



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

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Title

Judicial Branch Budget: Court Innovations
Grant Program, Fiscal Year 2020–21,
Quarter 1 Report

Agenda Item Type

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Submitted by

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

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Executive Summary

This report summarizes Judicial Council Court Innovations Grant Program activity for the first quarter of fiscal year 2020–21.

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 authority to decide whether to approve funding adjustments.¹ The delegation requires the Budget Committee 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: 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 Budget Committee approved two types of award and budget adjustments in the first quarter of fiscal year (FY) 2020–21:

Award increases

- \$19,819.00 for the Collaborative Court Management Information System of the Superior Court of Alameda County for developer services to address additional identified program needs.
- \$53,250.31 for the Video Appearances and Remote Evidence Sharing project of the Superior Court of Placer County for continued efforts necessitated by the COVID-19 mitigation efforts.
- \$80,880.00 for the Remote Video-Conferencing Technology project of the Superior Court of Butte County to provide support to additional courts during COVID-19 mitigation efforts.
- \$404,066.63 for the Internet Based Self-Help Workshops project of the Superior Court of Ventura County to provide continued support and creation of webinars and online services during the mitigation efforts surrounding COVID-19.

Shifts between budget categories

- \$40,000.00 for the Improving Court Management Through the Use of Analytics project of the Superior Court of Orange County to provide continued consultant support toward the creation of the project dashboard.
- \$283,702.30 for the Community Supervision Court for the Superior Court of San Joaquin County to expand the number of participant services and use of an outside drug testing facility.
- \$22,429.18 for the Remote Video-Conferencing Technology project of the Superior Court of Butte County for continued support of the program during the grant extended timeline.
- \$150,908.56 for the Collaborative Justice System project of the Superior Court of Santa Cruz County to provide additional case manager support during the grant extended timeline and impact of COVID-19–related workload.
- \$52,200.22 for the Instant Family Law Orders project of the Superior Court of Santa Barbara County to address additional consultant support needed and the provision of additional functionality.

Contingency fund balance

As of the date of this report, the balance of the contingency fund is \$1,307,967.28, allocated as follows:

- \$1,198,900.17 for collaborative court projects;
- \$17,753.11 for self-help, family, and juvenile court projects; and
- \$91,314.00 for other efficiency projects.

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

Summary of findings

Of the 52 projects awarded grant funding, 49 projects are moving forward.² The amount awarded to the 52 projects totals just over \$22.9 million.³ As of the first quarter of FY 2020–21, a little over \$22.89 million has been distributed to the projects.⁴

Of the approximately \$22.89 million distributed to the awardee courts, a little under \$20 million was expended by the awardees through FY 2020–21, quarter 1, with approximately \$508,000 expended in quarter 1. (See Attachment A, *Court Innovations Grant Program Fiscal Year 2020–21, Quarter 1 Distribution and Expenditure Summary*.)

To the extent feasible in the current environment, council staff continue to coordinate with awardee courts to view postimplementation project demonstrations and participate in project discussions. This engagement complements both the administration of the grant and future project specific reporting.

Fiscal Impact and Policy Implications

Next steps

The Budget Committee 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 projects.

Attachments and Links

1. Attachment A: *Court Innovations Grant Program Fiscal Year 2020–21, Quarter 1 Distribution and Expenditure Summary*

² The Superior Court of Contra Costa County withdrew two projects from the program because of unforeseen circumstances: the California's Virtual Self-Help Site project and the Expanding LEP Court Access project; and the Superior Court of Riverside County withdrew the Attorney and Litigant Electronic Courtroom Self Check-In project due to unforeseen circumstances.

³ This total award amount reflects the current award remaining after any award amount has been returned.

⁴ This total distribution amount reflects previously distributed amounts and any return of funding.

**Court Innovations Grant Program
Fiscal Year 2020-21, Quarter 1
Distribution and Expenditure Summary**

Attachment A

Court	Project Name	Total Award¹	Total Distribution² as of FY 2020-21, Q1	Total Project Expenditures	FY 2020-21, Q1 Expenditures
5th DCA	Self-Help and Learning Center Website	\$353,166.00	\$346,503.20	\$346,503.20	\$0.00
5th DCA	Modernize the Transcript Assembly Program	\$793,000.00	\$792,695.30	\$792,695.30	\$0.00
Alameda	Collaborative Court Management Information System	\$134,042.00	\$134,042.00	\$107,047.10	\$1,057.30
Butte	Remote Video-Conferencing Technology	\$984,710.79	\$984,710.79	\$855,345.29	\$32,114.61
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)	\$184,855.45	\$184,855.45	\$171,453.14	\$0.00
Contra Costa	Expanding LEP Court Access (withdrawn)	\$103.92	\$103.92	\$103.92	\$0.00
El Dorado	One Family/One Judge Pilot Project	\$84,217.41	\$84,217.41	\$84,217.86	\$0.00
Fresno	Human Trafficking Court Planning and Implementation	\$508,776.00	\$508,776.00	\$444,640.97	\$13,570.39
Humboldt	Family Dependency Drug Court	\$593,717.30	\$593,717.30	\$320,059.07	-\$78,943.07
Humboldt	Interactive Video Conferencing System	\$170,919.87	\$170,919.87	\$113,860.06	\$0.00
Inyo	Reentry Court	\$247,487.37	\$247,487.37	\$239,349.50	\$15,826.60
Los Angeles	E-Filing	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$0.00
Los Angeles	Jury Chatbot	\$97,500.00	\$97,500.00	\$68,793.26	\$0.00
Los Angeles	Justice System Partner and Litigant Portal	\$574,125.00	\$574,125.00	\$574,125.00	\$0.00
Mendocino	Adult Drug Court	\$449,611.89	\$449,611.89	\$449,612.00	\$0.00
Merced	Video Conference Hearings Project	\$222,566.45	\$222,566.45	\$219,961.02	\$7,874.44
Monterey	Cloud Based Disaster Recovery Solution	\$224,740.74	\$224,740.74	\$165,508.40	-\$35,438.33
Monterey	California Court Access App	\$917,737.82	\$917,737.68	\$842,662.44	\$30,126.87
Orange	Court User Portal	\$910,560.00	\$910,560.00	\$860,575.61	\$64,707.28
Orange	Improving Court Management Through the Use of Analytics	\$1,038,851.34	\$1,038,851.34	\$927,637.23	\$60,808.19
Orange	Automating the Courtroom Check-in	\$246,190.00	\$246,190.00	\$151,690.36	\$17,480.00
Orange	Conservatorship Accountability Portal	\$312,812.00	\$312,812.00	\$312,293.98	\$0.00
Orange	Enhance Self-Help Portal	\$326,800.00	\$326,800.00	\$326,784.16	\$21,160.00
Placer	Video Appearances	\$912,378.03	\$912,378.03	\$876,141.61	\$46,800.23
Riverside	Intelligent Self-Help Kiosk	\$701,602.14	\$701,602.14	\$653,986.52	\$0.00
Riverside	Traffic Avatar	\$46,865.65	\$46,865.65	\$33,290.10	\$0.00
Riverside	Attorney and Litigant Electronic Courtroom Self Check-In	\$0.14	\$0.14	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sacramento	Videoconferencing 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	\$306,548.13	-\$5,300.87
San Bernardino	Remote Video Proceedings	\$295,194.74	\$295,194.74	\$298,748.30	\$3,554.14
San Bernardino	Customer Relationship Management Portal	\$445,137.60	\$445,083.60	\$463,863.84	\$18,780.00
San Bernardino	Video-Conferencing Child Custody Recommending Counseling	\$35,537.60	\$35,537.40	\$35,537.00	\$0.00
San Diego	Access to Information Made Simple	\$332,631.00	\$332,631.00	\$276,216.54	\$6,541.01
San Diego	Evidence-Based Sentencing Triage Assessment Unit	\$1,300,347.47	\$1,300,347.47	\$980,733.69	\$20,972.20
San Francisco	Veterans Justice Court	\$466,050.60	\$466,050.60	\$425,625.25	\$0.01
San Joaquin	Community Supervision Court	\$2,194,871.94	\$2,194,871.94	\$1,754,568.91	\$10,809.56
San Mateo	DUI and Restitution Court	\$1,012,477.00	\$1,012,477.00	\$780,251.68	\$0.00
San Mateo	Develop and Provide Expanded Online Self-help	\$336,000.00	\$336,000.00	\$334,851.71	\$0.00
San Mateo	Automated Line Queuing System	\$125,000.00	\$125,000.00	\$47,878.10	\$0.00
Santa Barbara	Instant Family Law Orders	\$422,500.00	\$422,500.00	\$401,110.81	\$2,129.06
Santa Cruz	Collaborative Justice System	\$1,458,102.17	\$1,458,102.17	\$1,291,626.98	\$81,992.44
Santa Cruz	SMS Notifications	\$135,099.45	\$135,099.45	\$96,072.30	-\$60.92
Shasta	Cooperative Parenting Program	\$196,245.65	\$196,245.65	\$156,060.39	\$10,633.16
Solano	Drug Court Case Management System	\$108,000.00	\$108,000.00	\$51,830.89	\$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	-\$0.01	-\$56,586.01
Stanislaus	Homeless Court Program	\$348,057.61	\$348,057.61	\$348,056.70	\$0.00
Tuolumne	Expand Small Claims-Civil Mediation Program	\$2,550.00	\$2,550.00	\$1,350.00	\$0.00
Ventura	Juvenile Delinquency Family Engagement Workshops	\$88,182.00	\$88,182.00	\$73,044.66	\$191.83
Ventura	Internet Based Self-help Workshops	\$1,633,515.60	\$1,633,515.60	\$1,446,568.10	\$217,119.10
Yolo	Online Interactive Multilingual Tool	\$91,500.00	\$91,500.00	\$23,508.95	\$0.00
Program Total		\$22,898,032.72	\$22,891,010.88	\$19,997,650.00	\$507,919.22

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

² The total distribution reflects all funds that have been distributed and any funds returned.