



## JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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

[www.courts.ca.gov](http://www.courts.ca.gov)

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# REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

For business meeting on November 30, 2018

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Title

Report to the Legislature: Court Innovations  
Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2017–18

Agenda Item Type

Information Only

Date of Report

November 9, 2018

Submitted by

Laura Speed, Director  
Leadership Support Services

Contact

Marcela Eggleton, 916-263-1738  
[marcela.eggleton@jud.ca.gov](mailto:marcela.eggleton@jud.ca.gov)

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### **Executive Summary**

The Budget Act of 2016 allocated \$25 million to the judicial branch to promote court innovations and efficiencies through the Court Innovations Grant Program. The Budget Act of 2016 requires the Judicial Council to report to the Legislature no later than September 30, 2017, and each year thereafter the progress on that program and its projects. This year's report was submitted as required.

### **Previous Council Action**

These reports have been submitted as required to the Legislature annually. Previous reports can be found at [www.courts.ca.gov/7466.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/7466.htm).

### **Analysis/Rationale**

The annual submission of this report to the Legislature is required under the Budget Act of 2016. 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.

## **Fiscal Impact and Policy Implications**

Because this program is grant funded, there is no fiscal impact to the Judicial Council. The program is fully aligned with ongoing Judicial Council policy to support innovation and efficiency in the judicial branch.

## **Attachments and Links**

1. Attachment A: *Report on the Court Innovations Grant Program* (September 28, 2018)



# JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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*Chief Justice of California*  
*Chair of the Judicial Council*

HON. DOUGLAS P. MILLER  
*Chair, Executive and Planning Committee*

HON. DAVID M. RUBIN  
*Chair, Judicial Branch Budget Committee*  
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*Hon. Rebecca L. Wightman*

MR. MARTIN HOSHINO  
*Administrative Director,*  
*Judicial Council*

September 28, 2018

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

Ms. Keeley Bosler  
Director, Department of Finance  
915 L Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: *Report on the Court Innovations Grant Program*, as required under  
the Budget Act of 2016 (Sen. Bill 826; Stats. 2016, ch. 23)

Dear Senator Mitchell, Assembly Member Ting, and Ms. Bosler:

Attached is the Judicial Council report required under the Budget Act of  
2016.<sup>1</sup>

If you have any questions related to this report, please contact Laura  
Speed, Director, Judicial Council Leadership Support Services office, at  
[laura.speed@jud.ca.gov](mailto:laura.speed@jud.ca.gov) or 916-323-3121.

Sincerely,

Martin Hoshino  
Administrative Director  
Judicial Council

<sup>1</sup> Available at [www.courts.ca.gov/documents/cipg-budget-act.pdf](http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/cipg-budget-act.pdf).

September 28, 2018

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MH/LS/MD/ME/cp

Attachment

cc: Diane F. Boyer-Vine, Legislative Counsel

Daniel Alvarez, Secretary of the Senate

E. Dotson Wilson, Chief Clerk of the Assembly

Eric Dang, Policy Consultant, Office of Senate President pro Tempore Kevin de León

Alf Brandt, Senior Counsel, Office of Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon

Misty Feusahrens, Special Assistant, Office of Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon

Anita Lee, Senior Fiscal and Policy Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office

Tina McGee, Executive Secretary, Legislative Analyst's Office

Rebecca Kirk, Program Budget Analyst, Department of Finance

Margie Estrada, Chief Counsel, Senate Judiciary Committee

Christopher Francis, 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

Jennifer Kim, Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee

Jay Dickenson, Chief Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee

Jessica Peters, Principal Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee

Daryl Thomas, Consultant, Assembly Republican Office of Policy & Budget

Paul Dress, Consultant, Assembly Republican Office of Policy & Budget

Amy Leach, Minute Clerk, Office of Assembly Chief Clerk

Jennifer Troia, Principal Consultant, Joint Legislative Budget Committee

Cory T. Jaspersen, Director, Governmental Affairs, Judicial Council

Laura Speed, Director, Leadership Support Services, Judicial Council

Peter Allen, Director, Public Affairs, Judicial Council

Yvette Casillas-Sarcos, Administrative Coordinator, Governmental Affairs, Judicial Council



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MR. MARTIN HOSHINO  
*Administrative Director,  
Judicial Council*

# JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

Report title: *Report on the Court Innovations Grant Program*

Statutory citation: *Budget Act of 2016 (Sen. Bill 826; Stats. 2016, ch. 23)*

Date of report: *September 28, 2018*

The Judicial Council submits this report to the Legislature in accordance with the Budget Act of 2016.

The following summary of the report is provided under the requirements of Government Code section 9795.

The Budget Act of 2016 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.

The report provides the Legislature with progress on the grant program and its projects.

The full report can be accessed here: [www.courts.ca.gov/7466.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/7466.htm).

A printed copy of the report may be obtained by calling 916-643-4612.

# **JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA**

**Hon. Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye**  
*Chief Justice of California and  
Chair of the Judicial Council*

**Martin Hoshino**  
*Administrative Director,  
Judicial Council*

## **LEADERSHIP SERVICES DIVISION**

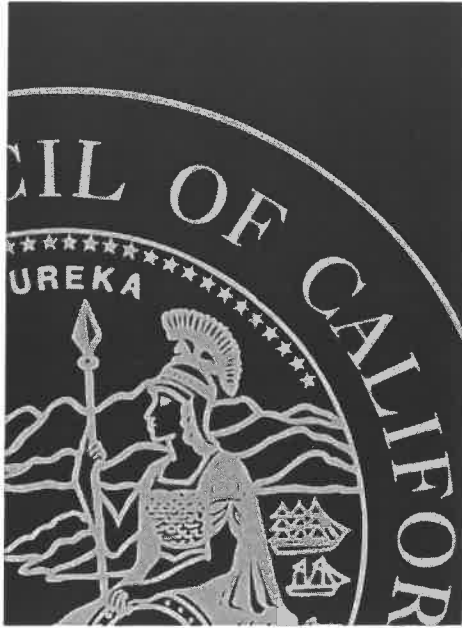
**Millicent Tidwell**  
*Chief Deputy Director*

## **LEADERSHIP SUPPORT SERVICES**

**Laura Speed**  
*Director*

**Maureen Dumas**  
*Principal Manager*

**Marcela Eggleton**  
*Supervising Analyst  
Primary Author of Report*



# **Report on the Court Innovations Grant Program**

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REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE UNDER  
BUDGET ACT OF 2016 (SEN. BILL 826;  
STATS. 2016, CH. 23)

SEPTEMBER 28, 2018

## Overview

The Budget Act of 2016 (Sen. Bill 826; Stats. 2016, ch. 23)<sup>1</sup> allocated \$25 million to the judicial branch to promote court innovations and efficiencies through a grant program to be expended by June 30, 2020. Of this \$25 million, \$12 million was earmarked for collaborative courts; \$8 million for self-help, family and juvenile courts; and \$5 million for other efficiencies across all types of courts. Five percent (\$1.25 million) was authorized to administer and evaluate the program<sup>2</sup> though to increase the available amount for grant awards, the Judicial Council will cap its costs at \$625,000.

In March 2017, the Judicial Council awarded \$23.5 million to grantee courts—\$11.3 million for collaborative court programs; \$7.5 million for self-help, family, and juvenile court programs; and \$4.7 million for other efficiencies programs—to increase court efficiencies.

Grant funding was provided to 51 grant projects. The approved projects received initial distributions, allowing the courts to begin pre-implementation activities. Currently, 50 projects<sup>3</sup> are moving forward, totaling \$22.3 million. A list of grant projects reflecting current award amounts is attached as Appendix A to this report.

## Court Innovations Program Oversight

The Judicial Council delegated oversight for the Court Innovations Grant Program to the Judicial Branch Budget Committee (JBBC) in 2017. The JBBC is now responsible for monitoring project implementation and outcomes and the program's contingency fund. The JBBC is also responsible for reviewing and approving additional award requests during the grant program.<sup>4</sup> Modifications to project budgets, outcome measurements, and timelines are reviewed and approved by the JBBC and Judicial Council staff.

As of the end of FY 2017–18, grantee courts have expended over \$10.3 million. The council monitors a small percentage funding that is retained in a contingency fund in each grant category to pay for unforeseen costs that may arise during the grant period. The contingency fund balance will fluctuate over the life of the grant as the JBBC awards additional grant funding and court grantees return previously distributed grant monies due to project savings.

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<sup>1</sup> Available at [www.courts.ca.gov/documents/cipg-budget-act.pdf](http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/cipg-budget-act.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> The Superior Court of Contra Costa County withdrew California's Virtual Self-Help Site project from the program because of unforeseen circumstances.

<sup>4</sup> On June 30, 2017, the Judicial Council approved Circulating Order CO-17-04, delegating funding adjustments related to the Court Innovations Grant Program to the JBBC. A copy of the circulating order is available at <https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=5311536&GUID=0A5CC66D-930B-4818-A504-F8FF88486F06>.



### Contingency Fund Balance as of September 2018

Total	Collaborative Courts	Self-Help, Family and Juvenile Courts	Other Efficiencies
\$2,770,906	\$1,557,534	\$1,145,878	\$67,494

### Project/Court Collaboration

Some courts collaborate on grant projects allowing them to share ideas, resources, and challenges. In October 2017, the Superior Court of Orange County hosted a meeting for the 11 courts with projects involving a self-help customer portal. Project managers and court leadership gathered to share project scopes and identify similar and differing components and approaches. An online site was created by the courts to track this information and provide a forum for courts to leverage common resources. In February 2018, council staff held an online conference and teleconference for the seven projects containing remote video technology. A similar online site was created for these projects for the same purpose. Courts continue to collaborate formally and informally to leverage information and resources.

### Project Highlights

Project highlights and outcome measurement data provided to date by the courts vary based on project implementation status and the dates for which outcome measurements are scheduled to be collected and reported.

Below is a sampling of project highlights regarding progress and activities in FY 2017–18.

- The Superior Court of Fresno County has implemented a **Juvenile Human Trafficking Court** to help the growing number of youth who are trafficked in Fresno County as well as runaway, homeless, and other vulnerable youth who are at risk for exploitation. The court was fully implemented in January 2018 and currently serves twice as many youth as the court anticipated. Data are collected on the youths' backgrounds (e.g., runaway rates, days spent in foster care, days spent in custody, school attendance and credits, number of previous felony filings, and previous probation), wait times for assessment and intake, and the number of hours spent on human trafficking cases by justice partners. Court leadership is collaborating with other local and state partners to secure transitional housing for program participants transitioning out of Juvenile Hall to family home placements and trauma-informed comprehensive services (e.g., group programs and mental health counseling) in tandem with family reunification services, and is working with organizations such as the Fresno Yosemite International Airport to raise awareness of the program for increased identification of potential victims.
- The Superior Court of San Joaquin County has enhanced the **Local Community Supervision Court** by creating a multitrack system to improve outcomes for offenders who have different levels of need but are all at high risk to recidivate. The court has been fully implemented since July 2017. It is reporting successful outcomes in sustainability

and replicability, decreased recidivism and fewer vehicular accidents related to drug and alcohol use, and improved targeted services through the use of risk and needs triage assessment tools.

- The Superior Court of San Francisco County has enhanced its **Veterans Justice Court** by expanding the use of evidence-based, trauma-informed treatment for participants. The court has accepted 63 new clients and graduated 30 clients since the start of the project in July 2017.
- The Superior Court of Butte County has implemented **remote video-conferencing technology in 13 rural courts to support self-help programs** that can be used collaboratively by sharing self-help resources between participating courts. The project has progressed with the Superior Courts of Glenn, Humboldt, Imperial, Inyo, Lake, Mendocino, Modoc, Nevada, Placer, Shasta, Tehama, and Trinity Counties participating. The team has produced five remote video workshops to serve self-represented litigants. The program coordinator has been working with each of the partner courts to determine the individual needs of each court to ensure use of the remote video-conferencing equipment. The website, [sharpcourts.org](http://sharpcourts.org), has been launched, and online registration for the workshops is available.
- The Superior Court of Monterey County has developed for smartphones and other devices an application that will provide advanced online access, as well as a cloud-hosted solution to serve as a remote clerk's office, available to court users around the clock. A live beta version of the California court access application has been created, and currently 76 active users will provide feedback on usability, performance, and test results during this pilot phase.
- The Superior Court of Riverside County's **Traffic Avatar** project went live on the court's website in May 2018. The avatar is an interactive virtual speaking character that assists online customers with traffic-related inquiries in multiple languages. As of the end of the fiscal year, the court has reported that the avatar was used by 702 customers.
- The Superior Court of Sacramento County has established **video conferencing to conduct mental health hearings**, including petitions for writs of habeas corpus, Riese medication capacity determinations, and time extensions. The court has completed the purchase and installation of the media carts needed for the Videoconferencing of Mental Health Hearings project. Currently, the court is testing the equipment with two mental health facilities and anticipates the remote mental health proceedings to begin in October 2018.

### **Future Activities**

The council will continue to provide oversight to ensure that expenditures are in alignment with approved project budgets; collect and analyze outcome measurements; and create and manage an accessible repository of project documentation that will promote statewide replicability of the programs.

Courts throughout the state are continuing activities under their projects; are developing policies and procedures documentation, training manuals, and archives; and will continue to share resources with others through collaborative efforts. This collection of resources will be archived and made accessible to all courts that are interested in replicating a project.

**Attachments**

1. Attachment A: *Court Innovations Grant Program: Project Awards by Funding Category*

**Court Innovations Grant Program  
Project Awards by Funding Category**

	<b>Court</b>	<b>Project Name</b>		<b>Current Award</b>
<b>Collaborative Courts</b>			<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$10,142,465.74</b>
1	Alameda Superior Court	Collaborative Court Management Information System	\$	114,223.00
2	Contra Costa Superior Court	Veteran's Treatment Court (VTC)	\$	367,974.33
3	Fresno Superior Court	Human Trafficking Court Planning and Implementation	\$	383,651.00
4	Humboldt Superior Court	Family Dependency Drug Court	\$	1,414,209.82
5	Inyo Superior Court	Reentry Court	\$	273,712.00
6	Mendocino Superior Court	Adult Drug Court	\$	374,611.89
7	Placer Superior Court <sup>1</sup>	Video Appearances	\$	280,000.00
8	Sacramento Superior Court	Monitor and Measure the Achievement of Program Goals	\$	311,849.00
9	San Diego Superior Court	Evidence-Based Sentencing Triage Assessment Unit	\$	1,484,758.85
10	San Francisco Superior Court	Veterans Justice Court	\$	318,592.00
11	San Joaquin Superior Court	Community Supervision Court	\$	1,982,207.94
12	San Mateo Superior Court	DUI and Restitution Court	\$	1,012,477.00
13	Santa Cruz Superior Court	Collaborative Justice System	\$	1,174,633.00
14	Sonoma Superior Court	Veterans Court Enhancements	\$	56,476.00
15	Stanislaus Superior Court	Homeless Court Program	\$	593,089.91
<b>Self-Help, Family and Juvenile Courts</b>			<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$7,374,999.59</b>
1	5th DCA Superior Court	Self-Help and Learning Center Website	\$	317,916.00
2	Butte Superior Court	Remote Video-Conferencing Technology	\$	576,140.00
3	Contra Costa Superior Court	California's Virtual Self Help Site	\$	970,365.00
4	El Dorado Superior Court	One Family/One Judge Pilot Project	\$	66,599.00
5	Los Angeles Superior Court	Self-Help Traffic Avatar (Gina) Expansion	\$	59,373.00
6	Monterey Superior Court	California Court Access App	\$	789,940.00
7	Orange Superior Court	Enhance Self-Help Portal	\$	326,800.00
8	Placer Superior Court <sup>1</sup>	Video Appearances	\$	280,000.00
9	Riverside Superior Court	Intelligent Self-Help Kiosk	\$	648,774.14
10	Riverside Superior Court	Traffic Avatar	\$	46,865.65
11	Riverside Superior Court	Attorney and Litigant Electronic Courtroom Self Check-In	\$	178,732.14
12	San Bernardino Superior Court	Customer Relationship Management Portal	\$	445,137.60
13	San Bernardino Superior Court	Video-Conferencing Child Custody Recommending Counseling	\$	35,537.40
14	San Diego Superior Court	Access to Information Made Simple	\$	332,631.00
15	San Mateo Superior Court	Develop and Provide Expanded Online Self-help	\$	336,000.00
16	Santa Barbara Superior Court	Instant Family Law Orders	\$	312,926.00
17	Shasta Superior Court	Cooperative Parenting Program	\$	458,590.66
18	Sonoma Superior Court	Queuing/Appointment/Calendaring System	\$	56,586.00
19	Tuolumne Superior Court	Expand Small Claims-Civil Mediation Program	\$	24,000.00
20	Ventura Superior Court	Juvenile Delinquency Family Engagement Workshops	\$	88,182.00
21	Ventura Superior Court	Internet Based Self-help Workshops	\$	932,404.00
22	Yolo Superior Court	Online Interactive Multilingual Tool	\$	91,500.00
<b>Other Efficiencies</b>			<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$4,814,458.27</b>
1	5th DCA Superior Court	Modernize the Transcript Assembly Program	\$	793,000.00
2	Contra Costa Superior Court	Expanding LEP Court Access	\$	239,000.00
3	Humboldt Superior Court	Interactive Video Conferencing System	\$	170,919.87
4	Los Angeles Superior Court	E-Filing	\$	114,760.00
5	Los Angeles Superior Court	Justice System Partner and Litigant Portal	\$	637,500.00
6	Merced Superior Court	Video Conference Hearings Project	\$	218,500.58
7	Monterey Superior Court	Cloud Based Disaster Recovery Solution	\$	209,360.74
8	Orange Superior Court	Court User Portal	\$	511,200.00
9	Orange Superior Court	Improving Court Management Through the Use of Analytics	\$	938,851.34
10	Orange Superior Court	Automating the Courtroom Check-in	\$	246,190.00
11	Orange Superior Court	Conservatorship Accountability Portal	\$	212,972.00
12	Sacramento Superior Court	Videoconferencing of Mental Health Hearings	\$	66,249.00
13	San Bernardino Superior Court	Remote Video Proceedings	\$	295,194.74
14	San Mateo Superior Court	Automated Line Queuing System	\$	125,000.00
15	Santa Cruz Superior Court	SMS Notifications	\$	35,760.00
			<b>Program Total</b>	<b>\$22,331,923.60</b>

<sup>1</sup> The Placer Superior Court Video Appearances project received split-award from both the Collaborative Courts and the Self-help, Family and Juvenile Courts grant categories.