



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

For business meeting on October 26–27, 2015

Title	Agenda Item Type
Juvenile Dependency: Proposed Allocation for Fiscal Year 2015–2016 for Court Appointed Special Advocate Local Assistance	Action Required
Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes Affected	Effective Date
N/A	October 27, 2015
Recommended by	Date of Report
Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee	September 21, 2015
Hon. Jerilyn L. Borack, Cochair Hon. Mark A. Juhas, Cochair	Contact
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Executive Summary

The Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee recommends that the Judicial Council approve Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program grant funding allocations for fiscal year 2015–2016. The recommended allocations were calculated based on the CASA funding methodology approved by the Judicial Council at its August 2013 business meeting. Allocations will fund 45 programs serving 50 counties.

Recommendation

The Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee recommends that the Judicial Council, effective October 27, 2015, allocate \$2.21 million for CASA local assistance grants to 45 CASA programs serving 50 counties using the council's funding methodology (established in 2013).

Previous Council Action

Legislation (Stats. 1988, ch. 723) amended Welfare and Institutions Code section 100 et seq. to require the Judicial Council to establish guidelines encouraging the development of local CASA programs that assist abused and neglected children who are the subject of judicial proceedings. The legislation also called for the establishment of a CASA grant program to be administered by the Judicial Council and required CASA programs to provide local matching equal to program funding received from the Judicial Council. At its February 9, 1999, meeting, the Judicial Council delegated approval of the allocation of the Judicial Council CASA grant funds to the Executive and Planning Committee (E&P).

In August 2003, at the recommendation of the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee, E&P approved a formula-based method for distributing Judicial Council CASA program funding to California CASA programs. The new funding approach replaced the previous competitive request-for-proposals process with predetermined program awards. When the allocation process transitioned to a formula-based method, the baseline awards were determined by averaging the amounts of the previous two years of funding. In 2011, E&P decided that the approval of budget allocations for CASA programs should be made by the Judicial Council.

At the August 23, 2013, meeting, the Judicial Council approved a formula-based funding methodology that uses program data submitted by local programs and evaluates efficiency and program growth.¹ Programs are required to demonstrate, through both a contract and an evaluation process, that they meet a number of objectives, including compliance with rule 5.655 of the California Rules of Court and local rules of court, volunteer recruitment, volunteer training, board development, sound fiscal management, and other requirements as outlined in the national CASA standards. This new methodology (1) establishes equitable allocations for CASA programs and eliminates wide funding variations resulting from historical funding formulas and grant applications; (2) supplements funding to local programs that work toward efficiency, effectiveness, and growth; and (3) increases the number of dependency youth—and, potentially, the number of courts—served by CASA programs.

Rationale for Recommendation

The state judicial branch budget for Judicial Council CASA grants for fiscal year (FY) 2015–2016 is \$2.213 million. The committee recommends applying the 2013-approved methodology to allocate this funding so that CASA programs receive a baseline funding allocation and programs that are eligible for the financial incentives receive those allocations as well. These funding allocations are listed in Attachment A.

Comments, Alternatives Considered, and Policy Implications

There are no alternatives or policy implications to present this fiscal year.

¹ Judicial Council of Cal., *Juvenile Dependency: Court Appointed Special Advocate Program Funding Methodology* (Aug. 23, 2013), www.courts.ca.gov/documents/jc-20130823-itemM.pdf.

Implementation Requirements, Costs, and Operational Impacts

There are no implementation requirements or costs other than the estimated \$2.213 million state judicial branch funding to be distributed to the CASA programs.

Relevant Strategic Plan Goals and Operational Plan Objectives

The proposed CASA funding methodology aligns with multiple strategic and operational goals established by the Judicial Council, specifically Goals II and III.

Goal II, Independence and Accountability, specifies that “[t]he judiciary must maintain its status as an independent, separate, and co-equal branch of government. . . . The judiciary will unify in its advocacy for resources and policies that support and protect independent and impartial judicial decisionmaking in accordance with the constitution and the law. The branch will maintain the highest standards of accountability for its use of public resources, and adherence to its statutory and constitutional mandates.” The methodology incentivize efficient and effective use of Judicial Council funding distributed to CASA programs each fiscal year.

Goal III, Modernization of Management and Administration, notes that “effective administration of justice requires deliberate attention to recruiting, developing, and retaining high-quality staff at all levels, as well as to developing and implementing appropriate accountability and compliance measures.” Recruitment of court-appointed special advocates requires extensive screening and training of individuals. The methodology incentivizes volunteer retention.

Attachment

1. Attachment A: Proposed Allocation Alternatives for FY 2015–2016 Judicial Council Local Assistance

**Attachment A: Proposed Allocation Alternatives for FY 2015-2016
Judicial Council Local Assistance**

Local CASA Programs by County(ies)	Base Allocations	Incentive 2A*	Incentive 2B*	Total Incentives	Total JC Local Assistance Grant
Alameda	\$50,000	0	0	\$0	\$50,000
Amador	\$26,000	1	1	\$20,500	\$46,500
Butte/Glenn	\$51,000	0	0	\$0	\$51,000
Contra Costa	\$50,000	1	0	\$10,250	\$60,250
Del Norte	\$26,000	1	1	\$20,500	\$46,500
El Dorado	\$34,000	0	1	\$10,250	\$44,250
Fresno/Madera	\$75,000	1	0	\$10,250	\$85,250
Humboldt	\$26,000	1	0	\$10,250	\$36,250
Imperial	\$34,000	0	1	\$10,250	\$44,250
Inyo/Mono	\$39,000	0	1	\$10,250	\$49,250
Kern	\$50,000	1	0	\$10,250	\$60,250
Kings	\$34,000	0	0	\$0	\$34,000
Lassen	\$26,000	1	1	\$20,500	\$46,500
Los Angeles	\$50,000	1	0	\$10,250	\$60,250
Marin	\$34,000	1	1	\$20,500	\$54,500
Mariposa	\$26,000	0	1	\$10,250	\$36,250
Mendocino/Lake	\$51,000	1	0	\$10,250	\$61,250
Merced	\$34,000	0	0	\$0	\$34,000
Modoc	\$26,000	0	1	\$10,250	\$36,250
Monterey	\$42,000	0	1	\$10,250	\$52,250
Napa	\$34,000	1	1	\$20,500	\$54,500
Nevada	\$26,000	1	1	\$20,500	\$46,500
Orange	\$50,000	0	0	\$0	\$50,000
Placer	\$42,000	0	1	\$10,250	\$52,250
Plumas	\$26,000	1	0	\$10,250	\$36,250
Riverside	\$50,000	1	0	\$10,250	\$60,250
Sacramento	\$50,000	1	0	\$10,250	\$60,250
San Benito	\$26,000	0	0	\$0	\$26,000
San Bernardino	\$50,000	0	0	\$0	\$50,000
San Diego	\$50,000	0	1	\$10,250	\$60,250
San Francisco	\$42,000	0	0	\$0	\$42,000
San Joaquin	\$42,000	0	0	\$0	\$42,000
San Luis Obispo	\$42,000	1	1	\$20,500	\$62,500
San Mateo	\$42,000	0	1	\$10,250	\$52,250
Santa Barbara	\$42,000	1	1	\$20,500	\$62,500
Santa Clara	\$50,000	0	1	\$10,250	\$60,250
Santa Cruz	\$34,000	0	1	\$10,250	\$44,250
Shasta/Tehama	\$51,000	0	0	\$0	\$51,000
Siskiyou	\$26,000	1	1	\$20,500	\$46,500
Solano	\$42,000	1	0	\$10,250	\$52,250
Sonoma	\$42,000	0	0	\$0	\$42,000

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Judicial Council Local Assistance**

Stanislaus	\$42,000	0	0	\$0	\$42,000
Tulare	\$42,000	1	0	\$10,250	\$52,250
Ventura	\$42,000	0	0	\$0	\$42,000
Yolo	\$34,000	0	0	\$0	\$34,000
	\$1,803,000	20	20	\$410,000	\$2,213,000

*Incentive 2A funding is earned by the top 20 programs with the highest volunteer retention rate. Incentive 2B funding is earned by the top 20 programs with the highest dependency proportion served.

Total Local Assistance Grant	\$2,213,000
Total Base Amounts	\$1,803,000
Incentive Award for Top 20 Programs @ \$10,250 (x 40)	\$410,000
Total expenditures= Base + 40 incentives	\$2,213,000