



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

For business meeting on November 16–17, 2017

Title	Agenda Item Type
Judicial Branch: Quarterly Report on the Judicial Council’s Court Innovations Grant Program, Fiscal Year 2017–18, Quarter 1	Information Only
Submitted by	Date of Report
Judicial Branch Budget Committee Hon. David M. Rubin, Chair	October 26, 2017
	Contact
	Maureen Dumas, 916-263-2290 maureen.dumas@jud.ca.gov

Executive Summary

This report summarizes activities of the Judicial Council’s Court Innovations Grant Program since March 2017, when the Judicial Council approved grants for 52 innovative projects for 28 superior courts and one appellate court.

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. Out of this \$23.5 million, \$11.3 million was awarded for collaborative court projects; \$7.5 million was awarded for self-help, family, and juvenile projects; and \$4.7 was awarded for efficiency projects. The funding for these grants was authorized in the Budget Act of 2016.¹

In addition to awarding these grants, the Council voted to allocate \$625,000 (out of the statutorily authorized \$1.25 million) for administration costs, and to retain 3–4 percent of each category’s funding as a contingency for unforeseen costs that may be incurred as projects are rolled out.

¹ Available at www.courts.ca.gov/documents/cipg-budget-act.pdf.

In June 2017, the Council voted to delegate to the Judicial Branch Budget Committee (JBBC) the authority to decide whether to approve funding adjustments. The delegation requires the JBBC to use the same criteria that were used in deciding the original awards and to report quarterly to the council about any authorized adjustments.

In September 2017, Administrative Director Martin Hoshino sent a letter to the Legislature and the Department of Finance reporting on the status of the program (Attachment A). This report highlighted the Court Innovations Grant Program activities that occurred between June 2016 and August 2017.

Methodology and Process

Judicial Branch Budget Committee Funding Adjustments

The JBBC authorized these grant adjustments in the first quarter of the fiscal year:

- The Adult Drug Court project of the Mendocino Superior Court was granted an additional \$91,350 for residential and transitional housing costs.
- The Evidence-Based Sentencing Triage Assessment Unit project of the San Diego Superior Court was granted an additional \$225,113 for staffing costs.
- The Community Supervision Court project of the San Joaquin Superior Court was granted an additional \$100,355 for staffing costs.

Contingency Fund Balance

As of September 2017, the balance of the contingency fund was \$2,056,647 (\$1,557,534 for collaborative court projects;² \$350,725 for self-help, family, and juvenile court projects; and \$148,387 for efficiency projects). The JBBC will continue to monitor the contingency fund closely.

Summary of Findings

51 projects³ are moving forward. The total amount awarded to these projects totals \$22.3 million (\$10.1 million for collaborative court projects;⁴ \$7.5 million for self-help, family, and juvenile court projects; and \$4.7 million for efficiency projects). All of this amount has not been distributed, however, because the grant period covers three fiscal years and only portions of the grants are distributed in each of these years. So far this year, \$10.7 million has been distributed

² One court declined its award after more closely considering a cost-benefit analysis of its program. This resulted in a balance in the contingency fund for the Collaborative Court category exceeding the original 3 to 4% threshold.

³ The 53 original awards are funding 51 projects because one court declined its award, and two separate grants were awarded from different funding categories (“Collaborative Courts” and “Self-help, Family and Juvenile Courts”) to the Placer Superior Court’s Video Appearances project.

⁴ Again, less money was actually awarded in the Collaborative Courts category because one court declined its award.

to 47 projects⁵ as shown in table 1. Additional funds will be distributed in the beginning of fiscal years 2018–19 and 2019–20.

Table 1. Funded Grant Programs, Fiscal Years 2016–17 and 2017–18

Grant Category	Number of Projects	Amount Funded (in millions of dollars)
Collaborative Court Programs	14	\$ 4.1
Self-Help, Family, and Juvenile Court Programs	20	3.3
Other Court Efficiencies	13	3.3
Total	47	\$ 10.7

Implementation Efforts

The JBBC will receive the first quarterly reports from the projects at the end of October, and it has not yet had time to review them. But in the meantime, the JBBC can report on the following program developments:

- Project Collaboration
 - Many of the grants awarded are for projects involving technological innovations. Rob Oyung, the Council’s chief information officer, will facilitate communication between the projects so they effectively can share information and coordinate, and he will provide assistance for project management and training. Regular conference calls will be held for participating courts.
 - The Orange County Superior Court hosted a conference in October for Self-Help projects. The conference included presentations and discussions about nine projects. Participating courts will continue to share information and to coordinate by using an online sharing site and participating in regularly scheduled conference calls.
- Project Highlights
 - In August, the Stanislaus County Superior Court opened a new Outreach and Engagement Center in Modesto. The center is a partnership between the court, several nonprofit organizations, local government entities, and community stakeholders. It will provide homeless people with court resources and help them prepare for their upcoming

⁵ Of the four projects not yet funded, two projects will receive funding this fiscal year once the Intra-Branch Agreements are finalized. The remaining two projects will begin to receive funding in fiscal year 2018–19.

court dates. The center will also provide homeless people with screenings and referrals to support services and housing programs.

- In September, the San Mateo County Superior Court launched a DUI Court that will closely monitor repeat misdemeanor drunk driving offenders, create individual treatment plans, and refer participants to education and employment opportunities.
- Also in September, the Contra Costa County Superior Court hosted a demonstration of new features developed for the Virtual Self-Help Site, including more-intuitive icons, a virtual assistant that responds to natural language and learns from previous interactions, a case-tracking portal accessible by the user's identification and password, and fillable forms that assist users in completing repetitive information.
- In Fresno County, Judge Kimberly Nystrom-Geist has begun cooperative efforts with county law enforcement and social services agencies, tribal organizations, and community leaders to establish a Juvenile Human Trafficking Court. Strategic planning is underway to ensure that the court's interactions with other courts and systems will be integrated and smooth.
- The San Joaquin County Superior Court has started to implement a Community Supervision Court system that will integrate the existing DUI Court and Drug Court under one coordinated system. The system will provide better continuity of service and a more comprehensive approach by validating assessments, having multiple tracks, providing a continuum of intervention and treatment, improving mental-health referral processes, and implementing gender-responsive calendars.

Next Steps

Under the JBBC's oversight, Council staff will 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, and sustainability of each project. Council Audit Services staff will assist with monitoring the grant program by conducting periodic reviews of specific grant programs.

Attachments

1. Attachment A: *Report on the Judicial Council's Court Innovations Grant Program in accordance with the Budget Act of 2016* (Sept. 8, 2017)



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Chair of the Judicial Council

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Chair, Executive and Planning Committee

HON. DAVID M. RUBIN
Chair, Judicial Branch Budget Committee
Chair, Litigation Management Committee

HON. KENNETH K. SO
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MR. MARTIN HOSHINO
Administrative Director,
Judicial Council

September 8, 2017

Hon. Holly J. Mitchell, Chair
Joint Legislative Budget Committee
1020 N Street, Room 553
Sacramento, California 95814

Hon. Philip Y. Ting, Vice Chair
Joint Legislative Budget Committee
1020 N Street, Room 553
Sacramento, California 95814

Mr. Michael Cohen
Director, Department of Finance
915 L Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Report on the Judicial Council's Court Innovations Grant Program in
accordance with the Budget Act of 2016

Dear Senator Mitchell, Assembly Member Ting, and Mr. Cohen:

I am writing to report on the Court Innovations Grant Program, which was approved in the Budget Act of 2016 (Sen. Bill 826; Stats. 2016, ch. 23).¹ This Act allocated \$25 million to the judicial branch to promote court innovations and efficiencies through a grant program. Of this \$25 million, \$12 million was earmarked for collaborative courts, \$8 million for family, juvenile and self-help programs, and \$5 million for other efficiencies. Five percent (\$1.25 million) was authorized to administer and evaluate the program.²

I am pleased to report that the Judicial Council swiftly launched a highly competitive grant process, which has resulted in \$23.5 million in grants being awarded for 52 programs designed to improve court services or increase court

¹ Available at www.courts.ca.gov/documents/cipg-budget-act.pdf.

² To increase the amount of funds available to be awarded for grants, the Judicial Council will use only \$625,000 of the \$1.25 million authorized.

efficiencies. These grants were approved by the Judicial Council at its March 24, 2017 meeting, and they were distributed to 28 trial courts and one appellate court.

Many parts of the judicial branch worked together to implement the grant process and to ensure its success. In June 2016, the Chief Justice appointed an ad hoc working group to formulate rules for the process. This group developed a Request for Applications (RFA), which was approved by the council at its August 25, 2016 meeting. The RFA was issued to all local and state courts on September 1, 2016, and it required final grant applications to be submitted by October 31, 2016. Interest in the program was tremendous. We received over 118 applications from 42 courts (38 trial courts and 4 appellate courts) collectively seeking over \$70 million in funding.

The responsibility for administering the competitive grant process was assigned to the council's Judicial Branch Budget Committee. The committee met frequently, and it carefully scored each application under established criteria. This criteria was designed to ensure fairness and to promote sensible innovations and efficiencies in accordance with legislative directives. The committee's recommendations were presented to the Judicial Council, which approved them at its March 2017 meeting.

Of the \$23.5 million in total grants awarded, \$11.3 million was awarded for collaborative court programs, \$7.5 million was awarded for self-help, family and juvenile programs, and \$4.7 million was awarded for other programs to increase court efficiencies. Attachment A is a list of the grants awarded. As shown in this attachment, some minor changes in awards have been made. One court declined its award after more closely considering a cost-benefit analysis of its program, and some awards were modestly increased consistent with delegated authority.³ Currently, 51 projects are moving forward, totaling \$22.3 million (\$10.1 million for collaborative court programs, \$7.5 million for self-help, family, and juvenile court programs, and \$4.7 million to other court efficiencies).

In addition to awarding the grants, the council retained three to four percent of the funding in each grant category for contingency funding to pay for unforeseen costs that might arise during the grant period. As indicated in the table below, the amount of the contingency fund has grown. This increase is the result of the one court declining its grant. The contingency fund will be monitored and, as appropriate, funds will be allocated to courts on an as-needed basis during the grant period.

Contingency Fund Balance as of September 2017

Total	Collaborative	Self-help	Other
\$2,056,647	\$1,557,534	\$350,725	\$148,387

³ Circulating Order CO-17-04, delegating funding adjustments related to the Court Innovations Grant Program to the Judicial Branch Budget Committee, was approved by the Judicial Council on June 30, 2017. A copy of the circulating order can be found at <https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=5311536&GUID=0A5CC66D-930B-4818-A504-F8FF88486F06>.

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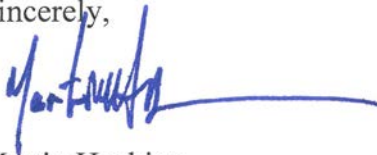
Each of the 51 projects is covered by an Intra-branch Agreement (IBA) between the Judicial Council and the recipient court. These IBAs require recipient courts to submit quarterly reports to council staff starting October 30, 2017. These reports are to include the following information:

- Program activities and milestones;
- Significant changes, challenges, or problems and how they were or will be addressed;
- Monetary savings (to date and prospectively);
- Measures taken to ensure the sustainability of the project;
- Measures taken to ensure the project can be replicated in other courts;
- Measurable outcomes identified in the IBAs;
- The status of any relevant collaborations with the justice system or other local or state partners; and
- Program activities scheduled for the next quarter, and how these activities will advance the program's goals and objectives.

To the extent practicable, program benefits—including products, services, materials, and technology—will be shared among different courts during the grant period. Furthermore, as the projects are implemented and as quarterly reports are received, we will continue to evaluate each program's effectiveness to determine whether it can and should be replicated in other courts.

Thank you, and if you have any questions about this program, please call me or Maureen Dumas, Principal Manager in the Judicial Council's Special Projects office, maureen.dumas@jud.ca.gov or 916-263-2290.

Sincerely,



Martin Hoshino
Administrative Director
Judicial Council

MH/MD/cp
Enclosure

cc: Diane F. Boyer-Vine, Legislative Counsel
Daniel Alvarez, Secretary of the Senate
E. Dotson Wilson, Chief Clerk of the Assembly
Jessica Devencenzi, Policy Consultant, Office of Senate President pro Tempore Kevin de León
Alf Brandt, Senior Counsel, Office of Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon
Anita Lee, Senior Fiscal and Policy Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office

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Tina McGee, Executive Secretary, Legislative Analyst's Office
Emma Jungwirth, Program Budget Analyst, Department of Finance
Margie Estrada, Chief Counsel, Senate Judiciary Committee
Julie Salley-Gray, Consultant, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Shaun Naidu, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee
Matt Osterli, Consultant, Senate Republican Fiscal Office
Mike Petersen, Consultant, Senate Republican Policy Office
Alison Merrilees, Chief Counsel, Assembly Judiciary Committee
Jazmin Hicks, Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
Pedro Reyes, Principal Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Allan Cooper, Consultant, Assembly Republican Office of Policy & Budget
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John Wordlaw, Chief Administrative Officer, Judicial Council
Peter Allen, Director, Public Affairs, Judicial Council
Cory T. Jaspersen, Director, Governmental Affairs, Judicial Council
Laura Speed, Supervising Attorney, Governmental Affairs, Judicial Council
Yvette Casillas-Sarcos, Admin Coordinator, Governmental Affairs, Judicial Council
Maureen Dumas, Principal Manager, Special Projects, Judicial Council

Judicial Council's Court Innovations Grant Program - Awardsⁱ

#	Court	Program Name	Awards
Collaborative Courts			\$ 10,142,466
1	Alameda Superior Court	Collaborative Court Management Information System	\$ 114,223
2	Contra Costa Superior Court	Veteran's Treatment Court	\$ 367,975
3	Fresno Superior Court	Human Trafficking Court Planning and Implementation	\$ 383,651
4	Humboldt Superior Court	Family Dependency Drug Court	\$ 1,414,210
5	Inyo Superior Court	Reentry Court	\$ 273,712
6	Mendocino Superior Court	Adult Drug Court	\$ 374,612
7	Placer Superior Court ⁱⁱ	Video Appearances	\$ 280,000
8	Sacramento Superior Court	Monitor and Measure the Achievement of Program Goals	\$ 311,849
9	San Diego Superior Court	Evidence-Based Sentencing Triage Assessment Unit	\$ 1,484,759
10	San Francisco Superior Court	Veterans Justice Court	\$ 318,592
11	San Joaquin Superior Court	Community Supervision Court	\$ 1,982,208
12	San Mateo Superior Court	DUI and Restitution Court	\$ 1,012,477
13	Santa Cruz Superior Court	Collaborative Justice System	\$ 1,174,633
14	Sonoma Superior Court	Veterans Court Enhancements	\$ 56,476
15	Stanislaus Superior Court	Homeless Court Program	\$ 593,090
Self-help, Family and Juvenile Courts			\$ 7,449,275
16	5th District Court of Appeal	Self-Help and Learning Center Website	\$ 317,916
17	Butte Superior Court	Remote Video-Conferencing Technology	\$ 576,140
18	Contra Costa Superior Court	California's Virtual Self Help Site	\$ 970,365
19	El Dorado Superior Court	One Family/One Judge Pilot Project	\$ 66,599
20	Los Angeles Superior Court	Self-Help Traffic Avatar (Gina) Expansion	\$ 59,373
21	Monterey Superior Court	California Court Access App	\$ 789,940
22	Orange Superior Court	Enhance Self-Help Portal	\$ 326,800
n/a	Placer Superior Court ⁱⁱ	Video Appearances	\$ 280,000
23	Riverside Superior Court	Attorney and Litigant Electronic Courtroom Self Check-In	\$ 178,732
24	Riverside Superior Court	Intelligent Self-Help Kiosk	\$ 628,774
25	Riverside Superior Court	Traffic Avatar	\$ 66,866
26	San Bernardino Superior Court	Customer Relationship Management Portal	\$ 430,756
27	San Bernardino Superior Court	Video-Conferencing Child Custody Recommending Counseling	\$ 35,538
28	San Diego Superior Court	Access to Information Made Simple	\$ 276,320
29	San Mateo Superior Court	Develop and Provide Expanded Online Self-help	\$ 336,000
30	Santa Barbara Superior Court	Instant Family Law Orders	\$ 312,926
31	Shasta Superior Court	Cooperative Parenting Program	\$ 603,559
32	Sonoma Superior Court	Queuing/Appointment/Calendaring System	\$ 56,586
33	Tuolumne Superior Court	Expand Small Claims-Civil Mediation Program	\$ 24,000
34	Ventura Superior Court	Internet Based Self-help Workshops	\$ 932,404
35	Ventura Superior Court	Juvenile Delinquency Family Engagement Workshops	\$ 88,182
36	Yolo Superior Court	Online Interactive Multilingual Tool	\$ 91,500
Other Efficiencies			\$ 4,726,613
37	5th District Court of Appeal	Modernize the Transcript Assembly Program	\$ 793,000
38	Contra Costa Superior Court	Expanding LEP Court Access	\$ 239,000
39	Humboldt Superior Court	Interactive Video Conferencing System	\$ 170,920
40	Los Angeles Superior Court	E-Filing	\$ 114,760
41	Los Angeles Superior Court	Justice System Partner and Litigant Portal	\$ 637,500
42	Merced Superior Court	Video Conference Hearings Project	\$ 194,540
43	Monterey Superior Court	Cloud Based Disaster Recovery Solution	\$ 209,361
44	Orange Superior Court	Automating the Courtroom Check-in	\$ 246,190
45	Orange Superior Court	Conservatorship Accountability Portal	\$ 212,972
46	Orange Superior Court	Court User Portal	\$ 511,200
47	Orange Superior Court	Improving Court Management Through the Use of Analytics	\$ 938,851
48	Sacramento Superior Court	Videoconferencing of Mental Health Hearings	\$ 52,860
49	San Bernardino Superior Court	Remote Video Proceedings	\$ 244,699
50	San Mateo Superior Court	Automated Line Queuing System	\$ 125,000
51	Santa Cruz Superior Court	SMS Notifications	\$ 35,760
Grand Total			\$ 22,318,354

ⁱ Grant award projects and amounts differ from the original awards as one court declined the grant award and additional monies were approved by the Judicial Branch Budget Committee for reconsideration in June of 2017 in response to funding reconsideration requests.

ⁱⁱ The Judicial Branch Budget Committee recommended the Placer Superior Court Video Appearances project to be awarded split funding from both the Collaborative Courts and the Self-help, Family and Juvenile Courts grant categories.