



# JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

455 Golden Gate Avenue · San Francisco, California 94102-3688

[www.courts.ca.gov](http://www.courts.ca.gov)

---

## REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

For business meeting on: November 14, 2019

---

**Title**

Judicial Branch Budget: Quarterly Report on the Court Innovations Grant Program, Fiscal Year 2019-20, Quarter 1

**Agenda Item Type**

Information Only

**Date of Report**

October 22, 2019

**Submitted by**

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

**Contact**

Marcela Eggleton, 916-263-1738  
[marcela.eggleton@jud.ca.gov](mailto:marcela.eggleton@jud.ca.gov)

---

### Executive Summary

This report summarizes Judicial Council Court Innovations Grant Program activity for the first 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 (JBBC) authority to decide whether to approve funding adjustments.<sup>1</sup> The delegation requires the JBBC to use the same criteria used in deciding the original awards and to report quarterly to the council about any authorized adjustments.

---

<sup>1</sup> 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 JBBC approved two types of award and budget adjustments in the first quarter FY 2019-20:

#### ***Award increase***

- \$109,574 for the Instant Family Law Orders project of the Superior Court of Santa Barbara County to expand the services provided by the vendor to provide additional on-site services and training.

#### ***Shifts between budget categories***

- \$26,345.10 in the Reentry Court of the Superior Court of Inyo County to increase therapist/treatment provider services.
- \$43,843.87 in the Remote Video-Conferencing project of the Superior Court of Butte County for additional equipment, including hardware and software to create and post self-help videos.

### **Scope modification**

The JBBC approved the following scope modifications in the first quarter of FY 2019-20:

- The Remote Video-Conferencing Technology project of the Superior Court of Butte County scope modification to allow participating courts to either participate in the Butte remote workshops or conduct their own remote workshops within their county.
- The Cooperative Parenting Program of the Superior Court of Shasta County scope modification to include an electronic ADR/mediation system for Family Law Parenting plans, allowing participants to communicate via email and to request a mediator to review the communications and provide alternative solutions to the participants.

### **Contingency fund balance**

As of the date of this report, the balance of the contingency fund is \$653,148.05, allocated as follows:

- \$641,469.44 for collaborative court projects
- \$8,119.62 for self-help, family, and juvenile court projects
- \$3,558.99 for other efficiency projects

The courts below have identified budget savings and have expressed their intent to return previously distributed award:

- \$14,760.00 from the E-filing project of the Superior Court of Los Angeles County
- \$13,575.02 from the Traffic Avatar project of the Superior Court of Riverside County

- \$184,378.38 from the Evidenced Based Sentencing Triage Assessment Unit project of the Superior Court of San Diego County
- \$137,345.01 from the Cooperative Parenting Program of the Superior Court of Shasta County

If awards are returned as described above based on budget savings and withdrawal of a project, the balance of the contingency fund will be \$1,003,206.46, allocated as follows:

- \$825,847.82 for collaborative court projects
- \$159,039.65 for self-help, family, and juvenile court projects
- \$18,318.99 for other efficiency projects

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

### **Summary of findings**

Of the 52<sup>2</sup> projects awarded grant funding, 50<sup>3</sup> projects are moving forward. The amount awarded to these 52 projects totals \$23.7 million<sup>4</sup>. As of the first quarter of FY 2019-20, \$22.9 million<sup>5</sup> has been distributed to the projects. The grant period covers three fiscal years, with money distributed only in the relevant fiscal year.

Of the \$22.9 million distributed to the awardee courts, \$12.4 million was expended by the awardees through FY 2019–20, quarter 1, with approximately \$923,000 expended in quarter 1. (See Attachment A, *Court Innovations Grant Program Fiscal Year 2019–20, Quarter 1 Distribution and Expenditure Summary*.)

At the end of October 2019, grantee courts submitted their FY 2019-20 first-quarter reports. Council staff are continuing to reach out to grant awardee courts to schedule visits for post-implementation projects to interface 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. Concurrently, council staff are further discussing with the courts the project outcome measurement data and the units being measured to ensure that all appropriate data are being considered and tracked. Council staff have found 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.

---

<sup>2</sup> The Superior Court of Solano County was awarded a grant in July 2019.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> This total award amount reflects the current award remaining after any award amount has been returned.

<sup>5</sup> This total distribution amount reflects previously distributed amounts and any return of funding.

## **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 Riverside County's Intelligent Self-Help Kiosk project has reported a total of 25,309 jury electronic check-in's in the last quarter, bringing the total to 47,266. The Self-Help kiosks have provided help in six languages in 16,251 sessions during the last quarter. The court anticipates expanding services by installing 6 additional kiosks for a total of 24 kiosks throughout various locations.
- The Superior Court of Ventura County's Internet Based Self-help Workshops launched several internet-based self-help workshops in September 2018 to reach more self-represented litigants outside of walk-in services. In fiscal year 2018-19, 165 self-help webinars were conducted with 475 participants on the topics of family law, how to file a Request for Order, Divorce/Legal Separation/Nullity, civil law, what to expect at an eviction trial, and civil forms review. Participant surveys indicate that 83 percent felt more prepared with filing their courts forms and 91 percent felt more prepared for their court hearings because of their webinar participation.
- The Superior Court of San Joaquin County's Community Supervision Court (Drug and DUI Court) program was represented by graduating participants in the San Joaquin County Collaborative Courts 2019 Commencement Ceremony. Out of the 369 graduates, 208 (56 percent) had some connection to the project (including assessment and administration); 48 of these 208 participants (23 percent) received sober living/residential services. 59 percent of the graduates in the grant program received grant funded case manager support. Graduates were recognized for successfully completing all of their assigned requirements from the overarching Collaborative Courts Program.

### **Next steps**

The JBBC 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 programs.

### **Attachments and Links**

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

**Court Innovations Grant Program  
Fiscal Year 2019-20, Quarter 1  
Distribution and Expenditure Summary**

**Attachment A**

<b>Court</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Total Award<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Total Distribution<sup>2</sup> as of FY 2019-20, Q1</b>	<b>Total Project Expenditures</b>	<b>FY 2019-20, Q1 Expenditures</b>
5th DCA	Self-Help and Learning Center Website	\$317,916.00	\$176,621.36	\$176,621.36	\$10,000.00
5th DCA	Modernize the Transcript Assembly Program	\$793,000.00	\$214,327.65	\$214,327.65	\$79,229.33
Alameda	Collaborative Court Management Information System	\$114,223.00	\$114,223.00	\$55,730.67	\$0.00
Butte	Remote Video-Conferencing Technology	\$903,830.79	\$903,830.79	\$573,371.82	\$51,705.30
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)	\$367,974.33	\$367,974.33	\$129,309.85	\$7,428.70
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	\$59,479.58	\$10.44
Fresno	Human Trafficking Court Planning and Implementation	\$508,776.00	\$508,776.00	\$291,180.44	\$14,017.10
Humboldt	Family Dependency Drug Court	\$1,330,739.86	\$1,330,739.86	\$258,566.55	\$13,736.88
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	\$143,604.05	\$13,396.43
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	\$0.00	\$0.00
Los Angeles	Justice System Partner and Litigant Portal	\$637,500.00	\$637,500.00	\$497,625.00	\$14,062.50
Mendocino	Adult Drug Court	\$449,611.89	\$449,611.89	\$266,752.05	\$15,526.76
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	\$47,110.00	\$47,110.00
Monterey	California Court Access App	\$917,737.82	\$917,737.68	\$558,025.57	\$111,196.81
Orange	Court User Portal	\$910,560.00	\$910,560.00	\$484,049.63	\$84,466.00
Orange	Improving Court Management Through the Use of Analytics	\$938,851.34	\$938,851.34	\$571,908.40	\$13,675.57
Orange	Automating the Courtroom Check-in	\$246,190.00	\$246,190.00	\$85,909.58	\$33,024.00
Orange	Conservatorship Accountability Portal	\$312,812.00	\$312,812.00	\$222,601.74	\$35,560.80
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	\$618,455.42	\$12,055.24
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	\$35,252.90	\$0.00
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	\$240,941.10	\$32,015.10
San Bernardino	Remote Video Proceedings	\$295,194.74	\$295,194.74	\$219,330.72	\$10,587.56
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	\$35,537.40	\$35,537.40	\$28,112.00	\$0.00
San Diego	Access to Information Made Simple	\$332,631.00	\$332,631.00	\$228,825.46	\$12,287.91
San Diego	Evidence-Based Sentencing Triage Assessment Unit	\$1,484,758.85	\$1,484,758.85	\$746,304.73	\$90,156.63
San Francisco	Veterans Justice Court	\$466,050.60	\$466,050.60	\$252,871.02	\$22,023.50
San Joaquin	Community Supervision Court	\$2,189,871.94	\$2,189,871.94	\$1,243,347.26	\$106,179.71
San Mateo	DUI and Restitution Court	\$1,012,477.00	\$1,012,477.00	\$433,004.48	\$0.00
San Mateo	Develop and Provide Expanded Online Self-help	\$336,000.00	\$336,000.00	\$89,720.38	\$600.00
San Mateo	Automated Line Queuing System	\$125,000.00	\$125,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Santa Barbara	Instant Family Law Orders	\$422,500.00	\$422,500.00	\$24,256.52	\$214.21
Santa Cruz	Collaborative Justice System	\$1,223,630.69	\$1,223,630.69	\$594,159.60	\$59,348.22
Santa Cruz	SMS Notifications	\$135,099.45	\$135,099.45	\$0.00	\$0.00
Shasta	Cooperative Parenting Program	\$458,590.66	\$458,590.66	\$101,097.23	\$7,902.14
Solano	Drug Court Case Management System	\$108,000.00	\$0.00	\$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	\$208,632.65	\$3,570.79
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	\$55,616.40	\$4,218.63
Ventura	Internet Based Self-help Workshops	\$1,229,448.97	\$1,229,448.97	\$590,165.90	\$299.80
Yolo	Online Interactive Multilingual Tool	\$91,500.00	\$91,500.00	\$9,180.25	\$0.00
<b>Program Total</b>		<b>\$23,721,851.96</b>	<b>\$22,893,830.83</b>	<b>\$12,437,484.30</b>	<b>\$923,017.37</b>

<sup>1</sup> The total award reflects the current award remaining after any award amount has been returned.

<sup>2</sup> The total distribution reflects all funds that have been distributed and any funds returned.