



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Item No.: 21-154

For business meeting on: October 1, 2021

Title

Juvenile Law: Fiscal Year 2021–22
Allocation of Augmented Local Assistance
Funding for Court Appointed Special
Advocates of Los Angeles

Agenda Item Type

Action Required

Effective Date

October 1, 2021

Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes Affected

None

Date of Report

September 7, 2021

Recommended by

Family and Juvenile Law Advisory
Committee

Hon. Jerilyn L. Borack, Cochair

Hon. Mark A. Juhas, Cochair

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Executive Summary

The Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee recommends approving augmented grant funding allocation for fiscal year (FY) 2021-22 to the Court Appointed Special Advocates of Los Angeles (CASA-LA). Primary allocations of the \$2.713 million budget for Judicial Council CASA grants were made at the July 9, 2021 Judicial Council meeting.

Recommendation

The Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee recommends that the Judicial Council, effective October 1, 2021:

Allocate \$200,000 to Court Appointed Special Advocates of Los Angeles (CASA-LA) to serve youth in the child welfare system and address caseload waitlists impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Relevant Previous Council Action

Legislation (Stats. 1988, ch. 723) amended Welfare and Institutions Code section 100 et seq. to require the Judicial Council to establish guidelines encouraging the development of local CASA programs that assist abused and neglected children who are the subject of judicial proceedings. The legislation also called for the establishment of a CASA grant program to be administered by the Judicial Council and required CASA programs to provide local matching—or in-kind—funds equal to program funding received from the Judicial Council.

In August 2003, a formula-based method for distributing Judicial Council CASA program funding to California CASA programs was adopted. The new funding approach replaced the previous competitive request-for-proposals process with predetermined program awards.

At its meeting on August 23, 2013, the Judicial Council approved a new funding methodology that is formula based and uses program data submitted by local programs to evaluate the efficiency and growth of those programs.¹ The first step of the two-step funding approach establishes a base funding allocation, and the second step awards up to two incentives at a fixed amount for each incentive that can be applied on top of the base funding allocation if the program qualifies. Programs are required, through both a contract and an evaluation process, to demonstrate that they meet a number of objectives, including compliance with rule 5.655 of the California Rules of Court and local rules of court, volunteer recruitment, volunteer training, board development, sound fiscal management, and other requirements as outlined in the National CASA Standards.

At its meeting on July 20, 2018, the Judicial Council adopted a revised methodology that provides a larger percentage of funds as base funding and replaced the two existing incentives with a growth incentive for those programs that are eligible.² The revised methodology made no changes to the four-tiered base funding portion of the methodology. At its September 21, 2018 meeting, the Judicial Council approved the allocation of \$500,000 to CASA programs as additional base funding for FYs 2018–19, and 2019–20, using the four-tiered base funding methodology adopted and reaffirmed at its August 2013 and July 2018 meetings, respectively.³

¹ Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Juvenile Dependency: Court Appointed Special Advocate Program Funding Methodology* (July 19, 2013), www.courts.ca.gov/documents/jc-20130823-itemM.pdf.

² Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Judicial Council Budget: Court Appointed Special Advocate Funding Methodology and FY 2018–19 Allocations* (June 28, 2018), <https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=6357571&GUID=C010F4D4-28C5-4868-871C-94B763688ACA>.

³ Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., (Aug. 14, 2018), *Judicial Council Budget: Allocation of Augmented Funding for Court Appointed Special Advocate Grant Program*, <http://jcc.legistar.com/gateway.aspx?m=l&id=/matter.aspx?key=2133>.

At its July 9, 2021 meeting, the Judicial Council approved the FY 2021-22 Judicial Council CASA grant funding allocations.⁴

Analysis/Rationale

Primary allocations of the \$2.713 million budget for Judicial Council CASA grants were made at the July 9, 2021 Judicial Council meeting. The Budget Act of 2021 (SB 129) added \$200,000 in Judicial Council CASA grant funding for allocation to Court Appointed Special Advocates of Los Angeles to serve youth in the child welfare system and address caseload waitlists impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, the act states: “\$200,000 shall be provided to the Court Appointed Special Advocates of Los Angeles (CASA-LA) to serve youth in the child welfare system and address caseload waitlists impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.”⁵

Policy implications

The committee has no policy implications to present.

Comments

Because the recommended allocation is based on the Budget Act of 2021, comments were not sought.

Alternatives considered

The committee has no alternatives to present.

Fiscal and Operational Impacts

There are no fiscal or operational impacts other than the \$200,000 judicial branch funding to be distributed to Court Appointed Special Advocates of Los Angeles (CASA-LA).

⁴ Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Juvenile Law: Fiscal Year 2021-22 Funding Allocations for Court Appointed Special Advocate Local Assistance* (July 9, 2021), <https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=9487734&GUID=BD0E146D-4BF6-40A9-B325-779E70763AAD>

⁵ Senate Bill 129 (Skinner) *Budget Act of 2021*
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB129.