



Judicial Council of California

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Item No.: 26-102

For business meeting on July 17, 2026

Judicial Branch Technology: Jury Management System Grant Program Allocations for Fiscal Year 2026–27

Judicial Council Report Details

Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes Affected

None

Effective Date

July 17, 2026

Recommended by

Judicial Council Technology Committee

Hon. Maria D. Hernandez, Chair

Mr. David Slayton, Vice-Chair

Date of Report

June 15, 2026

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Report Type

Action Required

Executive Summary

The Judicial Council Technology Committee recommends approving proposed allocations totaling \$600,000 for fiscal year 2026–27 for the Jury Management System Grant Program. The goal of the program is to improve the juror experience and reduce court resource needs by enhancing access to information. In this cycle, 15 trial courts submitted grant applications for a total of 17 projects.

Recommendation

The Technology Committee recommends that the Judicial Council, effective July 17, 2026, approve the proposed allocations totaling \$600,000 for the Jury Management System Grant Program and direct Judicial Council staff to work on intrabranch agreements with each awarded court.

Relevant Previous Council Action

In fiscal year (FY) 2025–26, the Judicial Council approved the Technology Committee’s recommended allocations totaling \$500,000 in awards to courts for the Jury Management System Grant Program (JMS Grant Program).¹ The Technology Committee approved these grant allocations in prior years.

Analysis/Rationale

Background

The JMS Grant Program is funded through royalties from Judicial Council–developed jury instructions; the royalties are deposited into the Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund and designated exclusively for jury-related technology projects. The program also encourages courts to develop diverse funding strategies that align with current or planned technology initiatives, thereby enhancing juror access to information. Funds from the program are awarded each fiscal year. Courts apply for funding by submitting project descriptions and other information to Judicial Council Information Technology staff. For FY 2026–27, approximately \$600,000 is available in JMS Grant Program funding.

Evaluation criteria and application

Grant requests are evaluated using established objectives, prioritization categories, and funding considerations to ensure that recommended awards align with program goals and branch needs.

JMS Grant Program objectives

The following objectives guide the review of grant requests:

- Maximize the number of courts receiving funding.
- Support courts in upgrading jury system software/infrastructure.
- Prioritize enhancements that reduce court costs.
- Improve juror experience and reduce court resource needs by enhancing access to information.

JMS Grant Program project prioritization categories

Consistent with the objectives outlined above, the following prioritization categories further guide the recommendations set forth in this report:

1. Jury Management System Replacement/Upgrade—Keeps jury management systems current and supported.
2. Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System, Interactive Web Response (IWR) System, or Other Module Enhancement—Reduces staff workload and provides jurors easier access to information.
3. Self-Check-In—Enables jurors to check in independently.

¹ Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., [*Judicial Branch Technology: Jury Management System Grants, Fiscal Year 2025-26*](#) (June 16, 2025).

4. Imaging—Automates responses to paper correspondence and phone requests.
5. Peripheral Hardware—Includes scanners, printers, mail equipment, and audiovisual tools.
6. Juror Experience Equipment—Enhances the juror experience with items like charging stations and monitors.

JMS Grant Program additional funding considerations

- Ongoing costs (e.g., subscriptions, maintenance) are not eligible for funding.
- No court may receive more than 10 percent of the total budget unless surplus funds remain after qualifying projects are funded.
- Staff may consider whether a court has received funding through the JMS Grant Program in recent years.

Application process

On January 14, 2026, Judicial Council Information Technology released a memorandum to courts on how to request funding for various technology grant opportunities via a single application process. The deadline for courts to apply was February 6, 2026.

Judicial Council staff coordinated the review of FY 2026–27 JMS Grant Program requests alongside other technology funding programs—such as the Information Technology Modernization Funding Program and the Language Access Signage and Technology Grant Program—to ensure that no court receives duplicate funding for the same project.

Allocations and recommendations

For FY 2026–27, 15 courts submitted 17 jury technology project proposals. All projects can be funded by the \$600,000 FY 2026–27 allocation, with 12 projects fully funded and 5 projects receiving partial awards. To maximize statewide impact, partial awards are based on the projects’ relative cost, scope, and alignment with available resources. These adjustments are consistent with recent funding patterns and ensure that essential modernization efforts can move forward across the state. All courts recommended for partial awards have confirmed their ability to complete their projects using alternate funding sources.

Specific funding levels, including partial award adjustments, are presented in Attachment A, which provides the complete list of court requests and recommended allocations.

Policy implications

By allocating approximately \$600,000 in JMS Grant Program funding directly to trial courts, the Judicial Council will improve access to jury information and the juror experience. Allocating funds directly to individual courts for projects that meet the key criteria described above allows them to best serve the needs of their communities, while remaining aligned with the *Strategic Plan for Technology* and *Tactical Plan for Technology*.

Comments

On May 5, 2026, the Technology Committee held a public meeting and approved the recommended program objectives, court projects, and allocations. This proposal was not

circulated for public comment. However, the funding recommendations were considered in a meeting that was open to the public, and no public comments were received.

Alternatives considered

No other alternatives were considered because the recommended allocations were calculated using the funding methodology approved by the Technology Committee.

Fiscal and Operational Impacts

Awarding JMS Grant Program funding does not impose costs on the awarded courts other than costs associated with the projects that are funded by the awards. Any cost overruns from these projects are the responsibility of the individual courts. Some projects may lead to reduced operational expenses.

Attachments and Links

1. Attachment A: Jury Management System Grant Program, FY 2026–27: Proposed Allocations

Attachment A

Jury Management System Grant Program, FY 2026–27: Proposed Allocations

#	Court	Description	Requested Allocation	Proposed Allocation	JMS Program Priority Category
1	Butte	Hardware Replacement A/V in Jury Rooms	\$70,914	\$45,914*	Peripheral Hardware
	Butte	Jury Management System Upgrade	42,457	42,457	Jury Management System Upgrade
2	Calaveras	Self-Check-In Kiosk	5,670	5,670	Self-Check-In
3	Colusa	Jury Case Management System Module Upgrade	18,887	18,887	Jury Management System Upgrade
4	Kings	Juror Orientation Video—Spanish Audio Upgrade	5,800	5,800	Juror Experience Equipment
5	Lassen	Self-Check-In Kiosks	7,623	7,623	Self-Check-In
6	Madera	Juror Experience Technical Equipment	62,224	41,349*	Peripheral Hardware
7	Napa	Jury Management System Upgrade	7,000	7,000	Jury Management System Upgrade
8	Nevada	Jury Management System Cloud Migration	32,000	32,000	Self-Check-In
9	Placer	Jury Case Management System Module Upgrade	15,000	15,000	Jury Management System Upgrade
10	San Benito	Jury Management System Replacement	90,782	65,782*	Jury Management System Replacement
11	San Francisco	IVR/IWR Enhancement	215,600	100,000*	IVR/IWR Enhancements
12	Santa Clara	Jury Management System Upgrade	38,000	38,000	Jury Management System Upgrade
	Santa Clara	Jury Room Scanners and TVs	5,000	5,000	Peripheral Hardware
13	Santa Cruz	Jury Management System Upgrade	75,000	50,000*	Jury Management System Upgrade
14	Sutter	Jury Management System Cloud Migration	105,018	105,018	Jury Management System Upgrade
15	Yuba	Jury Case Management System Module Upgrade	14,500	14,500	Jury Management System Upgrade
		Total:	\$811,475	\$600,000	

* Indicates projects recommended for partial funding to maximize statewide distribution of funds based on program-wide prioritization factors.