



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

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Title

Judicial Branch: Quarterly Report on the
Judicial Council's Court Innovations Grant
Program, Fiscal Year 2017–18, Quarter 2

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Submitted by

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

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Executive Summary

This report summarizes activities of the Judicial Council's Court Innovations Grant Program during the second quarter of fiscal year 2017–18.

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 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.

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.

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

Methodology and Process

Judicial Branch Budget Committee funding adjustments

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

- A budgetary decrease of \$20,000 was approved for the Traffic Avatar project of the Superior Court of Riverside County based on savings realized for website translation services.
- A budgetary increase of \$20,000 was approved for the Intelligent Self-Help Kiosk project of the Superior Court of Riverside County for the costs of verbal translation services, in addition to the already approved written translation services.
- A shift of \$26,159 between budget categories for the Community Supervision Court project of the Superior Court of San Joaquin County was approved. This shift reflected a move of savings from the Personnel Budget Category, due to a delay in staff placement, to the Contractor/Consultant Category for an increase in the project's Residential Treatment budget.

Judicial Branch Budget Committee project adjustments

The JBBC authorized the following grant project modifications in the second quarter of the fiscal year.

- The Remote Video-Conferencing Technology project of the Superior Court of Butte County was granted approval to substitute the Superior Court of Siskiyou County—no longer able to participate—with the Superior Court of Mendocino County as a partner court.

Contingency fund balance

As of the second quarter of fiscal year (FY) 2017–18, the balance of the contingency fund is \$2,056,646 (\$1,557,534 for collaborative court projects; \$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 and report on any changes.

Summary of Findings

Fifty-one projects are moving forward. The total amount awarded to these projects totals \$22.3 million. The total award 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. To date, \$10.78 million has been distributed to 47 projects. Additional funds will be distributed in the beginning of fiscal years 2018–19 and 2019–20 or as approved by the Judicial Branch Budget Committee.

Of the \$10.78 million distributed for FY 2017–18, approximately \$1.57 million has been expended by the awardees, with \$874,000 expended in Quarter 2 (see Attachment A for the *Court Innovations Grant Projects Fiscal Year 2017-18, Quarter 2, Expenditure Summary*).

The first quarterly reports from the grants projects were received at the end of October and beginning of November of 2017, and council staff have received the majority of the second quarterly reports due January 31, 2018. Overall, the grant projects are progressing as indicated in initial *Project Implementation Plans*, with minor exceptions due to unforeseen vendor, personnel, or regulatory challenges. In these cases, awardees have coordinated with council staff to revise the *Project Implementation Plans* to adjust timing for a task extension while ensuring the estimated project completion date is not impacted. In some grant projects, awardees, have submitted initial baseline and implementation data.

Implementation Efforts

The following are several program and project highlights for the second quarter of FY 2017–18:

- Project Highlights
 - The Remote Video-Conferencing project of the Superior Court of Butte County has progressed in partnership with the Superior Courts of Glenn, Lake, Tehama, Shasta, Humboldt, Modoc, Trinity, Imperial, Inyo, Mendocino, Nevada, and Placer Counties. The team is designing and drafting five different workshops to serve self-represented litigants that will be provided remotely. The program coordinator is working with each of the partner courts to determine the individual needs of each court to ensure utilization of the remote video-conferencing equipment. Additionally, a new feature that will assist with identifying times and dates for the remote self-help workshops (SHARP Tech connect) has been added to the court’s self-help website.
 - The Video-Conferencing Child Custody Recommending Counseling project of the Superior Court of San Bernardino County has been implemented, and approximately 20 videoconference Child Custody Recommending Counseling sessions have been conducted. The committee supporting the project has established survey questions designed to measure identified outcome goals and a method in which to gather this information. A means to track a request for remote participation in Family Court Services sessions was devised and implemented by the clerical staff.
 - In December, council staff visited the Evidence-Based Sentencing Triage Assessment Unit project of the Superior Court of San Diego County to view the software being used to assess pretrial misdemeanor and felony out-of-custody defendants to determine their risks/needs. After sentencing, the court refers the defendant to community programs designed to address drug abuse, addiction, or mental health. This new process allows the court to collect data on factors that cause people to commit crimes.
 - In December, council staff visited the Access to Information Made Simple project of the Superior Court of San Diego County and observed the new software being piloted to establish online remote appointments and an online one-way message board in the Family Facilitators Office. The software is linked with the case management system and allows the court user to view the status of his or her case. The court has also purchased hardware

to allow the family law facilitators to conduct online video conferencing appointments. This new system is aimed at decreasing the number of in-person court users and the overall wait time for these court services.

Next Steps

Under the JBBC's oversight, 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, 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: *Court Innovations Grant Projects Fiscal Year 2017-18, Quarter 2, Expenditure Summary*

**Court Innovations Grant Projects
Fiscal Year 2017-18, Quarter 2
Expenditure Summary**

Court	Project Name	Total Award	Total Distribution as of FY 2017-18, Q2	Total Project Expenditures	FY 2017-18, Q2 Expenditures
5th DCA	Self-Help and Learning Center Website	\$ 317,916.00	\$ 45,000.00		
5th DCA	Modernize the Transcript Assembly Program	\$ 793,000.00	\$ 793,000.00		
Alameda	Collaborative Court Management Information System	\$ 114,223.00	\$ 100,384.00	\$ 8,452.77	\$ 6,986.34
Butte	Remote Video-Conferencing Technology	\$ 576,140.00	\$ 356,703.00	\$ 42,831.93	\$ 41,894.54
Contra Costa	California's Virtual Self Help Site	\$ 970,365.00	\$ 339,688.00		
Contra Costa	Veteran's Treatment Court (VTC)	\$ 367,974.33	\$ 163,543.81	\$ 30,738.48	\$ 17,776.77
Contra Costa	Expanding LEP Court Access	\$ 239,000.00	\$ 232,000.00	\$ 103.92	\$ 103.92
El Dorado	One Family/One Judge Pilot Project	\$ 66,599.00	\$ 52,450.00		
Fresno	Human Trafficking Court Planning and Implementation	\$ 383,651.00	\$ 234,299.00	\$ 135,162.02	\$ 99,889.02
Humboldt	Family Dependency Drug Court	\$ 1,414,209.82	\$ 549,793.68	\$ 24,084.61	\$ 22,661.12
Humboldt	Interactive Video Conferencing System	\$ 170,919.87	\$ 170,919.87		
Inyo	Reentry Court	\$ 273,712.00	\$ 89,478.00	\$ 14,309.04	\$ 8,383.34
Los Angeles	E-Filing	\$ 114,760.00	\$ 114,760.00		
Los Angeles	Self-Help Traffic Avatar (Gina) Expansion	\$ 59,373.00	\$ 59,373.00		
Los Angeles	Justice System Partner and Litigant Portal	\$ 637,500.00	\$ 425,000.00	\$ 171,000.00	\$ 81,750.00
Mendocino	Adult Drug Court	\$ 374,611.89	\$ 92,038.44	\$ 7,495.00	\$ 3,120.00
Merced	Video Conference Hearings	\$ 194,540.00	\$ 173,880.00		
Monterey	Cloud Based Disaster Recovery Solution	\$ 209,360.74	\$ 209,360.74	\$ 744.00	\$ (6,036.00)
Monterey	California Court Access App	\$ 789,940.00	\$ 254,620.00	\$ 22,381.17	\$ 15,975.32
Orange	Court User Portal	\$ 511,200.00	\$ 170,400.00	\$ 11,904.00	\$ (1,506.55)
Orange	Improving Court Management Through the Use of Analytics	\$ 938,851.34	\$ 563,910.67	\$ 0.00	\$ (5,998.65)
Orange	Automating the Courtroom Check-in	\$ 246,190.00	\$ 222,150.00	\$ 11,904.00	\$ 2,638.74
Orange	Conservatorship Accountability Portal	\$ 212,972.00	\$ 78,720.00	\$ 11,904.00	\$ 5,743.33
Orange	Enhance Self-Help Portal	\$ 326,800.00	\$ 106,000.00	\$ 11,904.00	\$ 7,209.33
Placer	Video Appearances	\$ 560,000.00	\$ 560,000.00		
Riverside	Intelligent Self-Help Kiosk	\$ 648,774.14	\$ 395,436.69	\$ 231,879.52	\$ 77,400.00
Riverside	Traffic Avatar	\$ 46,865.65	\$ 35,611.34	\$ 2,499.50	\$ 2,499.50
Riverside	Attorney and Litigant Electronic Courtroom Self Check-in	\$ 178,732.14	\$ 166,222.69		
Sacramento	Videoconferencing of Mental Health Hearings	\$ 52,860.00	\$ 52,860.00		
Sacramento	Monitor and Measure the Achievement of Program Goals	\$ 311,849.00	\$ 103,623.00	\$ 50,146.87	\$ 30,750.50
San Bernardino	Remote Video Proceedings	\$ 244,698.58	\$ 70,947.98	\$ 34,382.74	\$ 17,792.24
San Bernardino	Customer Relationship Management Portal	\$ 430,755.51	\$ 373,832.05	\$ 95.00	\$ -
San Bernardino	Video-Conferencing Child Custody Recommending Counseling	\$ 35,537.40	\$ 20,687.40	\$ 16,211.20	\$ 11,960.62
San Diego	Access to Information Made Simple	\$ 276,320.00	\$ 129,409.00	\$ 134,110.66	\$ 78,751.50
San Diego	Evidence-Based Sentencing Triage Assessment Unit	\$ 1,484,758.85	\$ 488,253.32	\$ 92,309.78	\$ 64,893.90
San Francisco	Veterans Justice Court	\$ 318,592.00	\$ 79,400.00	\$ 30,262.95	\$ 29,956.95
San Joaquin	Community Supervision Court	\$ 1,982,207.93	\$ 643,842.39	\$ 182,140.96	\$ 134,020.55
San Mateo	DUI and Restitution Court	\$ 1,012,477.00	\$ 401,599.00	\$ 68,809.29	\$ 1,529.45
San Mateo	Develop and Provide Expanded Online Self-help	\$ 336,000.00	\$ 296,000.00		
San Mateo	Automated Line Queuing System	\$ 125,000.00	\$ -		
Santa Barbara	Instant Family Law Orders	\$ 312,926.00	\$ -	\$ 8,057.00	\$ 7,212.63
Santa Cruz	Collaborative Justice System	\$ 1,174,633.00	\$ 404,461.00	\$ 83,758.28	\$ 47,994.28
Santa Cruz	SMS Notifications	\$ 35,760.00	\$ -		
Shasta	Cooperative Parenting Program	\$ 603,558.92	\$ 213,801.58	\$ 13,106.38	\$ 6,828.33
Sonoma	Veterans Court Enhancements	\$ 56,476.00	\$ 56,476.00	\$ 12,050.17	\$ -
Sonoma	Queuing/Appointment/Calendaring System	\$ 56,586.00	\$ 56,586.00		
Stanislaus	Homeless Court Program	\$ 593,089.91	\$ 197,513.30	\$ 2,331.36	\$ 2,331.36
Tuolumne	Expand Small Claims-Civil Mediation Program	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 8,400.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 150.00
Ventura	Juvenile Delinquency Family Engagement Workshops	\$ 88,182.00	\$ 32,184.00	\$ 2,714.23	\$ 1,660.15
Ventura	Internet Based Self-help Workshops	\$ 932,404.00	\$ 318,236.00	\$ 97,875.70	\$ 57,275.96
Yolo	Online Interactive Multilingual Tool	\$ 91,500.00	\$ 76,500.00		
Program Total		\$ 22,318,353.02	\$ 10,779,354.95	\$ 1,567,960.53	\$ 873,598.49