other) are willing to critically assess the court's performance and open to considering the results.



## **Willingness to Change**

Key actors (judges, administrators, managers, other) are open to setting performance standards and changing the way they do their work to align with performance-related goals.

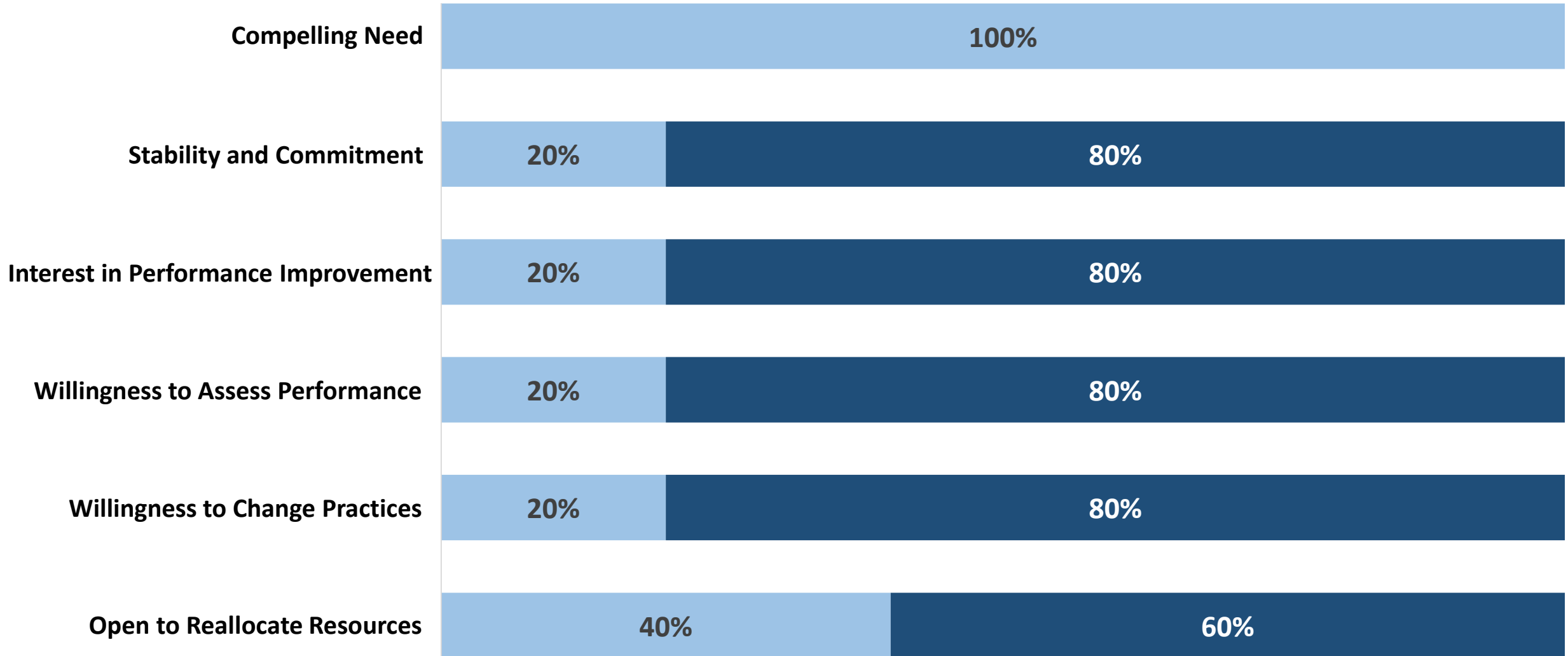


## **Open to Resource Reallocation**

Key decision makers are open to reallocate resources, if necessary, to support and sustain the court's performance improvement project.

# Readiness Self-Assessment – Pilot Site Example

Respondents either **AGREE** or **STRONGLY AGREE** ...



# Program Overview – Phase 2

PHASE

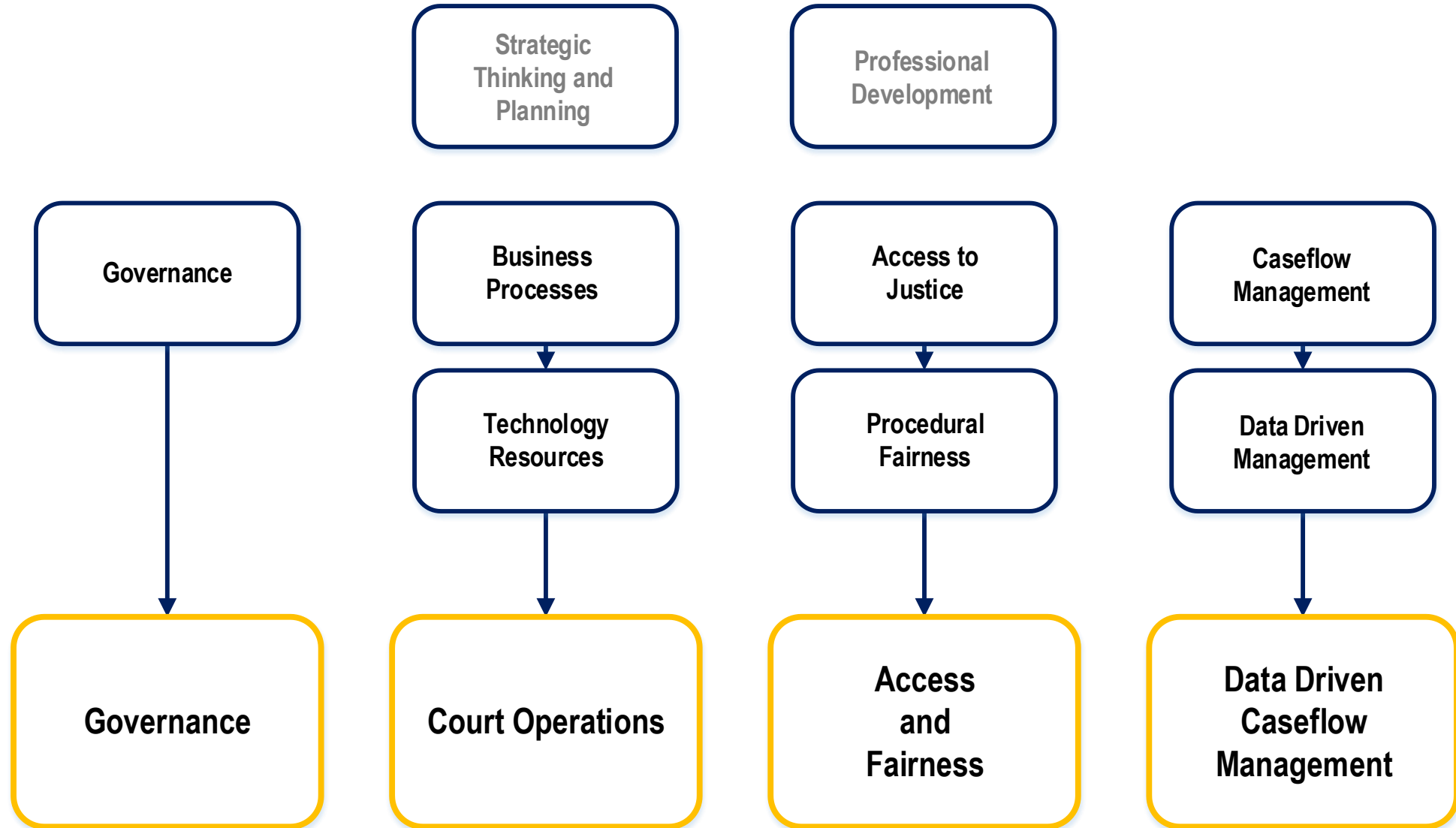
2

Complete Performance Inventory  
Receive Performance Profile from OCA  
Create Performance Plan





# Proposed Performance Areas



# Performance Areas

Governance

Data-Driven  
Caseflow  
Management

Access &  
Fairness

Court  
Operations

# Performance Areas



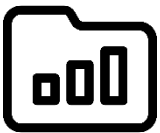
## Governance

The court's structure and authority for policy decision-making and implementation is effective and the court is committed to transparency and accountability.



## Court Operations

The court effectively performs, manages and monitors its operations and services.



## Data-Driven Caseflow Management

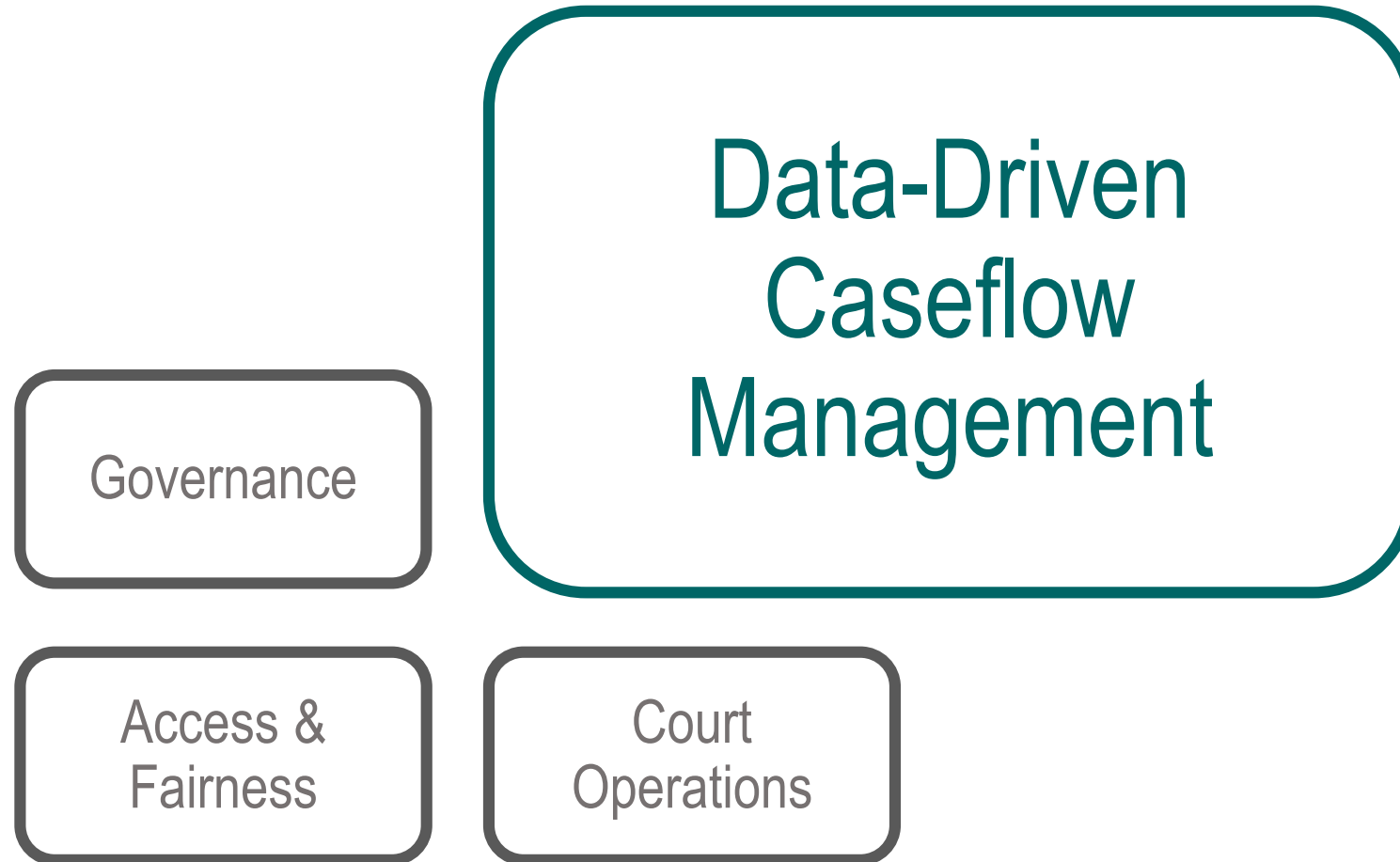
The court uses data to ensure that work is performed efficiently and to promote the fair and timely resolution of all cases.



## Access & Fairness

The court is accessible to all and court procedures are fair and understandable.

# Performance Areas



# Performance Inventory

Data-Driven  
Caseflow  
Management

- 1 Does your court have a written case management plan?
- 2 Does your court have a written continuance policy?
- 3 Does your court monitor the reasons for continuances in each case?
- 4 Does your court monitor the time from filing to disposition against a performance standard?

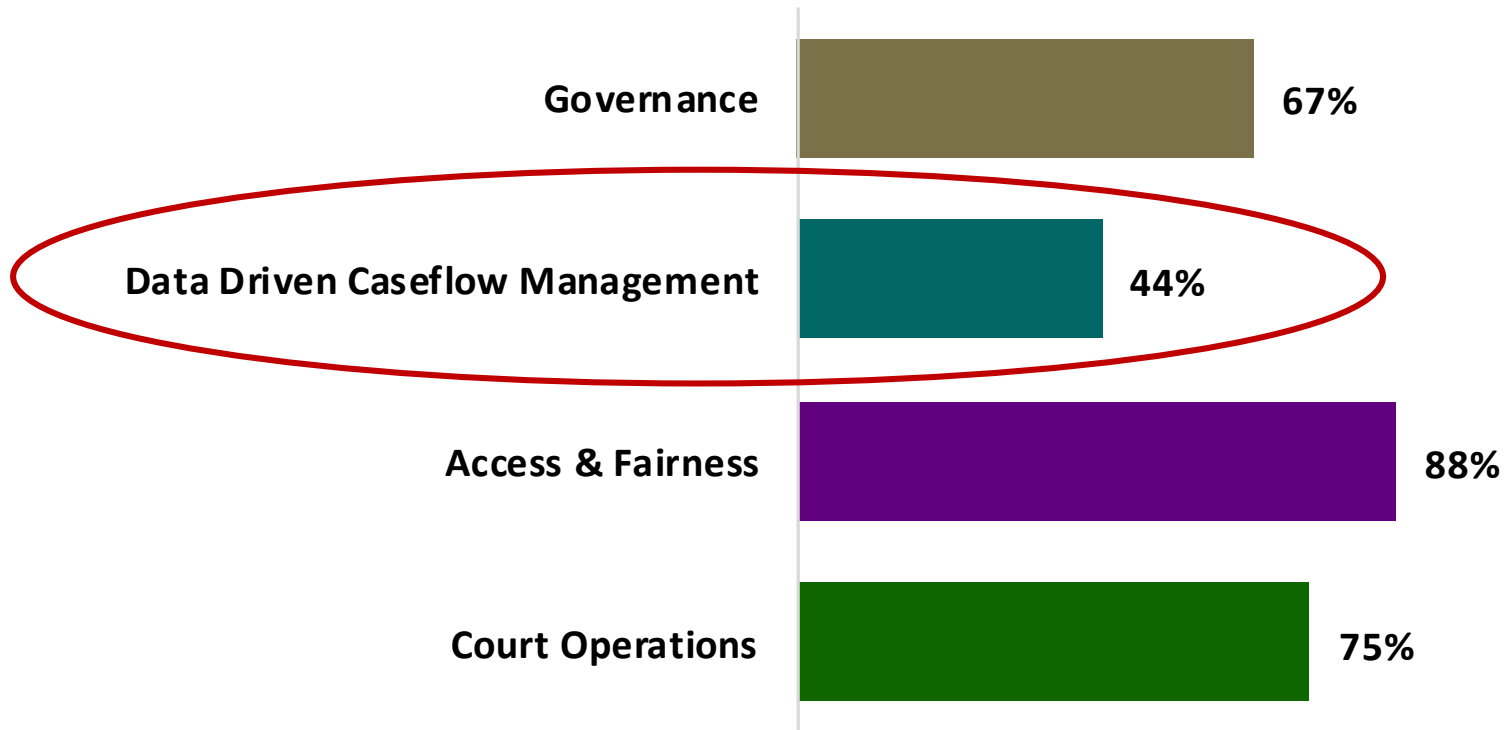
# Performance Inventory

Data-Driven  
Caseflow  
Management

- 5 Does your court monitor the number of appearances from filing to disposition for criminal cases?
- 6 Does your court monitor complex cases to ensure a timely resolution?
- 7 Does your court monitor the number of cases heard on the first scheduled trial date?
- 8 Does your court produce real-time reports and information that are used by court staff and judges in managing cases?

# Performance Profile – Pilot Site Example

PERFORMANCE AREA   STRENGTH INDEX



# Performance Inventory – Pilot Site

## Being Done

- Does your court have a written continuance policy? **YES**
- Does your court monitor complex cases to ensure a timely resolution? **YES**
- Does your court produce real-time reports and information that are used by court staff and judges in managing cases? **YES**
- Does your court provide court personnel and judicial officers with opportunities for training in case management practices, court performance monitoring, analysis and management? **YES**

## Not Being Done

- Does your court have a written case management plan? **NO**
- Does your court monitor the reasons for continuances in each case? **NO**
- Does your court monitor the time from filing to disposition against a performance standard? **NO**
- Does your court monitor the number of appearances from filing to disposition for criminal cases? **NO**
- Does your court monitor the number of cases heard on the first scheduled trial date? **NO**



# Performance Plan – Pilot Site

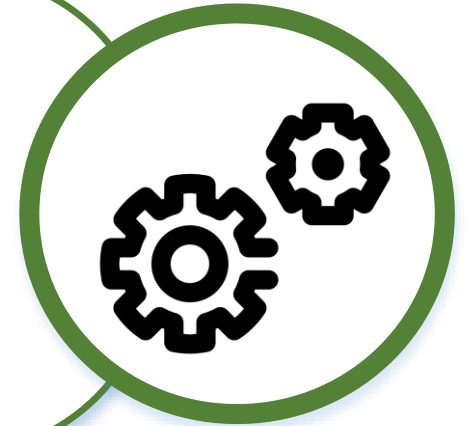
- Draft and implement a written case management plan
- Develop and implement systems to monitor the reasons for continuances
- Develop and implement systems to monitor the time from filing to disposition against a performance standard
- Develop and implement systems to monitor the number of appearances from filing to disposition for criminal cases
- Develop and implement systems to monitor the number of cases heard on the first scheduled trial date

# Program Overview – Phases 3 and 4

PHASE

3

Implement Performance Plan  
Participate in Excellence Assessment conducted by OCA



PHASE

4

Jurisdiction is recognized by the Judicial Council as a  
**Judicial Center of Excellence**



# Next Steps...

- Distribute and discuss each pilot jurisdiction's Performance Profile with them
- Jurisdictions will develop and begin to implement a performance improvement plan with assistance and resources from OCA as needed
- Jurisdictions will participate in an Excellence Assessment conducted by OCA
- Jurisdictions may be recognized by the Council as a Judicial Center of Excellence
- Planned opening of the program to all interested jurisdictions: **October 2017**