



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

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Judicial Branch Budget: Court Innovations
Grant Program, Fiscal Year 2019-20, Quarter
2 Report

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Submitted by

Judicial Branch Budget Committee
Hon. David M. Rubin, Chair

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Executive Summary

This report summarizes Judicial Council Court Innovations Grant Program activity for the second quarter of fiscal year (FY) 2019-20.

Relevant Previous Council Action

In March 2017, the council awarded \$23.5 million in total grants for projects designed to improve court efficiency and increase the public's access to justice. The council also allocated \$625,000—out of the statutorily authorized \$1.25 million—for administration costs and retained 3 to 4 percent of each category's funding for unforeseen expenses incurred by grant-funded projects.

In June 2017, the council delegated to the Judicial Branch Budget Committee authority to decide whether to approve funding adjustments.¹ The delegation requires the Budget Committee to use the same criteria used in deciding the original awards and to report quarterly to the council about any authorized adjustments.

¹ Circulating Order No. CO-17-04: Judicial Council of Cal., Judicial Branch Budget Com. Rep., *Judicial Branch: Request for Delegation to Judicial Branch Budget Committee for Court Innovations Grants* (June 21, 2017), <https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=5311536&GUID=0A5CC66D-930B-4818-A504-F8FF88486F06>.

Analysis/Rationale

Award and budget adjustments

The Budget Committee approved two types of award and budget adjustments in the second quarter FY 2019-20:

Award increase

- \$35,250 for the Self-Help and Learning Center Website project of the Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District, to provide technical support, user testing, and updates based on user testing results

Shift between budget categories

- \$61,605.61 in the Develop and Provide Expanded Online Self-help project of the Superior Court of San Mateo County to provide translation services for online content in Spanish

Scope modification

The Budget Committee approved the following scope modification in the second quarter of FY 2019-20:

- Expand the scope of the Develop and Provide Expanded Online Self-help project of the Superior Court of San Mateo County to provide online content in Spanish

Contingency fund balance

As of the date of this report, the balance of the contingency fund is \$884,742.85, allocated as follows:

- \$774,528.22 for collaborative court projects
- \$110,214.63 for self-help, family, and juvenile court projects
- \$0.00 for other efficiency projects

Several awardee courts have identified budget savings and have expressed their intent to return previously distributed awards. If awards are returned based on this expressed intent, the balance of the contingency fund will be \$1,691,599.26, allocated as follows:

- \$1,511,550.78 for collaborative court projects
- \$180,048.48 for self-help, family, and juvenile court projects
- \$0.00 for other efficiency projects

The Budget Committee will continue to monitor the contingency fund closely and report on any changes.

Summary of findings

Of the 52 projects awarded grant funding, 50 projects are moving forward.² The amount awarded to the 52 projects totals just under \$23.5 million.³ As of the second quarter of FY 2019–20, a little over \$22.8 million has been distributed to the projects.⁴ The grant period covers three fiscal years, with money distributed only in the relevant fiscal year.

Of the approximately \$22.8 million distributed to the awardee courts, a little under \$14.3 million was expended by the awardees through FY 2019–20, quarter 2, with approximately \$2.7 million expended in quarter 2. (See Attachment A, *Court Innovations Grant Program Fiscal Year 2019–20, Quarter 2 Distribution and Expenditure Summary*.)

At the end of January 2020, grantee courts submitted their FY 2019-20 second-quarter reports. Reporting includes but is not limited to project progress, challenges, data related to measurable outcomes identified in the intra-branch agreement, justice partner coordination, efforts to sustain the project after the award period, efforts to facilitate replication within the branch, and learning experiences.

Council staff continue to conduct postimplementation project visits to engage directly with the enhanced court projects and, when appropriate, court users to complement both the administration of the grant and the outcome measurement reporting, thus giving the project a voice through this personal interaction. Council staff continue to find that these visits facilitate the resolution of project administration concerns and the development of alternative outcome measurements. When necessary, an amendment will be completed for the project intra-branch agreement to reflect modified outcome measurements.

Fiscal Impact and Policy Implications

Implementation efforts

Following are project highlights as reported by the courts in the most current Quarterly Progress Reports or directly to council staff:

- The Superior Court of Los Angeles County has implemented the Justice Partner Portal and Litigant Portal. This model provides users, attorneys, and justice partners with a unique login and password combination to access court systems—typically to view detailed or sensitive case information that is unavailable to the public. The justice partners and individual users participating in this project have viewed over 250,000 documents and performed over 300,000 case or name searches on average per month.

² The Superior Court of Contra Costa County withdrew two projects, the California’s Virtual Self-Help Site project and the Expanding LEP Court Access project, from the program because of unforeseen circumstances.

³ This total award amount reflects the current award remaining after any award amount has been returned.

⁴ This total distribution amount reflects previously distributed amounts and any return of funding.

- 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 as an additional alternative, allowing one or both parties to remotely attend mediation sessions. Since implementation, the court has held 293 successful videoconferencing sessions, 40 sessions in the second quarter of FY 2019–20. Of these, 10 participants were out of the county, 25 out of the state, and 1 out of the country. 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, which are inaccessible in telephonic appearance.

Next steps

The Budget Committee and council staff will continue to collect and review quarterly reports; track project budgets, expenditures, and implementation plans; and measure projects' outcome goals. Staff will also continue to work with the projects to help gauge the innovation, efficiency, accessibility, modernization, replicability, sustainability, and cost impact of each project. Judicial Council Audit Services staff will assist with monitoring the grant program by conducting periodic reviews of specific grant projects.

Attachments and Links

1. Attachment A: *Court Innovations Grant Program Fiscal Year 2019-20, Quarter 2 Distribution and Expenditure Summary*

**Court Innovations Grant Program
Fiscal Year 2019-20, Quarter 2
Distribution and Expenditure Summary**

Attachment A

Court	Project Name	Total Award¹	Total Distribution² as of FY 2019-20, Q2	Total Project Expenditures	FY 2019-20, Q2 Expenditures
5th DCA	Self-Help and Learning Center Website	\$353,166.00	\$176,621.36	\$176,621.36	\$0.00
5th DCA	Modernize the Transcript Assembly Program	\$793,000.00	\$351,039.30	\$351,039.30	\$136,711.65
Alameda	Collaborative Court Management Information System	\$114,223.00	\$114,223.00	\$59,271.46	\$3,540.79
Butte	Remote Video-Conferencing Technology	\$903,830.79	\$903,830.79	\$657,456.34	\$135,789.82
Contra Costa	California's Virtual Self Help Site (withdrawn)	\$249,486.95	\$249,486.95	\$249,486.95	\$0.00
Contra Costa	Veteran's Treatment Court (VTC)	\$184,855.45	\$184,855.45	\$154,265.39	\$32,384.24
Contra Costa	Expanding LEP Court Access (withdrawn)	\$103.92	\$103.92	\$103.92	\$0.00
El Dorado	One Family/One Judge Pilot Project	\$152,471.55	\$152,471.55	\$59,485.38	\$16.24
Fresno	Human Trafficking Court Planning and Implementation	\$508,776.00	\$508,776.00	\$335,720.33	\$58,556.99
Humboldt	Family Dependency Drug Court	\$1,330,739.86	\$1,330,739.86	\$268,429.16	\$23,599.49
Humboldt	Interactive Video Conferencing System	\$170,919.87	\$170,919.87	\$93,880.14	\$0.00
Inyo	Reentry Court	\$247,487.37	\$247,487.37	\$166,658.68	\$36,451.06
Los Angeles	E-Filing	\$114,760.00	\$114,760.00	\$100,000.00	\$0.00
Los Angeles	Jury Chatbot	\$97,500.00	\$97,500.00	\$14,890.00	\$14,890.00
Los Angeles	Justice System Partner and Litigant Portal	\$637,500.00	\$637,500.00	\$520,000.00	\$36,437.50
Mendocino	Adult Drug Court	\$449,611.89	\$449,611.89	\$286,880.39	\$35,655.10
Merced	Video Conference Hearings Project	\$222,566.45	\$222,566.45	\$212,086.58	\$0.00
Monterey	Cloud Based Disaster Recovery Solution	\$209,360.74	\$209,360.74	\$91,740.00	\$91,740.00
Monterey	California Court Access App	\$917,737.82	\$917,737.68	\$674,476.70	\$209,590.66
Orange	Court User Portal	\$910,560.00	\$910,560.00	\$565,185.25	\$165,601.62
Orange	Improving Court Management Through the Use of Analytics	\$938,851.34	\$938,851.34	\$579,997.86	\$21,765.03
Orange	Automating the Courtroom Check-in	\$246,190.00	\$246,190.00	\$115,758.46	\$62,872.88
Orange	Conservatorship Accountability Portal	\$312,812.00	\$312,812.00	\$266,855.18	\$79,814.24
Orange	Enhance Self-Help Portal	\$326,800.00	\$326,800.00	\$200,806.00	\$0.00
Placer	Video Appearances	\$823,013.31	\$823,013.31	\$633,097.15	\$26,696.97
Riverside	Intelligent Self-Help Kiosk	\$701,602.14	\$701,602.14	\$590,572.58	\$0.00
Riverside	Traffic Avatar	\$46,865.65	\$46,865.65	\$27,657.98	\$0.00
Riverside	Attorney and Litigant Electronic Courtroom Self Check-In	\$49,732.14	\$49,732.14	\$37,252.90	\$2,000.00
Sacramento	Vide Conferencing of Mental Health Hearings	\$59,297.03	\$59,297.03	\$59,297.03	\$0.00
Sacramento	Monitor and Measure the Achievement of Program Goals	\$311,849.00	\$311,849.00	\$275,923.69	\$66,997.69
San Bernardino	Remote Video Proceedings	\$295,194.74	\$295,194.74	\$233,185.70	\$24,442.54
San Bernardino	Customer Relationship Management Portal	\$445,137.60	\$445,083.60	\$433,883.15	\$17,261.31
San Bernardino	Video-Conferencing Child Custody Recommending Counseling	\$35,537.60	\$35,537.40	\$28,112.00	\$0.00
San Diego	Access to Information Made Simple	\$332,631.00	\$332,631.00	\$240,715.24	\$24,177.69
San Diego	Evidence-Based Sentencing Triage Assessment Unit	\$1,484,758.85	\$1,484,758.85	\$859,869.26	\$203,721.16
San Francisco	Veterans Justice Court	\$466,050.60	\$466,050.60	\$283,532.18	\$52,684.66
San Joaquin	Community Supervision Court	\$2,189,871.94	\$2,189,871.94	\$1,455,556.86	\$318,389.31
San Mateo	DUI and Restitution Court	\$1,012,477.00	\$1,012,477.00	\$529,742.23	\$96,737.75
San Mateo	Develop and Provide Expanded Online Self-help	\$336,000.00	\$336,000.00	\$92,705.29	\$3,584.91
San Mateo	Automated Line Queuing System	\$125,000.00	\$125,000.00	\$27,400.00	\$27,400.00
Santa Barbara	Instant Family Law Orders	\$422,500.00	\$422,500.00	\$232,731.94	\$208,689.63
Santa Cruz	Collaborative Justice System	\$1,223,630.69	\$1,223,630.69	\$697,821.34	\$163,009.96
Santa Cruz	SMS Notifications	\$135,099.45	\$135,099.45	\$22,026.00	\$22,026.00
Shasta	Cooperative Parenting Program	\$321,245.65	\$321,245.65	\$115,961.53	\$22,766.44
Solano	Drug Court Case Management System	\$108,000.00	\$108,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sonoma	Veterans Court Enhancements	\$56,476.00	\$56,476.00	\$56,476.00	\$0.00
Sonoma	Queuing/Appointment/Calendar System	\$56,586.00	\$56,586.00	\$56,586.01	\$0.00
Stanislaus	Homeless Court Program	\$593,089.91	\$593,089.91	\$252,027.59	\$46,965.73
Tuolumne	Expand Small Claims-Civil Mediation Program	\$2,550.00	\$2,550.00	\$1,200.00	\$150.00
Ventura	Juvenile Delinquency Family Engagement Workshops	\$88,182.00	\$88,182.00	\$63,912.63	\$12,514.86
Ventura	Internet Based Self-help Workshops	\$1,229,448.97	\$1,229,448.97	\$763,501.90	\$173,635.80
Yolo	Online Interactive Multilingual Tool	\$91,500.00	\$91,500.00	\$11,973.35	\$2,793.10
Program Total		\$23,436,638.27	\$22,818,078.59	\$14,283,816.36	\$2,662,062.82

¹ The total award reflects the current award remaining after any award amount has been returned.

² The total distribution reflects all funds that have been distributed and any funds returned.