

The Budget Act of 2016: Court Innovations Grant Program

Section 2, Item 0250-101-0932 of the Budget Act of 2016¹ provides:

Provisions 1.–13. * * *

14. Of the funds appropriated in Schedule (1), \$25,000,000 shall be used for the establishment, operation, administration, and staffing of the Court Innovations Grant Program for trial and appellate court programs and practices that promote innovation, modernization, and efficiency. The funds are designated for a competitive grant program developed and administered by the Judicial Council. The competitive grant program will focus on high priority innovations, modernizations, and efficiencies in the courts; \$12,000,000 to be spent on collaborative courts, \$8,000,000 on Self-help, Family and Juvenile courts, and \$5,000,000 on other efficiencies across all types of courts.
15. Courts participating in the Court Innovations Grant Program must describe how funds will be used to support the development of innovative programs and practices that are sustainable after the grant award period and can be adopted and replicated by other courts. Funds shall be used for judicial branch programs that may include partnerships with other government entities. Funded programs shall include measurable results, outcomes, or benefits that have demonstrated impact on the court and the public it serves.
16. The Judicial Council shall develop and implement a plan to disseminate information about innovative practices funded through this program and shall consider the adoption of appropriate modifications to the California Rules of Court and other judicial branch policies, procedures, and programs in order to support the expansion of successful programs funded through this grant.
17. Courts receiving funding from the Court Innovations Grant Program shall report quarterly to the Judicial Council on fund expenditures, impacts, and potential savings associated with the funded programs. No later than September 30, 2017, and each year thereafter, the Judicial Council shall provide a report to the Department of Finance and the Joint Legislative Budget Committee on the grant program.
18. Court Innovations Grants are two to three years in duration and may be awarded on a rolling basis.
19. Of the funds appropriated in Schedule (1) of this item, \$25,000,000 is available for encumbrance and expenditure through June 30, 2020, after which any unexpended funds shall revert to the General Fund.
20. Up to five percent of funds appropriated in Schedule (1) of this item designated for the Court Innovations Grant Program shall be transferred to Schedule (3) of Item 0250-001-0001 and made available to the Judicial Council for the administration of the program and to support the expansion of successful programs in other courts. Funds transferred pursuant to

¹ Sen. Bill 826 (Leno), Stats. 2016, ch. 23 (amended May 25, 2016), available at http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB826.

this provision are available for encumbrance and expenditure through June 30, 2020, after which any unexpended funds shall revert to the General Fund.

21. From the funds appropriated in Schedule (4), to the extent possible, interpreter services should be provided by an in-person interpreter. This does not preclude trial courts from using other means to provide interpreter services, after in-person options have been reasonably exhausted.