



# JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

455 Golden Gate Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102-3688  
Tel 415-865-4200  
TDD 415-865-4272  
Fax 415-865-4205  
www.courts.ca.gov

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

HON. MARSHA G. SLOUGH  
*Chair, Executive and Planning Committee*

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

HON. MARLA O. ANDERSON  
*Chair, Legislation Committee*

HON. HARRY E. HULL, JR.  
*Chair, Rules Committee*

HON. KYLE S. BRODIE  
*Chair, Technology Committee*

*Hon. Richard Bloom*  
*Hon. C. Todd Bottke*  
*Hon. Stacy Boulware Eurie*  
*Hon. Kevin C. Brazile*  
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*Ms. Gretchen Nelson*  
*Mr. Maxwell V. Pritt*

#### ADVISORY MEMBERS

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*Ms. Rebecca Fleming*  
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*Hon. Tam Nomoto Schumann (Ret.)*

MR. MARTIN HOSHINO  
*Administrative Director*  
*Judicial Council*

September 30, 2020

Hon. Holly J. Mitchell  
Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
State Capitol, Room 5019  
Sacramento, California 95814

Hon. Philip Y. Ting  
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
Vice-Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
State Capitol, Room 6026  
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 (Assem. Bill 1623; Stats. 2016, ch. 318)*

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

Attached is the Judicial Council report on the Court Innovations Grant Program required under section 2, item 0250-101-0932 of the Budget Act of 2016.

If you have any questions related to this report, please contact Ms. Laura Speed, Director of Leadership Support Services, at 916-323-3235 or [laura.speed@jud.ca.gov](mailto:laura.speed@jud.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Martin Hoshino  
Administrative Director  
Judicial Council

Hon. Holly J. Mitchell  
Hon. Philip Y. Ting  
Ms. Keeley Bosler  
September 30, 2020  
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MH/LS/ME/me

Attachment

cc: Diane F. Boyer-Vine, Legislative Counsel  
Erika Contreras, Secretary of the Senate  
Sue Parker, Chief Clerk of the Assembly  
Eric Dang, Policy Consultant, Office of Senate President pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins  
Alf Brandt, Senior Counsel, Office of Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon  
Gabrielle Zeps, Policy Consultant, Office of Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon  
Amy Alley, Policy Advisor, Office of Senate President pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins  
Anita Lee, Principal Fiscal and Policy Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office  
Tina McGee, Executive Secretary, Legislative Analyst's Office  
Jessie Romine, Budget Analyst, Department of Finance  
Margie Estrada, Chief Counsel, Senate Judiciary Committee  
Mary Kennedy, Chief Counsel, Senate Public Safety Committee  
Eric Csizmar, Consultant, Senate Republican Policy Office  
Morgan Branch, Consultant, Senate Republican Policy Office  
Alison Merrilees, Chief Counsel, Assembly Judiciary Committee  
Gregory Pagan, Chief Counsel, Assembly Public Safety Committee  
Jennifer Kim, Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee  
Lyndsay Mitchell, Consultant, Assembly Republican Office of Policy & Budget  
Gary Olson, Consultant, Assembly Republican Office of Policy & Budget  
Daryl Thomas, Consultant, Assembly Republican Office of Policy & Budget  
Amy Leach, Minute Clerk, Office of Assembly Chief Clerk  
Cory T. Jaspersen, Director, Governmental Affairs, Judicial Council  
Yvette Casillas-Sarcos, Administrative Coordinator, Governmental Affairs, Judicial  
Council



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MR. MARTIN HOSHINO  
*Administrative Director*  
*Judicial Council*

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

Statutory citation: Budget Act of 2016 (Assem. Bill 1623; Stats. 2016, ch. 318)

Date of report: September 30, 2020

The Judicial Council has submitted a 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](http://www.courts.ca.gov/7466.htm).

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

## **JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA**

**Hon. Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye**  
*Chief Justice of California and  
Chair of the Judicial Council*

**Martin Hoshino**  
*Administrative Director  
Judicial Council*

### **LEADERSHIP SERVICES DIVISION**

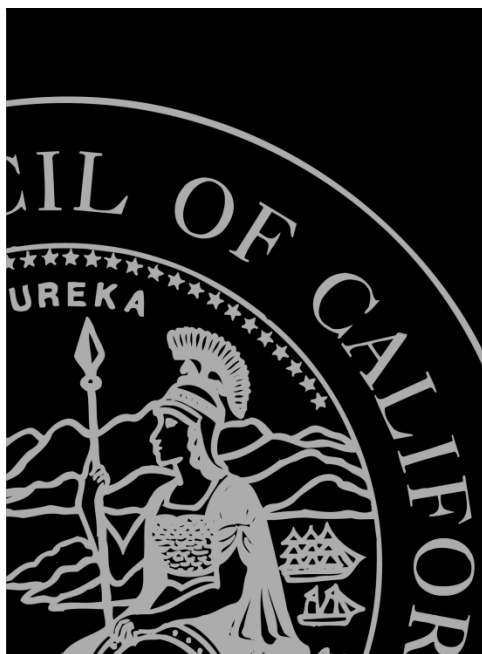
**Millicent Tidwell**  
*Chief Deputy Director*

### **LEADERSHIP SUPPORT SERVICES**

**Laura Speed**  
*Director*

### **SPECIAL PROJECTS**

**Marcela Eggleton**  
*Supervising Analyst and  
Primary Author of Report*



# Report on the Court Innovations Grant Program

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REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE UNDER  
BUDGET ACT OF 2016 (ASSEM. BILL  
1623; STATS. 2016, CH. 318)

SEPTEMBER 30, 2020



JUDICIAL COUNCIL  
OF CALIFORNIA

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LEADERSHIP SERVICES DIVISION  
SPECIAL PROJECTS

## Overview

The Budget Act of 2016 (Assem. Bill 1623; Stats. 2016, ch. 318) 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 court programs; and \$5 million for other efficiencies across all types of courts. Five percent (\$1.25 million) was authorized to administer and evaluate the program, though in order to increase the available grant awards amount the Judicial Council capped 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 preimplementation activities. Remaining program money became a contingency fund for grant recipients should a project need additional investment. In July 2019, the Judicial Council awarded \$108,000 to an additional grantee court under the collaborative courts program.

Currently, 49 of the 52 awarded projects<sup>1</sup> are moving forward, totaling just over \$23 million. A list of grant projects reflecting award amounts as of September 1, 2020, by funding category, is included as Attachment A to this report.

Early program outcomes, some of which are highlighted below, demonstrate a more customer-centric, user-friendly, and dynamic court experience that makes it easier for vulnerable populations to access justice safely, quickly, and efficiently. Hard-to-reach and traditionally under-served populations are benefitting from these innovative collaborative court programs.

## Court Innovations Program Oversight

In 2017, the Judicial Council delegated oversight for the Court Innovations Grant Program to its Judicial Branch Budget Committee (JBBC). The JBBC is responsible for monitoring project implementation and outcomes and the program's contingency fund. The committee is also responsible for reviewing and approving additional award requests during the grant program.<sup>2</sup> Modifications to project budgets, outcome measurements, and timelines are reviewed and approved by the JBBC and Judicial Council staff.

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<sup>1</sup> The Superior Court of Contra Costa County withdrew two projects from the Court Innovations Grant Program due to unforeseen circumstances. These were the Virtual Self-Help Site project and the Expanding Limited English Proficiency Court Access project. The Superior Court of Solano County received a grant in July 2019 for the Drug Court Case Management System project. The Superior Court of Riverside County withdrew the Attorney and Litigant Electronic Courtroom Self Check-In project due to unforeseen circumstances.

<sup>2</sup> On June 30, 2017, the Judicial Council approved Circulating Order No. 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>.

As of the end of fiscal year (FY) 2019–20, grantee courts expended under \$18.5 million. The contingency fund balance fluctuates as the JBBC awards additional grant funding, and court grantees return previously distributed grant monies due to project savings.

**Contingency fund balance as of September 1, 2020**

<b>Collaborative Courts</b>	<b>Self-Help, Family, and Juvenile Courts</b>	<b>Other Efficiencies</b>	<b>Total</b>
\$903,366.84	\$0.00	\$27,939.00	\$931,305.84

## **Project/Court Collaboration**

Courts and council staff continue to collaborate to leverage information and resources. Various awardee courts collaborate among themselves on grant projects, allowing them to share ideas, resources, and challenges. Examples include:

- The Superior Court of Butte County, as part of its **Self-Help Assistance and Referral Program**, has successfully ensured that the program’s 22 participating courts have adequate bandwidth and technological infrastructure to provide court users access to a document assembly program while onsite, to support the use of remote videoconferencing for intercounty self-help workshops, and to allow immediate sharing of resources between self-help center staff in different counties. Recently, as a result of mitigation efforts surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, the court has begun remotely assisting litigants directly in various counties across the state, including courts not part of the grant collaborative.
- The Superior Court of Orange County continues to host a SharePoint site for grantee courts with a total of 14 projects focusing on **expanding self-help services and remote access** that allows project teams to share project scopes, identify similar and differing components and approaches, and discuss leverageable resources.

## **Project Highlights**

The early outcomes of the judicial branch’s grant program demonstrate a more dynamic, user-friendly, “customer centered” court experience that makes it easier for vulnerable populations to access justice safely, quickly, and efficiently. Hard-to-reach and traditionally under-served populations are benefitting from these expanded, innovative collaborative court programs.

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 in FY 2019–20:

- The Superior Court of Los Angeles County implemented a **Justice System Partner and Litigant Portal** that provides users, attorneys, and justice partners with a unique login and password combination to access detailed or sensitive case information that is unavailable to the public. The justice partners and individual users participating in this project have been able to view more than 250,000 documents and have performed more than 300,000 case or name searches on average per month as a result of this remote access strategy.
- The Superior Court of San Bernardino County previously offered telephonic appearances for participants who were unable to attend child custody recommending counseling mediation sessions in person. Since the program was made available in January 2018, the court now offers **videoconferencing participation in child custody recommending counseling mediation sessions** as an additional alternative, allowing one or both parties to remotely attend mediation sessions. Since last reporting in July 2020, the court has held 293 successful videoconferencing sessions. Of these, 10 participants were out of the county, 25 out of the state, and 1 out of the country. Importantly, surveys continue to reflect favorable ratings from participants. The videoconferencing enables all parties to see each other and communicate more effectively through verbal and nonverbal interactions, cues that are inaccessible in telephonic “appearances.”
- The Superior Court of Humboldt County has established **videoconferencing to conduct mental health hearings** required by the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act in collaboration with the Mental Health Branch of the Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services. This technology allows patients to attend their hearing without being transported from the hospital to the courthouse. This option lessens stress on the patient and reduces public safety risks associated with patient transportation.
- The Superior Court of Placer County has implemented a single solution for **video appearances and remote evidence sharing** to allow court users, specifically those that live a considerable distance from the courthouse, to appear remotely via their personal computer or smart device and share previously uploaded evidence remotely. As part of the court’s COVID-19 mitigation efforts, the grant has been expanded to include case types not previously included in the initial pilot program.
- The Superior Court of San Joaquin County’s **Community Supervision Court (drug and Driving Under the Influence (DUI) court) program** successfully graduated its first class of participants in the San Joaquin County Collaborative Courts 2019 Commencement Ceremony. Of the 369 total collaborative court graduates, 208 (56 percent) had some connection to the project, from assessment and administration to sober living and residential services. Case management support was provided to 59 percent of the graduates in the grant program. Graduates were recognized for successfully completing all of their assigned requirements.



- The Superior Court of Riverside County’s **Intelligent Self-Help Kiosk** project has, since last reported to the Judicial Council in July 2020, facilitated a total of 82,449 jury electronic check-ins and provided help in six languages in 85,654 sessions.

## Future Activities

The Budget Act of 2020 (Assem. Bill 89; Stats. 2020, ch. 7) authorizes encumbrances or expenditures until December 31, 2020, extending the timeline from June 30, 2020, provided in the Budget Act of 2016<sup>3</sup>. The Judicial Council will continue to provide oversight to (1) ensure that expenditures are in alignment with approved project budgets, (2) collect and analyze outcome measurements, and (3) create and manage an accessible repository of project documentation to promote statewide replicability of the programs.

Courts throughout the state are continuing to deliver services pursuant to the grant projects. They are developing policies and procedures documentation, training manuals, and archives, and continue to share resources with others through collaborative efforts. This collection of resources is being stored by the Judicial Council and made accessible to courts interested in replicating a project.

Additionally, it is anticipated that many of the projects will have application in areas outside the judicial branch (e.g., technologies that facilitate remote participation and document sharing). Materials will be made available for this purpose and look forward to sharing the important work that the Court Innovations Grant Program made possible.

## Attachments

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

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<sup>3</sup> Section 2, item 0250-101-0932 of the Budget Act of 2016 provides for the Court Innovations Grant Program, [www.courts.ca.gov/documents/cipg-budget-act.pdf](http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/cipg-budget-act.pdf).

Court Innovations Grant Program  
Project Award Amounts by Funding Category

Attachment A

<b>Award Total</b>			<b>\$ 23,274,694.16</b>
<b>Collaborative Courts Grant Category</b>			<b>\$ 10,302,633.16</b>
	<b>Court</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Current Award <sup>1</sup></b>
1	Alameda Superior Court	Collaborative Court Management Information System	\$ 134,042.00
2	Contra Costa Superior Court	Veteran's Treatment Court (VTC)	\$ 184,855.45
3	El Dorado Superior Court <sup>2</sup>	One Family/One Judge Pilot Project	\$ 50,501.03
4	Fresno Superior Court	Human Trafficking Court Planning and Implementation	\$ 508,776.00
5	Humboldt Superior Court	Family Dependency Drug Court	\$ 593,717.30
6	Inyo Superior Court	Reentry Court	\$ 247,487.37
7	Mendocino Superior Court	Adult Drug Court	\$ 449,611.89
8	Placer Superior Court <sup>2</sup>	Video Appearances	\$ 632,378.03
9	Sacramento Superior Court	Monitor and Measure the Achievement of Program Goals	\$ 311,849.00
10	San Diego Superior Court	Evidence-Based Sentencing Triage Assessment Unit	\$ 1,300,347.47
11	San Francisco Superior Court	Veterans Justice Court	\$ 466,050.60
12	San Joaquin Superior Court	Community Supervision Court	\$ 2,194,871.94
13	San Mateo Superior Court	DUI and Restitution Court	\$ 1,012,477.00
14	Santa Cruz Superior Court	Collaborative Justice System	\$ 1,458,102.17
15	Solano Superior Court	Drug Court Case Management System	\$ 108,000.00
16	Sonoma Superior Court	Veterans Court Enhancements	\$ 56,476.00
17	Stanislaus Superior Court	Homeless Court Program	\$ 593,089.91
<b>Self-Help, Family and Juvenile Courts Grant Category</b>			<b>\$ 8,000,000.00</b>
	<b>Court</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Current Award <sup>1</sup></b>
1	Fifth District Appellate Court	Self-Help and Learning Center Website	\$ 353,166.00
2	Butte Superior Court <sup>2</sup>	Remote Video-Conferencing Technology	\$ 922,657.15
3	Contra Costa Superior Court	California's Virtual Self Help Site	\$ 249,486.95
4	El Dorado Superior Court <sup>2</sup>	One Family/One Judge Pilot Project	\$ 101,970.52
5	Los Angeles Superior Court	Jury Chatbot	\$ 97,500.00
6	Monterey Superior Court <sup>2</sup>	California Court Access App	\$ 789,940.00
7	Orange Superior Court <sup>2</sup>	Court User Portal	\$ 399,360.00
8	Orange Superior Court <sup>2</sup>	Conservatorship Accountability Portal	\$ 99,840.00
9	Orange Superior Court	Enhance Self-Help Portal	\$ 326,800.00
10	Placer Superior Court <sup>2</sup>	Video Appearances	\$ 280,000.00
11	Riverside Superior Court	Intelligent Self-Help Kiosk	\$ 701,602.14
12	Riverside Superior Court	Traffic Avatar	\$ 46,865.65
13	Riverside Superior Court	Attorney and Litigant Electronic Courtroom Self Check-In	\$ 0.14
14	San Bernardino Superior Court	Customer Relationship Management Portal	\$ 445,137.60
15	San Bernardino Superior Court	Video-Conferencing Child Custody Recommending Counseling	\$ 35,537.60

<sup>1</sup> The current award reflects the total award remaining after any award amount has been returned.

<sup>2</sup> The awardee courts received split-award for the project from two categories; the table indicates the amount award from each grant funding category (not the total project award).

Court Innovations Grant Program  
Project Award Amounts by Funding Category

Attachment A

<b>Self-Help, Family and Juvenile Courts Grant Category (continued)</b>			<b>\$ 8,000,000.00</b>
	<b>Court</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Current Award <sup>1</sup></b>
16	San Diego Superior Court	Access to Information Made Simple	\$ 332,631.00
17	San Mateo Superior Court	Develop and Provide Expanded Online Self-help	\$ 336,000.00
18	Santa Barbara Superior Court <sup>2</sup>	Instant Family Law Orders	\$ 412,926.00
19	Shasta Superior Court	Cooperative Parenting Program	\$ 196,245.65
20	Sonoma Superior Court	Queuing/Appointment/Calendaring System	\$ 56,586.00
21	Tuolumne Superior Court	Expand Small Claims-Civil Mediation Program	\$ 2,550.00
22	Ventura Superior Court	Juvenile Delinquency Family Engagement Workshops	\$ 88,182.00
23	Ventura Superior Court	Internet Based Self-help Workshops	\$ 1,633,515.60
24	Yolo Superior Court	Online Interactive Multilingual Tool	\$ 91,500.00

<b>Other Efficiencies Grant Category</b>			<b>\$ 4,972,061.00</b>
	<b>Court</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Current Award <sup>1</sup></b>
1	Fifth District Appellate Court	Modernize the Transcript Assembly Program	\$ 793,000.00
2	Butte Superior Court <sup>2</sup>	Remote Video-Conferencing Technology	\$ 62,053.64
3	Contra Costa Superior Court	Expanding LEP Court Access	\$ 103.92
4	Humboldt Superior Court	Interactive Video Conferencing System	\$ 170,919.87
5	Los Angeles Superior Court	E-Filing	\$ 100,000.00
6	Los Angeles Superior Court	Justice System Partner and Litigant Portal	\$ 637,500.00
7	Merced Superior Court	Video Conference Hearings Project	\$ 222,566.45
8	Monterey Superior Court	Cloud Based Disaster Recovery Solution	\$ 224,740.74
9	Monterey Superior Court <sup>2</sup>	California Court Access App	\$ 127,797.82
10	Orange Superior Court <sup>2</sup>	Court User Portal	\$ 511,200.00
11	Orange Superior Court	Improving Court Management Through the Use of Analytics	\$ 1,038,851.34
12	Orange Superior Court	Automating the Courtroom Check-in	\$ 246,190.00
13	Orange Superior Court <sup>2</sup>	Conservatorship Accountability Portal	\$ 212,972.00
14	Sacramento Superior Court	Videoconferencing of Mental Health Hearings	\$ 59,297.03
15	San Bernardino Superior Court	Remote Video Proceedings	\$ 295,194.74
16	San Mateo Superior Court	Automated Line Queuing System	\$ 125,000.00
17	Santa Barbara Superior Court <sup>2</sup>	Instant Family Law Orders	\$ 9,574.00
18	Santa Cruz Superior Court	SMS Notifications	\$ 135,099.45

<sup>1</sup> The current award reflects the total award remaining after any award amount has been returned.

<sup>2</sup> The awardee courts received split-award for the project from two categories; the table indicates the amount award from each grant funding category (not the total project award).