



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

For business meeting on January 15, 2019

Title

Judicial Branch Budget: Quarterly Report on the Court Innovations Grant Program, Fiscal Year 2018–19, Quarter 1

Agenda Item Type

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Submitted by

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

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Executive Summary

This report summarizes Judicial Council Court Innovations Grant Program activity for the first quarter of fiscal year 2018–19.

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 first quarter of the fiscal year:

- An award increase of \$399,360 was approved for the Court User Portal project of the Superior Court of Orange County for additional developer services to address a conservative original estimate of services needed. The original award was made under the Other Efficiencies category; the court requested and was approved this additional award under the Self-Help, Family and Juvenile Courts category.
- An award increase of \$99,840 was approved for the Conservatorship Accountability Portal project of the Superior Court of Orange County for additional developer services to address a conservative original estimate of services needed. The original award was made under the Other Efficiencies category; the court requested and was approved this additional award under the Self-Help, Family and Juvenile Courts category.
- An award reduction of \$110,528 was approved for the Attorney and Litigant Electronic Courtroom Self Check-In project of the Superior Court of Riverside County due to savings realized by integrating the court's existing eCourt management system with Check-In Software Beacons using Wi-Fi. This allowed the court to use existing computers in 95 courtrooms and eliminate the need to purchase additional computers, as originally anticipated in the project budget.
- An award increase of \$110,528 was approved for the Intelligent Self-Help Kiosk project of the Superior Court of Riverside County for the purchase of four additional kiosks for use for juror check-in.
- An award increase of \$56,311 was approved for the Access to Information Made Simple project of the Superior Court of San Diego County for additional staff time, consultant services and operating expenses due to unanticipated design issues and staffing issues.
- A shift of \$31,654.92 between budget categories was approved for the Interactive Video Conferencing project of the Superior Court of Humboldt County to purchase backup video equipment hardware, and to purchase additional software and service maintenance not originally anticipated in fiscal year 2018–19.

Increase in award and project adjustment

The JBBC approved the following award and scope adjustment in the first quarter of the fiscal year:

- An adjustment in scope was approved for the Self-Help Avatar project of the Superior Court of Los Angeles County due to the identification of the chatbot technology's application to serve a more specific target group of potential jurors through enhanced jury services; the project's name was modified to Self-Help Jury Chatbot. An award increase of \$38,127 was approved for consultant services for the chatbot design.

Withdrawal of Project

The JBBC approved the following project withdrawal in the first quarter of the fiscal year:

- In the fiscal year 2017–18, Quarter 4 report to the council, it was reported that 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. The JBBC discussed, at its September 20, 2018 in-person meeting, the court’s request, closing documentation, and deliverables (including initial coding) that will be made available to the branch for replicability purposes and concurred that no further action was needed regarding this withdrawal.

Contingency fund balance

As of the date of this report, the balance of the contingency fund is \$1,985,417.44, allocated as follows:

- \$1,348,809.88 for collaborative court projects;
- \$573,179.74 for self-help, family, and juvenile court projects; and
- \$63,427.82 for other efficiency projects.

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

Summary of findings

Fifty projects are moving forward. The total amount awarded to these projects totals \$22.9 million, as of the first quarter of fiscal year 2018–19, of which \$15.9 million has been distributed to the projects. The grant period covers three fiscal years, with money distributed only in the relevant fiscal year.

Of this, \$5.9 million was expended by the awardees through fiscal year 2018–19, Quarter 1, with approximately \$940,000 expended in Quarter 1. (See Attachment A, *Court Innovations Grant Program Fiscal Year 2018–19, Quarter 1 Distribution and Expenditure Summary*.)

At the end of October 2018, grantee courts submitted their fiscal year 2018–19 first-quarter reports. 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 Sacramento County’s Videoconferencing of Mental Health Hearings project has successfully tested the videoconferencing system between the court and two mental health facilities and procedures for the pilot project are being vetted by the county and court participants.
- The Superior Court of Sacramento County’s Videoconferencing Monitor and Measure the Achievement of Program Goals project has developed a database to capture certain information on the Mental Health Treatment Court. The court now has the ability to quickly generate basic information for the court, such as the number of new referrals, the number accepted, a census at a glance, successes, and discharges. In addition, the court can generate demographic information, case information, and mental health diagnoses. The court is currently working on building dashboards with the data it is now collecting. They are currently designing the reports but are sending the core data elements to the court and its partners on a monthly basis.
- The Superior Court of Orange County’s Court User Portal project has completed the Online Payment Plan for the court user portal; unit testing and quality assurance testing have been completed and the court is currently performing user acceptance 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 Program Fiscal Year 2018–19, Quarter 1 Distribution and Expenditure Summary*

**Court Innovations Grant Program
Fiscal Year 2018-19, Quarter 1
Distribution and Expenditure Summary**

Attachment A

Court	Project Name	Total Award	Total Distribution as of FY 2018-19, Q1	Total Project Expenditures	FY 2018-19, Q1 Expenditures
5th DCA	Self-Help and Learning Center Website	\$317,916.00	\$120,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$0.00
5th DCA	Modernize the Transcript Assembly Program	\$793,000.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$0.00
Alameda	Collaborative Court Management Information System	\$114,223.00	\$108,748.00	\$33,591.16	\$3,058.08
Butte	Remote Video-Conferencing Technology	\$576,140.00	\$576,140.00	\$317,057.46	\$53,955.62
Contra Costa	California's Virtual Self Help Site	\$970,365.00	\$339,688.00	\$249,486.95	\$0.00
Contra Costa	Veteran's Treatment Court (VTC)	\$367,974.33	\$264,609.75	\$69,305.02	\$460.00
Contra Costa	Expanding LEP Court Access	\$239,000.00	\$233,900.00	\$103.92	\$0.00
El Dorado	One Family/One Judge Pilot Project	\$66,599.00	\$52,450.00	\$45,226.00	\$0.00
Fresno	Human Trafficking Court Planning and Implementation	\$383,651.00	\$304,964.00	\$232,584.12	\$12,152.69
Humboldt	Family Dependency Drug Court	\$1,414,209.82	\$792,956.33	\$115,559.68	\$35,002.23
Humboldt	Interactive Video Conferencing System	\$170,919.87	\$170,919.87	\$92,590.14	\$0.00
Inyo	Reentry Court	\$273,712.00	\$180,685.00	\$54,697.49	\$9,343.00
Los Angeles	E-Filing	\$114,760.00	\$114,760.00	\$87,903.99	\$37,502.88
Los Angeles	Self-Help Traffic Avatar (Gina) Expansion	\$97,500.00	\$59,373.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Los Angeles	Justice System Partner and Litigant Portal	\$637,500.00	\$637,500.00	\$299,062.50	\$24,562.50
Mendocino	Adult Drug Court	\$374,611.89	\$233,409.95	\$110,004.07	\$17,966.07
Merced	Video Conference Hearings Project	\$218,500.58	\$208,020.58	\$173,883.62	-\$1,959.69
Monterey	Cloud Based Disaster Recovery Solution	\$209,360.74	\$209,360.74	\$0.00	\$0.00
Monterey	California Court Access App	\$789,940.00	\$522,280.00	\$145,189.49	\$8,982.82
Orange	Court User Portal	\$910,560.00	\$340,800.00	\$151,934.00	\$46,360.00
Orange	Improving Court Management Through the Use of Analytics	\$938,851.34	\$938,851.34	\$240,405.75	\$82,345.33
Orange	Automating the Courtroom Check-in	\$246,190.00	\$246,190.00	\$11,904.00	\$0.00
Orange	Conservatorship Accountability Portal	\$312,812.00	\$166,892.00	\$34,820.96	\$22,916.96
Orange	Enhance Self-Help Portal	\$326,800.00	\$314,608.00	\$30,104.00	\$18,200.00
Placer	Video Appearances	\$560,000.00	\$560,000.00	\$134,669.44	\$63,952.79
Riverside	Intelligent Self-Help Kiosk	\$759,302.14	\$522,094.90	\$315,432.75	\$0.00
Riverside	Traffic Avatar	\$46,865.65	\$41,233.03	\$24,536.29	\$2,499.50
Riverside	Attorney and Litigant Electronic Courtroom Self Check-In	\$68,204.14	\$172,466.90	\$7,052.69	\$830.00
Sacramento	Videoconferencing of Mental Health Hearings	\$66,249.00	\$66,249.00	\$59,297.03	\$0.00
Sacramento	Monitor and Measure the Achievement of Program Goals	\$311,849.00	\$208,926.00	\$120,545.08	\$21,209.25
San Bernardino	Remote Video Proceedings	\$295,194.74	\$208,743.77	\$78,907.36	\$7,959.36
San Bernardino	Customer Relationship Management Portal	\$445,137.60	\$416,621.87	\$112,149.05	\$111,316.94
San Bernardino	Video-Conferencing Child Custody Recommending Counseling	\$35,537.40	\$28,112.40	\$19,489.75	\$1,870.10
San Diego	Access to Information Made Simple	\$332,631.00	\$258,538.00	\$162,851.60	\$5,596.71
San Diego	Evidence-Based Sentencing Triage Assessment Unit	\$1,484,758.85	\$980,279.58	\$355,563.62	\$83,774.98
San Francisco	Veterans Justice Court	\$318,592.00	\$221,961.28	\$117,372.40	\$17,969.18
San Joaquin	Community Supervision Court	\$1,982,207.94	\$1,275,471.92	\$652,892.14	\$113,682.34
San Mateo	DUI and Restitution Court	\$1,012,477.00	\$701,875.00	\$205,050.97	\$0.00
San Mateo	Develop and Provide Expanded Online Self-help	\$336,000.00	\$336,000.00	\$44,403.07	\$0.00
San Mateo	Automated Line Queuing System	\$125,000.00	\$125,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Santa Barbara	Instant Family Law Orders	\$312,926.00	\$281,026.00	\$24,215.33	\$173.02
Santa Cruz	Collaborative Justice System	\$1,174,633.00	\$789,922.00	\$274,244.37	\$58,366.17
Santa Cruz	SMS Notifications	\$35,760.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Shasta	Cooperative Parenting Program	\$458,590.66	\$255,540.10	\$47,847.16	\$6,309.38
Sonoma	Veterans Court Enhancements	\$56,476.00	\$56,476.00	\$56,476.00	\$0.00
Sonoma	Queuing/Appointment/Calendar System	\$56,586.00	\$56,586.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Stanislaus	Homeless Court Program	\$593,089.91	\$395,626.60	\$86,745.75	\$223.92
Tuolumne	Expand Small Claims-Civil Mediation Program	\$24,000.00	\$16,200.00	\$900.00	\$150.00
Ventura	Juvenile Delinquency Family Engagement Workshops	\$88,182.00	\$58,183.00	\$25,686.46	\$4,936.29
Ventura	Internet Based Self-help Workshops	\$932,404.00	\$625,320.00	\$344,553.83	\$68,046.46
Yolo	Online Interactive Multilingual Tool	\$91,500.00	\$89,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Program Total		\$22,869,250.60	\$15,889,059.91	\$5,850,796.46	\$939,714.88