



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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HON. TANI G. CANTIL-SAKAUYE
*Chief Justice of California
Chair of the Judicial Council*

HON. DOUGLAS P. MILLER
Chair, Executive and Planning Committee

HON. DAVID M. RUBIN
*Chair, Judicial Branch Budget Committee
Chair, Litigation Management Committee*

HON. KENNETH K. SO
*Chair, Policy Coordination and
Liaison Committee*

HON. HARRY E. HULL, JR.
Chair, Rules and Projects Committee

HON. MARSHA G. SLOUGH
Chair, Technology Committee

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Hon. Richard Bloom
Hon. C. Todd Botke
Hon. Stacy Bouluware Eurie
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MR. MARTIN HOSHINO
*Administrative Director,
Judicial Council*

September 28, 2018

Hon. Holly J. Mitchell
Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
1020 N Street, Room 553
Sacramento, California 95814

Hon. Philip Y. Ting
Vice Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
1020 N Street, Room 553
Sacramento, California 95814

Ms. Keeley Bosler
Director, Department of Finance
915 L Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: *Report on the Court Innovations Grant Program*, as required under the Budget Act of 2016 (Sen. Bill 826; Stats. 2016, ch. 23)

Dear Senator Mitchell, Assembly Member Ting, and Ms. Bosler:

Attached is the Judicial Council report required under the Budget Act of 2016.¹

If you have any questions related to this report, please contact Laura Speed, Director, Judicial Council Leadership Support Services office, at laura.speed@jud.ca.gov or 916-323-3121.

Sincerely,

Martin Hoshino
Administrative Director
Judicial Council

¹ Available at www.courts.ca.gov/documents/cipg-budget-act.pdf.

September 28, 2018

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MH/LS/MD/ME/cp

Attachment

cc: Diane F. Boyer-Vine, Legislative Counsel
Daniel Alvarez, Secretary of the Senate
E. Dotson Wilson, Chief Clerk of the Assembly
Eric Dang, Policy Consultant, Office of Senate President pro Tempore Kevin de León
Alf Brandt, Senior Counsel, Office of Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon
Misty Feusahrens, Special Assistant, Office of Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon
Anita Lee, Senior Fiscal and Policy Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office
Tina McGee, Executive Secretary, Legislative Analyst's Office
Rebecca Kirk, Program Budget Analyst, Department of Finance
Margie Estrada, Chief Counsel, Senate Judiciary Committee
Christopher Francis, Consultant, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Shaun Naidu, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee
Matt Osterli, Consultant, Senate Republican Fiscal Office
Mike Petersen, Consultant, Senate Republican Policy Office
Alison Merrilees, Chief Counsel, Assembly Judiciary Committee
Jennifer Kim, Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
Jay Dickenson, Chief Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Jessica Peters, Principal Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Daryl Thomas, Consultant, Assembly Republican Office of Policy & Budget
Paul Dress, Consultant, Assembly Republican Office of Policy & Budget
Amy Leach, Minute Clerk, Office of Assembly Chief Clerk
Jennifer Troia, Principal Consultant, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
Cory T. Jaspersen, Director, Governmental Affairs, Judicial Council
Laura Speed, Director, Leadership Support Services, Judicial Council
Peter Allen, Director, Public Affairs, Judicial Council
Yvette Casillas-Sarcos, Administrative Coordinator, Governmental Affairs, Judicial Council



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JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

Report title: *Report on the Court Innovations Grant Program*

Statutory citation: *Budget Act of 2016 (Sen. Bill 826; Stats. 2016, ch. 23)*

Date of report: *September 28, 2018*

The Judicial Council submits this report to the Legislature in accordance with the Budget Act of 2016.

The following summary of the report is provided under the requirements of Government Code section 9795.

The Budget Act of 2016 allocated \$25 million to the judicial branch to promote court innovations and efficiencies through a grant program. Of this \$25 million, \$12 million was earmarked for collaborative courts; \$8 million for family, juvenile, and self-help programs; and \$5 million for other efficiencies. Five percent (\$1.25 million) was authorized to administer and evaluate the program.

The report provides the Legislature with progress on the grant program and its projects.

The full report can be accessed here: www.courts.ca.gov/7466.htm.

A printed copy of the report may be obtained by calling 916-643-4612.

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LEADERSHIP SERVICES DIVISION

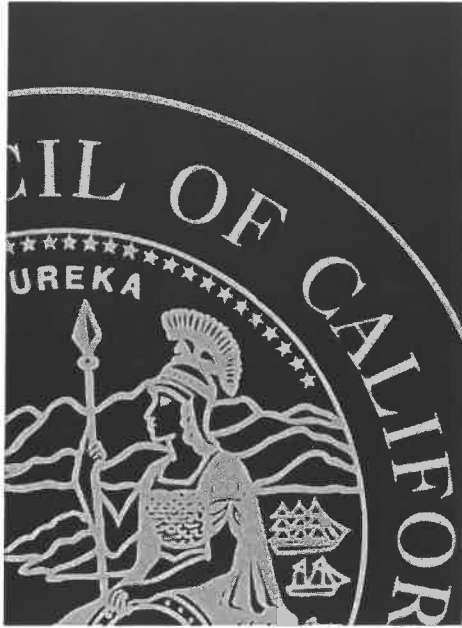
Millicent Tidwell
Chief Deputy Director

LEADERSHIP SUPPORT SERVICES

Laura Speed
Director

Maureen Dumas
Principal Manager

Marcela Eggleton
*Supervising Analyst
Primary Author of Report*



Report on the Court Innovations Grant Program

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE UNDER
BUDGET ACT OF 2016 (SEN. BILL 826;
STATS. 2016, CH. 23)

SEPTEMBER 28, 2018

Overview

The Budget Act of 2016 (Sen. Bill 826; Stats. 2016, ch. 23)¹ allocated \$25 million to the judicial branch to promote court innovations and efficiencies through a grant program to be expended by June 30, 2020. Of this \$25 million, \$12 million was earmarked for collaborative courts; \$8 million for self-help, family and juvenile courts; and \$5 million for other efficiencies across all types of courts. Five percent (\$1.25 million) was authorized to administer and evaluate the program² though to increase the available amount for grant awards, the Judicial Council will cap its costs at \$625,000.

In March 2017, the Judicial Council awarded \$23.5 million to grantee courts—\$11.3 million for collaborative court programs; \$7.5 million for self-help, family, and juvenile court programs; and \$4.7 million for other efficiencies programs—to increase court efficiencies.

Grant funding was provided to 51 grant projects. The approved projects received initial distributions, allowing the courts to begin pre-implementation activities. Currently, 50 projects³ are moving forward, totaling \$22.3 million. A list of grant projects reflecting current award amounts is attached as Appendix A to this report.

Court Innovations Program Oversight

The Judicial Council delegated oversight for the Court Innovations Grant Program to the Judicial Branch Budget Committee (JBBC) in 2017. The JBBC is now responsible for monitoring project implementation and outcomes and the program's contingency fund. The JBBC is also responsible for reviewing and approving additional award requests during the grant program.⁴ Modifications to project budgets, outcome measurements, and timelines are reviewed and approved by the JBBC and Judicial Council staff.

As of the end of FY 2017–18, grantee courts have expended over \$10.3 million. The council monitors a small percentage funding that is retained in a contingency fund in each grant category to pay for unforeseen costs that may arise during the grant period. The contingency fund balance will fluctuate over the life of the grant as the JBBC awards additional grant funding and court grantees return previously distributed grant monies due to project savings.

¹ Available at www.courts.ca.gov/documents/cipg-budget-act.pdf.

² To increase the amount of funds available to be awarded for grants, the Judicial Council will use only \$625,000 of the \$1.25 million authorized.

³ The Superior Court of Contra Costa County withdrew California's Virtual Self-Help Site project from the program because of unforeseen circumstances.

⁴ On June 30, 2017, the Judicial Council approved Circulating Order CO-17-04, delegating funding adjustments related to the Court Innovations Grant Program to the JBBC. A copy of the circulating order is available at <https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=5311536&GUID=0A5CC66D-930B-4818-A504-F8FF88486F06>.

Contingency Fund Balance as of September 2018

Total	Collaborative Courts	Self-Help, Family and Juvenile Courts	Other Efficiencies
\$2,770,906	\$1,557,534	\$1,145,878	\$67,494

Project/Court Collaboration

Some courts collaborate on grant projects allowing them to share ideas, resources, and challenges. In October 2017, the Superior Court of Orange County hosted a meeting for the 11 courts with projects involving a self-help customer portal. Project managers and court leadership gathered to share project scopes and identify similar and differing components and approaches. An online site was created by the courts to track this information and provide a forum for courts to leverage common resources. In February 2018, council staff held an online conference and teleconference for the seven projects containing remote video technology. A similar online site was created for these projects for the same purpose. Courts continue to collaborate formally and informally to leverage information and resources.

Project Highlights

Project highlights and outcome measurement data provided to date by the courts vary based on project implementation status and the dates for which outcome measurements are scheduled to be collected and reported.

Below is a sampling of project highlights regarding progress and activities in FY 2017–18.

- The Superior Court of Fresno County has implemented a **Juvenile Human Trafficking Court** to help the growing number of youth who are trafficked in Fresno County as well as runaway, homeless, and other vulnerable youth who are at risk for exploitation. The court was fully implemented in January 2018 and currently serves twice as many youth as the court anticipated. Data are collected on the youths' backgrounds (e.g., runaway rates, days spent in foster care, days spent in custody, school attendance and credits, number of previous felony filings, and previous probation), wait times for assessment and intake, and the number of hours spent on human trafficking cases by justice partners. Court leadership is collaborating with other local and state partners to secure transitional housing for program participants transitioning out of Juvenile Hall to family home placements and trauma-informed comprehensive services (e.g., group programs and mental health counseling) in tandem with family reunification services, and is working with organizations such as the Fresno Yosemite International Airport to raise awareness of the program for increased identification of potential victims.
- The Superior Court of San Joaquin County has enhanced the **Local Community Supervision Court** by creating a multitrack system to improve outcomes for offenders who have different levels of need but are all at high risk to recidivate. The court has been fully implemented since July 2017. It is reporting successful outcomes in sustainability

and replicability, decreased recidivism and fewer vehicular accidents related to drug and alcohol use, and improved targeted services through the use of risk and needs triage assessment tools.

- The Superior Court of San Francisco County has enhanced its **Veterans Justice Court** by expanding the use of evidence-based, trauma-informed treatment for participants. The court has accepted 63 new clients and graduated 30 clients since the start of the project in July 2017.
- The Superior Court of Butte County has implemented **remote video-conferencing technology in 13 rural courts to support self-help programs** that can be used collaboratively by sharing self-help resources between participating courts. The project has progressed with the Superior Courts of Glenn, Humboldt, Imperial, Inyo, Lake, Mendocino, Modoc, Nevada, Placer, Shasta, Tehama, and Trinity Counties participating. The team has produced five remote video workshops to serve self-represented litigants. The program coordinator has been working with each of the partner courts to determine the individual needs of each court to ensure use of the remote video-conferencing equipment. The website, sharpcourts.org, has been launched, and online registration for the workshops is available.
- The Superior Court of Monterey County has developed for smartphones and other devices an application that will provide advanced online access, as well as a cloud-hosted solution to serve as a remote clerk's office, available to court users around the clock. A live beta version of the California court access application has been created, and currently 76 active users will provide feedback on usability, performance, and test results during this pilot phase.
- The Superior Court of Riverside County's **Traffic Avatar** project went live on the court's website in May 2018. The avatar is an interactive virtual speaking character that assists online customers with traffic-related inquiries in multiple languages. As of the end of the fiscal year, the court has reported that the avatar was used by 702 customers.
- The Superior Court of Sacramento County has established **video conferencing to conduct mental health hearings**, including petitions for writs of habeas corpus, Riese medication capacity determinations, and time extensions. The court has completed the purchase and installation of the media carts needed for the Videoconferencing of Mental Health Hearings project. Currently, the court is testing the equipment with two mental health facilities and anticipates the remote mental health proceedings to begin in October 2018.

Future Activities

The council will continue to provide oversight to ensure that expenditures are in alignment with approved project budgets; collect and analyze outcome measurements; and create and manage an accessible repository of project documentation that will promote statewide replicability of the programs.

Courts throughout the state are continuing activities under their projects; are developing policies and procedures documentation, training manuals, and archives; and will continue to share resources with others through collaborative efforts. This collection of resources will be archived and made accessible to all courts that are interested in replicating a project.

Attachments

1. Attachment A: *Court Innovations Grant Program: Project Awards by Funding Category*

**Court Innovations Grant Program
Project Awards by Funding Category**

Attachment A

	Court	Project Name		Current Award
Collaborative Courts			Subtotal	\$10,142,465.74
1	Alameda Superior Court	Collaborative Court Management Information System	\$	114,223.00
2	Contra Costa Superior Court	Veteran's Treatment Court (VTC)	\$	367,974.33
3	Fresno Superior Court	Human Trafficking Court Planning and Implementation	\$	383,651.00
4	Humboldt Superior Court	Family Dependency Drug Court	\$	1,414,209.82
5	Inyo Superior Court	Reentry Court	\$	273,712.00
6	Mendocino Superior Court	Adult Drug Court	\$	374,611.89
7	Placer Superior Court ¹	Video Appearances	\$	280,000.00
8	Sacramento Superior Court	Monitor and Measure the Achievement of Program Goals	\$	311,849.00
9	San Diego Superior Court	Evidence-Based Sentencing Triage Assessment Unit	\$	1,484,758.85
10	San Francisco Superior Court	Veterans Justice Court	\$	318,592.00
11	San Joaquin Superior Court	Community Supervision Court	\$	1,982,207.94
12	San Mateo Superior Court	DUI and Restitution Court	\$	1,012,477.00
13	Santa Cruz Superior Court	Collaborative Justice System	\$	1,174,633.00
14	Sonoma Superior Court	Veterans Court Enhancements	\$	56,476.00
15	Stanislaus Superior Court	Homeless Court Program	\$	593,089.91
Self-Help, Family and Juvenile Courts			Subtotal	\$7,374,999.59
1	5th DCA Superior Court	Self-Help and Learning Center Website	\$	317,916.00
2	Butte Superior Court	Remote Video-Conferencing Technology	\$	576,140.00
3	Contra Costa Superior Court	California's Virtual Self Help Site	\$	970,365.00
4	El Dorado Superior Court	One Family/One Judge Pilot Project	\$	66,599.00
5	Los Angeles Superior Court	Self-Help Traffic Avatar (Gina) Expansion	\$	59,373.00
6	Monterey Superior Court	California Court Access App	\$	789,940.00
7	Orange Superior Court	Enhance Self-Help Portal	\$	326,800.00
8	Placer Superior Court ¹	Video Appearances	\$	280,000.00
9	Riverside Superior Court	Intelligent Self-Help Kiosk	\$	648,774.14
10	Riverside Superior Court	Traffic Avatar	\$	46,865.65
11	Riverside Superior Court	Attorney and Litigant Electronic Courtroom Self Check-In	\$	178,732.14
12	San Bernardino Superior Court	Customer Relationship Management Portal	\$	445,137.60
13	San Bernardino Superior Court	Video-Conferencing Child Custody Recommending Counseling	\$	35,537.40
14	San Diego Superior Court	Access to Information Made Simple	\$	332,631.00
15	San Mateo Superior Court	Develop and Provide Expanded Online Self-help	\$	336,000.00
16	Santa Barbara Superior Court	Instant Family Law Orders	\$	312,926.00
17	Shasta Superior Court	Cooperative Parenting Program	\$	458,590.66
18	Sonoma Superior Court	Queuing/Appointment/Calendaring System	\$	56,586.00
19	Tuolumne Superior Court	Expand Small Claims-Civil Mediation Program	\$	24,000.00
20	Ventura Superior Court	Juvenile Delinquency Family Engagement Workshops	\$	88,182.00
21	Ventura Superior Court	Internet Based Self-help Workshops	\$	932,404.00
22	Yolo Superior Court	Online Interactive Multilingual Tool	\$	91,500.00
Other Efficiencies			Subtotal	\$4,814,458.27
1	5th DCA Superior Court	Modernize the Transcript Assembly Program	\$	793,000.00
2	Contra Costa Superior Court	Expanding LEP Court Access	\$	239,000.00
3	Humboldt Superior Court	Interactive Video Conferencing System	\$	170,919.87
4	Los Angeles Superior Court	E-Filing	\$	114,760.00
5	Los Angeles Superior Court	Justice System Partner and Litigant Portal	\$	637,500.00
6	Merced Superior Court	Video Conference Hearings Project	\$	218,500.58
7	Monterey Superior Court	Cloud Based Disaster Recovery Solution	\$	209,360.74
8	Orange Superior Court	Court User Portal	\$	511,200.00
9	Orange Superior Court	Improving Court Management Through the Use of Analytics	\$	938,851.34
10	Orange Superior Court	Automating the Courtroom Check-in	\$	246,190.00
11	Orange Superior Court	Conservatorship Accountability Portal	\$	212,972.00
12	Sacramento Superior Court	Videoconferencing of Mental Health Hearings	\$	66,249.00
13	San Bernardino Superior Court	Remote Video Proceedings	\$	295,194.74
14	San Mateo Superior Court	Automated Line Queuing System	\$	125,000.00
15	Santa Cruz Superior Court	SMS Notifications	\$	35,760.00
			Program Total	\$22,331,923.60

¹ The Placer Superior Court Video Appearances project received split-award from both the Collaborative Courts and the Self-help, Family and Juvenile Courts grant categories.