



## 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 14, 2019

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**Title**

Report to the Legislature: Court Innovations  
Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2018–19

**Agenda Item Type**

Information Only

**Date of Report**

October 1, 2019

**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.

### Relevant Previous Council Action

These reports have been submitted to the Legislature annually since 2017, as required. Previous reports are available 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, which 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, it makes no fiscal impact on 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 30, 2019)



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HON. TANI G. CANTIL-SAKAUYE  
*Chief Justice of California  
Chair of the Judicial Council*

HON. MARSHA G. SLOUGH  
*Chair, Executive and Planning Committee*

HON. DAVID M. RUBIN  
*Chair, Judicial Branch Budget Committee  
Chair, Litigation Management Committee*

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*Chair, Technology Committee*

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Mr. Maxwell V. Pritt*

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Hon. Rebecca L. Wightman*

MR. MARTIN HOSHINO  
*Administrative Director,  
Judicial Council*

September 30, 2019

Hon. Holly J. Mitchell  
Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
State Capitol, Room 5019  
Sacramento, California 95814

Hon. Philip Y. Ting  
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
Vice-Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
State Capitol, Room 6026  
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 on the Court Innovations Grant Program required under section 2, item 0250-101-0932 of the Budget Act of 2016.

If you have any questions related to this report, please contact Ms. Laura Speed, Director of Leadership Support Services, at 916-323-3235 or [laura.speed@jud.ca.gov](mailto:laura.speed@jud.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Martin Hoshino  
Administrative Director  
Judicial Council

Hon. Holly J. Mitchell  
Hon. Philip Y. Ting  
Ms. Keeley Bosler  
September 30, 2019  
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MH/LS/ME/me  
Attachment

cc: Diane F. Boyer-Vine, Legislative Counsel  
Erika Contreras, Secretary of the Senate  
E. Dotson Wilson, Chief Clerk of the Assembly  
Eric Dang, Policy Consultant, Office of Senate President pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins  
Amy Alley, Policy Advisor, Office of Senate President pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins  
Alf Brandt, Senior Counsel, Office of Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon  
Gabrielle Zeps, Policy Consultant, Office of Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon  
Anita Lee, Principal Fiscal and Policy Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office  
Tina McGee, Executive Secretary, Legislative Analyst's Office  
Timothy Weber, Budget Analyst, Department of Finance  
Margie Estrada, Chief Counsel, Senate Judiciary Committee  
Mary Kennedy, Chief Counsel, Senate Public Safety Committee  
Christopher Francis, Consultant, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
Shaun Naidu, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Jennifer Troia, Principal Consultant, Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
Eric Csizmar, Consultant, Senate Republican Policy Office  
Matt Osterli, Consultant, Senate Republican Fiscal Office  
Morgan Branch, Consultant, Senate Republican Policy Office  
Alison Merrilees, Chief Counsel, Assembly Judiciary Committee  
Gregory Pagan, Chief Counsel, Assembly Public Safety Committee  
Jennifer Kim, Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee  
Jay Dickenson, Chief Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
Kimberly Horiuchi, Principal Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
Lindsay Mitchell, Consultant, Assembly Republican Office of Policy & Budget  
Gary Olson, Consultant, Assembly Republican Office of Policy & Budget  
Daryl Thomas, Consultant, Assembly Republican Office of Policy & Budget  
Amy Leach, Minute Clerk, Office of Assembly Chief Clerk  
Cory T. Jaspersen, Director, Governmental Affairs, Judicial Council  
Yvette Casillas-Sarcos, Administrative Coordinator, Governmental Affairs, Judicial Council



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MR. MARTIN HOSHINO  
Administrative Director,  
Judicial Council

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 30, 2019

The Judicial Council has submitted a 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**

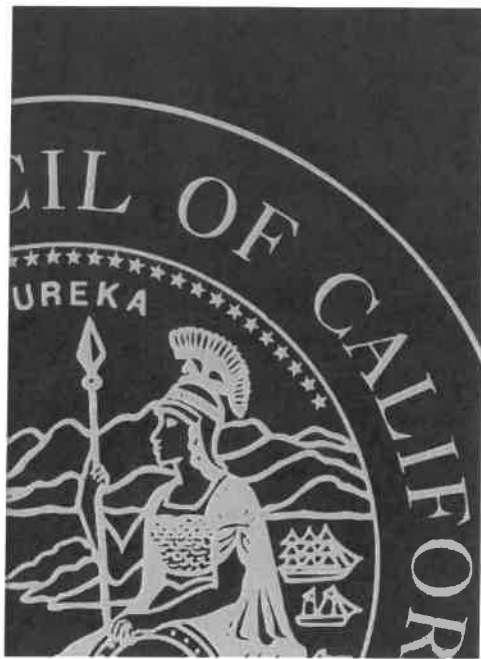
**Laura Speed**

*Director*

## **SPECIAL PROJECTS**

**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 30, 2019

## 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, though in order to increase the available grant awards amount the Judicial Council capped 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. Remaining program money became a contingency fund for grant recipients should a project need additional investment.

In July 2019, the Judicial Council awarded \$108,000 to an additional grantee court under the collaborative courts program. Currently, 50 of the 52 awarded projects<sup>2</sup> are moving forward, totaling \$23.7 million. A list of grant projects reflecting current award amounts by funding category is included as Attachment A to this report.

## Court Innovations Program Oversight

In 2017, the Judicial Council delegated oversight for the Court Innovations Grant Program to the Judicial Branch Budget Committee (JBBC). 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>3</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 fiscal year 2018–19, grantee courts have expended over \$11.1 million. The contingency fund balance fluctuates 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> Section 2, item 0250-101-0932 of the Budget Act provides for the Court Innovations Grant Program, [www.courts.ca.gov/documents/cipg-budget-act.pdf](http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/cipg-budget-act.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> The Superior Court of Contra Costa County withdrew California's Virtual Self-Help Site project and Expanding LEP Court Access project from the program because of unforeseen circumstances. The Superior Court of Solano County received a grant in July 2019.

<sup>3</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 30, 2019

Collaborative Courts	Self-Help, Family and Juvenile Courts	Other Efficiencies	Total
\$641,469.44	\$8,119.62	\$3,558.99	\$653,148.05

## Project/Court Collaboration

Courts and council staff continue to collaborate formally and informally to leverage information and resources. Various awardee courts collaborate directly on grant projects allowing them to share ideas, resources, and challenges. Some examples include:

- In March 2019, the Superior Court of Orange County hosted a meeting for grantee courts with projects focusing on **expanding self-help services and access**. Project managers and court leadership gathered to share project scopes, identify similar and differing components and approaches, and discuss leverageable resources.
- The Superior Court of Monterey County **developed an application for smartphones and other devices** that provides 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. The application source code has been made available and shared with other courts to allow them to customize it to their unique requirements.
- The Superior Court of Fresno County hosts visits from other courts to its **Human Trafficking Court**. These other courts observe the Human Trafficking Court operation and receive materials, so the program can be replicated in other counties.

## Project Highlights

What one sees through the judicial branch's grant program is a more vital, user-friendly, "customer centered" court experience making it easier for vulnerable populations to access justice safely, quickly and efficiently. We are also seeing hard to reach and under-served populations benefitting from expanded, innovative collaborative court programs.

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 in fiscal year 2018–19:

- The Superior Court of Contra Costa County celebrated its first **Veteran's Treatment Court (VTC)** graduation in August 2019. The VTC serves veterans who are involved with the justice system and whose court cases are affected by issues such as sexual trauma, traumatic brain injury, posttraumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, or mental health problems stemming from service in the United States military. The court and

justice partners participating in the VTC provide participants with expedited referrals to treatment and mentors in the community, among other services.

- The Superior Court of San Francisco County has enhanced the existing **Veterans Justice Court (VJC)** by expanding evidence-based, trauma-informed treatment to participants and providing care through a clinical case manager, who provides therapeutic interventions to those participants who are not eligible for full veterans' health care benefits. Since the start date of this grant, the VJC has accepted 103 new participants and graduated 76 participants.
- The Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District, has 'went live' with phase 1 of the **Self-Help and Learning Center Website** project, <https://selfhelp.appellate.courts.ca.gov/>, accessible on each appellate district court's individual website. The new site includes helpful tools for self-represented litigants and attorneys less familiar with the appeal process, including a timeline and steps of a typical appeal, educational videos, forms, and a chatbot to answer questions.
- In 2018, the Superior Court of Butte County implemented **remote video-conferencing technology** in 13 rural courts to support self-help programs that are used collaboratively by sharing self-help resources between participating courts (Superior Courts of Butte, Glenn, Humboldt, Imperial, Inyo, Lake, Mendocino, Modoc, Nevada, Placer, Shasta, Tehama, and Trinity Counties) and produced remote video workshops to serve self-represented litigants.

The court recently received additional money to replicate this program in the Superior Courts of Del Norte, Lassen, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Sierra and Tulare Counties. The court will ensure the new participating courts have adequate bandwidth and document assembly program technologies. Once the infrastructure is in place, the new participating courts will share the self-help resources as part of the Self-Help Assistance and Referral Program (SHARP).

- The Superior Court of San Diego County's **Access to Information Made Simple (AIMS)** project implemented an online message board allowing litigants to register online in the Family Law Facilitator's Office (FLF). Litigants create their own case account, more easily accessing information specific to their matter and to communicate with the FLF staff. Video chat capability has been implemented in all the Family Law Facilitator's Office locations to conduct remote appointments. As of June 2019, 2,256 accounts were opened on the message board. Video chats continue to be popular in the Central Division, where the court offers both morning and afternoon appointments four days a week; 1,371 video chat appointments were made through fiscal year 2018-19.
- 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 including Divorce/Legal Separation/Nullity, Family Law Q&A, How to File a Request Order, Civil Law Q&A, and Civil Law Forms Review. The court

has created and uploaded 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. In fiscal year 2018-19, the self-help centers conducted 165 legal self-help webinars assisting 475 self-represented litigants. These self-represented litigants participated from 21 different states and United States territories. The use of the remote services has avoided an estimated 2,663 commuting hours, and were conducted with zero wait time.

- The Superior Court of Humboldt County has established **video conferencing to conduct mental health hearings** required by the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act in collaboration with the Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services, Mental Health Branch. This allows the patient to participate remotely without being transported from the hospital to the courthouse, mitigating undue stress and public safety risks associated with patient transportation.
- The Superior Court of Monterey County has **developed an application for smartphones and other devices** that provides 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. The court reported that through fiscal year 2018-19, the application has been downloaded 1,762 times and used for functions such as searching and viewing cases, calendar and reminders, and traffic transactions and court information. The application has been used to view 3,053 cases.

## 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 their activities under the projects and 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.

Indeed, many of the projects will have application in areas outside the judicial branch. We will make those materials available and look forward to sharing the important work the innovations grant program allowed.

## Attachments

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

Court Innovations Grant Program  
Project Award Amounts by Funding Category

Attachment A

Award Total			\$ 23,721,852.16
<b>Collaborative Courts Grant Category</b>			<b>\$ 11,058,530.78</b>
	Court	Project Name	Current Award <sup>1</sup>
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	El Dorado Superior Court <sup>2</sup>	One Family/One Judge Pilot Project	\$ 50,501.03
4	Fresno Superior Court	Human Trafficking Court Planning and Implementation	\$ 508,776.00
5	Humboldt Superior Court	Family Dependency Drug Court	\$ 1,330,739.86
6	Inyo Superior Court	Reentry Court	\$ 247,487.37
7	Mendocino Superior Court	Adult Drug Court	\$ 449,611.89
8	Placer Superior Court <sup>2</sup>	Video Appearances	\$ 543,013.31
9	Sacramento Superior Court	Monitor and Measure the Achievement of Program Goals	\$ 311,849.00
10	San Diego Superior Court	Evidence-Based Sentencing Triage Assessment Unit	\$ 1,484,758.85
11	San Francisco Superior Court	Veterans Justice Court	\$ 466,050.60
12	San Joaquin Superior Court	Community Supervision Court	\$ 2,189,871.94
13	San Mateo Superior Court	DUI and Restitution Court	\$ 1,012,477.00
14	Santa Cruz Superior Court	Collaborative Justice System	\$ 1,223,630.69
15	Solano Superior Court	Drug Court Case Management System	\$ 108,000.00
16	Sonoma Superior Court	Veterans Court Enhancements	\$ 56,476.00
17	Stanislaus Superior Court	Homeless Court Program	\$ 593,089.91
<b>Self-Help, Family and Juvenile Courts Grant Category</b>			<b>\$ 7,791,880.38</b>
	Court	Project Name	Current Award <sup>1</sup>
1	Fifth District Appellate Court	Self-Help and Learning Center Website	\$ 317,916.00
2	Butte Superior Court <sup>2</sup>	Remote Video-Conferencing Technology	\$ 841,777.15
3	Contra Costa Superior Court	California's Virtual Self Help Site	\$ 249,486.95
4	El Dorado Superior Court <sup>2</sup>	One Family/One Judge Pilot Project	\$ 101,970.52
5	Los Angeles Superior Court	Jury Chatbot	\$ 97,500.00
6	Monterey Superior Court <sup>2</sup>	California Court Access App	\$ 789,940.00
7	Orange Superior Court <sup>2</sup>	Court User Portal	\$ 399,360.00
8	Orange Superior Court <sup>2</sup>	Conservatorship Accountability Portal	\$ 99,840.00
9	Orange Superior Court	Enhance Self-Help Portal	\$ 326,800.00
10	Placer Superior Court <sup>2</sup>	Video Appearances	\$ 280,000.00
11	Riverside Superior Court	Intelligent Self-Help Kiosk	\$ 701,602.14
12	Riverside Superior Court	Traffic Avatar	\$ 46,865.65
13	Riverside Superior Court	Attorney and Litigant Electronic Courtroom Self Check-In	\$ 49,732.14
14	San Bernardino Superior Court	Customer Relationship Management Portal	\$ 445,137.60
15	San Bernardino Superior Court	Video-Conferencing Child Custody Recommending Counseling	\$ 35,537.60

<sup>1</sup> The current award reflects the total award remaining after any award amount has been returned.

<sup>2</sup> The awardee courts received split-award for the project from two categories; the table indicates the amount award from each grant funding category (not the total project award).

Court Innovations Grant Program  
Project Award Amounts by Funding Category

Attachment A

Self-Help, Family and Juvenile Courts Grant Category (continued)			\$ 7,791,880.38
	Court	Project Name	Current Award <sup>1</sup>
16	San Diego Superior Court	Access to Information Made Simple	\$ 332,631.00
17	San Mateo Superior Court	Develop and Provide Expanded Online Self-help	\$ 336,000.00
18	Santa Barbara Superior Court <sup>2</sup>	Instant Family Law Orders	\$ 412,926.00
19	Shasta Superior Court	Cooperative Parenting Program	\$ 458,590.66
20	Sonoma Superior Court	Queuing/Appointment/Calendaring System	\$ 56,586.00
21	Tuolumne Superior Court	Expand Small Claims-Civil Mediation Program	\$ 2,550.00
22	Ventura Superior Court	Juvenile Delinquency Family Engagement Workshops	\$ 88,182.00
23	Ventura Superior Court	Internet Based Self-help Workshops	\$ 1,229,448.97
24	Yolo Superior Court	Online Interactive Multilingual Tool	\$ 91,500.00

Other Efficiencies Grant Category			\$ 4,871,441.00
	Court	Project Name	Current Award <sup>1</sup>
1	Fifth District Appellate Court	Modernize the Transcript Assembly Program	\$ 793,000.00
2	Butte Superior Court <sup>2</sup>	Remote Video-Conferencing Technology	\$ 62,053.64
3	Contra Costa Superior Court	Expanding LEP Court Access	\$ 103.92
4	Humboldt Superior Court	Interactive Video Conferencing System	\$ 170,919.87
5	Los Angeles Superior Court	E-Filing	\$ 114,760.00
6	Los Angeles Superior Court	Justice System Partner and Litigant Portal	\$ 637,500.00
7	Merced Superior Court	Video Conference Hearings Project	\$ 222,566.45
8	Monterey Superior Court	Cloud Based Disaster Recovery Solution	\$ 209,360.74
9	Monterey Superior Court <sup>2</sup>	California Court Access App	\$ 127,797.82
10	Orange Superior Court <sup>2</sup>	Court User Portal	\$ 511,200.00
11	Orange Superior Court	Improving Court Management Through the Use of Analytics	\$ 938,851.34
12	Orange Superior Court	Automating the Courtroom Check-in	\$ 246,190.00
13	Orange Superior Court <sup>2</sup>	Conservatorship Accountability Portal	\$ 212,972.00
14	Sacramento Superior Court	Videoconferencing of Mental Health Hearings	\$ 59,297.03
15	San Bernardino Superior Court	Remote Video Proceedings	\$ 295,194.74
16	San Mateo Superior Court	Automated Line Queuing System	\$ 125,000.00
17	Santa Barbara Superior Court <sup>2</sup>	Instant Family Law Orders	\$ 9,574.00
18	Santa Cruz Superior Court	SMS Notifications	\$ 135,099.45

<sup>1</sup> The current award reflects the total award remaining after any award amount has been returned.

<sup>2</sup> The awardee courts received split-award for the project from two categories; the table indicates the amount award from each grant funding category (not the total project award).