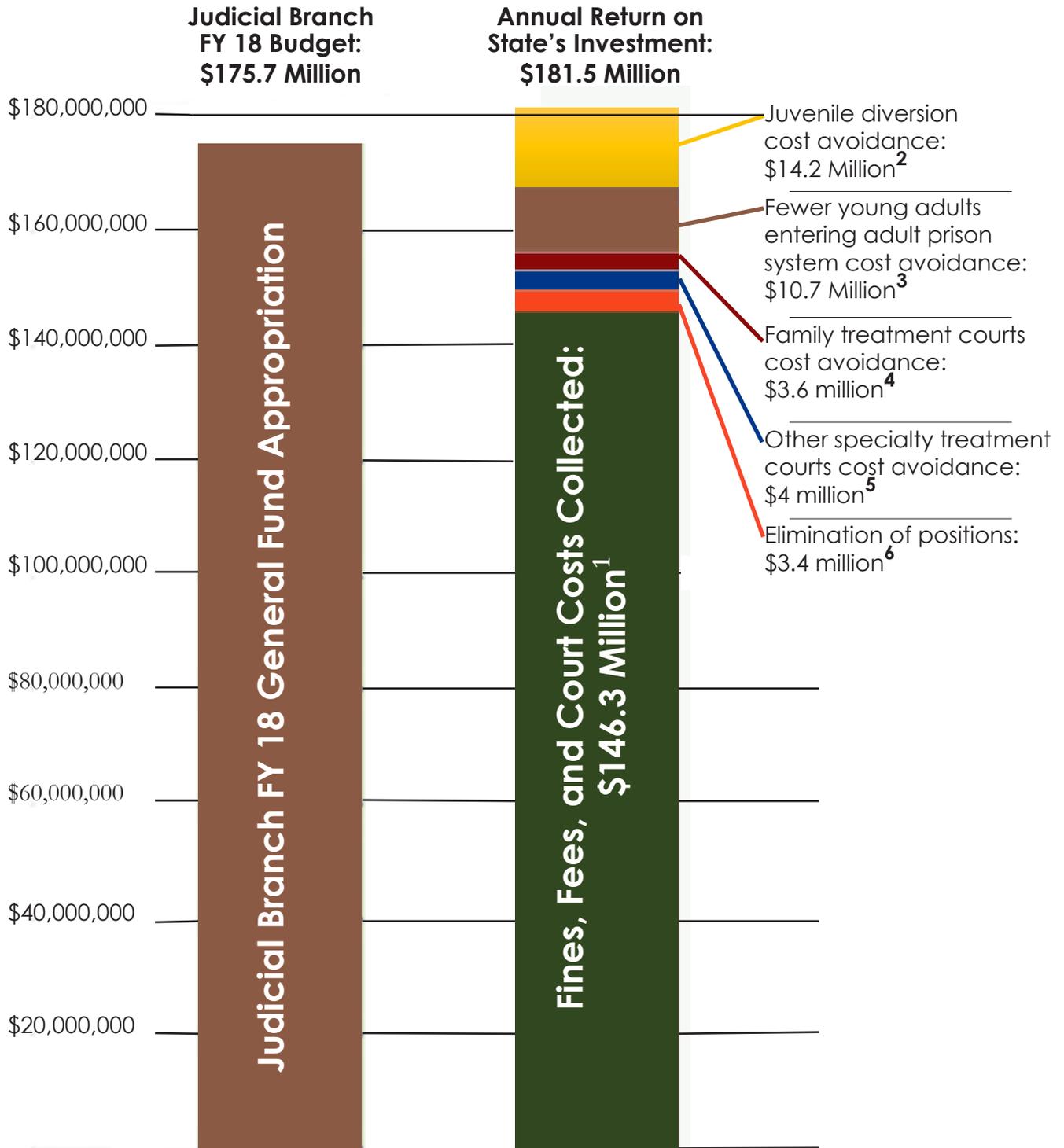




# Return on State's Investment in the Iowa Judicial Branch

In FY 18, the legislature appropriated \$175.7 million to the judicial branch for its operating budget. The estimated annual return on that investment is \$181.5 million. The chart below details estimates on some specific judicial branch programs.

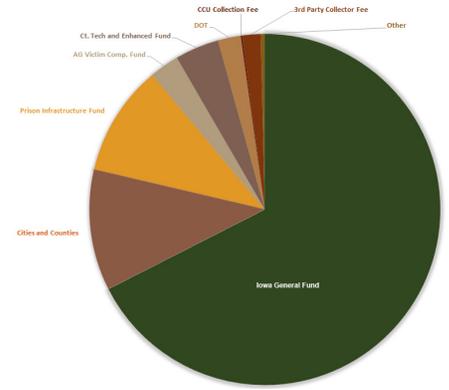




# In 2017, Iowa Courts Collected \$146.3 Million in Revenue<sup>1</sup>

Each year, with the aid of several state and local government entities, Iowa courts collect millions of dollars in fines and fees that directly benefit state and local government. In FY 2017, the **\$146.3 million Iowa's courts collected** was distributed as follows:

- **\$98.8 million—Iowa General Fund**
- **\$16.3 million—Cities and Counties**
- **\$15.0 million—Prison Infrastructure Fund**
- **\$4.0 million—Attorney General Victim Compensation Fund**
- **\$5.9 million—Court Technology and Enhancement Fund**
- **\$3.0 million—Road Use Tax Fund**
- **\$2.6 million—CCU Collection/Third Party Collection Fee**
- **\$0.5 million—Other**



## Juvenile Diversion Cost Avoidance<sup>2</sup>

In 2017, 10,363 juveniles were diverted from Iowa courts using evidence-based practices. According to a State of Washington report on juvenile diversion programs, each child diverted from formal court creates a \$715 cost avoidance to taxpayers. In Iowa, the cost avoidance totals \$7.41 million. Additionally, 175 fewer juveniles were placed into group care at a cost avoidance of \$38,602 per child per year for a total Iowa cost avoidance of \$6.75 million. The two combined benefit Iowa taxpayers nearly **\$14.2 million in cost avoidance**.

## Fewer Young Adults Entering the Adult Prison System Cost Avoidance<sup>3</sup>

In FY 2009, 618 criminal offenders under age 21 entered the adult prison system. That number has steadily declined every year since 2009, and in FY 2017, 313 criminal offenders under age 21 entered the adult prison system—a decrease of 50 percent. The average annual cost per inmate in an Iowa prison is \$34,984 according to the Iowa Department of Corrections, which is a **cost avoidance of \$10.7 million**.

## Family Treatment Courts Cost Avoidance<sup>4</sup>

Family treatment courts served 331 families in 2016 and 314 families in 2017, an average of 322 families a year. 322 families a year multiplied by \$11,282.92\* = **\$3,633,100 in cost avoidance**.

*\* Family treatment courts have generated over \$10 million dollars in cost avoidance for the state since their inception in 2007, an average of approximately \$11,282.92 per family treated.*

*From the Iowa Department of Human Rights, Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning, December, 2017.*

## Other Specialty Treatment Courts Cost Avoidance<sup>5</sup>

The National Association of Drug Court Professionals states that specialty treatment courts provide system-wide savings (cost avoidance) of \$3,000 to \$13,000 per specialty treatment court participant, depending on the program. We assume that Iowa's specialty treatment courts fall at the midpoint—\$8,000 cost avoidance per participant. Since Iowa courts handle approximately 500 participants in specialty treatment courts per year, the estimated system-wide **cost avoidance is: 500 X \$8,000 = \$4 million per year**.

## Savings from Reduction of Positions<sup>6</sup>

The Judicial Branch **eliminated 67 vacant clerk of court positions** from our table of organization due to continuous improvement efforts and efficiency gains from technology. The average cost of these positions is \$51,325, which equates to an overall **recurring annual savings of \$3,438,775**.