

Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Act: Program Update

January 19, 2024



Presentation Topics

Shriver Program Overview

Previous Judicial Council Actions

Program Highlights

Legal Services of Northern
California Pilot Project

The Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Act

- Shriver pilot projects provide legal services to low-income individuals, regardless of citizenship status, in certain civil matters involving critical issues affecting basic human needs:

Housing-Related Matters

Child Custody

Probate Conservatorship

Guardianship of the Person

Elder Abuse

**Domestic Violence and Civil
Harassment Restraining Orders**

- All projects partner with a local court.

The Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Act



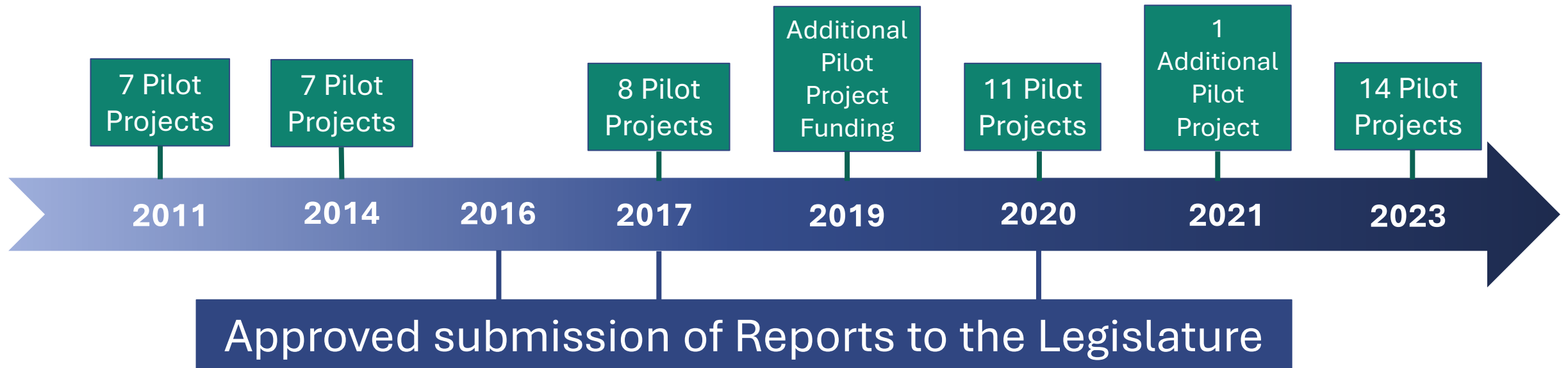
THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL IS
REQUIRED TO CONDUCT PROGRAM
EVALUATION AND REPORT TO THE
LEGISLATURE ON A 5-YEAR CYCLE.



THE NEXT LEGISLATIVE REPORT IS
DUE JUNE 30, 2025. THE SHRIVER
COMMITTEE WILL PRESENT IT TO
THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL AT THE MAY
2025 MEETING.

Previous Council Actions

Approved selection and funding of pilot projects



FY 2023-24 Case Types and Court Partners

LARGE COURTS					MEDIUM COURTS				SMALL COURTS	
Alameda	Los Angeles	Orange	San Diego	San Francisco	Fresno	Kern	San Joaquin	Santa Barbara	San Luis Obispo	Yolo
Housing	Housing		Housing		Housing	Housing	Housing	Housing	Housing	Housing
Child Custody	Child Custody	Child Custody	Child Custody	Child Custody				Probate	Probate	
			DV						Elder Abuse	

Program Expansion: Assembly Bill 330

2020–2023 Grant Cycle

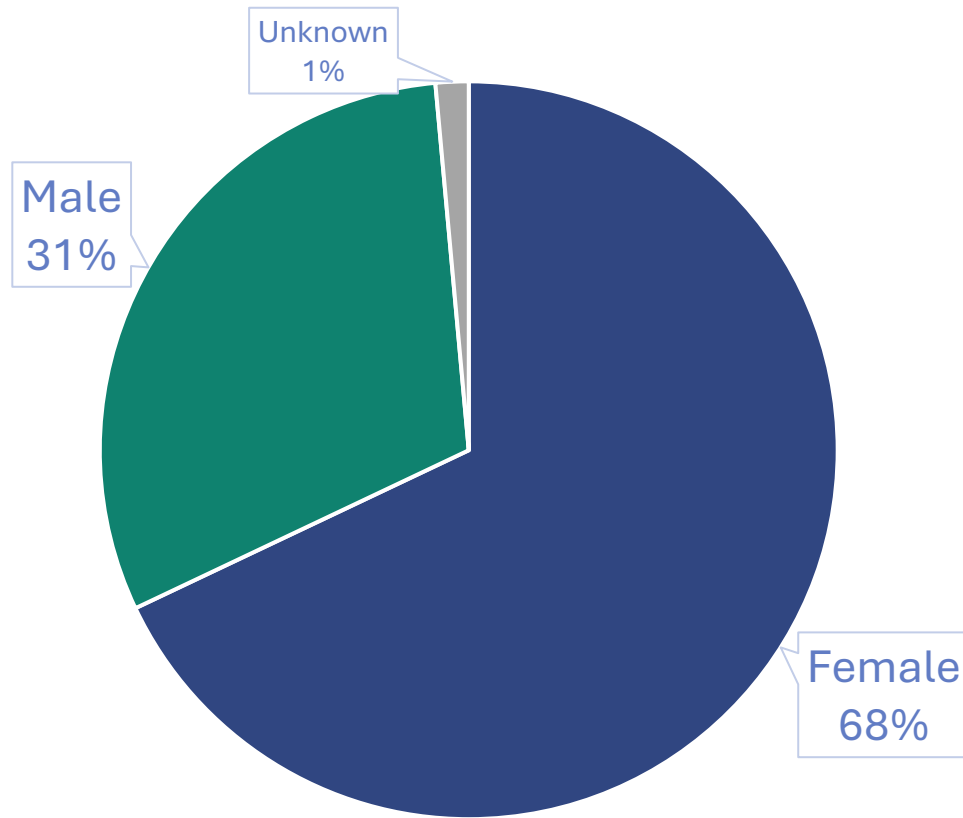
- The number of pilot projects increased from 8 to 12.
- Pilot project funding increased from \$9.7 million to \$12.4 million.

2023–2026 Grant Cycle

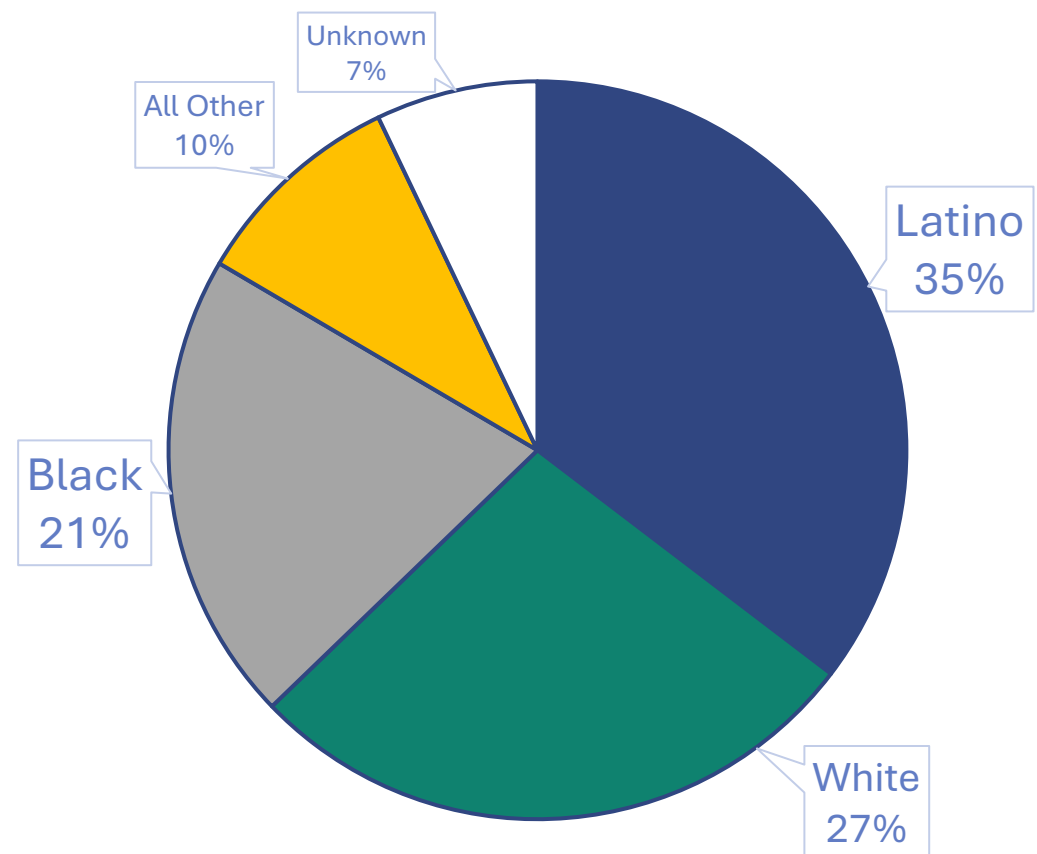
- The number of pilot projects increased from 12 to 14.
- Pilot project funding increased from \$12.4 million to \$15.8 million.

Most Representation Clients are Women and People of Color

Gender Across All Case Types

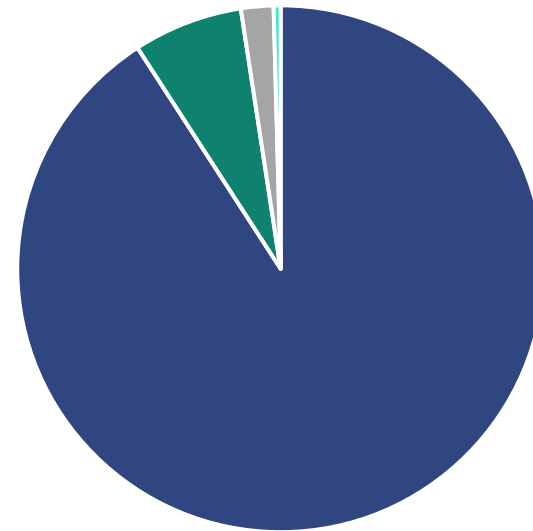


Race/Ethnicity All Case Types



90% of Litigants Receive Housing Services

- Since inception, Shriver services, including self-help, have been provided to over **77,000** litigants.
- Since FY 2017–18:
 - 91% Housing
 - 7% Child Custody
 - 2% Probate
 - <1% Domestic Violence



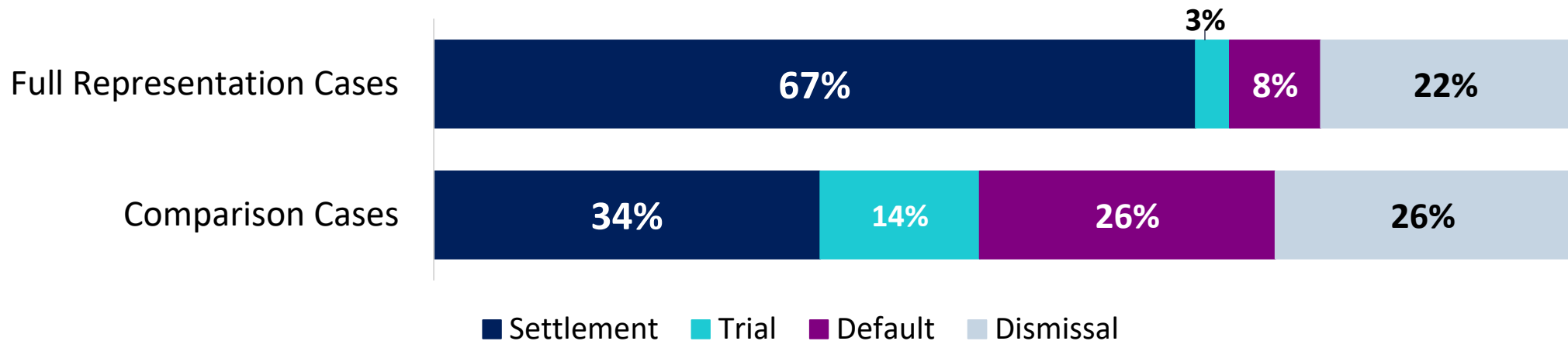
■ Housing ■ Custody ■ Probate ■ Domestic Violence

Shriver Representation Has Achieved Significant Positive Outcomes in Housing-Related Matters

- Shriver cases receiving full representation:
 - 52% cases settled
 - 20% cases dismissed by the landlord or court
 - 5% cases ended after trial, hearing, or default judgment against tenant
 - 30% tenants retained possession

More Settlements and Fewer Trials

- The 2020 Evaluation reported that Shriver-represented tenants settled their cases twice as often as self-represented tenants and had fewer trials and default judgments.



Legal Services of Northern California

- Housing Pilot Project.
- Partnership with the Superior Court of Yolo County.
- Has participated in the Shriver program since its inception.

Questions?