



Judicial Council of California

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Item No.: 25-106

For business meeting on July 18, 2025

Title

Juvenile Law: Fiscal Year 2025–26 Funding
Allocations for Court Appointed Special
Advocate Local Assistance

Report Type

Action Required

Effective Date

July 18, 2025

Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes Affected

None

Date of Report

June 24, 2025

Recommended by

Family and Juvenile Law Advisory
Committee
Hon. Tari L. Cody, Cochair
Hon. Stephanie E. Hulsey, Cochair

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Executive Summary

The fiscal year 2025–26 judicial branch budget includes \$2.713 million for Judicial Council Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) grants. The Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee recommends the Judicial Council allocate \$2.713 million to fund 45 CASA programs serving 52 counties and approximately 10,470 children statewide.

Recommendation

The Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee recommends that the Judicial Council, effective July 18, 2025, allocate the \$2.713 million in total grant funds for fiscal year 2025–26 using the amended funding methodology approved by the council on July 12, 2024. Proposed allocations are detailed in Attachment A.

Relevant Previous Council Action

A Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program is a nonprofit organization that supports trained volunteers appointed by a judicial officer to provide advocacy for a child who is under

the jurisdiction of a juvenile court. A CASA volunteer spends time with the child, monitors the child's needed services, and provides child-focused recommendations to the court based on the best interests of the child. Forty-five programs in 52 counties serve approximately 10,470 children with 6,750 trained volunteers.¹

In August 2003, at the recommendation of the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee, the Executive Committee 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. Then on August 23, 2013, the Judicial Council approved a new funding methodology that was formula based and used program data submitted by local programs to evaluate the efficiency and growth of those programs.²

On July 20, 2018, the Judicial Council adopted a revised methodology that provides a larger percentage of funds as base funding and replaced the two existing incentives with a growth incentive for those programs that are eligible.³ The revised methodology made no changes to the four-tiered base funding portion of the methodology.

The Budget Act of 2018 (Stats. 2018, ch. 29) included a \$500,000 augmentation to Judicial Council CASA funding, which increased funding from \$2.213 million to \$2.713 million to promote program growth. On September 21, 2018, the Judicial Council approved the allocation of these funds to CASA programs as additional base funding for fiscal year (FY) 2018–19 and FY 2019–20 using the existing methodology.⁴ In this report to the council, the committee noted that it would develop recommendations for a methodology specific to these funds for implementation in FY 2020–21. The committee deferred this item during the pandemic.⁵

¹ California CASA Association, *Report to the Judicial Council on CASA Funding and Program Development* (Feb. 7, 2025), p. 3.

² Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Juvenile Dependency: Court Appointed Special Advocate Program Funding Methodology* (July 19, 2013), courts.ca.gov/sites/default/files/courts/default/2024-10/jc-20130823-itemm.pdf.

³ Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Judicial Council Budget: Court Appointed Special Advocate Funding Methodology and FY 2018-19 Allocations* (June 28, 2018), jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=6357571&GUID=C010F4D4-28C5-4868-871C-94B763688ACA.

⁴ Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Judicial Council Budget: Allocation of Augmented Funding for Court Appointed Special Advocate Grant Program* (Aug. 14, 2018), jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=6612315&GUID=5A5F8317-1BC8-45A1-8CB8-AB2BEA0C37EE.

⁵ Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Juvenile Law: Fiscal Year 2021–22 Funding Allocations for Court Appointed Special Advocate Local Assistance* (June 16, 2021), jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=9487734&GUID=BD0E146D-4BF6-40A9-B325-779E70763AAD.

At its meeting in July 2023, the Judicial Council approved recommendations to continue allocation of the \$500,000 funding augmentation using the existing methodology.⁶ The council also directed the committee to continue to review data regarding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the child welfare system and local CASA programs and present recommendations for a funding methodology for this \$500,000 augmentation for FY 2024–25.

At its meeting in July 2024, the Judicial Council adopted an ongoing funding methodology for the \$500,000 augmentation.⁷ The methodology allocates the \$500,000 equally, as a separate growth-based incentive, to 30 eligible local CASA programs, 15 small and 15 large.

Analysis/Rationale

A total of \$2.713 million is included in the annual state budget for Judicial Council CASA grants. The proposed allocations for FY 2025–26 in Attachment A were derived using the funding methodology approved by the Judicial Council as detailed in the reports listed above.

Policy implications

There are no policy implications to consider for the recommended allocation.

Comments

Public comments were not solicited for this proposal because the recommendations are within the Judicial Council’s purview to approve without circulation.

Alternatives considered

No alternatives were considered because the recommended allocation outlined in Attachment A was determined using the methodology approved by the council.

Fiscal and Operational Impacts

This recommendation is for the allocation of funds that are included in the FY 2025–26 budget. No additional costs or impacts are anticipated.

Attachments and Links

1. Attachment A: Proposed Allocation for FY 2025–26 Judicial Council Court Appointed Special Advocate Local Assistance Funding

⁶ Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Juvenile Law: Court Appointed Special Advocate Funding Methodology, Program Expansion, and Fiscal Year 2023–2024 Allocations* (June 21, 2023), jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=12124955&GUID=4BBC2005-07B6-4FC7-AF49-155BED6339E0.

⁷ Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Juvenile Law: Court Appointed Special Advocate Funding Methodology and Fiscal Year 2024–25 Allocations* (July 3, 2024), jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=13082727&GUID=AF8564C9-F4CB-4A77-A7AF-057412B47816.

Judicial Council Court Appointed Special Advocate Local Assistance Funding

Local CASA Programs by County	Base Allocations	Growth Incentive A \$500,000	Growth Incentive B	Total Proposed JC Local Assistance Grant
Alameda	\$57,500.00	\$16,666.66	\$4,061.00	\$78,227.66
Amador/Calaveras	\$44,850.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$44,850.00
Butte/Glenn	\$58,650.00	\$16,666.66	\$4,061.00	\$79,377.66
Contra Costa	\$57,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$57,500.00
Del Norte	\$29,900.00	\$16,666.66	\$0.00	\$46,566.66
El Dorado	\$39,100.00	\$16,666.66	\$4,061.00	\$59,827.66
Fresno/Madera	\$86,250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$86,250.00
Humboldt	\$29,900.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$29,900.00
Imperial	\$39,100.00	\$16,666.66	\$4,061.00	\$59,827.66
Inyo/Mono	\$44,850.00	\$16,666.66	\$4,061.00	\$65,577.66
Kern	\$57,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$57,500.00
Kings	\$39,100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$39,100.00
Lassen	\$29,900.00	\$16,666.66	\$4,061.00	\$50,627.66
Los Angeles	\$57,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$57,500.00
Marin	\$39,100.00	\$16,666.66	\$4,061.00	\$59,827.66
Mariposa	\$29,900.00	\$16,666.66	\$4,061.00	\$50,627.66
Mendocino/Lake	\$58,650.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$58,650.00
Merced	\$39,100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$39,100.00
Modoc	\$29,900.00	\$16,666.66	\$4,061.00	\$50,627.66
Monterey	\$48,300.00	\$16,666.66	\$4,061.00	\$69,027.66
Napa	\$39,100.00	\$16,666.66	\$4,061.00	\$59,827.66
Nevada	\$29,900.00	\$16,666.66	\$4,061.00	\$50,627.66
Orange	\$57,500.00	\$16,666.66	\$4,061.00	\$78,227.66
Placer/Yuba	\$72,450.00	\$16,666.66	\$4,061.00	\$93,177.66
Plumas	\$29,900.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$29,900.00
Riverside	\$57,500.00	\$16,666.66	\$4,061.00	\$78,227.66
Sacramento	\$57,500.00	\$16,666.66	\$4,061.00	\$78,227.66
San Benito	\$29,900.00	\$16,666.66	\$0.00	\$46,566.66
San Bernardino	\$57,500.00	\$16,666.66	\$4,061.00	\$78,227.66
San Diego	\$57,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$57,500.00
San Francisco	\$48,300.00	\$16,666.66	\$0.00	\$64,966.66
San Joaquin	\$48,300.00	\$16,666.66	\$4,061.00	\$69,027.66
San Luis Obispo	\$39,100.00	\$16,666.66	\$4,061.00	\$59,827.66
San Mateo	\$48,300.00	\$16,666.66	\$4,061.00	\$69,027.66
Santa Barbara	\$48,300.00	\$16,666.66	\$4,061.00	\$69,027.66
Santa Clara	\$57,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$57,500.00
Santa Cruz	\$39,100.00	\$16,666.66	\$4,061.00	\$59,827.66
Shasta/Tehama	\$58,650.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$58,650.00
Siskiyou	\$29,900.00	\$16,666.66	\$4,061.00	\$50,627.66

Judicial Council Court Appointed Special Advocate Local Assistance Funding

Local CASA Programs by County	Base Allocations	Growth Incentive A \$500,000	Growth Incentive B	Total Proposed JC Local Assistance Grant
Solano	\$48,300.00	\$16,666.66	\$4,061.00	\$69,027.66
Sonoma	\$48,300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$48,300.00
Stanislaus	\$48,300.00	\$16,666.66	\$4,061.00	\$69,027.66
Tulare	\$48,300.00	\$16,666.66	\$4,061.00	\$69,027.66
Ventura	\$48,300.00	\$16,666.66	\$4,061.00	\$69,027.66
Yolo	\$39,100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$39,100.00
<u>Totals</u>	<u>\$2,103,350.00</u>	<u>\$499,999.80</u>	<u>\$109,647.00</u>	<u>\$2,712,996.80</u>

Total Local Assistance Grant	\$2,713,000.00
Total Base Amounts	\$2,103,350.00
Growth Incentive A Awards for Top 30 Programs (15 Small & 15 Large)	\$499,999.80
Growth Incentive B Awards for Top 27 Programs (13 Small & 14 Large)	\$109,647.00

**Base Allocations are based on the four-tier methodology.*

After allocating funds to the base according to the methodology, \$4,061.00 per qualified program was available for Growth Incentive B funding.