



Judicial Council of California

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Item No.: 23-200

For business meeting on November 17, 2023

Title

Allocations and Reimbursements to Trial Courts: FY 2023–24 Model Self-Help Pilot Program–Technology

Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes Affected

None

Recommended by

Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee
Hon. Jonathan B. Conklin, Chair

Agenda Item Type

Action Required

Effective Date

December 1, 2023

Date of Report

November 17, 2023

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Executive Summary

The Model Self-Help Pilot Program includes the annual allocation of \$191,400 to courts for self-help technology solutions. All courts were given the opportunity to apply for the funding in fiscal year 2023–24. The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommends that, of the thirteen program applications for self-help technology received from nine courts, nine programs be funded by Model Self-Help Technology funds, one program by a combination of Model Self-Help Technology and Signage and Technology Program funds, one program by Signage and Technology Program funds alone, and two programs not be funded.

Recommendation

The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommends that the Judicial Council, effective December 1, 2023, approve the proposed one-time funding allocations for the 2023–24 Model Self-Help Program–Technology as set forth in Attachment A.

Relevant Previous Council Action

On March 12, 2021, the Judicial Council approved a recommendation from the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee to allow all eligible trial courts to apply for funds to expand their

use of technology in providing self-help assistance as part of a consolidated technology funding application process.¹

Analysis/Rationale

The Model Self-Help Pilot Program was established in the Budget Act of 2001 and provided funding for the Judicial Council to establish model self-help center pilot projects in five courts: Butte, Contra Costa, Fresno, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. The program operated in these courts until 2019, when the Contra Costa court elected to stop participating. Since the Contra Costa pilot's focus was on self-help technology solutions, the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommended to the Judicial Council that going forward the \$191,400 allocation that had been designated for Contra Costa be made available to all courts to propose technology projects.

Current recommendations

Nine courts submitted thirteen applications for a combined total of \$438,825. Model Self-Help Program staff coordinated proposal reviews with staff from the Court Technology and Modernization Fund and the Language Access and Signage Technology Grant. Attachment A details that, of the thirteen program applications, nine programs are recommended to be funded by Model Self-Help Technology funds, one program by a combination of Model Self-Help Technology and Signage and Technology Program funds, one program by Signage and Technology Program funds alone, and two programs not be funded.

Of the proposals not funded, one was not a technology proposal and the other raised concerns on sustainability after funding ended.

The ad hoc committee of representatives from the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee, the Committee on Providing Access and Fairness, and the Information Technology Advisory Committee considered all applications and recommended allocating the \$191,400 in 2023–24 Model Self-Help Technology funding to the 10 programs specified in Attachment A.

Policy implications

Opening the funding to all courts has allowed expanded development of model programs. These projects have allowed courts to update technology and improve services to the public through remote access, live chat, instructional videos, and video translation.

Comments

Circulation for public comment was not required for this report.

¹ Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Allocations and Reimbursements to Trial Courts: Model Self-Help Pilot Program Reallocation* (Mar. 12, 2021), <https://jcc.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4707620&GUID=D9CBF8F5-A0CF-4619-8A53-EF6A5A88202B>.

Alternatives considered

The committee followed the methodology approved by the Judicial Council. No alternatives were considered.

Fiscal and Operational Impacts

For 2023–24, self-help centers will be able to expand services using technology because of this allocation. Resources developed by the courts administering these projects will be available to all courts throughout the state as they continue to adapt services, particularly with remote and shared services.

Attachments and Links

1. Attachment A: Model Self-Help 2023–24 Proposed Project Funding

Attachment A: Model Self-Help 2023–24 Proposed Project Funding

Court	Project Name	Amount Request	Other Funding Source	Other Funding Amount	Recommended Model Self-Help Program – Technology Funding	Comments
Calaveras (1)	Access to Legal Information through Books	\$8,900.00			-	Proposal is not a technology project.
Calaveras (2)	Community Outreach/Off-Site Services	\$6,500.00			\$6,500.00	Recommend full funding.
Calaveras (3)	Expanding Technology Resources	\$3,700.00			\$3,700.00	Recommend full funding.
Inyo	Self-Help Computer Replacement	\$9,868.90			\$9,869.00	Recommend full funding.
Merced	Self-Help Remote Stations	\$4,550.00			\$4,550.00	Recommend full funding.
San Benito (1)	Public Computers for Self-Help Center	\$6,600.00			\$6,600.00	Recommend full funding.
San Benito (2)	Television for Self-Help Center & Instruction Videos	\$4,000.00			\$4,000.00	Recommend full funding.
San Benito (3)	Informational Signs & Flowcharts & Bulletin Board	\$3,200.00	Signage and Technology	\$3,200.00.00	-	Fully funded by another program.
San Francisco	SRL WayFinder Project – Phase III Program Development	\$225,000.00	Signage and Technology	\$162,470.00	\$62,530.00	Signage and Technology has a limit on the amount a court is eligible to receive. The Model Self-Help Project will fund the remaining balance.
San Mateo	Remote Case Management for Pro Pers	\$72,855.00			-	Concerns for program viability once funding ended.
Santa Cruz	Improving Remote Document Review Process and Staff Efficiency	\$1,727.00			\$1,727.00	Recommend full funding.
Solano	Qmatic Expansion for Criminal-Traffic & Self-Help	\$75,175.00			\$75,175.00	Recommend full funding.
Ventura	Self-Help Center on-Demand Video	\$16,749.00			\$16,749.00	Recommend full funding.
Total		\$438,824.90		\$165,670.00	\$191,400.00	