



Judicial Council of California

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Item No.: 25-114

For business meeting on July 18, 2025

Title

Judicial Branch Technology: Jury
Management System Grants, Fiscal Year
2025–26

Report Type

Action Required

Effective Date

July 18, 2025

Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes Affected

None

Date of Report

June 16, 2025

Recommended by

Judicial Council Technology Committee
Hon. Kyle S. Brodie, Chair
Hon. Maria D. Hernandez, Vice-Chair

Contact

Angela Gulley, Principal Manager
916-643-6907
angela.gulley@jud.ca.gov

Executive Summary

The Judicial Council Technology Committee recommends approving the proposed allocations of the \$500,000 Jury Management System Grant. The goal of the Jury Management System Grant is to improve juror experience and reduce court resource needs by enhancing access to information. For fiscal year 2025–26, 12 trial courts submitted grant applications for a total of 15 projects.

Recommendation

The Technology Committee recommends that the Judicial Council, effective July 18, 2025, approve the proposed allocations of the \$500,000 Jury Management System Grant and direct Judicial Council staff to work on intrabranch agreements with each awarded court.

Relevant Previous Council Action

Beginning in fiscal year (FY) 2025–26, the Jury Management System (JMS) Grant program allocations will be submitted to the Judicial Council for approval. The Technology Committee approved these grant allocations in prior years.

Analysis/Rationale

Jury Management System Grant

The JMS Grant program is funded through royalties from Judicial Council–developed jury instructions, which 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 2025–26, approximately \$500,000 is available in JMS Grant funding.

JMS Grant objectives

The following objectives guide the review of grant requests:

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

Project prioritization categories

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

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 all qualifying projects are funded.

On February 5, 2025, 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 28, 2025. Judicial Council staff coordinated the review of FY 2025–26 JMS Grant requests alongside other technology funding programs such as the Information Technology Modernization Funding Program and the Language Access Signage and Technology Grant to ensure that no court receives duplicate funding for the same project.

For FY 2025–26, 12 courts submitted jury technology initiatives. The projects from all 12 courts can be funded by the \$500,000 FY 2025–26 grant, and all but one court can be fully funded. The Superior Court of Yolo County requested \$219,113 for a jury management system upgrade, representing approximately 44 percent of the total available JMS Grant funds. The Technology Committee recommends reducing this court’s allocation to \$139,360 to more closely align with the amount other courts will receive to achieve a more equitable distribution of the grant and fund as many projects as possible. The Superior Court of Yolo County may also receive an allocation from the IT Modernization grant, which could help bridge the funding gap for the court’s proposed project. The proposed allocations were reviewed and approved by the Technology Committee on May 5, 2025, for consideration by the Judicial Council.

Policy implications

By allocating approximately \$500,000 in JMS 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, 2025, the Technology Committee held a public meeting and approved the recommended program objectives, court projects, and allocations. Although the proposal was not circulated for public comment, 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 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 2025–26: Proposed Allocations

Attachment A
Jury Management System Grant Program, FY 2025–26: Proposed Allocations

#	Court	Description	Requested Allocation	Proposed Allocation	JMS Program Priority Category
1	Calaveras	Jury assembly room audiovisual equipment	\$30,000	\$30,000	Peripheral Hardware
2	Fresno	Jury audiovisual system upgrade	54,046	54,046	Peripheral Hardware
	Fresno	Jury box audiovisual equipment installation	25,200	25,200	Peripheral Hardware
3	Glenn	Jury management software and hardware upgrade	64,985	64,985	JMS Upgrade
4	Kern	Jury room digital signage	8,627	8,627	Peripheral Hardware
	Kern	Automatic envelope machine	7,993	7,993	Peripheral Hardware
5	Madera	Jury assembly room audiovisual upgrade	44,430	44,430	Peripheral Hardware
6	Marin	Jury express check-in kiosks	13,962	13,962	Self-Check-In
7	Sacramento	QR code express check-in	15,000	15,000	Self-Check-In
	Sacramento	Multilingual jury phone system	10,000	10,000	IVR/IWR Enhancements
8	San Benito	IVR jury phone line	5,000	5,000	IVR/IWR Enhancements
9	San Bernardino	Self-check-in kiosk	50,000	50,000	Self-Check-In
10	Stanislaus	IVR/IWR enhancement	3,500	3,500	IVR/IWR Enhancements
11	Tehama	Self-check-in kiosks and jury-related digital signage	27,897	27,897	Self-Check-In
12	Yolo	JMS upgrade	219,113	139,360	JMS Upgrade
		Total:	\$579,753	\$500,000	