

The background features a large, faint, circular seal of the Judicial Council of the State of California. The seal contains a central figure holding a scale and a sword, surrounded by the text "JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA" and the year "1926".

Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Pilot Program Grant Recommendations

Justice Earl Johnson, Jr. (ret)

Justice Laurie D. Zelon

Background

- AB 590 (Feuer) was initially 6 year pilot project
- Findings from initial report and Judicial Council support led to elimination of sunset



Next steps

- Independent evaluation has demonstrated value of the project
- Next round of 3 year grants to support projects and evaluate potential best practices



Structure for Pilot

- Lead legal services agency which works with others who help with conflicts, multiple representation
- Partnership with the court which is to provide services to assist those litigants who remain unrepresented



Funding

- From designated post-judgment filing fees
- Anticipated to be \$11 million
- 2011 - \$9.5 million
- 2017 - \$7.2 million



Recommendation process

- Legislatively mandated committee
- RFP issued
- All proposals considered by the committee in light of the evaluation



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**Unanimous
Recommendations
from
committee**

1) Fund Existing Programs

Kern - housing

Los Angeles – custody / housing

San Diego – custody / housing

Northern Santa Barbara county –
probate/housing

San Francisco - custody

Yolo - housing



And one new program

- Fresno - housing



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2) Level of funding

- Amount project received last year or amount of request (whichever is less) was baseline
- Proportionate decrease in all programs



Formula

- Custody project limited by statute to 20% of funding
- Reduction divided proportionately among custody projects = 26% reduction
- Left housing & probate with 19% reduction



Implementation

- Programs have been asked to provide a revised budget and project plan based upon recommended amounts
- Committee requests authority to review and approve those budgets and plans



Cy Pres funds

Budget Trailer bill provides that a portion of cy pres funds may be allocated for Shriver pilot projects

Will work with Judicial Council staff on implementation



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Equal Access funds

Equal Access Fund increased by \$10 million. Thus, additional \$1 million available for Partnership Grants, self help services run by legal aid at the Court

Many Shriver projects have a component that is appropriate for that funding and have been invited to apply



Next steps

- Focused studies on promising practices such as:
 - Focused settlement services
 - Social worker on legal team
 - Continuum of services



Recommendation

- Approve Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Act Implementation Committee's recommendations re: grants
- Authorize committee to review and approve revised budgets and project plans

