



Judicial Council of California

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Item No.: 23-197

For business meeting on November 17, 2023

Title

Collaborative Justice: Fiscal Year 2023–24
Substance Abuse Focus Grant and Dependency
Drug Court Augmentation Grant Funding

Agenda Item Type

Action Required

Effective Date

November 17, 2023

Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes Affected

None

Date of Report

October 26, 2023

Recommended by

Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory
Committee
Hon. Lawrence G. Brown, Chair

Contact

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Executive Summary

As part of the Budget Act of 2023, the Legislature allocated \$1.16 million for the Substance Abuse Focus Grant Program to the superior courts to maintain, expand, or enhance collaborative courts. \$75,000 in federal Court Improvement Program funds are also available in fiscal year 2023-24 to fund Dependency Drug Courts. In September 2023, the Judicial Council established a population-based methodology for allocation of the Substance Abuse Focus Grants and Dependency Drug Court funding to the courts. The Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee recommends that the Judicial Council allocate the fiscal year 2023–24 funds using the council’s population-based methodology.

Recommendation

The Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee recommends that the Judicial Council, effective November 17, 2023, approve the distribution of grants from the Collaborative Justice Courts Substance Abuse Focus Grant Program and the Dependency Drug Court Augmentation

for fiscal year (FY) 2023–24 to courts using the population-based methodology approved at the Judicial Council meeting on September 19, 2023.

The proposed distribution is detailed in Attachment A, *Substance Abuse Focus Grant Allocation Summary: Fiscal Years 2022–23 and 2023–24*.

Relevant Previous Council Action

The Judicial Council has approved the annual funding allocation for the Substance Abuse Focus Grant Program since FY 1998–99. In September 2023, at the recommendation of the Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee, the council approved the Population-Based Funding-Level Formula for distributing the funds.¹ Beginning in July 2014, grant funds from the Court Improvement Program of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, have been distributed every year to Dependency Drug Courts receiving Substance Abuse Focus Grant (SAFG) funds as an augmentation for that type of collaborative court.

Analysis/Rationale

Substance Abuse Focus Grant

This year’s funding authorization for the annual grant comes from a legislative mandate under California Collaborative and Drug Court Projects in the Budget Act of 2023 (Stats. 2023, ch. 12), as referenced in item 0250-101-0001.

This recommendation distributes the funding for FY 2023–24 in allocation amounts calculated using the formula approved in 2023 by the Judicial Council. The 2023–24 State Budget allocates \$1,160,000 for these projects.

As in previous years, grants are awarded to all proposed projects that meet the following criteria:

- Consistency with both the California Standards of Judicial Administration and the *Guiding Principles of Collaborative Justice Courts* (see Attachment B);
- Involvement of a local steering committee; and
- Fulfillment of statistical and financial reporting requirements for previous grant funding periods (if applicable).

Any court with an existing or planned collaborative justice program is eligible for funding. The formula starts with the presumption that all projects that meet the grant criteria receive a base funding amount of \$20,000 per county. This base figure may be adjusted upward or downward to reflect the actual amount of total funding approved by the Legislature for the year and the number of court projects eligible for grants from those funds. The funding formula then

¹ Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Collaborative Justice: Revised Allocation Methodology for Fiscal Year 2023–24 Substance Abuse Focus Grants* (Aug. 24, 2023), <https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=12245946&GUID=FA7EBFBD-2A0D-4C7F-80CA-DD469942784B>.

determines the amount of funding a court is eligible for based on the population of 18–24-year-old in their county² and augments each court’s base figure based on the county’s 18-to-24-year-old population size.³ To ensure that courts with existing collaborative justice programs funded by the SAFG program have adequate time to adjust their operations to the new allocation methodology, there is an annual decrease maximum of 5 percent if the new allocation methodology results in a court receiving less funding than it has historically received. When a court’s allocation increases over the prior year, the increase is also prorated to available funding after the 5 percent decrease maximum is applied to the courts that will receive less funding than historically received. Courts that do not wish to receive their full amount of funding may elect to receive funding less than their initial allocation. Any funds waived during the application process will be reallocated proportional to the allocations of those courts that wish to receive additional funding, if available.

For the 2022–23 fiscal year, the \$1.16 million allocation supported 255 court projects in 44 superior courts. The types of projects funded were adult domestic violence courts (5), adult drug courts (60), adult mental health/dual-diagnosis courts (33), community courts (3), dependency drug courts (25), DUI courts (13), DUI Court in School programs (2), elder courts (1), girls’ courts (3), homeless courts (6), juvenile delinquency drug courts (12), juvenile mental health/dual-diagnosis courts (7), peer/youth courts (8), Proposition 36 (3), reentry courts (11), truancy courts (6), veterans courts (23), and other collaborative justice court programs (34).

Dependency Drug Court Augmentation Grant

Federal Court Improvement Program funds of \$75,000 are available to support dependency drug courts in courts also funded by the Collaborative Justice Courts Substance Abuse Focus Grant Program. In past years, the Judicial Council has made these grants available through a formulaic distribution available to all eligible dependency drug courts requesting funding through the SAFG Program for the purpose of implementing, maintaining, enhancing, or expanding their dependency drug courts. These funds augment the SAFG awards and are awarded in proportion to the allocations of the courts applying for dependency drug court funding, as described in Attachment A.

Application Process

The presiding judges and court executive officers of the superior courts were informed of this year’s grant opportunity and new funding methodology on September 8, 2023. Forty-five courts submitted project action plans that staff of the Judicial Council’s Center for Families, Children & the Courts reviewed for conformance with the requirements of addressing substance abuse issues

² The population data is extracted from the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2019 American Community Survey Age and Sex Population table. Visit [S0101: AGE AND SEX - Census Bureau Table](#) for more information.

³ Population size is calculated by summing up the 18-to-24-year-old population for courts that applied for SAFG funding. Then each court’s 18-to-24-year-old population is divided by the total number of 18-to-24-year-olds across all SAFG-funded courts to calculate the percentage of the total SAFG population of 18-to-24-year-olds.

and adhering to Collaborative Justice Courts principles (see Attachment B, *Guiding Principles of Collaborative Justice Courts*).

Policy implications

The recommended action is consistent with the current Judicial Council policy regarding allocating these funds to local courts.

Comments

The recommended action was approved by the Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee during an action by email between meetings on October 17, 2023. No external comments were received.

Alternatives Considered

The committee did not consider modifying the allocation methodology approved by the Judicial Council in September 2023.

Fiscal and Operational Impacts

This year, continuous process improvements include simplifying and transitioning the grant allocation to a set amount of predetermined funding utilizing the population-based methodology and the continuation of a paperless online process in which courts submit funding request information and a detailed budget monitored by staff.

Attachments and Links

1. Attachment A: *Substance Abuse Focus Grant Allocation Summary: Fiscal Years 2022–23 and 2023–24*
2. Attachment B: *Guiding Principles of Collaborative Justice Courts*

Attachment A

**Substance Abuse Focus Grant Allocation Summary:
Fiscal Year 2022–23 and 2023–24**

Collaborative Justice Courts Project—Substance Abuse Focus Grant (SAFG) and
Dependency Drug Court (DDC) Augmentation Awards (by Court)

	County	FY 22–23 Allocation Based on Formula	FY 22–23 Final SAFG Funding Allocation	FY 22–23 DDC Augmentation Allocation	FY 22–23 Total Allocation (SAFG + DDC)	FY 23–24 Allocation Based on Formula	FY 23–24 Final SAFG Funding Allocation	FY 23–24 DDC Augmentation Allocation	FY 23–24 Total Allocation (SAFG + DDC)
1	Alameda	\$42,000	\$39,241	\$7,123	\$46,364	\$30,619.19	\$37,390.20	\$4,803.75	\$42,193.95
2	Amador	\$24,000	\$22,897	-	\$22,897	\$20,000.00	\$21,863.40	-	\$21,863.40
3	Butte	\$20,000	\$19,264	-	\$19,264	\$22,467.17	\$19,665.57	-	\$19,665.57
4	Del Norte	\$18,000	\$17,448	-	\$17,448	\$20,000.00	\$17,790.55	-	\$17,790.55
5	El Dorado	\$24,000	\$22,897	-	\$22,897	\$21,025.61	\$21,752.15	-	\$21,752.15
6	Fresno	\$45,000	\$41,966	\$254	\$42,220	\$27,656.18	\$39,978.95	-	\$39,978.95
7	Glenn	\$32,000	\$30,161	-	\$30,161	\$20,000.00	\$28,652.95	-	\$28,652.95
8	Humboldt	\$26,000	\$24,713	\$1,272	\$25,985	\$21,331.90	\$23,588.60	\$3,030.58	\$26,619.17
9	Inyo	\$16,000	\$15,632	-	\$15,632	\$20,000.00	\$16,139.15	-	\$16,139.15
10	Kings	\$16,000	\$15,632	-	\$15,632	\$21,278.87	\$16,255.06	-	\$16,255.06
11	Lassen	\$16,000	\$15,632	-	\$15,632	\$20,000.00	\$16,139.15	-	\$16,139.15
12	*Los Angeles	-	-	-	-	\$92,937.37	\$26,722.03	\$3,433.15	\$30,155.18
13	Madera	\$18,000	\$17,448	-	\$17,448	\$21,142.42	\$17,894.09	-	\$17,894.09
14	Marin	\$16,000	\$15,632	-	\$15,632	\$21,353.73	\$16,261.84	-	\$16,261.84
15	Mendocino	\$20,000	\$19,264	\$1,526	\$20,790	\$20,000.00	\$20,111.25	\$2,583.82	\$22,695.06
16	Merced	\$12,000	\$12,000	-	\$12,000	\$22,443.92	\$13,057.84	\$1,677.62	\$14,735.47
17	Modoc	\$20,000	\$19,264	\$103	\$19,367	\$20,000.00	\$20,111.25	\$2,583.82	\$22,695.06
18	Monterey	\$32,000	\$30,161	-	\$30,161	\$23,377.46	\$28,764.20	-	\$28,764.20
19	Nevada	\$24,000	\$22,897	-	\$22,897	\$20,000.00	\$21,752.15	-	\$21,752.15
20	Orange	\$42,000	\$39,241	-	\$39,241	\$42,469.95	\$39,644.91	-	\$39,644.91
21	Plumas	\$16,000	\$15,632	-	\$15,632	\$20,000.00	\$16,139.15	-	\$16,139.15
22	Riverside	\$12,000	\$12,000	-	\$12,000	\$38,067.43	\$10,025.00	-	\$10,025.00
23	Sacramento	\$42,000	\$39,241	\$12,720	\$51,961	\$30,313.53	\$37,390.20	\$4,803.75	\$42,193.95
24	San Bernardino	\$45,000	\$41,966	-	\$41,966	\$37,236.56	\$39,978.95	-	\$39,978.95
25	San Diego	\$42,000	\$39,241	\$5,088	\$44,329	\$46,014.03	\$39,966.13	\$5,134.70	\$45,100.83
26	San Francisco	\$45,000	\$41,966	\$6,615	\$48,581	\$24,616.66	\$39,978.95	\$5,136.35	\$45,115.29
27	San Joaquin	\$45,000	\$41,966	\$17,809	\$59,775	\$25,773.62	\$39,978.95	\$5,136.35	\$45,115.29
28	San Luis Obispo	\$35,000	\$32,885	\$2,646	\$35,531	\$23,317.60	\$31,352.00	\$4,027.99	\$35,379.98
29	San Mateo	\$32,000	\$30,161	-	\$30,161	\$24,320.20	\$28,764.20	-	\$28,764.20
30	Santa Barbara	\$30,000	\$28,345	-	\$28,345	\$25,440.94	\$27,039.00	-	\$27,039.00
31	Santa Clara	\$45,000	\$41,966	\$6,615	\$48,581	\$32,614.87	\$39,978.95	\$5,136.35	\$45,115.29
32	Santa Cruz	\$42,000	\$39,241	\$1,526	\$40,767	\$23,155.39	\$37,390.20	\$4,803.75	\$42,193.95
33	Shasta	\$30,000	\$28,345	-	\$28,345	\$21,076.44	\$27,039.00	-	\$27,039.00
34	Sierra	\$16,000	\$15,632	-	\$15,632	\$20,000.00	\$16,139.15	-	\$16,139.15
35	Siskiyou	\$20,000	\$19,264	\$763	\$20,027	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$2,569.53	\$22,569.53

	County	FY 22-23 Allocation Based on Formula	FY 22-23 Final SAFG Funding Allocation	FY 22-23 DDC Augmentation Allocation	FY 22-23 Total Allocation (SAFG + DDC)	FY 23-24 Allocation Based on Formula	FY 23-24 Final SAFG Funding Allocation	FY 23-24 DDC Augmentation Allocation	FY 23-24 Total Allocation (SAFG + DDC)
36	Solano	\$35,000	\$32,885	\$4,071	\$36,956	\$23,022.55	\$31,352.00	\$4,027.99	\$35,379.98
37	Sonoma	\$36,000	\$33,793	\$1,526	\$35,319	\$23,083.82	\$32,214.60	\$4,138.81	\$36,353.41
38	Stanislaus	\$15,000	\$14,725	-	\$14,725	\$24,050.99	\$15,680.61	\$2,014.59	\$17,695.20
39	Sutter	\$18,000	\$17,448	-	\$17,448	\$20,000.00	\$17,790.55	-	\$17,790.55
40	Tehama	\$20,000	\$19,264	\$1,018	\$20,282	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$2,569.53	\$22,569.53
41	Trinity	\$24,000	\$22,897	-	\$22,897	\$20,000.00	\$21,863.40	-	\$21,863.40
42	Tulare	\$30,000	\$28,345	-	\$28,345	\$23,725.62	\$27,039.00	-	\$27,039.00
43	Tuolumne	\$20,000	\$19,264	\$1,272	\$20,536	\$20,000.00	\$20,111.25	\$2,583.82	\$22,695.06
44	Ventura	\$42,000	\$39,241	\$3,053	\$42,294	\$26,066.00	\$37,390.20	\$4,803.75	\$42,193.95
45	Yuba	\$24,000	\$22,897	-	\$22,897	\$20,000.00	\$21,863.40	-	\$21,863.40
	Total	\$1,224,000	\$1,160,000	\$75,000	\$1,235,000	\$1,160,000	\$1,160,000	\$75,000	\$1,235,000

*Los Angeles did not receive SAFG/DDC funding in FY 22-23.

Guiding Principles of Collaborative Justice Courts

Using the National Drug Court Institute’s 10 key components of drug courts as a model, the Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee identified 11 essential components as the guiding principles of collaborative justice courts:

1. Integrate services with justice system processing;
2. Achieve the desired goals without the use of the traditional adversarial process;
3. Intervene early and promptly to place participants in the collaborative justice court program;
4. Provide access to a continuum of services, including treatment and rehabilitation services;
5. Use a coordinated strategy that governs the court’s response to participant compliance, using a system of sanctions and incentives to foster compliance;
6. Use ongoing judicial interaction with each collaborative justice court participant;
7. Use monitoring and evaluation to measure the achievement of program goals and gauge effectiveness;
8. Ensure continuing interdisciplinary education;
9. Forge partnerships among collaborative justice courts, public agencies, and community-based organizations to increase the availability of services;
10. Enhance the program’s effectiveness and generate local support; and
11. Emphasize team and individual commitments to cultural competency.