



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

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Title

Judicial Branch Budget: Quarterly Report on the Court Innovations Grant Program, Fiscal Year 2018–19, Quarter 4

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Submitted by

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

Contact

Marcela Eggleton, 916-263-1738
marcela.eggleton@jud.ca.gov

Executive Summary

This report summarizes Judicial Council Court Innovations Grant Program activity for the fourth quarter of fiscal year (FY) 2018–19.

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.¹ 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.

¹ Circulating Order No. CO-17-04.

Analysis/Rationale

Award and budget adjustments

The JBBC approved the following award and budget adjustments in the fourth quarter of the fiscal year:

Award increases

- \$62,053.64 for the Remote Video Conferencing Technology of the Superior Court of Butte County to allow the court to fulfill the purchasing of necessary computer hardware equipment and fund the grant work provided by the Information Technology and Court Service Analyst positions for the final 10 additional participating courts to the project.
- \$50,501.03 for the One Family/One Judge Pilot Project of the Superior Court of El Dorado County to increase the Specialty Court Coordinator hours and for additional operational needs.
- \$125,125 for the Human Trafficking Court Planning and Implementation project of the Superior Court of Fresno County to allow the court to eliminate service silos and establish a seamless continuum that address unique participant needs and broadens education to project partners and community-based organizations about human trafficking issues and best practices.
- \$127,797.82 for the California Court Access App project of the Superior Court of Monterey County to continue the work of the limited-time software engineer, purchase additional equipment and software tools required for the mobile development environment, and provide project team training.
- \$148,320.40 for the Video Appearances project of the Superior Court of Placer County for additional personnel time, equipment, and vendor services needed for the remote evidence sharing capabilities.
- \$79,460 for the Veterans Justice Court project of the Superior Court of San Francisco County to enhance the Veteran Mentor Program, increase the number of treatment beds, purchase additional drug-testing kits, and for minor operational needs of the project.
- \$66,938 for the Community Supervision Court project of the Superior Court of San Joaquin County to purchase additional bus passes for clients to be used for transportation to and from court, treatment, or other programs; for additional drug and alcohol testing kits; and for additional support of the alcohol/drug monitoring providers and sober-living providers.
- \$48,997.69 for the Collaborative Justice System project of the Superior Court of Santa Cruz County for mental health treatment, substance use disorder treatment and housing, additional hours for the consultant who provides gender training and instruction, and incentives to graduates participating in the peer network.
- \$99,339.45 for the SMS Notifications project of the Superior Court of Santa Cruz County for the purchase of additional necessary technology and for the support of jury staff to directly support the project.
- \$297,044.97 for the Internet Based Self-Help Workshops project of the Superior Court of Ventura County to provide digital content specialists for the support of the webinars, form templates, digital signage content and on-demand videos; to partially fund Court

Attorney and Self-Help Assistant positions for project support; and to provide training on relevant coding processes.

Shifts between categories

- \$41,000 in the Modernize the Transcript Assembly Program of the Fifth District Court of Appeals to increase the use of the contractor to allow trial courts to transmit the court record directly to the appellate courts e-Filing system.
- \$515,225.42 in the Family Dependency Drug Court of the Superior Court of Humboldt County to contract with the county to fulfill select support services, including Family Dependency Drug Court Case Manager and Mental Health Clinician services.

Scope modification

The JBBC approved the following scope modifications in the fourth quarter of the fiscal year:

- The Video Conferencing Hearings Project of the Superior Court of Merced County scope modification from conducting preliminary hearings and civil hearings via video conferencing to instead conducting civil hearings and criminal non-evidentiary, pre-preliminary and readiness conference hearings via video-conferencing due the lack of agreement between the participating justice partners in conducting preliminary hearings via video conferencing.
- The Video Appearances project of the Superior Court of Placer County scope expansion to improve, identify and implement a more robust video appearance solution by including remote evidence sharing.

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

Summary of findings

Of the 51 projects provided grant funding, 49² projects are moving forward. The amount awarded to these 51 projects totals \$23.6 million. As of the fourth quarter of FY 2018–19, \$17.35 million has been distributed to the projects. The grant period covers three fiscal years, with money distributed only in the relevant fiscal year.

² The Superior Court of Contra Costa County withdrew California’s Virtual Self-Help Site project and Expanding LEP Court Access project from the program because of unforeseen circumstances.

Of the \$17.35 million distributed to the awardee courts, \$11.1 million was expended by the awardees through FY 2018–19, quarter 4, with approximately \$2.3 million expended in quarter 4. (See Attachment A, *Court Innovations Grant Program Fiscal Year 2018–19, Quarter 4 Distribution and Expenditure Summary*.)

In addition, the Judicial Council approved, in FY 2019-20, Quarter 1, an award of \$108,000 to the Superior Court of Solano County at its July 19, 2019 business meeting, bringing the total projects moving forward to 51.

At the end of July 2019, grantee courts submitted their FY 2018–19 fourth-quarter reports. Council staff are continuing to reach out to grant awardee courts to schedule visits for those 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. When necessary, an amendment will be completed for the project intra-branch agreement to reflect modified outcome measurements.

Fiscal Impact and Policy Implications

Implementation efforts

The 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 Contra Costa County celebrated its first Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) graduation in August 2019. The VTC serves veterans who are involved with the justice system and whose court cases are affected by issues such as sexual trauma, traumatic brain injury, posttraumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, or mental health problems stemming from service in the U.S. Armed Forces. The court and justice partners participating in the VTC provide, among other services, participants with expedited referrals to treatment and mentors in the community.
- The Superior Court of Humboldt County has established video-conferencing to conduct mental health hearings required by the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act in collaboration with the Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services, Mental Health Branch. This technology allows the patient to participate remotely without being transported from the hospital to the courthouse, mitigating undue stress and public safety risks associated with patient transportation.
- The Superior Court of Ventura County’s Internet Based Self-Help Workshops project has enabled the Self-Help Legal Access Center and the Family Law Facilitator’s Office to conduct webinars on topics including Divorce/Legal Separation/Nullity, Family Law Q&A, How to File a Request Order, Civil Law Q&A, and Civil Law Forms Review. The court has created and uploaded self-help videos on the court’s YouTube channel and is working on additional topics to allow self-represented litigants access to relevant legal

information on demand. In FY 2018-19, the self-help centers conducted 165 legal self-help webinars, assisting 475 self-represented litigants from 21 U.S. states and territories and eliminating an estimated 2,663 commuting hours with zero complaints and zero wait time.

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, and sustainability 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 2018–19, Quarter 4 Distribution and Expenditure Summary*

**Court Innovations Grant Program
Fiscal Year 2018-19, Quarter 4
Distribution and Expenditure Summary**

Court	Project Name	Total Award ¹	Total Distribution as of FY 2018-19, Q4	Total Project Expenditures	FY 2018-19, Q4 Expenditures
5th DCA	Self-Help and Learning Center Website	\$317,916.00	\$166,621.36	\$166,621.36	\$0.00
5th DCA	Modernize the Transcript Assembly Program	\$793,000.00	\$117,000.00	\$117,000.00	\$0.00
Alameda	Collaborative Court Management Information System	\$114,223.00	\$108,748.00	\$54,780.67	\$5,744.07
Butte	Remote Video-Conferencing Technology	\$903,830.79	\$576,140.00	\$547,874.73	\$49,321.55
Contra Costa	California's Virtual Self Help Site (withdrawn)	\$249,486.95	\$339,688.00	\$249,486.95	\$0.00
Contra Costa	Veteran's Treatment Court (VTC)	\$367,974.33	\$264,609.76	\$121,881.15	\$27,108.40
Contra Costa	Expanding LEP Court Access (withdrawn)	\$103.92	\$233,900.00	\$103.92	\$0.00
El Dorado	One Family/One Judge Pilot Project	\$152,471.55	\$88,926.81	\$59,469.14	\$14,243.14
Fresno	Human Trafficking Court Planning and Implementation	\$508,776.00	\$304,964.00	\$275,999.47	\$14,636.23
Humboldt	Family Dependency Drug Court	\$1,330,739.86	\$792,956.33	\$217,693.77	\$99,919.72
Humboldt	Interactive Video Conferencing System	\$170,919.87	\$170,919.87	\$93,880.14	\$1,290.00
Inyo	Reentry Court	\$273,712.00	\$180,685.00	\$130,207.62	\$31,668.46
Los Angeles	E-Filing	\$114,760.00	\$114,760.00	\$100,000.00	\$0.00
Los Angeles	Self-Help Traffic Avatar (Gina) Expansion	\$97,500.00	\$97,500.00	\$110.00	\$110.00
Los Angeles	Justice System Partner and Litigant Portal	\$637,500.00	\$637,500.00	\$476,187.50	\$29,687.50
Mendocino	Adult Drug Court	\$449,611.89	\$308,409.95	\$247,940.47	\$91,774.96
Merced	Video Conference Hearings Project	\$222,566.45	\$212,086.45	\$209,435.89	\$0.00
Monterey	Cloud Based Disaster Recovery Solution	\$209,360.74	\$209,360.74	\$19.65	\$0.00
Monterey	California Court Access App	\$917,737.82	\$578,940.00	\$525,116.18	\$220,630.63
Orange	Court User Portal	\$910,560.00	\$740,160.00	\$384,078.63	\$102,496.25
Orange	Improving Court Management Through the Use of Analytics	\$938,851.34	\$938,851.34	\$552,800.73	\$66,079.10
Orange	Automating the Courtroom Check-in	\$246,190.00	\$246,190.00	\$46,005.58	\$16,471.58
Orange	Conservatorship Accountability Portal	\$312,812.00	\$266,732.00	\$179,138.54	\$53,736.32
Orange	Enhance Self-Help Portal	\$326,800.00	\$314,608.00	\$200,806.00	\$51,646.00
Placer	Video Appearances	\$823,013.31	\$716,573.31	\$606,400.18	\$385,300.06
Riverside	Intelligent Self-Help Kiosk	\$759,302.14	\$632,622.90	\$590,572.58	\$23,001.31
Riverside	Traffic Avatar	\$46,865.65	\$41,233.03	\$27,657.98	\$3,121.69
Riverside	Attorney and Litigant Electronic Courtroom Self Check-In	\$49,732.14	\$61,938.90	\$35,252.90	\$28,200.21
Sacramento	Videoconferencing of Mental Health Hearings	\$59,297.03	\$66,249.00	\$59,297.03	\$0.00
Sacramento	Monitor and Measure the Achievement of Program Goals	\$311,849.00	\$208,926.00	\$214,383.53	\$31,648.99
San Bernardino	Remote Video Proceedings	\$295,194.74	\$208,743.77	\$147,810.72	\$23,652.89
San Bernardino	Customer Relationship Management Portal	\$445,137.60	\$416,621.87	\$116,952.05	\$708.00
San Bernardino	Video-Conferencing Child Custody Recommending Counseling	\$35,537.40	\$28,112.40	\$22,438.10	\$0.00
San Diego	Access to Information Made Simple	\$332,631.00	\$258,538.00	\$216,537.55	\$23,730.25
San Diego	Evidence-Based Sentencing Triage Assessment Unit	\$1,484,758.85	\$980,279.58	\$656,148.10	\$112,256.09
San Francisco	Veterans Justice Court	\$466,050.60	\$289,959.88	\$227,882.44	\$56,763.85
San Joaquin	Community Supervision Court	\$2,189,871.94	\$1,349,396.92	\$1,132,229.77	\$143,892.59
San Mateo	DUI and Restitution Court	\$1,012,477.00	\$701,875.00	\$433,004.48	\$123,179.46
San Mateo	Develop and Provide Expanded Online Self-help	\$336,000.00	\$336,000.00	\$64,595.38	\$41,130.67
San Mateo	Automated Line Queuing System	\$125,000.00	\$125,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Santa Barbara	Instant Family Law Orders	\$312,926.00	\$281,026.00	\$42,586.01	\$2,141.15
Santa Cruz	Collaborative Justice System	\$1,223,630.69	\$791,672.00	\$489,537.82	\$124,516.69
Santa Cruz	SMS Notifications	\$135,099.45	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Shasta	Cooperative Parenting Program	\$458,590.66	\$255,540.10	\$93,122.24	\$14,929.04
Sonoma	Veterans Court Enhancements	\$56,476.00	\$56,476.00	\$56,476.00	\$0.00
Sonoma	Queuing/Appointment/Calendaring System	\$56,586.00	\$56,586.00	\$56,586.01	\$56,586.01
Stanislaus	Homeless Court Program	\$593,089.91	\$395,626.60	\$185,061.86	\$31,836.08
Tuolumne	Expand Small Claims-Civil Mediation Program	\$24,000.00	\$16,200.00	\$1,050.00	\$150.00
Ventura	Juvenile Delinquency Family Engagement Workshops	\$88,182.00	\$58,183.00	\$49,672.40	\$10,249.55
Ventura	Internet Based Self-help Workshops	\$1,229,448.97	\$922,364.97	\$589,866.10	\$152,178.05
Yolo	Online Interactive Multilingual Tool	\$91,500.00	\$89,000.00	\$9,180.25	\$0.00
Program Total		\$23,609,652.59	\$17,355,002.84	\$11,080,939.57	\$2,265,736.54

¹ The total award reflects the current award remaining after any award amount has been returned.