

Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Act Implementation Committee
Annual Agenda¹—2024
Approved by Executive and Planning Committee: March 14, 2024

I. COMMITTEE INFORMATION

Chair:	Hon. Terry B. Friedman, (Ret.)
Lead Staff:	Ms. Laura Brown, Senior Analyst, Center for Families, Children & the Courts
<p>Committee’s Charge/Membership:</p> <p>The Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Act Implementation Committee is required by Government Code section 68651(b)(5) to implement the Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Act (Assem. Bill 590 [Feuer]; Stats. 2009, ch. 457), which was amended by the Appointed Legal Counsel in Civil Cases Act (Assem. Bill 330 [Gabriel]; Stats 2019, ch. 217). The statute requires the Judicial Council to develop one or more model pilot projects in selected courts for three-year periods. The projects will provide legal representation to low-income parties on critical legal issues affecting basic human needs. At the direction of the Judicial Council, the implementation committee will make recommendations on which pilot projects will be selected from a competitive grant application process and provide input into the design of the pilot projects’ evaluations. With the adoption of AB 330, evaluations of the pilot projects must be submitted to the Governor and the Legislature every five years, commencing June 1, 2020.</p> <p>The Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Act Implementation Committee currently has 11 members. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 retired appellate justice • 1 retired judge • 3 active judges • 1 law professor • 4 individuals with experience in legal aid programs • 1 representative of the State Bar of California <p>The current committee roster is available on the committee’s web page.</p>	

¹ The annual agenda outlines the work a committee will focus on in the coming year and identifies areas of collaboration with other advisory bodies and the Judicial Council staff resources.

Subcommittees/Working Groups²:

None.

Meetings Planned for 2024³ (Advisory body and all subcommittees and working groups)

1. Spring 2024: Full committee videoconference.
2. Fall 2024: Full committee videoconference.

Check here if exception to policy is granted by Executive Office or rule of court.

² California Rules of Court, [rule 10.30 \(c\)](#) allows an advisory body to form subgroups, composed entirely of current members of the advisory body, to carry out the body's duties, subject to available resources, with the approval of its oversight committee.

³ Refer to [Operating Standards for Judicial Council Advisory Bodies](#) for governance on in-person meetings.

II. COMMITTEE PROJECTS

#	New or One-Time Projects ⁴	
1.	Project Title: 2025 Report to the Legislature	Priority⁵ 1 Strategic Plan Goal⁶ II, III
<p>Project Summary⁷: Government Code section 68651 requires the Judicial Council to conduct an evaluation of the pilot projects and submit a report to Legislature every five years, commencing January 31, 2020. The next report will be due in June 2025. The committee will review project data and provide input on the evaluation design. The report will be submitted to the Judicial Council at its business meeting in May 2025 and to the Legislature in June 2025.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: Ongoing.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Resources: Expenses are covered by an administrative allocation to the program. The work will be conducted using existing resources and staffing from the Center for Families, Children & the Courts (CFCC).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>This project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. We will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure their review of relevant materials.</i></p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: Pilot project lead legal services agencies, trial court partners.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: None.</p>		

⁴ All proposed projects for the year must be included on the Annual Agenda. If a project implements policy or is a program, identify it as *implementation* or a *program* in the project description and attach the Judicial Council authorization/assignment or prior approved Annual Agenda to this Annual Agenda.

⁵ For non-rules and forms projects, select priority level 1 (must be done) or 2 (should be done). For rules and forms proposals, select one of the following priority levels: 1(a) Urgently needed to conform to or accurately reflect the law; 1(b) Council or an internal committee has directed the committee to consider new or amended rules and forms; 1(c) Change is urgently needed to remedy a problem that is causing significant cost or inconvenience to the courts or the public; 1(d) Proposal is otherwise urgent and necessary, such as a proposal that would mitigate exposure to immediate or severe financial or legal risk. 2(a) Useful, but not necessary, to implement changes in law; 2(b) Responsive to identified concerns or problems; 2(c) Helpful in otherwise advancing Judicial Council goals and objectives.

⁶ Indicate which goal number of [The Strategic Plan for California's Judicial Branch](#) the project most closely aligns.

⁷ A key objective is a strategic aim, purpose, or "end of action" to be achieved for the coming year.

#	New or One-Time Projects⁴	
2.	Project Title: Policies on Program Reserve Funds and Grant Application Recusal	Priority⁵ 2 Strategic Plan Goal⁶ II
<p>Project Summary⁷: The committee will develop policies on the use of the program’s reserve funds and when members should recuse themselves from grant application discussions to guide future funding decisions. Committee staff will develop policy recommendations for the committee to consider for adoption.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: Staff will report recommendations to the committee at its meeting to be held in Spring 2024.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Resources: Expenses are covered by an administrative allocation to the program. The work will be conducted using existing resources and committee staffing from CFCC.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>This project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. We will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure their review of relevant materials.</i></p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: Pilot project lead legal services agencies and trial court partners.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: None.</p>		
3.	Project Title: Identify and Replicate Effective Service Delivery and Best Practices	Priority⁵ 2 Strategic Plan Goal⁶ I, IV
<p>Project Summary⁷: The committee will develop approaches to identify effective service delivery models and best practices implemented by Shriver pilot projects with the goal of replicating successful strategies among legal aid providers and court partners.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: TBD.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Resources: Expenses are covered by an administrative allocation to the program. The work will be conducted using existing resources and committee staffing from CFCC.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>This project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. We will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure their review of relevant materials.</i></p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: Pilot project lead legal services agencies and trial court partners.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: None.</p>		

#	Ongoing Projects and Activities ⁴	
1.	Project Title: Oversight of Pilot Projects	Priority⁵ 1
		Strategic Plan Goal⁶ I, II, IV
	<p>Project Summary⁷: As required by Government Code section 68651, the committee will provide oversight of the program’s 14 pilot projects that were approved for the 2023-2026 grant cycle by the Judicial Council at its July 2023 business meeting. The committee will monitor the projects’ outcomes and expenditures. If reallocations are needed, the committee will make recommendations to the Judicial Council.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: Ongoing.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Resources: Expenses are covered by an administrative allocation to the program. The work will be conducted using existing resources and committee staffing from CFCC.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>This project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. We will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure their review of relevant materials.</i></p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: Pilot projects lead legal services agencies, trial court partners, and research firm contractor.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: None.</p>	
2.	Project Title: Pilot Project Data Collection and Analysis	Priority⁵ 1
		Strategic Plan Goal⁶ I, II, IV
	<p>Project Summary⁷: Committee staff will continue to work with the program’s research firm contractor on the collection and analysis of service data provided by lead legal agencies and court partners and report outcomes to the committee. This work is performed as part of the evaluation required under Government Code section 68651 and AB 330.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: Ongoing.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Resources: Expenses are covered by an administrative allocation for the program. The work will be conducted using existing resources and committee staffing from CFCC.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>This project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. We will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure their review of relevant materials.</i></p>	

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	<p>Internal/External Stakeholders: Pilot projects lead legal services agencies, trial court partners, and research firm contractor to assist in data collection and analysis.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: None.</p>	
3.	Project Title: Serve as a Resource	Priority⁵ 2
Strategic Plan Goal⁶ I, IV		
<p>Project Summary⁷: Serve as a subject matter resource to other Judicial Council advisory bodies and staff with subjects under the committee's charge.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: Ongoing.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Resources: Expenses are covered by an administrative allocation to the program. The work will be conducted using existing resources and committee staffing from CFCC.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>This project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. We will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure their review of relevant materials.</i></p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: Trial courts impacted by work of the advisory committees that collaborate on shared interests with the Shriver Committee.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness, Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee, Probate and Mental Health Advisory Committee, and Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee.</p>		

III. LIST OF 2023 PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#	Project Highlights and Achievements
1.	From January through March 2023, the committee carried out the Request for Applications for pilot project grants for the 2023–2026 grant cycle.
2.	On March 27, 2023, the committee determined its recommendations for allocations to fund 14 pilot projects for the 2023–2026 grant cycle after thorough review and analysis of applications.
3.	From March through May 2023, a Request for Proposals was executed, and the program entered into a new two-year agreement with research firm contractor NPC for ongoing evaluation of the program.
4.	On July 21, 2023, the Judicial Council approved the committee’s recommendations to fund 14 pilot projects for the 2023–2026 grant cycle.
5.	On October 1, 2023, the program began its fifth grant cycle with 2 new pilot projects and 12 continuing pilot projects.