



Judicial Council of California

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January 19, 2024

Subject Text

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Title

Juvenile Law: 2018-19 Allocations for Juvenile Dependency Counsel Collections Program and Court-Appointed Counsel Expected Unspent Funding (Action Required)

Summary

The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommends redistribution of funding for court appointed juvenile dependency counsel for fiscal year 2018-19.

Under the Juvenile Dependency Counsel Collections Program, and as directed in Welfare and Institutions Code section 903.1, courts collect reimbursements from parents and other responsible persons liable for the cost of dependency-related legal services to the extent that those persons are able to pay. The committee recommends that the Judicial Council: (1) allocate the 2017-18 statutorily restricted funds -- remitted in excess of dependency counsel program administrative costs -- to the trial courts calculated according to the methodology adopted by the council at its August 23, 2013, business meeting; (2) under council recommendations adopted in April 2015, reallocate unspent dependency counsel funding from courts that have identified funds they do not intend to spend to courts funded at below the average statewide funding level; and (3) allow staff to further survey eligible courts to determine their ability to use funding during the remainder of the fiscal year. Any funds not utilized will be prorated to other eligible courts, and staff will be directed to report the final allocation at the July 2019 council meeting.

Recommendation

The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee (TCBAC) recommends the Judicial Council:

1. Allocate \$766,198, the 2017-18 Juvenile Dependency Counsel Collections Program (JDCCP) funds remitted in excess of dependency counsel program administrative costs to the trial courts calculated according to the methodology adopted by the Judicial Council at its August 23, 2013, business meeting. Attachment A shows projected allocations based on information received at the time of this report.
2. Allocate \$659,744, the 2018-19 court appointed counsel expected unspent funding, to the trial courts calculated according to the methodology adopted by the Judicial Council at its January 22, 2015, business meeting. Attachment B (column I) shows projected allocations based on information obtained from trial courts at the time of this report.
3. Direct staff to further survey courts regarding their ability to utilize funds during the remainder of the fiscal year, reallocate unspent funds to those courts demonstrating an ability to expend funds by the end of the fiscal year, and report on the final allocation to the Judicial Council at its July 18-19, 2019, business meeting.