



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

For business meeting on: August 25–26, 2016

Title

Judicial Branch: Court Innovations Grant
Program Request for Applications

Agenda Item Type

Action Required

Effective Date

August 26, 2016

Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes Affected

None

Date of Report

August 10, 2016

Recommended by

Ad Hoc Working Group for Innovations
Grants
Hon. David Rosenberg, Chair

Contact

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Executive Summary

The Ad Hoc Working Group for Innovations Grants recommends the Judicial Council approve the Request for Applications (RFA) (Attachment A) for the Court Innovations Grant Program. The recommended RFA is intended to provide a transparent and user-friendly process for courts seeking innovations grant funding. The RFA will be released on September 1, 2016 to trial courts and appellate courts to solicit grant proposals for monies appropriated by the Budget Act of 2016. The grant period runs June 1, 2017 through June 30, 2020. The RFA includes guidelines for grant proposals that promote innovative and efficient access to justice, including new programs or practices and the adoption of existing best practices that better serve the public and court users.

Recommendation

The Ad Hoc Working Group for Innovations Grants recommends approval of the RFA to solicit proposals from trial courts and appellate courts interested in receiving Court Innovations Grant monies through a competitive grant award process. It is anticipated that with the council's approval the RFA will be released on September 1, 2016.

Previous Council Action

The Chief Justice and the council have been committed to the expansion of innovative and efficient services and programs to improve access to justice statewide. With the designation of \$25 million for the Court Innovations Grant Program in the Budget Act of 2016 (Attachment B), this commitment continues through the administration of a grant program that will facilitate the development of innovative and efficient services and programs to better serve the public.

In June 2016 the Chief Justice appointed the Ad Hoc Working Group for Innovations Grants (Attachment C) to create the guidelines for the competitive grant program. The working group met multiple times to develop the RFA, which includes grant program submission requirements, a timeline, and information on grant scoring criteria. Once the RFA is issued, the working group will sunset and the Judicial Council Budget Committee will be responsible for evaluating the resulting grant proposals and awarding grant monies through a competitive process.

Rationale for Recommendation

During the Great Recession, the state's judiciary, like all of California and the other two branches of government, suffered significant budget reductions. The judicial branch responded to these budget reductions in many ways, including its development and implementation of various innovative and efficient services and programs for the public and court users. Although these services and programs have been well received, they lacked fiscal support. The 2016 Budget Act has provided the Judicial Council with one-time funding for a competitive grant program to promote innovative and efficient access to justice that will allow the court to better serve the public.

The Ad Hoc Working Group for Innovations Grants recommends using the RFA process to introduce the grant program, and has determined the RFA process will be the most effective means to initiate competitive applications and award available monies. The enacting legislation requires the grant program to focus on high-priority innovations, modernizations, and efficiencies in the courts that can be replicated by other courts and that are sustainable after the grant award period. Grant applicants must be able to collect and report data that will measure the objectives. The format of the attached RFA will allow the council to score the applicant's responses to the necessary components and provide the applicant clear expectations regarding the selection process.

Comments, Alternatives Considered, and Policy Implications

Legislative language stipulates that these funds be distributed through a competitive grant program developed by the Judicial Council. There are several alternatives for soliciting programs or services, and the Ad Hoc Working Group for Innovations Grants reviewed several options used by the council and other departments within the executive branch, including the Request for Proposal (RFP) used for Recidivism Reduction Fund grant monies, the RFA process used for Regional Trial Court Opportunity Grants, and other processes used in the executive branch for

grant fund distribution. Ultimately, the working group determined that an RFA was the preferred vehicle to initiate applications and best suited to ensure competition.

Alternatives

Competitive bids are commonly awarded based on some type of solicitation as described below:

- The RFP is a solicitation document used in a formal competitive process for goods and services. The RFP is used when criteria is general, and the content of the specific proposals will vary.
- The RFA is a solicitation document used in a formal competitive process for grant applications. An RFA indicates the estimated amount of funds set aside for the competition, and the applicants propose how they will use the funding.
- The IFB, or Invitation for Bid, is a solicitation document used in a formal competitive process for goods and services. An IFB is used when criteria is specific, and the content of the proposals will vary only on cost.

After a review of the most commonly used types, the Ad Hoc Working Group for Innovations Grants found the attached version of the RFA to be the most effective tool to solicit competitive bids on the programs described in the enacting legislation.

Policy implications

The Budget Act of 2016 specifically requires that the Judicial Council administer the grant program. After the RFA is issued and the Ad Hoc Working Group for Innovations Grants is disbanded, the administration of the program will fall to the Judicial Branch Budget Committee, who will take responsibility for the ongoing administration of the program through April of 2020. This includes receiving, evaluating, and scoring proposals and awarding grant monies.

Additionally, the legislation establishing the Court Innovations Grant Program requires future action from the council to develop and implement a plan to disseminate information about the innovative practices funded through this program, and to consider the adoption of appropriate modifications to the California Rules of Court and other judicial branch policies, procedures, and programs in order to support the expansion of successful programs funded through this grant.

The Judicial Branch Budget Committee will also be responsible for:

- reviewing resulting rules proposals that will then be forwarded to appropriate council advisory bodies;
- reviewing changes to judicial branch policies, procedures and programs;
- reviewing the annual report to the Department of Finance and the Joint Legislative Budget Committee; and
- modifying the application guidelines based on outcomes of the initial grant period.

Courts receiving funding from the Court Innovations Grant Program will be required to report quarterly to the Judicial Council on fund expenditures, impacts, and potential savings associated with the funded programs. The legislation requires the council to provide an annual report to the Department of Finance and the Joint Legislative Budget Committee on the grant program, its impacts, and any potential savings.

Implementation Requirements, Costs, and Operational Impacts

The Budget Act of 2016 provided up to \$25 million in grant monies to be awarded for programs that will focus on high-priority innovations, modernizations, and efficiencies in the trial and appellate courts. Grant proposals must include detailed information on budget expenditures for the grant period of June 1, 2017 through April 30, 2020. They will receive funding annually based on the time period they are proposing for their respective programs.

Additionally, the Budget Act of 2016 designated up to five percent of funds allocated for the Court Innovations Grant Program to the Judicial Council for administration of the program and to support the expansion of successful programs in other courts. The proposed RFA includes language specifying that five percent of the grant monies will be used by the council for activities such as accounting or program administration. There will be no additional cost to the council to administer this program. There may be a future cost to the council to audit the programs that receive funding.

Relevant Strategic Plan Goals and Operational Plan Objectives

Applications will be scored on a set of criteria included in the RFA and in compliance with the legislative requirements of the Budget Act of 2016. The scoring criteria for the project attributes portion of the RFA are consistent with the following judicial branch strategic plan goals: Goal I, Access, Fairness, and Diversity; Goal III, Modernization of Management and Administration; Goal IV, Quality of Justice and Service to the Public; Goal V, Education for Branchwide Professional Excellence; and Goal VI, Branchwide Infrastructure for Service Excellence. The degree to which any one application will meet any one of the goals will vary, and be dependent on the program itself. The scoring criteria will assess level of program need, benefits, accessibility, innovation, modernization, efficiency, replicability, and sustainability.

Attachments and Links

1. Attachment A: Request for Applications—Court Innovations Grant Program
2. Attachment B: The Budget Act of 2016: Court Innovations Grant Program
3. Attachment C: Ad Hoc Working Group for Innovations Grants Roster



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

COURT INNOVATIONS GRANT PROGRAM

Grant Period: June 1, 2017–June 30, 2020
Eligible Applicants: California Appellate Courts and Superior Courts of California

September 1, 2016 **Application Packet Released**
September 26, 2016 **Deadline for Notice of Intent to Apply**
October 31, 2016 **Grant Application Due (by 5:00 p.m.)**

This Request for Applications (RFA) packet includes application guidelines and instructions regarding funding provisions, grant eligibility, and application submission requirements. The Judicial Branch Budget Committee reserves the right to modify the application guidelines based on outcomes of the initial grant period.

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APPLICATION GUIDELINES FOR COURT INNOVATIONS GRANT PROGRAM

1.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1.1 Organizational Background

The Judicial Council is the policymaking body of the California courts, the largest court system in the nation. Under the leadership of the Chief Justice and in accordance with the California Constitution, the council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice. Judicial Council staff implements the council's policies.

1.2 Court Innovations Grant Program Overview and Purpose

As part of the Budget Act of 2016, the Legislature appropriated \$25 million in one-time funding to develop and implement a competitive grant program to provide funding for court services and programs that promote innovative and efficient access to justice, including the development of new programs or practices and the adoption of existing best practices that better serve the public and court users. The Court Innovations Grant Program (Program) will be administered by the Judicial Council.

During the Great Recession, the state's judiciary, like all of California and the other two branches of government, suffered significant budget reductions. The judicial branch responded to these budget reductions in many ways, including its development and implementation of various innovative and efficient services and programs for the public and court users. These innovative and efficient services and programs have been well received; however, with fiscal support, these services and programs may be more readily and easily replicated by other courts. Further, with fiscal support, additional innovative and efficient services and programs may be developed and implemented for greater access to justice.

Following enactment of the 2015 State Budget, the Chief Justice and the Judicial Council furthered their commitment to the expansion of these and other innovative and efficient services and programs to improve access to justice statewide. The Governor's approach in designating specific funds for this purpose will enhance access to justice by facilitating statewide replication or development of innovative and efficient services and programs that better serve the public and court users.

2.0 GRANT CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

The competitive grant program will focus on high-priority innovations, modernizations, and efficiencies in the trial courts and appellate courts for the three grant categories listed below.

2.1 Collaborative Courts

Proposals that promote collaborative justice principles of a multidisciplinary, non-adversarial team approach with involvement from the court, attorneys, law enforcement, and/or community treatment and service agencies.

2.2 Self-help, Family and Juvenile Courts

Proposals that improve or address the quality of justice and services to meet the diverse needs for self-represented litigants, children, youth, and families in the California courts.

2.3 Other Efficiencies Across All Types of Courts

Proposals that result in savings and efficiencies for the courts while ensuring access to and quality of justice for court users in case types distinct and apart from those categories listed above.

The purpose of the Court Innovations Grant Program is to encourage the development of new court services and programs that promote innovative and efficient access to justice, including the enhancement of existing programs or practices that better serve the public and court users.

Courts may provide proposals for:

- **Development** of a new program or practice.
- **Adoption** of an existing program or practice from another court.
- **Enhancement**, expansion, and/or improvement of an existing program or practice only if the proposal provides demonstrable results of the enhancement that are above and beyond the existing program or practice (verifiable cost savings to the court's budget, increased efficiency, and/or enhanced access to justice).¹

Note: This is a competitive bidding process and therefore courts will not automatically receive Court Innovations Grant Program funding.

3.1 ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION

Superior Courts of California and California Appellate Courts are eligible to apply for any one of the three categories listed in Section 2.0 above. Courts may apply for more than one grant category (i.e., collaborative courts, self-help, family and juvenile courts, and other efficiencies across all types of courts). Note that separate applications must be submitted if a court is applying in more than one grant category.

¹ Funding will not be provided for existing programs or practices. Funding will only be provided for those elements verified to go beyond the existing program or practice.

Applications may be filed in one of three ways:

- Individual trial court or an individual appellate court;
- Collaboratively by two or more courts provided there is a designated lead court. The number of courts collaborating is not limited; or
- In conjunction with justice partners/other government entities, provided that the court is the applicant.

Additionally, applications submitted by courts that are already receiving grant monies will be accepted, provided that the current proposal is not for the same grant program.

Courts must submit a proposal that clearly details the initiative(s) for which funding is sought, including the grant category; the associated staffing, programs, and services to be delivered; detailed costs; and how the grant funds will be used to cover those costs. (Detailed information regarding proposal contents can be found in Section 8.0.)

4.0 AWARDS AND FUNDING

4.1 Amount of Funds Available

A total of \$25,000,000² is available:

- Up to \$12,000,000 for collaborative courts
- Up to \$8,000,000 for self-help, family and juvenile courts
- Up to \$5,000,000 for other efficiencies across all types of courts

4.2 Amount of Awards

The Judicial Council seeks to adequately fund as many qualified Court Innovations Grant Program projects as possible, emphasizing a diversity of project types among small, medium, and large sized courts. Courts of all sizes are encouraged to apply and every proposal will be considered on the merits for evaluation purposes.

Ultimately, the distribution of grant funds will be based on the number and type of proposals received for each of the grant categories noted in Section 2.0.

4.3 Disbursement of Grant Funds

Disbursement of grant funds will be made as follows:

- After notice of award, and upon notification to the Judicial Council that work has commenced, the first annual disbursement will be made at the beginning

² In accordance with Provision 20 of Item 0250-101-0932 of the Budget Act of 2016, up to 5% of the total appropriation is for the Judicial Council for the administration of the Court Innovations Grant Program.

of the project based on the information provided in the required Budget Detail Worksheets. Appellate courts will receive their funds as a transfer to their operations fund, and they will track their expenses related to the grant on a specific Project Cost Code (PCC). Trial courts will receive funds in their next monthly allocation, and their revenue and expenses will be tracked in a grant fund and grant work breakdown structure (WBS) code.

- Subsequent annual disbursements will be made at the beginning of fiscal years when the court and the Judicial Council have completed the following:
 - All outstanding reconciliation items from the prior fiscal year quarterly and annual reports are resolved.
 - If unused funds remain, the court has explained why any planned expenses did not occur.
 - If unused funds remain, the court has submitted a revised spending plan that documents the movement of planned expenses from one fiscal year to the next, as long as the total award is not exceeded, or the court acknowledges in writing they will not use the funds, which can be returned to the grant fund.
 - Unused funds documentation will be reviewed by the Judicial Council, and a decision will be made whether unused funds can roll over to a subsequent year or will be returned to the grant fund.

If the Judicial Council determines that courts will not be able to spend their full grant allocation, the Judicial Council may redistribute funds as necessary to support other grant programs or may solicit additional grant proposals.

The Judicial Council will seek to award as many qualified applications as possible and may consider awarding partial grants. Prior to awarding a partial grant, the Judicial Council will consult with the recipient court. Courts may be asked to submit modified project plans and revised budgets that reflect the award amounts offered.

Funds must be fully expended—not just encumbered—by June 30, 2020, after which any unexpended funds must revert to the State’s General Fund.

4.4 Eligible Grant Expenditures

Program costs must be directly related to the objectives and activities of the program, and anticipated costs must be listed on the Budget Detail Worksheets. Eligible uses of funds include:

- Salary and benefits
- Equipment (computers, office equipment)

- Instructional material and supplies
- Office supplies
- Travel
- Training
- Consultants/contractors
- Any other expenses directly related to the project not listed herein, as properly budgeted and approved by the Judicial Council program manager.

The court must follow applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including but not limited to the *Judicial Branch Contracting Manual* and *Trial Court Financial Policies and Procedures Manual*, as applicable.

4.5 Ineligible Grant Expenditures

Any expenditures not directly related to the program are ineligible for grant funding. Ineligible uses of funds include, but are not limited to:

- Supplanting existing funding³
- Routine replacement of office equipment, furnishings, or technology
- Any technology maintenance costs that extend beyond the end of the grant award period
- Facilities

Exceptions to the expenditure requirements listed above may be considered on a case-by-case basis. Exception requests must be submitted in writing and approved in writing, in advance, by the Judicial Council program manager.

4.6 Contractual Relationships and Right to Audit

The Judicial Council will enter into an Intra-Branch Agreement (IBA) with individual courts or a multicourt collaborative for the administration and disbursement of grant funds.

The court must maintain all financial records, supporting documents, and all other records relating to performance under the IBA for a period in accordance with state law and/or the *Trial Court Financial Policies and Procedures Manual*. The court must permit the authorized representative of the Judicial Council or its designee to inspect or audit at any reasonable time, including at the time of reconciliation, any records relating to the IBA.

³ Court Innovations Grant Program funds are not to be used to replace or take the place of existing court funding, or any existing expense, including staff costs incurred for performing existing duties.

The court will be required to submit quarterly reports, as described in Section 5.2. Judicial Council staff will be responsible for auditing quarterly and annual expenses against eligible and ineligible expenses. The court must resolve any outstanding issues before subsequent fiscal year funds will be released.

It is expected that some projects may encounter unexpected challenges or opportunities that require a change in plans, including changes in timing or resource allocation. As these are innovation grants, courts are not strictly bound by their original budget and timeline. In the event a court decides to modify its approach or Budget Detail Worksheet, this should be brought to the attention of the Judicial Council in the next quarterly reports, as described in Section 5.2 and Attachments D and E.

The court agrees that any part of the award remaining unexpended beyond the grant period must be returned to the Judicial Council within 60 days after project completion. If the court does not return the funds within a timely matter, or if expenditures are deemed ineligible, the Judicial Council may transfer the funds from the appellate court to the Judicial Council, or withhold a like amount from the trial court's annual court funding allocation.

5.0 PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

5.1 Program Training

The Judicial Council may conduct informational meetings related to each of the three grant categories.⁴ Grant funds may be used for travel expenses for attendance at meetings.

5.2 Grant Administration Reporting and Tracking

Quarterly Grant Administration Reports: Award recipients must submit quarterly grant administration reports that summarize grant-related activities. Reports are due no later than 30 days following the end of each fiscal year quarter. A template will be provided for the following reports:

- *Quarterly Progress Report (Attachment D):* Includes progress toward goals and objectives, program achievements and challenges, collaboration with justice system and other local partners, and changes to key staff or procedures. Also includes measurable outcomes as identified by the court in the program proposal (see **Program Evaluation and Data Collection**, Section 5.3).

⁴ The Judicial Council may use the funds designated as administrative funds in Provision 20 of Item 0250-101-0932 of the Budget Act of 2016 to conduct program training.

- *Quarterly Request to Revise Budget Detail Worksheet* (Attachment E): If a grant recipient (1) has moved funds from one or more budget line item in the Budget Detail Worksheet to another during the past quarter, (2) desires to move funds from one or more budget line item to another in the future, or (3) desires to move funds from one annual period to another, it must submit this document to the Judicial Council. The Judicial Council will then decide whether to accept or reject each request.

Fiscal Tracking: Award recipients agree to track, account for, and report on all expenditures related to the Program separately from all other expenditures. Program funds may be used in conjunction with other funding as necessary to complete projects; however, tracking and reporting of expenditures specific to the grant funds must be separate.

Final Report: Award recipients must submit a final report due to the Judicial Council 60 days after completion. This report should itemize how grant funds were spent; describe what was accomplished, including the receipt of any products or services delivered by consultants; and offer advice to other courts that might seek to replicate the project. The IBA will provide additional information and details on the required elements of the final report.

Supporting Documentation: Award recipients agree to maintain supporting documentation (e.g., timesheets, invoices, contracts, etc.) used to compile reports, and to provide copies of this supporting documentation to the Judicial Council or its designee, as requested.

5.3 Program Evaluation and Data Collection

Grant recipients agree to adhere to quarterly data collection and reporting requirements as outlined by the Judicial Council. The Judicial Council will provide data collection tools, reporting templates, and instructions for submitting data. Judicial Council staff will provide data collection technical assistance and will work with funded projects to ensure that data can be collected and reported to the Judicial Council.

6.0 TIMELINE FOR REQUEST FOR APPLICATION

6.1 Summary of Key Events

All dates are subject to change at the discretion of the Judicial Council.

EVENT	DATE
Draft Request for Applications Provided to Judicial Council for Review and Approval	August 25–26, 2016
Release Request for Applications	September 1, 2016

Deadline for Questions for Applicant Teleconferences	September 15, 2016
Applicant Teleconferences	September 20, 2016
Deadline for Notice of Intent to Apply	September 26, 2016
Grant Application Due	October 31, 2016
Judicial Branch Budget Committee Review	November 2016– March 2017
Presentation to Judicial Council	April 2017
Notice of Intent to Award	April 28, 2017
Negotiation and Execution of Intra-Branch Agreement	April 28, 2017– June 1, 2017
Intra-Branch Agreement Start Date	June 1, 2017
Intra-Branch Agreement End Date	June 30, 2020

6.2 Grant Applicant Teleconferences

Judicial Council staff will host applicant teleconferences for courts interested in applying for this grant. The purpose of the applicant teleconferences is to provide an opportunity for courts to ask specific questions regarding the grant application, grant program requirements, and terms and conditions for funding.

The applicant teleconferences are scheduled for September 20, 2016. Interested applicants should RSVP by e-mail to InnovationsGrants@jud.ca.gov for a teleconference.

To ensure a fair process, applicants (including interested justice system partners and co-applicants) should submit their questions in advance by e-mail to InnovationsGrants@jud.ca.gov. Questions must be received by 5:00 p.m. on September 15, 2016. Requests for clarification or guidance should indicate the RFA page number and section, and state the question clearly. Judicial Council staff will consolidate or paraphrase questions for efficiency and clarity. Questions and answers will be posted to www.courts.ca.gov/InnovationsGrants.htm within one week following the conference call and may be updated, as needed.

7.0 SUBMISSIONS OF PROPOSALS

Proposals should provide information that satisfies the requirements outlined in this RFA. Expensive bindings, color displays, etc., are not necessary or desired. Emphasis should be placed on conformity to the RFA’s instructions and requirements, and completeness and clarity of content.

The applicant must submit one (1) original of the proposal in a sealed envelope. For Superior Courts of California, the application cover page (Attachment A) must be signed by the presiding judge or court executive officer. For California Appellate Courts, the application cover page must be signed by the Chief Justice, administrative presiding

justice, or clerk/administrator. The original proposal must be submitted to the Judicial Council of California Special Projects Office. The applicant must write the RFA title on the outside of the sealed envelope.

The applicant must submit an electronic version of the entire proposal by e-mail to InnovationsGrants@jud.ca.gov.

Proposals must be delivered by October 31, 2016, no later than 5:00 p.m., to:

Judicial Council of California
Special Projects Office
Attn: Laura Brown, Administrative Coordinator
2860 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 400
Sacramento, California 95833-4329

Late proposals will not be accepted.

8.1 PROPOSAL CONTENTS AND INSTRUCTIONS

The following information must be included in the proposal and must cover a grant period not to exceed June 30, 2020. A proposal lacking any of the following information may be deemed non-responsive.

The proposal package consists of four parts:

- (1) Application Cover Page/Court Contact Information (Attachment A)**
Provide lead court name, address, and telephone number in addition to the name, title, and e-mail address of the individual who will act as the court Project Manager for purposes of this RFA.
- (2) Project Abstract**
Maximum 1 page, 12 point, Times New Roman, double-spaced.
Clearly state the grant category (i.e., collaborative courts, self-help, family and juvenile courts, and other) for which the court is applying, the total dollar amount requested, and a brief description of the proposed use of funds.
- (3) Project Narrative**
Maximum 15 pages, 12 point, Times New Roman, double-spaced.
The project narrative should address the requirements of this RFA and include the components described in Sections 8.1.1–8.2.4 below.

(4) Cost Proposal (Attachments B and C)

The cost proposal is not included in the project narrative's 15-page limit.

The cost proposal should provide high-level and detailed budget information regarding the proposed program.

Any proposal that does not include all four components will be considered incomplete and will be excluded from consideration.

Proposals will be evaluated on a 300-point scale

Proposals will be evaluated based on the attributes and scoring criteria listed in Sections 8.1 and 8.2 below. If an item listed below is not applicable to the program, briefly explain why it does not apply. For all of the areas that follow please be concise and specific.

8.1 Project Attributes—200 points

8.1.1 Program Need (50 points)

What current need will be met or problem solved by providing funding for this project? Specifically, address the following:

- The current need or problem to be addressed by the proposal, including contributing factors and data when possible.
- Previous or current efforts to address the identified problem in this or other courts, including effectiveness and limitations of these efforts.

8.1.2 Benefits (50 points)

What benefits will be derived through the implementation of this project?

- Identify the benefits of the project to both the courts and the general population it serves.

A combined total of 100 points are available for items 8.1.3–8.1.8

Applicants should address those areas below that are applicable to the grant proposal.

8.1.3 Accessibility

How will this proposal promote accessibility (i.e. greater access to court resources and a more user friendly court system) for the public?

8.1.4 Innovation

What makes this proposal innovative?

- Is this proposal a new idea? If a similar program is already being used by other courts, what makes your program innovative?

- If used by other courts, identify the courts and any differences to this proposal.

8.1.5 Modernization

How will this proposal provide modernization to the court?

- Include information on the focus of modernization and how the proposal will move from the current condition to a more modern state.

8.1.6 Efficiency

How will this proposal result in efficiencies in savings of time, materials, and resources while ensuring that access to justice is not diminished?

- Describe the efficiencies that are being envisioned (e.g. reduction in wait times, time savings for staff, etc.).
- If fiscal savings are expected through efficiencies (directly or indirectly), specifically identify how these savings will be redeployed to improve access in this or another area of the court.

8.1.7 Replicability

How can this proposal be replicated in other courts?

- Identify if replication is available in all courts or recommended only in similar or like-size courts.
- Describe any issues which would prohibit other courts from implementation of this proposal.
- Discuss whether replication by other courts would require start-up costs, or if awarding of funds for this proposal would lend itself to direct implementation without cost to other courts in the future.
- Discuss mechanisms for future replication and discuss any willingness to offer other courts technical assistance.

8.1.8 Sustainability

How will you ensure that the project funded by this program will continue after expenditure of the grant award?

- Describe information on ongoing cost expectations and where funding would come from post-grant funding.

8.2 Project Management—100 points

8.2.1 Project and Implementation Plan (15 points)

Provide a Project and Implementation Plan that includes:

- A timeline for the proposed project.
- Detailed information on project activities, and major milestones.

8.2.2 Program Management Capability (15 points)

Provide names of all individuals who will be involved in project management, oversight, and decision making processes.

- Describe applicant's experience and capability to conduct the project, experience of other individuals who will be involved, and the history of conducting and managing similar projects of all who will be involved.
- List justice system partners who may be involved in the project but not included as part of the overall management/staffing plan, and their roles, responsibilities, and qualifications.

8.2.3 Program Evaluation (defined success) and Outcomes (20 points)

How will you define success for the proposed project? How will you measure the success of the project if funding is provided?

- Define success in terms of this proposal.
- Identify the goals and measurable objectives that will be implemented with the grant funds.

Outcome Measurements

For applicable program attributes noted below, provide a description of:

- How **innovation** will be measured and what data will be reported.
- How **modernization** will be measured and what data will be reported.
- How **efficiency** will be measured and what data will be reported.
- How **replicability** will be measured and what data will be reported.
- How **sustainability** will be measured and what data will be reported.
- How **accessibility** will be measured and what data will be reported.

Describe your ability to collect data for the project attributes noted above, including any current data collection practices related to the project proposed.

- Identify possible data sources and explain the plan for collaborating with justice system partners to collect and report required data.
- Include anticipated challenges related to collecting data as well as data quality issues.
- Describe methods for assuring data quality and maintaining data confidentiality.

8.2.4 Cost Proposal (50 points)

The proposed budget will be evaluated based on reasonableness and cost-effectiveness in relation to the goals of the project.

Proposed Costs

On the Budget Summary Worksheet (Attachment B), provide high-level budgetary information regarding your proposed project to be paid for with grant funds. Using the Budget Detail Worksheets template (Attachment C), include a detailed line item budget showing the costs of the proposed project to be paid for with grant funding.

Cost estimates must be provided for each of the following:

- June 1, 2017–June 30, 2017 Budget;
- July 1, 2017–June 30, 2018 Budget;
- July 1, 2018–June 30, 2019 Budget; and
- July 1, 2019–June 30, 2020 Budget.

Please remember that all expenses must be paid—not just encumbered—by June 30, 2020.

The Budget Detail Worksheets include the following four main budget categories:

- Personnel Services: List each position by title and name of employee (if known), show the monthly salary rate, the percentage of time (hours spent divided by total hours worked) to be devoted to the project or number of months the employee will be needed for the project. A full benefit breakdown should also be included for the same time base and number of months.
- Operating Expenses: Include travel expenses, equipment, supplies, and other costs. It should consist of actual costs paid by the court.
- Consultants/Contractors: Include a breakdown of type and cost of services to be provided and estimated time on the project.

- **Indirect Costs:** Identified as those costs that cannot be directly assigned to a particular activity but are necessary to the operation of the organization and the performance of the project. The costs of operating and maintaining facilities, accounting services, and administrative salaries are examples of indirect costs. In order to qualify to be reimbursed for indirect costs, the program must comply with the following:
 - Court staff salaries and benefits funded by this grant must appear in the Personnel Services cost category on the budget sheet;
 - The indirect cost rate of no more than 20% of the court staff salaries and benefits funded by this grant may be reimbursed if the court has a current Judicial Council–approved indirect cost rate on file; and
 - Partner agency and subcontractor indirect costs are not allowed.

Calculating indirect costs: Add the court employee salary and benefits funded through this grant and multiply that total by the Judicial Council–approved indirect cost rate or 20% (whichever is lower). This is the maximum amount that will be reimbursed to the court.

Proposed budgets must be complete and allowable (e.g., reasonable, allowable, and necessary for project activities).

Budget Justification

Provide a budget narrative and include a full explanation of all budget line items, a brief description of the factors and reasons for the funds requested, how the budget costs will cover the entire grant period, the reasonableness of the budget request, and an explanation of the cost/value effectiveness of the proposed project.

- Include in the discussion the total proposed budget in relation to the need, innovation, sustainability, modernization, and efficiency of the proposal during the grant period, and the potential replicability in the future.
- Applicants should describe cost effectiveness in relation to potential alternatives and goals of the project.
- The narrative should explain how the applicant estimated and calculated costs, and how those costs are relevant to the completion of the proposed project.
- The narrative should thoroughly and clearly describe every category of expense listed in the Budget Detail Worksheets.

9.0 EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

The Judicial Branch Budget Committee will evaluate the proposals on a 300-point scale using the criteria set forth in the tables below. Applicants may be asked to respond to questions from Judicial Branch Budget Committee members and/or Judicial Council staff to clarify elements set forth in their proposals.

Table 1.0—Project Attributes

CRITERION	RFA SECTION	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF POINTS
Program Need	8.1.1	50
Benefits	8.1.2	50
Accessibility	8.1.3	A combined total of 100 points are available for these six criteria
Innovation	8.1.4	
Modernization	8.1.5	
Efficiency	8.1.6	
Replicability	8.1.7	
Sustainability	8.1.8	
		200

Table 2.0—Project Management

CRITERION	RFA SECTION	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF POINTS
Project and Implementation Plan	8.2.1	15
Program Management Capability	8.2.2	15
Program Evaluation and Outcomes	8.2.3	20
Cost Proposal	8.2.4	50
Total Project Management		100

Notices of intent to award will be posted to www.courts.ca.gov/InnovationsGrants.htm by April 28, 2017.

ATTACHMENT A: APPLICATION COVER PAGE/COURT CONTACT INFORMATION



**APPLICATION COVER PAGE
COURT INNOVATIONS GRANT PROGRAM**

The purpose of the Court Innovations Grant Program is to promote innovation, modernization, and efficiency for court programs.

A. Name of Applicant Court: _____

B. Name of Court's Project Manager: _____

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

C. Name of other court(s) participating in applying court's use of funds:

D. Grant category applied for:

- Collaborative Courts
- Self-help, Family and Juvenile Courts
- Other Efficiencies Across all Types of Courts

E. Amount of funds applied for: _____

Judicial Officer Signature Date

Court Administrator Sign ature Date

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Grant applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on October 31, 2016.

✓Application must be signed by: Chief Justice, administrative presiding justice, presiding judge, clerk/administrator, or CEO.

✓Submit an electronic version of the entire proposal to InnovationsGrants@jud.ca.gov.

✓Submit one (1) original of the proposal in a sealed envelope.

✓Write the RFA title on the outside of the sealed envelope.

Proposals must be delivered by October 31, 2016, no later than 5:00 p.m., to:

Judicial Council of California
Special Projects Office
Attn: Laura Brown, Administrative Coordinator
2860 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 400
Sacramento, California 95833-4329

ATTACHMENT B: BUDGET SUMMARY WORKSHEET

Court

BUDGET SUMMARY: ESTIMATE FOR PROPOSED PROJECT PERIOD

Funds available for thirty-seven month period from 6/01/2017 - 6/30/2020

Identify the Full Period for Proposed Program -

BUDGET CATEGORY	TOTAL
PERSONNEL SERVICES: <i>Salary and benefits.</i>	
EQUIPMENT	
INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS & SUPPLIES	
OFFICE SUPPLIES	
TRAVEL	
TRAINING	
OTHER DIRECT COSTS (ODC)	
OTHER DIRECT COSTS (ODC)	
OTHER DIRECT COSTS (ODC)	
CONTRACTORS & CONSULTANTS	
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS	
INDIRECT COST PERCENTAGE	
TOTAL INDIRECT COSTS	
TOTAL ESTIMATED COSTS FOR PROPOSED PROJECT PERIOD	

ATTACHMENT C: BUDGET DETAIL WORKSHEETS

/ / - / /
 (MM/DD/YYYY) - (MM/DD/YYYY)
 (fill in one budget detail worksheet for each fiscal year)

Total Budget (include all totals and indirect cost percentage) \$

A. PERSONNEL SERVICES

SALARY

Name/Position	Computation (Salary per month X number of months needed X percentage FTE)	Cost
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
Total		\$

BENEFITS

Name/Position	Medical %	Dental %	Retirement %	Life Insurance %	Social Sec/ Medicare %	Other (please describe) %	Total Benefit Rate %	Cost
								\$
								\$
								\$
								\$
								\$
								\$
								\$
								\$
Total								\$

B. OPERATING EXPENSES

EQUIPMENT (computers, office equipment)

Item	Computation	Cost
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
	Total	\$

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL AND SUPPLIES

Item	Purpose	Computation	Cost
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
		Total	\$

OFFICE SUPPLIES

Item	Computation	Cost
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
	Total	\$

TRAVEL - (Include location, number of travelers, hotel, meals, transportation, etc. Include costs for travel to Judicial Council as per RFA Section TBD)

Purpose of Travel	Item	Computation	Cost
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
		Total	\$

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION/NARRATIVE

Include a full explanation of all budget line items, a brief description of the factors and reasons for the funds requested, how the budget costs will cover the entire grant period, the reasonableness of the budget request, and an explanation of the cost/value effectiveness of the proposed program

- Include in the discussion the total proposed budget in relation to the need, innovation, sustainability, modernization, and efficiency of the proposal during the grant period, and the potential replicability in the future.
- Applicants should describe cost effectiveness in relation to potential alternatives, and goals of the project.
- The narrative should explain how the applicant estimated and calculated costs, and how those costs are relevant to the completion of the proposed project.
- The narrative should thoroughly and clearly describe every category of expense listed in the Budget Detail Worksheets.

1. Personnel Services (Salary and Benefits)

DRAFT

<p>2. Operating Expenses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• EQUIPMENT (computers, office equipment)• INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL AND SUPPLIES• OFFICE SUPPLIES• TRAVEL• TRAINING• OTHER – (any other expenses directly related to the project not listed already)
<p>DRAFT</p>

3. CONSULTANTS/CONTRACTORS
<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 48px; opacity: 0.3; transform: rotate(-30deg);">DRAFT</p>

ATTACHMENT D: QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT**COURT INNOVATIONS GRANT PROGRAM
QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT**

Please complete this *Quarterly Progress Report* regarding the status of your program funded by the Court Innovations Grant Program. You may want to refer to your *Project and Implementation Plan, Intra-Branch Agreement (IBA)*, and *Budget Detail Worksheet* when completing this report to see what activities are expected within specific timeframes. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your grant manager at the Judicial Council.

IBA No.: ►		Date Report Prepared: ►	/ / (MM/DD/YYYY)
Relevant Fiscal Year Quarter: ►	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 st (FY 2017-18) <input type="checkbox"/> 2 nd (FY 2017-18) <input type="checkbox"/> 3 rd (FY 2017-18) <input type="checkbox"/> 4 th (FY2017-18) <input type="checkbox"/> 1 st (FY 2018-19) <input type="checkbox"/> 2 nd (FY 2018-19) <input type="checkbox"/> 3 rd (FY 2018-19) <input type="checkbox"/> 4 th (FY 2018-19) <input type="checkbox"/> 1 st (FY 2019-20) <input type="checkbox"/> 2 nd (FY 2019-20) <input type="checkbox"/> 3 rd (FY 2019-20) <input type="checkbox"/> 4 th (FY 2019-20)		
Contact Information for Person Completing this Form: ▼			
Name: ►			
E-mail Address: ►			
Telephone Number: ►			
Please provide the following information: ▼			
1. Program activities occurring during the relevant quarter and how they progressed your program's goals and objectives: ▼			

**Court Innovations Grant Program
Attachment A**

2. Any significant changes, challenges, or problems that developed, and how they were or will be addressed (e.g., any changes to staff working on the program, changes to procedures, and changes to the *Project and Implementation Plan*): ▼

3. Measurable outcomes to date, as identified in your program proposal and/or IBA, and any potential savings to date: ▼

4. The status of any relevant collaborations with the justice system and other local or state partners: ▼

5. Program activities scheduled for the next quarter, and how they will progress your program's goals and objectives: ▼

6. Any potential departures from the *Project and Implementation Plan*, IBA, and *Budget Detail Worksheet* occurring in the next quarter: ▼

7. Any additional information that your IBA requires you to provide: ▼

ATTACHMENT E: QUARTERLY REQUEST TO REVISE BUDGET DETAIL WORKSHEET**COURT INNOVATIONS GRANT PROGRAM
QUARTERLY REQUEST TO REVISE BUDGET DETAIL WORKSHEET**

This *Quarterly Request to Revise Budget Detail Worksheet* should be completed on a quarterly basis if one of the following occurs regarding Court Innovations Grant Program funds: (1) your court desires to move funds from one fiscal year to another fiscal year; (2) in the last quarter, your court used funds from one or more budget categories for other category purposes; or (3) your court desires to move funds from one or more budget categories to other budget categories for future expenditure purposes. Please provide the requested information for the budget categories affected by your revisions on the following worksheets. If no change is being requested, you do not need to complete this form.

**Request to Move Funds from One Fiscal Year to Another Fiscal Year
(Only Complete Worksheet for Budget Categories Affected)**

Budget Category	Funds Being Moved	Fiscal Year (Pre-Revision)	Fiscal Year (Post-Revision)	Reason for Revision
SALARIES				
BENEFITS				
EQUIPMENT				
INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS				
OFFICE SUPPLIES				
TRAVEL				
TRAINING				
CONSULTANTS/CONTRACTORS				
INDIRECT COSTS				
OTHER COSTS:				

**Request to Move Funds from One Budget Category to Another Budget Category
(Only Complete Worksheet for Budget Categories Affected)**

Budget Category	Total Budgeted (Pre-Revision)	Total Budgeted (Post-Revision)	Relevant Fiscal Year	Reason for Revision
SALARIES				
BENEFITS				
EQUIPMENT				
INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS				
OFFICE SUPPLIES				
TRAVEL				
TRAINING				
CONSULTANTS/CONTRACTORS				
INDIRECT COSTS				
OTHER COSTS:				

The Judicial Council will decide whether to accept or reject this *Request to Revise Budget Detail Worksheet*. As stated in the *Request for Applications*, the Judicial Council anticipates that projects may encounter unexpected challenges or opportunities that require a change in plans, including changes in timing or resource allocation. The Judicial Council therefore created this form to allow courts to update their budgets. After it receives this form, the Judicial Council will notify your court whether it accepts the requested revisions. If it does not, the Judicial Council will work with your court to help provide flexibility while also ensuring that funds are properly allocated and spent. Should you have any questions regarding budget revisions, please do not hesitate to contact your grant manager at the Judicial Council.

The Budget Act of 2016: Court Innovations Grant Program

Section 2, Item 0250-101-0932 of the Budget Act of 2016¹ provides:

Provisions 1.–13. * * *

14. Of the funds appropriated in Schedule (1), \$25,000,000 shall be used for the establishment, operation, administration, and staffing of the Court Innovations Grant Program for trial and appellate court programs and practices that promote innovation, modernization, and efficiency. The funds are designated for a competitive grant program developed and administered by the Judicial Council. The competitive grant program will focus on high priority innovations, modernizations, and efficiencies in the courts; \$12,000,000 to be spent on collaborative courts, \$8,000,000 on Self-help, Family and Juvenile courts, and \$5,000,000 on other efficiencies across all types of courts.
15. Courts participating in the Court Innovations Grant Program must describe how funds will be used to support the development of innovative programs and practices that are sustainable after the grant award period and can be adopted and replicated by other courts. Funds shall be used for judicial branch programs that may include partnerships with other government entities. Funded programs shall include measurable results, outcomes, or benefits that have demonstrated impact on the court and the public it serves.
16. The Judicial Council shall develop and implement a plan to disseminate information about innovative practices funded through this program and shall consider the adoption of appropriate modifications to the California Rules of Court and other judicial branch policies, procedures, and programs in order to support the expansion of successful programs funded through this grant.
17. Courts receiving funding from the Court Innovations Grant Program shall report quarterly to the Judicial Council on fund expenditures, impacts, and potential savings associated with the funded programs. No later than September 30, 2017, and each year thereafter, the Judicial Council shall provide a report to the Department of Finance and the Joint Legislative Budget Committee on the grant program.
18. Court Innovations Grants are two to three years in duration and may be awarded on a rolling basis.
19. Of the funds appropriated in Schedule (1) of this item, \$25,000,000 is available for encumbrance and expenditure through June 30, 2020, after which any unexpended funds shall revert to the General Fund.
20. Up to five percent of funds appropriated in Schedule (1) of this item designated for the Court Innovations Grant Program shall be transferred to Schedule (3) of Item 0250-001-0001 and made available to the Judicial Council for the administration of the program and to support the expansion of successful programs in other courts. Funds transferred pursuant to

¹ Sen. Bill 826 (Leno), Stats. 2016, ch. 23 (amended May 25, 2016), available at http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB826.

this provision are available for encumbrance and expenditure through June 30, 2020, after which any unexpended funds shall revert to the General Fund.

21. From the funds appropriated in Schedule (4), to the extent possible, interpreter services should be provided by an in-person interpreter. This does not preclude trial courts from using other means to provide interpreter services, after in-person options have been reasonably exhausted.

Innovations Grants Ad Hoc Working Group

As of June 22, 2016

Hon. David Rosenberg, Chair

Presiding Judge of the
Superior Court of California,
County of Yolo

Mr. Alan Carlson

Court Executive Officer
Superior Court of California,
County of Orange

Hon. Steven D. Barnes

Presiding Judge of the
Superior Court of California,
County of Kings

Ms. Teresa Risi

Court Executive Officer
Superior Court of California,
County of Monterey

Hon. Jeffrey B. Barton

Presiding Judge of the
Superior Court of California,
County of San Diego

Ms. Charlene Ynson

Clerk/Administrator of the Court of Appeal,
Fifth Appellate District

Hon. David M. Chapman

Judge of the Superior Court of California,
County of Riverside

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Judicial Council of California