



## JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

455 Golden Gate Avenue · San Francisco, California 94102-3688  
www.courts.ca.gov

---

# REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

For business meeting on: September 21, 2018

---

Title

Judicial Council Budget: Allocation of  
Augmented Funding for Court Appointed  
Special Advocate Grant Program

Agenda Item Type

Action Required

Effective Date

September 21, 2018

Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes Affected  
None

Date of Report

August 14, 2018

Recommended by

Family and Juvenile Law Advisory  
Committee

Contact

Penelope Davis, 415-865-8815  
penny.davis@jud.ca.gov

Hon. Jerilyn L. Borack, Cochair

Hon. Mark A. Juhas, Cochair

---

### Executive Summary

The Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee recommends approving a two-year plan for allocation of \$500,000 in additional Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) grant funding, included in the Budget Act of 2018. The augmentation provides funding to support efforts to increase by 20 percent the number of foster youth served (approximately 2,200 additional foster youth) and reduce backlogs of youth in the court system awaiting a volunteer assignment.

### Recommendation

The Family Law and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee recommends that the Judicial Council, effective September 21, 2018, approve the allocation of \$500,000 to CASA programs as additional base funding for fiscal years (FY) 2018–19 and 2019–20, using the four-tiered base funding methodology adopted by the council in 2013 and reaffirmed at the July 20, 2018, Judicial Council meeting. The proposed distribution amounts are listed in Attachment A, at page 5.

## **Relevant Previous Council Action**

Legislation (Stats. 1988, ch. 723) amended Welfare and Institutions Code section 100 et seq. to require the Judicial Council to establish guidelines encouraging the development of local CASA programs that assist abused and neglected children who are the subject of judicial proceedings. The legislation also called for the establishment of a CASA grant program to be administered by the Judicial Council and required CASA programs to provide local matching—or in-kind—funds equal to program funding received from the Judicial Council.

At its August 23, 2013, meeting, the Judicial Council approved a funding methodology that uses four tiers, based on county population, to establish base funding allocations for local CASA programs.<sup>1</sup> At the July 20, 2018, Judicial Council meeting, the council adopted a new methodology but made no changes to the four-tiered base funding portion of the methodology.

## **Analysis/Rationale**

On June 27, 2018, the Budget Act of 2018, signed into law by the Governor, included an additional ongoing augmentation of \$500,000 for the CASA grant program.<sup>2</sup> This figure represents a more than 20 percent increase in funding, from \$2,213,000 to a new total of \$2,713,000. The augmentation is intended to provide funding to CASA programs to increase by 20 percent the number of foster youth served and to reduce backlogs of youth in local courts waiting for a volunteer assignment. Allocating the \$500,000 as additional base funds for the first two years will support programs to develop and implement plans to increase the number of volunteer supervisors, CASA volunteers, and children served and to clear backlogs.

The two-year funding plan is detailed below. Please see Attachment A for allocations based on the tier funding methodology.

## **Proposed funding plan**

### ***FY 2018–19 and FY 2019–20***

- The Judicial Council CASA Grant program will distribute \$500,000 among all CASA programs based on the four tiers approved by the council in 2013 to determine base funding.
- CASA programs will develop and submit a general plan to increase the number of children served.
- Judicial Council CASA program staff will collect data to establish benchmarks, monitor funding, and measure improvements and changes.

## ***Data Collection and Reporting Requirements***

- Judicial Council CASA program staff will collect data by survey to monitor funding requirements and the impact of funding on children in foster care. Data will be collected to

---

<sup>1</sup> Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Juvenile Dependency: Court Appointed Special Advocate Program Funding Methodology* (Aug. 23, 2013), [www.courts.ca.gov/documents/jc-20130823-itemM.pdf](http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/jc-20130823-itemM.pdf) (as of June 27, 2017).

<sup>2</sup> The initial FY 2018–19 state budget for Judicial Council CASA grant programs was set at \$2.213 million.

determine the baseline on September 1, 2018, and at subsequent time points so that staff can determine changes from the baseline.

- CASA programs will report data to establish benchmarks and track progress. Judicial Council CASA program staff will monitor data, including but not limited to:
  - Number of supervisors for volunteers;
  - Number of volunteers;
  - Number of children served;
  - Court backlog (youth waiting for volunteer assignment); and
  - Training (of staff and volunteers).
- The Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee will review data from FY 2018–19 through FY 2019–20 and work with Judicial Council CASA program staff to develop a methodology to distribute funds and determine eligibility for continued funding beginning in FY 2020–21.

### **Policy implications**

The proposed distribution is consistent with the council's approved methodology for determining base funding for the local CASA programs. The committee believes that the proposed distribution will best match the budget augmentation rationale and will allow for more meaningful data collection.

### **Comments**

The committee did not seek formal comment. Circulation for public comment was not required for this report.

### **Alternatives considered**

The committee considered the option of equally distributing the \$500,000 among the 45 local programs as an alternative. Although this method would provide the same amount of funding for each program (\$11,111), it would not account for county population, multicounty programs, or any other factors. Thus, in the interest of equity, and to maintain consistency with approved methods for CASA grant funding distribution, the committee recommends use of the base funding method approved by the council in 2013 to distribute the additional \$500,000.

Please see Attachment B for allocations based on equal distribution and Attachment A for allocations based on the tier methodology.

### **Fiscal and Operational Impacts**

Implementation of this distribution plan and allocation of funds are effective beginning FY 2018–19. CASA funds are distributed effective September 1 of each year and continue through August 31 of the subsequent year. Judicial Council CASA program staff currently monitor several CASA program outcomes and collect a variety of data, including the number of supervisors, the number of volunteers recruited and trained, staff and volunteer demographics,

budget, and the number of children served. Additional data collection will be minimal and have little operational impact on Judicial Council CASA program staff and the local CASA programs.

### **Attachments and Links**

1. Attachment A: Proposed Distribution of New CASA Funding: FY 2018-19 and FY 2019-20, at page 5
2. Attachment B: Distribution of New CASA Funding: FY 2018-19 and FY 2019-20 (Equal Distribution), at page 6

**Proposed Distribution of New CASA Funding**

Attachment A

**Tier Methodology**

**FY 2018-19 and FY 2019-20**

<b>Local CASA Programs by County</b>	<b>Initial Base 2018-19</b>	<b>Distribution of New Funding Based on Tier Methodology</b>	<b>Total Base 2018-19 (Tier Methodology)</b>
Alameda	\$57,500.00	\$13,827.43	\$71,327.43
Amador/Calevaras*	\$44,850.00	\$10,785.40	\$55,635.40
Butte/Glenn	\$58,650.00	\$14,103.98	\$72,754
Contra Costa	\$57,500.00	\$13,827.43	\$71,327
Del Norte	\$29,900.00	\$7,190.27	\$37,090.27
El Dorado	\$39,100.00	\$9,402.65	\$48,503
Fresno/Madera	\$86,250.00	\$20,741.15	\$106,991.15
Humboldt	\$29,900.00	\$7,190.27	\$37,090.27
Imperial	\$39,100.00	\$9,402.65	\$48,502.65
Inyo/Mono	\$44,850.00	\$10,785.40	\$55,635.40
Kern	\$57,500.00	\$13,827.43	\$71,327.43
Kings	\$39,100.00	\$9,402.65	\$48,503
Lassen	\$29,900.00	\$7,190.27	\$37,090.27
Los Angeles	\$57,500.00	\$13,827.43	\$71,327.43
Marin	\$39,100.00	\$9,402.65	\$48,502.65
Mariposa	\$29,900.00	\$7,190.27	\$37,090.27
Mendocino/Lake	\$58,650.00	\$14,103.98	\$72,753.98
Merced	\$39,100.00	\$9,402.65	\$48,502.65
Modoc	\$29,900.00	\$7,190.27	\$37,090.27
Monterey	\$48,300.00	\$11,615.04	\$59,915.04
Napa	\$39,100.00	\$9,402.65	\$48,502.65
Nevada	\$29,900.00	\$7,190.27	\$37,090.27
Orange	\$57,500.00	\$13,827.43	\$71,327.43
Placer	\$48,300.00	\$11,615.04	\$59,915.04
Plumas	\$29,900.00	\$7,190.27	\$37,090.27
Riverside	\$57,500.00	\$13,827.43	\$71,327.43
Sacramento	\$57,500.00	\$13,827.43	\$71,327.43
San Benito	\$29,900.00	\$7,190.27	\$37,090.27
San Bernardino	\$57,500.00	\$13,827.43	\$71,327.43
San Diego	\$57,500.00	\$13,827.43	\$71,327.43
San Francisco	\$48,300.00	\$11,615.04	\$59,915.04
San Joaquin	\$48,300.00	\$11,615.04	\$59,915
San Luis Obispo	\$39,100.00	\$9,402.65	\$48,503
San Mateo	\$48,300.00	\$11,615.04	\$59,915
Santa Barbara	\$48,300.00	\$11,615.04	\$59,915.04
Santa Clara	\$57,500.00	\$13,827.43	\$71,327.43
Santa Cruz	\$39,100.00	\$9,402.65	\$48,502.65
Shasta/Tehama	\$58,650.00	\$14,103.98	\$72,753.98
Siskiyou	\$29,900.00	\$7,190.27	\$37,090.27
Solano	\$48,300.00	\$11,615.04	\$59,915.04
Sonoma	\$48,300.00	\$11,615.04	\$59,915.04
Stanislaus	\$48,300.00	\$11,615.04	\$59,915.04
Tulare	\$48,300.00	\$11,615.04	\$59,915.04
Ventura	\$48,300.00	\$11,615.04	\$59,915.04
Yolo	\$39,100.00	\$9,402.65	\$48,502.65
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$2,079,200.00</b>	<b>\$500,000.00</b>	<b>\$2,579,200.00</b>

**Distribution of New CASA Funding  
Equal Distribution  
FY 2018-19 and FY 2019-20**

Attachment B

Local CASA Programs by County	Initial Base 2018-19	Distribution of New Funding Equally Distributed	Total Base 2018-19 (Equal Distribution)
Alameda	\$57,500.00	\$11,111.00	\$68,611.00
Amador/Calevaras*	\$44,850.00	\$11,111.00	\$55,961.00
Butte/Glenn	\$58,650.00	\$11,111.00	\$69,761.00
Contra Costa	\$57,500.00	\$11,111.00	\$68,611.00
Del Norte	\$29,900.00	\$11,111.00	\$41,011.00
El Dorado	\$39,100.00	\$11,111.00	\$50,211.00
Fresno/Madera	\$86,250.00	\$11,111.00	\$97,361.00
Humboldt	\$29,900.00	\$11,111.00	\$41,011.00
Imperial	\$39,100.00	\$11,111.00	\$50,211.00
Inyo/Mono	\$44,850.00	\$11,111.00	\$55,961.00
Kern	\$57,500.00	\$11,111.00	\$68,611.00
Kings	\$39,100.00	\$11,111.00	\$50,211.00
Lassen	\$29,900.00	\$11,111.00	\$41,011.00
Los Angeles	\$57,500.00	\$11,111.00	\$68,611.00
Marin	\$39,100.00	\$11,111.00	\$50,211.00
Mariposa	\$29,900.00	\$11,111.00	\$41,011.00
Mendocino/Lake	\$58,650.00	\$11,111.00	\$69,761.00
Merced	\$39,100.00	\$11,111.00	\$50,211.00
Modoc	\$29,900.00	\$11,111.00	\$41,011.00
Monterey	\$48,300.00	\$11,111.00	\$59,411.00
Napa	\$39,100.00	\$11,111.00	\$50,211.00
Nevada	\$29,900.00	\$11,111.00	\$41,011.00
Orange	\$57,500.00	\$11,111.00	\$68,611.00
Placer	\$48,300.00	\$11,111.00	\$59,411.00
Plumas	\$29,900.00	\$11,111.00	\$41,011.00
Riverside	\$57,500.00	\$11,111.00	\$68,611.00
Sacramento	\$57,500.00	\$11,111.00	\$68,611.00
San Benito	\$29,900.00	\$11,111.00	\$41,011.00
San Bernardino	\$57,500.00	\$11,111.00	\$68,611.00
San Diego	\$57,500.00	\$11,111.00	\$68,611.00
San Francisco	\$48,300.00	\$11,111.00	\$59,411.00
San Joaquin	\$48,300.00	\$11,111.00	\$59,411.00
San Luis Obispo	\$39,100.00	\$11,111.00	\$50,211.00
San Mateo	\$48,300.00	\$11,111.00	\$59,411.00
Santa Barbara	\$48,300.00	\$11,111.00	\$59,411.00
Santa Clara	\$57,500.00	\$11,111.00	\$68,611.00
Santa Cruz	\$39,100.00	\$11,111.00	\$50,211.00
Shasta/Tehama	\$58,650.00	\$11,111.00	\$69,761.00
Siskiyou	\$29,900.00	\$11,111.00	\$41,011.00
Solano	\$48,300.00	\$11,111.00	\$59,411.00
Sonoma	\$48,300.00	\$11,111.00	\$59,411.00
Stanislaus	\$48,300.00	\$11,111.00	\$59,411.00
Tulare	\$48,300.00	\$11,111.00	\$59,411.00
Ventura	\$48,300.00	\$11,111.00	\$59,411.00
Yolo	\$39,100.00	\$11,111.00	\$50,211.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$2,079,200.00</b>	<b>\$ 499,995.00</b>	<b>\$2,579,195.00</b>