



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

455 Golden Gate Avenue · San Francisco, California 94102-3688

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

For business meeting on: September 21, 2018

Title	Agenda Item Type
Judicial Branch Budget: Quarterly Report on the Judicial Council's Court Innovations Grant Program, Fiscal Year 2017–18, Quarter 4	Information Only
	Date of Report
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Submitted by	Contact
Judicial Branch Budget Committee Hon. David M. Rubin, Chair	Maureen Dumas, 916-263-2290 maureen.dumas@jud.ca.gov

Executive Summary

This report summarizes Judicial Council Court Innovations Grant Program activity for the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2017–18.

Relevant 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 council also allocated \$625,000—out of the statutorily authorized \$1.25 million—for administration costs and retained 3 to 4 percent of each category's funding for unforeseen expenses incurred by grant-funded projects.

In June 2017, the council delegated to the Judicial Branch Budget Committee (JBBC) authority to decide whether to approve funding adjustments.¹ The delegation requires the JBBC to use the same criteria used in deciding the original awards and to report quarterly to the council about any authorized adjustments.

¹ Circulating Order No. CO-17-04.

Analysis/Rationale

Award and budget adjustments

The JBBC approved the following award and budget adjustments in the fourth quarter of the fiscal year. Details regarding these adjustments can be found in Attachment A.

Award increases:

- \$23,960.58—Superior Court of Merced County, Video Conference Hearings
- \$50,496.16—Superior Court of San Bernardino County, Remote Video Proceedings
- \$14,382.09—Superior Court of San Bernardino County, Customer Relationship Management Portal

Shifts between budget categories:

- \$46,435.00—Superior Court of Ventura County, Internet-Based Self-Help Workshops
- \$50,000.00—Superior Court of San Joaquin County, Community Supervision Court
- \$28,332.00—Superior Court of San Francisco County, Veterans Justice Courts
- \$135,786.38—Superior Court of Placer County, Video Appearances
- \$268,181.11—Superior Court of Humboldt County, Family Dependency Drug Court
- \$157,750.96—Superior Court of Fresno County, Human Trafficking Court Planning and Implementation
- \$45,268.97—Superior Court of Contra Costa County, California’s Virtual Self-Help Site
- \$39,000.00—Fifth Appellate District of the Court of Appeal, Modernize the Transcript Assembly Program

Project adjustments

The JBBC authorized the following project adjustment:

- The Superior Court of Los Angeles County was approved to replace the Superior Court of San Diego County, no longer able to participate, with the Superior Court of Sonoma County as a participant court in their Justice System Partner and Litigant Portal project.

Contingency fund balance

As of the date of this report, the balance of the contingency fund is \$2,770,906.43, broken down as follows:

- \$1,557,534.48 for collaborative court projects;
- \$1,145,878.26 for self-help, family, and juvenile court projects; and
- \$67,493.69 for other efficiency projects.

The JBBC will continue to monitor the contingency fund closely and report on any changes.

Summary of findings

Fifty projects² are moving forward. The total amount awarded to these projects totals \$22.4 million. However, the total award amount has not been distributed as the grant period covers three fiscal years with money distributed only in the relevant fiscal year. To date (including FY 2018–19), \$15.9 million has been distributed to 50 projects. Some courts, however, have reduced the project total award and, if needed, returned unspent previously distributed funds. These include the following projects:

- The Videoconferencing of Mental Health Hearings project of the Superior Court of Sacramento County was implemented without the use of the total award, resulting in a return of \$6,951.97 to the contingency fund.
- At the end of July, the Superior Court of Contra Costa County withdrew the California’s Virtual Self-Help Site project from the program due to unforeseen circumstances, resulting in a return of \$720,878.05 to the contingency fund. Judicial Council staff is scheduled to present the withdrawal for JBBC review at its September 20 in-person meeting with an anticipated update to the council at the November business meeting.

Of the \$15.9 million distributed (\$10.3 million through the fourth quarter) approximately \$4,984,801.12 was expended by the awardees through June 2018, with \$2,345,112.86 in quarter 4. (See Attachment B.)

At the end of July 2018, grantee courts submitted their fourth-quarter reports, marking the end of the innovation grant program’s first full year. Council staff are turning now to data collection and outcome measurement reporting. These metrics will reflect the success of each project, providing key insights about how well the public benefits from each project.

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.

Fiscal Impact and Policy Implications

Implementation efforts

The following are project highlights as reported by the courts in the most current Quarterly Progress Reports:

- The Superior Court of Riverside County’s Traffic Avatar is fully implemented on the court’s website. The avatar’s usage has increased from 175 times in May when the avatar went live

² The total number of approved projects was reduced to 50 because the Superior Court of Contra Costa County withdrew its California’s Virtual Self-Help Site project from the program due to unforeseen circumstances.

to 702 times in June. The avatar speaks six languages: English, Spanish, Arabic, Vietnamese, Mandarin, and Cantonese.

- The Superior Court of San Bernardino County’s Video-Conferencing Child Custody Recommending Counseling project was implemented on January 2, 2018, and has hosted 76 successful sessions. The satisfaction rate from project participants has been reported at 81 percent.
- The Superior Court of San Francisco County’s Veterans Justice Court project accepted 63 new clients and graduated 30 clients since the start of the Court Innovations Grant Program.
- The Superior Court of Butte County’s Remote Video-Conferencing Technology project went live with the program’s website Sharpcourts.org (SHARP: Self-Help Assistance and Referral Program). The site provides resources and workshops for self-represented litigants accessible through the 13 county self-help centers.
- The Superior Court of Fresno County’s Human Trafficking Court project of the Superior Court of Fresno County started operating in January 2018. The project is providing organized judicial supervision, collaborative case management, trauma-informed care, counseling, substance abuse treatment, education, skills-building, and other services for eligible youth who are referred by delinquency or dependency courts.
- The Superior Court of Monterey County’s California Court Access Application project has gone live with a beta version of the application that currently provides text reminders and processes traffic payments. The court currently has beta testers piloting the application to provide valuable feedback on usability, performance and testing.

Next steps

JBBC and 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. Judicial Council Audit Services staff will assist with monitoring the grant program by conducting periodic reviews of specific grant programs.

Attachments and Links

1. Attachment A: *Court Innovations Grant Project Award and Budget Adjustments Approved by the Judicial Branch Budget Committee Made During Fiscal Year 2017–18, Quarter 4*
2. Attachment B: *Court Innovations Grant Projects Fiscal Year 2017–18, Quarter 4 Expenditure Summary*

**Court Innovations Grants Project Award and Budget Adjustments
Approved by Judicial Branch Budget Committee
Made During Fiscal Year 2017-18, Quarter 4**

The JBBC authorized the following award and budget adjustments in the fourth quarter of the fiscal year:

- A budget increase of \$23,960.58 was approved for the Video Conference Hearings Project of the Superior Court of Merced County. The increase is for the installation of additional equipment not originally anticipated in the original application.
- A budget increase of \$50,496.16 was approved for the Remote Video Proceedings project of the Superior Court of San Bernardino County to allow for overtime for staff when needed and increase in travel costs and equipment not originally anticipated.
- A budget increase of \$14,382.09 was approved for the Customer Relationship Management Portal project of the Superior Court of San Bernardino County for partial coverage of costs that were underestimated for third-party software licenses necessary to support the developer's design of the portal. The Court is also shifting \$18,299.47 in savings incurred in the first fiscal year, due to a delayed start, to cover the remaining balance of these costs that were underestimated.
- A shift of \$46,435.00 between budget categories for the Internet Based Self-Help Workshops project of the Superior Court of Ventura County was approved to address a miscalculation in indirect costs in the original application. The shift is due to realized savings in staffing costs,
- A shift of \$50,000.00 between budget categories for the Community Supervision Court project of the Superior Court of San Joaquin County was approved to cover increased need for additional support services from Community Based Organizations. The shift is due to realized savings in staffing costs.
- A shift of \$28,332.00 between budget categories for the Veterans Justice Courts of the Superior Court of San Francisco County was approved to fund a Deputy Court Clerk position to support the project and for a minor increase in Operating Expenses to compensate for actual costs compared to anticipated cost. This shift reflected a move of savings realized in the Consultant/Contractor Budget Category.
- A shift of \$135,786.38 between budget categories for the Video Appearances project of the Superior Court of Placer County was approved to fund .50 FTE of a limited term Court Services Analyst position. The shift was possible due to savings realized by purchasing refurbished equipment.
- A shift of \$268,181.11 between budget categories for the Family Dependency Drug Court project of the Superior Court of Humboldt County was approved for additional training costs, stakeholder meeting costs, and consultant costs. The shift is due to previous savings in personnel costs.
- A shift of \$157,750.96 between budget categories for the Human Trafficking Court Planning and Implementation project of the Superior Court of Fresno County was approved to cover the cost for staff Court Coordinator rather than a contractor.

**Court Innovations Grants Project Award and Budget Adjustments
Approved by Judicial Branch Budget Committee
Made During Fiscal Year 2017-18, Quarter 4**

- A shift of \$45,268.97 between budget categories for the California's Virtual Self Help Site project of the Superior Court of Contra Costa County was approved to fund .25 FTE for a Software Engineer, make additional personnel changes to costs for interns, and to increase operating expenses to compensate for unanticipated costs. The shift is due to previously realized savings.
- A shift of \$39,000.00 between budget categories for the Modernize the Transcript Assembly Program project of the Fifth Appellate District of the Court of Appeal was approved to acquire additional equipment, shift training services from internal staff to the consultant, and reflect a more accurate overall estimate of consultant services.

**Court innovations Grant Program
Fiscal Year 2017-18, Quarter 4
Expenditure Summary**

Attachment B

Court	Project Name	Total Award	Total Distribution as of FY 2017-18, Q4	Total Project Expenditures	FY 2017-18, Q4 Expenditures
5th DCA	Self-Help and Learning Center Website	\$317,916.00	\$80,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
5th DCA	Modernize the Transcript Assembly Program	\$793,000.00	\$4,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Alameda	Collaborative Court Management Information System	\$114,223.00	\$100,384.00	\$30,533.08	\$16,177.28
Butte	Remote Video-Conferencing Technology	\$576,140.00	\$356,703.00	\$271,902.53	\$166,566.92
Contra Costa	California's Virtual Self Help Site	\$970,365.00	\$339,688.00	\$249,486.95	\$147,822.87
Contra Costa	Veteran's Treatment Court (VTC)	\$367,974.33	\$163,543.81	\$68,845.02	\$25,173.71
Contra Costa	Expanding LEP Court Access	\$239,000.00	\$232,000.00	\$103.92	\$0.00
El Dorado	One Family/One Judge Pilot Project	\$66,599.00	\$52,450.00	\$45,226.00	\$45,226.00
Fresno	Human Trafficking Court Planning and Implementation	\$383,651.00	\$234,299.00	\$222,083.23	\$50,778.41
Humboldt	Family Dependency Drug Court	\$1,414,209.82	\$549,793.68	\$85,173.28	\$37,770.88
Humboldt	Interactive Video Conferencing System	\$170,919.87	\$170,919.87	\$92,590.14	\$91,838.36
Inyo	Reentry Court	\$273,712.00	\$89,478.00	\$45,528.49	\$22,978.77
Los Angeles	E-Filing	\$114,760.00	\$114,760.00	\$50,401.11	\$32,668.77
Los Angeles	Self-Help Traffic Avatar (Gina) Expansion	\$59,373.00	\$59,373.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Los Angeles	Justice System Partner and Litigant Portal	\$637,500.00	\$425,000.00	\$274,500.00	\$39,875.00
Mendocino	Adult Drug Court	\$374,611.89	\$92,038.44	\$92,038.00	\$63,321.32
Merced	Video Conference Hearings Project	\$218,500.58	\$197,840.58	\$168,813.72	\$175,843.31
Monterey	Cloud Based Disaster Recovery Solution	\$209,360.74	\$209,360.74	\$0.00	\$0.00
Monterey	California Court Access App	\$789,940.00	\$254,620.00	\$131,406.67	\$94,089.20
Orange	Court User Portal	\$511,200.00	\$170,400.00	\$105,574.00	\$54,530.00
Orange	Improving Court Management Through the Use of Analytics	\$938,851.34	\$563,910.67	\$211,393.75	\$158,060.42
Orange	Automating the Courtroom Check-in	\$246,190.00	\$222,150.00	\$11,904.00	\$0.00
Orange	Conservatorship Accountability Portal	\$212,972.00	\$78,720.00	\$11,904.00	\$0.00
Orange	Enhance Self-Help Portal	\$326,800.00	\$106,000.00	\$11,904.00	\$0.00
Placer	Video Appearances	\$560,000.00	\$560,000.00	\$122,620.30	\$70,716.65
Riverside	Intelligent Self-Help Kiosk	\$648,774.14	\$395,436.69	\$315,432.75	\$35,365.27
Riverside	Traffic Avatar	\$46,865.65	\$35,611.34	\$22,036.79	\$0.00
Riverside	Attorney and Litigant Electronic Courtroom Self Check-In	\$178,732.14	\$166,222.69	\$6,222.69	\$0.00
Sacramento	Videoconferencing of Mental Health Hearings	\$66,249.00	\$66,249.00	\$59,297.03	\$58,273.69
Sacramento	Monitor and Measure the Achievement of Program Goals	\$311,849.00	\$103,623.00	\$103,373.65	\$32,592.82
San Bernardino	Remote Video Proceedings	\$295,194.74	\$121,444.14	\$71,765.71	\$26,008.10
San Bernardino	Customer Relationship Management Portal	\$445,137.60	\$388,214.14	\$4,099.46	\$737.11
San Bernardino	Video-Conferencing Child Custody Recommending Counseling	\$35,537.40	\$20,687.40	\$17,619.65	\$280.80
San Diego	Access to Information Made Simple	\$332,631.00	\$129,409.00	\$157,670.65	\$23,335.47
San Diego	Evidence-Based Sentencing Triage Assessment Unit	\$1,484,758.85	\$488,253.32	\$291,543.89	\$126,219.41
San Francisco	Veterans Justice Court	\$318,592.00	\$79,400.00	\$99,403.22	\$39,904.23
San Joaquin	Community Supervision Court	\$1,982,207.94	\$643,842.39	\$551,121.09	\$243,524.93
San Mateo	DUI and Restitution Court	\$1,012,477.00	\$401,599.00	\$205,050.97	\$136,241.68
San Mateo	Develop and Provide Expanded Online Self-help	\$336,000.00	\$296,000.00	\$44,403.07	\$43,512.43
San Mateo	Automated Line Queuing System	\$125,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Santa Barbara	Instant Family Law Orders	\$312,926.00	\$185,375.46	\$24,097.49	\$15,617.80
Santa Cruz	Collaborative Justice System	\$1,174,633.00	\$404,461.00	\$224,887.87	\$64,704.16
Santa Cruz	SMS Notifications	\$35,760.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Shasta	Cooperative Parenting Program	\$458,590.66	\$213,801.58	\$41,537.78	\$20,617.59
Sonoma	Veterans Court Enhancements	\$56,476.00	\$56,476.00	\$56,476.00	\$8,948.38
Sonoma	Queuing/Appointment/Calendar System	\$56,586.00	\$56,586.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Stanislaus	Homeless Court Program	\$593,089.91	\$197,513.30	\$86,521.83	\$81,535.99
Tuolumne	Expand Small Claims-Civil Mediation Program	\$24,000.00	\$8,400.00	\$750.00	\$150.00
Ventura	Juvenile Delinquency Family Engagement Workshops	\$88,182.00	\$32,184.00	\$20,750.17	\$13,379.06
Ventura	Internet Based Self-help Workshops	\$932,404.00	\$318,236.00	\$276,807.17	\$80,726.07
Yolo	Online Interactive Multilingual Tool	\$91,500.00	\$76,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Program Total		\$22,331,923.60	\$10,313,458.24	\$4,984,801.12	\$2,345,112.86