



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

For business meeting on: July 18–19, 2019

Title

Judicial Branch Budget: Quarterly Report on the Court Innovations Grant Program, Fiscal Year 2018–19, Quarter 3

Agenda Item Type

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Submitted by

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

Contact

Marcela Eggleton, 916-263-1738
marcela.eggleton@jud.ca.gov

Executive Summary

This report summarizes Judicial Council Court Innovations Grant Program activity for the third 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 third quarter of the fiscal year:

Award increases

- \$265,637.15 was approved for the Remote Video Conferencing Technology project of the Superior Court of Butte County to extend the project by one year and expand the project to an additional 5–10 courts.
- \$75,000.00 was approved for the Adult Drug Court project of the Superior Court of Mendocino County to identify, collect, and analyze participant-level data.
- \$114,692.91 was approved for the Video Appearances project of the Superior Court of Placer County to expand the project scope to include remote evidence sharing capabilities.

Shifts between categories

- \$349,881.34 was approved for the Improving Court Management Through Analytics project of the Superior Court of Orange County to enhance the data warehouse's use and to create a user portal to the data warehouse.

Withdrawal of project

The JBBC approved the following project withdrawal:

- In the fiscal year (FY) 2018–19, quarter 1 report to the council, it was reported that the Superior Court of Contra Costa County withdrew the Expanding LEP Court Access project from the program due to unforeseen circumstance, resulting in a return of \$233,796.08 to the contingency fund. The JBBC discussed, at its April 17, 2019 meeting, the court's request 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 \$746,875.42, allocated as follows:

- \$723,244.81 for collaborative court projects;
- \$10,497.62 for self-help, family, and juvenile court projects; and
- \$13,132.99 for other efficiency projects.

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

Summary of findings

Of the 51 awarded projects, 49 projects are moving forward. The total amount awarded to the projects totals \$22.9 million. As of the third quarter of FY 2018–19, \$16.9 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, \$8.9 million was expended by the awardees through FY 2018–19, quarter 3, with approximately \$1.4 million expended in quarter 3. (See Attachment A, *Court Innovations Grant Program Fiscal Year 2018–19, Quarter 3 Distribution and Expenditure Summary*.)

At the end of April 2019, grantee courts submitted their FY 2018–19 third-quarter reports. Council staff are continuing to reach 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 to complement both the administration of the grant and the outcome measurement reporting, thus giving the project a voice through this personal interaction. Concurrently, council staff are further discussing with the courts the project outcome measurement data and the units being measured with the intent of ensuring all appropriate data is being considered and tracked. When necessary, an amendment will be completed for the project intra-branch agreement to reflect modified outcome measurements.

Council staff are also in discussions with those courts whose project may need spending authority extended into the coming fiscal year to allow for modified project implementation plans or additional efforts. When necessary, an amendment will be completed for the project intra-branch agreement to reflect the modified spending authority dates.

Fiscal Impact and Policy Implications

Implementation efforts

The following are project highlights as reported by the courts in the most current Quarterly Progress Reports or directly to council staff:

- The Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District, has gone live with Phase 1 of the Self-Help and Learning Center Website project. This site can also be accessed directly (<https://selfhelp.appellate.courts.ca.gov/>) or via a link found on each appellate court's individual site. The new site includes helpful tools for self-represented litigants and attorneys less familiar with the appeal process, including the timeline and steps of a typical appeal, educational videos, forms, and a chatbot to answer questions.
- The Superior Court of Butte County's Remote Video Conferencing project has expanded from the original 12 participating courts, that have been fully live since 2019, to 11 additional courts (Del Norte, Lassen, Madera, Mariposa, Madera, Merced, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Sierra, and Tulare) who are in the process of on-boarding. The court will ensure the new participating courts have adequate bandwidth and technological infrastructure to allow the use of remote video conferencing and document assembly program technologies. Once the infrastructure is in place, the 23 participating courts will share self-help resources as part of the Self-Help Assistance and Referral Program (SHARP) program.
- The Superior Court of San Diego County's Access to Information Made Simple project rolled out their Message Board to the public in January 2018. A total of 1,362 accounts have been opened with the Family Law Facilitator's (FLF) office countywide, with 271

new accounts created during the second quarter of FY 2018–19. Customers logged onto their Message Board account a total of 723 times during the reporting period, and a total of 211 messages were sent by staff to customers during the reporting period. All FLF sites are live with video chats where the court offers both morning and afternoon appointments four days a week. A total of 270 video chat appointments were made countywide this quarter. The service continues to be marketed on the court’s website and in flyers distributed to the family law business offices countywide. The child support commissioners and the Department of Child Support Services have referred some customers who do not live in San Diego to take advantage of this service to receive FLF assistance.

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 3 Distribution and Expenditure Summary*

**Court Innovations Grant Program
Fiscal Year 2018-19, Quarter 3
Distribution and Expenditure Summary**

Attachment A

Court	Project Name	Total Award	Total Distribution as of FY 2018-19, Q3	Total Project Expenditures	FY 2018-19, Q3 Expenditures
5th DCA	Self-Help and Learning Center Website	\$317,916.00	\$136,621.36	\$136,621.36	\$25,870.00
5th DCA	Modernize the Transcript Assembly Program	\$793,000.00	\$117,000.00	\$117,000.00	\$0.00
Alameda	Collaborative Court Management Information System	\$114,223.00	\$108,748.00	\$49,986.60	\$6,601.72
Butte	Remote Video-Conferencing Technology	\$841,777.15	\$576,140.00	\$473,501.81	\$70,138.42
Contra Costa	California's Virtual Self Help Site (withdrawn)	\$249,486.95	\$339,688.00	\$249,486.95	\$0.00
Contra Costa	Veteran's Treatment Court (VTC)	\$367,974.33	\$264,609.76	\$92,662.49	\$6,365.99
Contra Costa	Expanding LEP Court Access (withdrawn)	\$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	\$262,527.11	\$14,215.91
Humboldt	Family Dependency Drug Court	\$1,414,209.82	\$792,956.33	\$144,909.95	\$14,727.14
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	\$98,539.16	\$30,703.10
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	\$446,500.00	\$97,500.00
Mendocino	Adult Drug Court	\$449,611.89	\$308,409.95	\$158,476.65	\$19,137.50
Merced	Video Conference Hearings Project	\$222,566.45	\$212,086.45	\$209,435.89	\$18,603.30
Monterey	Cloud Based Disaster Recovery Solution	\$209,360.74	\$209,360.74	\$19.65	\$19.65
Monterey	California Court Access App	\$789,940.00	\$522,280.00	\$303,267.05	\$152,750.16
Orange	Court User Portal	\$910,560.00	\$740,160.00	\$297,087.38	\$98,603.38
Orange	Improving Court Management Through the Use of Analytics	\$938,851.34	\$938,851.34	\$492,153.73	\$57,316.23
Orange	Automating the Courtroom Check-in	\$246,190.00	\$246,190.00	\$36,414.00	\$24,510.00
Orange	Conservatorship Accountability Portal	\$312,812.00	\$266,732.00	\$133,304.62	\$47,118.06
Orange	Enhance Self-Help Portal	\$326,800.00	\$314,608.00	\$149,160.00	\$55,176.00
Placer	Video Appearances	\$674,692.91	\$674,692.91	\$221,100.12	\$67,289.39
Riverside	Intelligent Self-Help Kiosk	\$759,302.14	\$632,622.90	\$567,571.27	\$72,239.12
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	\$182,734.54	\$28,356.22
San Bernardino	Remote Video Proceedings	\$295,194.74	\$208,743.77	\$128,924.15	\$16,477.06
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	\$0.00
San Diego	Access to Information Made Simple	\$332,631.00	\$258,538.00	\$192,807.30	\$10,017.54
San Diego	Evidence-Based Sentencing Triage Assessment Unit	\$1,484,758.85	\$980,279.58	\$543,892.01	\$86,542.48
San Francisco	Veterans Justice Court	\$386,590.60	\$289,959.88	\$174,083.67	\$27,638.14
San Joaquin	Community Supervision Court	\$2,122,933.94	\$1,334,947.92	\$984,854.96	\$136,033.48
San Mateo	DUI and Restitution Court	\$1,012,477.00	\$701,875.00	\$309,825.02	\$55,297.52
San Mateo	Develop and Provide Expanded Online Self-help	\$336,000.00	\$336,000.00	\$47,989.71	\$3,586.64
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	\$40,444.86	\$16,039.48
Santa Cruz	Collaborative Justice System	\$1,174,633.00	\$789,922.00	\$398,804.69	\$61,481.58
Santa Cruz	SMS Notifications	\$35,760.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Shasta	Cooperative Parenting Program	\$458,590.66	\$255,540.10	\$78,266.05	\$17,529.10
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	\$153,225.78	\$40,227.53
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	\$38,509.50	\$4,176.12
Ventura	Internet Based Self-help Workshops	\$932,404.00	\$625,320.00	\$437,688.05	\$10,235.21
Yolo	Online Interactive Multilingual Tool	\$91,500.00	\$89,000.00	\$9,180.25	\$995.00
Program Total		\$22,844,912.63	\$16,912,113.18	\$8,885,820.55	\$1,393,518.17