



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Item No.: 22-152

For business meeting on September 20, 2022

Title

Juvenile Law: Fiscal Year 2022–23 Funding
Allocation for California Court Appointed
Special Advocate Association

Agenda Item Type

Action Required

Effective Date

September 20, 2022

Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes Affected

None

Date of Report

September 2, 2022

Recommended by

Family and Juvenile Law Advisory
Committee

Hon. Stephanie E. Hulse, Cochair

Hon. Amy M. Pellman, Cochair

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Executive Summary

The Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee recommends approving the allocation of \$20 million in Court Appointed Special Advocate program grant funding, included in the Budget Act of 2022, to the California Court Appointed Special Advocate Association for fiscal year 2022–23.

Recommendation

The Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee recommends that the Judicial Council, effective September 20, 2022:

1. Allocate \$20 million in General Fund appropriations for the California Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Association for fiscal year 2022–23 and specified by the Budget Act of 2022 (AB 178) to:
 - a. Provide funding to the local CASA programs to expand capacity, recruitment, and training and to stabilize local budgets and staffing; and

- b. Be used statewide for volunteer recruitment initiatives, shared resources and infrastructure, development of training curriculum, collection of data on program implementation and outcomes to support the required report to the Legislature, and other uses to expand CASA services in the state; and

2. Direct the California CASA Association to:

- a. Allocate \$16 million to local CASA programs using an equitable funding methodology based on local CASA program needs; and
- b. Collect, compile, and submit data to the Judicial Council, as determined in collaboration with Judicial Council program staff, on program implementation and outcomes to support the required report to the Legislature, and other uses to expand CASA services in the state.

A link to the relevant provisions in the Budget Act of 2022 is provided at Link A of the Attachments and Links section.

Relevant Previous Council Action

Legislation (Assem. Bill 4445; Stats. 1988, ch. 723) amended Welfare and Institutions Code section 100 et seq. (see Link B) to require the Judicial Council to administer a CASA grant program and maintain guidelines for local CASA programs. These CASA programs (1) assist abused and neglected children who are the subject of judicial proceedings, and (2) train and supervise CASA volunteers at the direction of their local juvenile court in accordance with California Rules of Court, rule 5.655 (see Link C).

At its meeting on July 15, 2022,¹ the Judicial Council approved the allocation of \$2.713 million for CASA local assistance grants using the council’s funding methodology approved on July 20 and September 21, 2018.²

Analysis/Rationale

The Budget Act of 2022 (Sen. Bill 154)³ specifies how \$60 million in one-time Judicial Council CASA grant funding is to be allocated to the California CASA Association for support of CASA programs across the state. Specifically, the act states: “\$48,000,000 shall be allocated to the California Court Appointed Special Advocate Association to provide funding to the local court-appointed special advocate (CASA) programs to expand capacity, recruitment, and training and to stabilize local budgets and staffing ...[and] [¶] ... \$12,000,000 shall be allocated to the

¹ Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Juvenile Law: Fiscal Year 2022–23 Funding Allocations for Court Appointed Special Advocate Local Assistance* (June 22, 2022), <https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=11051536&GUID=CB060812-69AE-4272-9D05-0F0AECEA8ABC>.

² Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Judicial Council Budget: Allocation of Augmented Funding for Court Appointed Special Advocate Grant Program* (Aug. 14, 2018), <https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=6612315&GUID=5A5F8317-1BC8-45A1-8CB8-AB2BEA0C37EE>.

³ SEC 4. Item 0250-101-0932 of Section 2.00 of the Budget Act of 2022, provisions 31–34.

California Court Appointed Special Advocate Association to be used statewide for volunteer recruitment initiatives, shared resources and infrastructure, development of statewide training curriculum, collection of data on program implementation and outcomes to support the report to the Legislature, and other uses to expand court-appointed special advocate (CASA) services in the state.”

A total of \$60 million one-time General Fund is appropriated for the California CASA Association for support of local CASA programs, including \$20 million in fiscal year (FY) 2022–23, \$20 million in FY 2023–24, and \$20 million in FY 2024–25. This report recommends allocation of the FY 2022-23 appropriation. The appropriation specifies that for FY 2022–23, “\$16 million shall be allocated ... to provide funding to the local [CASA] programs to expand capacity, recruitment, and training and to stabilize local budgets and staffing” and “\$4,000,000 shall be allocated to the California [CASA] Association to be used statewide for volunteer recruitment initiatives, shared resources and infrastructure, development of statewide training curriculum, collection of data on program implementation and outcomes to support the report to the Legislature, and other uses to expand [CASA] services in the state,” and that “[t]he Judicial Council shall annually report to the Legislature on the court-appointed special advocate (CASA) program implementation and outcomes.” (See Link A, provisions 31, 32, and 34.)

The committee recommends that the Judicial Council approve the one-time allocation of \$20 million to the California CASA Association for FY 2022–23 with the following parameters:

1. California CASA Association shall allocate funding to local CASA programs using an equitable funding methodology based on local CASA program needs; and
2. California CASA Association shall collect, compile, and submit data to the Judicial Council, as determined in collaboration with Judicial Council program staff, on program implementation and outcomes to support the required report to the Legislature, and other uses to expand CASA services in the state.

Policy implications

The committee has no policy implications to present this fiscal year.

Comments

No comments were sought because the Budget Act of 2022 specifies actions that must be taken pertaining to the California CASA Association.

Alternatives considered

There are no viable alternatives to distributing the funds according to the recommendation of the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee. The Budget Act requires the council to distribute these funds to the California CASA Association.

Fiscal and Operational Impacts

There are no fiscal or operational impacts other than the one-time \$20 million judicial branch funding to be distributed to the California CASA Association for FY 2022–23.

Attachments and Links

1. Link A: SEC 4. Item 0250-101-0932 of section 2.00 of the Budget Act of 2022 (Assem. Bill 178), provisions 31–35,
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB178&firstNav=tracking
2. Link B: Welf. & Inst. Code, § 100 et seq.,
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=100.&lawCode=WIC
3. Link C: California Rules of Court, rule 5.655,
www.courts.ca.gov/cms/rules/index.cfm?title=five&linkid=rule5_655