



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

For business meeting on March 15, 2019

Title

Judicial Branch Budget: Quarterly Report on the Court Innovations Grant Program, Fiscal Year 2018–19, 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 Judicial Council Court Innovations Grant Program activity for the second 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 second quarter of the fiscal year since the last report:

Award increases:

- \$35,371.52 was approved for the One Family/One Judge Pilot project of the Superior Court of El Dorado County for a Specialty Court Coordinator to enhance the impact of the project by providing operational and case support.
- \$4,065.87 was approved for the Video Conferencing Hearings project of the Superior Court of Merced County for unanticipated additional equipment required to complete the video conference installation in three courtrooms.
- \$67,998.60 was approved for the Veterans Justice Court project of the Superior Court of San Francisco County to provide additional Veterans Justice Court clerk, court report and program analyst services, contractor services, and operating expenses to meet project needs and further enhance the services provided.
- \$140,726.00 was approved for the Community Supervision Court of the Superior Court of San Joaquin County to hire a part-time Case Manager to perform assessments and referrals; to hire a part-time Program Assistant to assist with calendaring, data collection, and document support; and for minimal additional operating expenses.

Shifts between categories:

- \$72,213.99 was approved for the Collaborative Justice System project of the Superior Court of Santa Cruz County to allow for staff attendance at relevant mental health and branch conferences and enhance services provided to clients.
- \$349,881.34 was approved for the Improving Court Management Through Analytics project of the Superior Court of San Diego County to purchase software to enhance the data warehouse's use and to create a user portal to the data warehouse.
- \$35,466.15 due to realized savings was approved for the Triage Assessment Unit of the Superior Court of San Diego County to address unanticipated cost increases of operating expenses.

Contingency fund balance

As of the date of this report, the balance of the contingency fund is \$1,530,087.38, allocated as follows:

- \$1,159,116.97 for collaborative court projects;
- \$307,542.59 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 second quarter of fiscal year 2018–19, of which \$16.7 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, \$7.5 million was expended by the awardees through fiscal year 2018–19, quarter 2, with approximately \$591,000 expended in quarter 2. (See Attachment A, *Court Innovations Grant Program Fiscal Year 2018–19, Quarter 2 Distribution and Expenditure Summary*.)

At the end of January 2019, grantee courts submitted their fiscal year 2018–19 second-quarter reports. Council staff are reaching out to grant awardee courts to schedule visits for those post-implementation projects to interface directly with the enhanced court projects and, when appropriate, court users with the intent of complementing both the administration of the grant and the outcome measurement reporting by giving the project a voice through this personal interaction.

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, awardee courts have coordinated with council staff to revise their Project Implementation Plans to adjust timing for a task extension while ensuring the estimated project completion date is not impacted.

As a result of completing the planning and implementation phases, some awardee courts have better identified the project outcome measurements and the appropriate data sources to support the outcome measurements. When necessary, an amendment will be completed for the project intra-branch agreement to reflect the modified outcome measurements.

In January, the Superior Court of Contra Costa County withdrew the Expanding LEP Court Access project from the program due to unforeseen circumstances. Judicial Council staff is scheduled to present the withdrawal for JBBC review at its next in-person meeting with an anticipated update to the council at the May 2019 business meeting.

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 Butte County has been awarded \$841,777.15 to expand its pilot Self-Help Assistance and Referral Program (SHARP). The court has identified technical deficiencies at 12 of the 13 participating rural locations and installed new broadband,

infrastructure, hardware, equipment, and software when necessary to access SHARP's multi-site workshop program and the self-help computer labs available to provide individualized assistance in lieu of coordinated workshops. The project has been successful at increasing access to justice for self-represented litigants living in rural communities seeking assistance on family law issues not covered by the family law facilitator, general civil cases, guardianship, unlawful detainer (both landlord and tenant), domestic violence and civil harassment restraining orders, elder abuse, name changes, and emancipation. The court is currently reaching out to additional rural courts for expansion opportunities.

- The Superior Court of San Diego County's Access to Information Made Simple (AIMS) implemented an online message board that allows litigants the option to register online with the Family Law Facilitator's Office (FLF) and create their own account to more easily access information specific to their case and to communicate with the FLF staff. As of December 2018, 1,362 accounts have been opened, during the second quarter customers logged onto their Message Board accounts 723 times and 211 messages were sent by staff to customers. Video chat capability has been implemented in all the Family Law Facilitator's Office locations to provide remote appointments. 270 appointments were made during quarter 2.
- The Superior Court of Ventura County's Internet Based Self-Help Workshops project has enabled the Self-Help Legal Access Center and the Family Law Facilitator's Office to conduct webinars on topics including Divorce/Legal Separation/Nullity, Family Law Q&A, How to File a Request for Order, Civil Law Q&A, and Civil Law Forms Review. The court has created and uploaded three self-help videos on the court's YouTube channel and is working on additional topics to allow self-represented litigants access to relevant legal information on demand. The Family Law Facilitator's Office now also provides information on hours of operation, webinar schedules, and general courthouse information outside their front entrance using a digital display.

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 2 Distribution and Expenditure Summary*

**Court Innovations Grant Program
Fiscal Year 2018-19, Quarter 2
Distribution and Expenditure Summary**

Court	Project Name	Total Award	Total Distribution as of FY 2018-19, Q2	Total Project Expenditures	FY 2018-19, Q2 Expenditures
5th DCA	Self-Help and Learning Center Website	\$317,916.00	\$185,751.36	\$185,751.36	\$185,751.36
5th DCA	Modernize the Transcript Assembly Program	\$793,000.00	\$42,000.00	\$42,000.00	\$42,000.00
Alameda	Collaborative Court Management Information System	\$114,223.00	\$108,748.00	\$43,384.88	\$3,801.05
Butte	Remote Video-Conferencing Technology	\$841,777.15	\$576,140.00	\$403,363.39	\$21,819.92
Contra Costa	California's Virtual Self Help Site	\$249,486.95	\$339,688.00	\$249,486.95	\$0.00
Contra Costa	Veteran's Treatment Court (VTC)	\$367,974.33	\$264,609.75	\$86,296.50	\$654.12
Contra Costa	Expanding LEP Court Access	\$239,000.00	\$233,900.00	\$103.92	\$0.00
El Dorado	One Family/One Judge Pilot Project	\$101,970.52	\$87,821.52	\$45,226.00	\$0.00
Fresno	Human Trafficking Court Planning and Implementation	\$383,651.00	\$304,964.00	\$248,311.20	\$2,981.51
Humboldt	Family Dependency Drug Court	\$1,414,209.82	\$792,956.33	\$130,182.81	\$6,481.66
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	\$67,836.06	\$3,436.00
Los Angeles	E-Filing	\$114,760.00	\$114,760.00	\$100,000.00	\$0.00
Los Angeles	Self-Help Traffic Avatar (Gina) Expansion	\$97,500.00	\$97,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Los Angeles	Justice System Partner and Litigant Portal	\$637,500.00	\$637,500.00	\$349,000.00	\$0.00
Mendocino	Adult Drug Court	\$449,611.89	\$233,409.95	\$139,339.15	\$9,723.48
Merced	Video Conference Hearings Project	\$222,566.45	\$212,086.45	\$190,832.59	\$4,065.87
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	\$150,516.89	\$966.00
Orange	Court User Portal	\$910,560.00	\$740,160.00	\$198,484.00	\$15,010.00
Orange	Improving Court Management Through the Use of Analytics	\$938,851.34	\$938,851.34	\$434,777.08	\$66,117.50
Orange	Automating the Courtroom Check-in	\$246,190.00	\$246,190.00	\$11,904.00	\$0.00
Orange	Conservatorship Accountability Portal	\$312,812.00	\$266,732.00	\$86,186.56	\$8,297.52
Orange	Enhance Self-Help Portal	\$326,800.00	\$314,608.00	\$93,984.00	\$10,172.00
Placer	Video Appearances	\$674,692.91	\$560,000.00	\$153,810.73	\$6,894.34
Riverside	Intelligent Self-Help Kiosk	\$759,302.14	\$632,622.90	\$495,332.15	\$0.00
Riverside	Traffic Avatar	\$46,865.65	\$41,233.03	\$24,536.29	\$0.00
Riverside	Attorney and Litigant Electronic Courtroom Self Check-In	\$68,204.14	\$61,938.90	\$7,052.69	\$0.00
Sacramento	Videoconferencing of Mental Health Hearings	\$59,297.03	\$66,249.00	\$59,297.03	\$0.00
Sacramento	Monitor and Measure the Achievement of Program Goals	\$311,849.00	\$208,926.00	\$154,378.32	\$9,040.75
San Bernardino	Remote Video Proceedings	\$295,194.74	\$208,743.77	\$92,928.79	\$6,120.74
San Bernardino	Customer Relationship Management Portal	\$445,137.60	\$416,621.87	\$116,244.05	\$0.00
San Bernardino	Video-Conferencing Child Custody Recommending Counseling	\$35,537.40	\$28,112.40	\$22,438.10	\$1,027.39
San Diego	Access to Information Made Simple	\$332,631.00	\$258,538.00	\$182,789.76	\$5,762.70
San Diego	Evidence-Based Sentencing Triage Assessment Unit	\$1,484,758.85	\$980,279.58	\$457,349.53	\$28,369.07
San Francisco	Veterans Justice Court	\$386,590.60	\$289,959.88	\$146,445.53	\$10,198.49
San Joaquin	Community Supervision Court	\$2,122,933.94	\$1,334,947.92	\$848,821.48	\$35,518.34
San Mateo	DUI and Restitution Court	\$1,012,477.00	\$701,875.00	\$254,527.50	\$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	\$24,405.38	\$62.87
Santa Cruz	Collaborative Justice System	\$1,174,633.00	\$789,922.00	\$337,323.11	\$20,150.23
Santa Cruz	SMS Notifications	\$35,760.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Shasta	Cooperative Parenting Program	\$458,590.66	\$255,540.10	\$60,736.95	\$5,587.20
Sonoma	Veterans Court Enhancements	\$56,476.00	\$56,476.00	\$56,476.00	\$0.00
Sonoma	Queuing/Appointment/Calendaring System	\$56,586.00	\$56,586.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Stanislaus	Homeless Court Program	\$593,089.91	\$395,626.60	\$112,998.25	\$0.00
Tuolumne	Expand Small Claims-Civil Mediation Program	\$24,000.00	\$16,200.00	\$900.00	\$0.00
Ventura	Juvenile Delinquency Family Engagement Workshops	\$88,182.00	\$58,183.00	\$34,333.38	\$3,829.04
Ventura	Internet Based Self-help Workshops	\$932,404.00	\$625,320.00	\$427,452.84	\$77,311.64
Yolo	Online Interactive Multilingual Tool	\$91,500.00	\$89,000.00	\$8,185.25	\$0.00
Program Total		\$22,844,912.63	\$16,696,550.26	\$7,472,723.66	\$591,150.79