



# JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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MR. MARTIN HOSHINO  
*Administrative Director,*  
*Judicial Council*

September 8, 2017

Hon. Holly J. Mitchell, Chair  
Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 553  
Sacramento, California 95814

Hon. Philip Y. Ting, Vice Chair  
Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 553  
Sacramento, California 95814

Mr. Michael Cohen  
Director, Department of Finance  
915 L Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Report on the Judicial Council's Court Innovations Grant Program in  
accordance with the Budget Act of 2016

Dear Senator Mitchell, Assembly Member Ting, and Mr. Cohen:

I am writing to report on the Court Innovations Grant Program, which was approved in the Budget Act of 2016 (Sen. Bill 826; Stats. 2016, ch. 23).<sup>1</sup> This Act 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.<sup>2</sup>

I am pleased to report that the Judicial Council swiftly launched a highly competitive grant process, which has resulted in \$23.5 million in grants being awarded for 52 programs designed to improve court services or increase court

<sup>1</sup> Available at [www.courts.ca.gov/documents/cipg-budget-act.pdf](http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/cipg-budget-act.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> To increase the amount of funds available to be awarded for grants, the Judicial Council will use only \$625,000 of the \$1.25 million authorized.

efficiencies. These grants were approved by the Judicial Council at its March 24, 2017 meeting, and they were distributed to 28 trial courts and one appellate court.

Many parts of the judicial branch worked together to implement the grant process and to ensure its success. In June 2016, the Chief Justice appointed an ad hoc working group to formulate rules for the process. This group developed a Request for Applications (RFA), which was approved by the council at its August 25, 2016 meeting. The RFA was issued to all local and state courts on September 1, 2016, and it required final grant applications to be submitted by October 31, 2016. Interest in the program was tremendous. We received over 118 applications from 42 courts (38 trial courts and 4 appellate courts) collectively seeking over \$70 million in funding.

The responsibility for administering the competitive grant process was assigned to the council's Judicial Branch Budget Committee. The committee met frequently, and it carefully scored each application under established criteria. This criteria was designed to ensure fairness and to promote sensible innovations and efficiencies in accordance with legislative directives. The committee's recommendations were presented to the Judicial Council, which approved them at its March 2017 meeting.

Of the \$23.5 million in total grants awarded, \$11.3 million was awarded for collaborative court programs, \$7.5 million was awarded for self-help, family and juvenile programs, and \$4.7 million was awarded for other programs to increase court efficiencies. Attachment A is a list of the grants awarded. As shown in this attachment, some minor changes in awards have been made. One court declined its award after more closely considering a cost-benefit analysis of its program, and some awards were modestly increased consistent with delegated authority.<sup>3</sup> Currently, 51 projects are moving forward, totaling \$22.3 million (\$10.1 million for collaborative court programs, \$7.5 million for self-help, family, and juvenile court programs, and \$4.7 million for other court efficiencies).

In addition to awarding the grants, the council retained three to four percent of the funding in each grant category for contingency funding to pay for unforeseen costs that might arise during the grant period. As indicated in the table below, the amount of the contingency fund has grown. This increase is the result of the one court declining its grant. The contingency fund will be monitored and, as appropriate, funds will be allocated to courts on an as-needed basis during the grant period.

**Contingency Fund Balance as of September 2017**

Total	Collaborative	Self-help	Other
\$2,056,647	\$1,557,534	\$350,725	\$148,387

<sup>3</sup> Circulating Order CO-17-04, delegating funding adjustments related to the Court Innovations Grant Program to the Judicial Branch Budget Committee, was approved by the Judicial Council on June 30, 2017. A copy of the circulating order can be found at <https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=5311536&GUID=0A5CC66D-930B-4818-A504-F8FF88486F06>.

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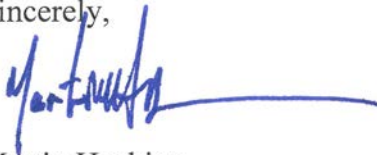
Each of the 51 projects is covered by an Intra-branch Agreement (IBA) between the Judicial Council and the recipient court. These IBAs require recipient courts to submit quarterly reports to council staff starting October 30, 2017. These reports are to include the following information:

- Program activities and milestones;
- Significant changes, challenges, or problems and how they were or will be addressed;
- Monetary savings (to date and prospectively);
- Measures taken to ensure the sustainability of the project;
- Measures taken to ensure the project can be replicated in other courts;
- Measurable outcomes identified in the IBAs;
- The status of any relevant collaborations with the justice system or other local or state partners; and
- Program activities scheduled for the next quarter, and how these activities will advance the program's goals and objectives.

To the extent practicable, program benefits—including products, services, materials, and technology—will be shared among different courts during the grant period. Furthermore, as the projects are implemented and as quarterly reports are received, we will continue to evaluate each program's effectiveness to determine whether it can and should be replicated in other courts.

Thank you, and if you have any questions about this program, please call me or Maureen Dumas, Principal Manager in the Judicial Council's Special Projects office, [maureen.dumas@jud.ca.gov](mailto:maureen.dumas@jud.ca.gov) or 916-263-2290.

Sincerely,



Martin Hoshino  
Administrative Director  
Judicial Council

MH/MD/cp  
Enclosure

cc: Diane F. Boyer-Vine, Legislative Counsel  
Daniel Alvarez, Secretary of the Senate  
E. Dotson Wilson, Chief Clerk of the Assembly  
Jessica Devencenzi, Policy Consultant, Office of Senate President pro Tempore Kevin de León  
Alf Brandt, Senior Counsel, Office of Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon  
Anita Lee, Senior Fiscal and Policy Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office

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Tina McGee, Executive Secretary, Legislative Analyst's Office  
Emma Jungwirth, Program Budget Analyst, Department of Finance  
Margie Estrada, Chief Counsel, Senate Judiciary Committee  
Julie Salley-Gray, Consultant, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
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Matt Osterli, Consultant, Senate Republican Fiscal Office  
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Cory T. Jaspersen, Director, Governmental Affairs, Judicial Council  
Laura Speed, Supervising Attorney, Governmental Affairs, Judicial Council  
Yvette Casillas-Sarcos, Admin Coordinator, Governmental Affairs, Judicial Council  
Maureen Dumas, Principal Manager, Special Projects, Judicial Council

# Judicial Council's Court Innovations Grant Program - Awards<sup>i</sup>

#	Court	Program Name	Awards
<b>Collaborative Courts</b>			<b>\$ 10,142,466</b>
1	Alameda Superior Court	Collaborative Court Management Information System	\$ 114,223
2	Contra Costa Superior Court	Veteran's Treatment Court	\$ 367,975
3	Fresno Superior Court	Human Trafficking Court Planning and Implementation	\$ 383,651
4	Humboldt Superior Court	Family Dependency Drug Court	\$ 1,414,210
5	Inyo Superior Court	Reentry Court	\$ 273,712
6	Mendocino Superior Court	Adult Drug Court	\$ 374,612
7	Placer Superior Court <sup>ii</sup>	Video Appearances	\$ 280,000
8	Sacramento Superior Court	Monitor and Measure the Achievement of Program Goals	\$ 311,849
9	San Diego Superior Court	Evidence-Based Sentencing Triage Assessment Unit	\$ 1,484,759
10	San Francisco Superior Court	Veterans Justice Court	\$ 318,592
11	San Joaquin Superior Court	Community Supervision Court	\$ 1,982,208
12	San Mateo Superior Court	DUI and Restitution Court	\$ 1,012,477
13	Santa Cruz Superior Court	Collaborative Justice System	\$ 1,174,633
14	Sonoma Superior Court	Veterans Court Enhancements	\$ 56,476
15	Stanislaus Superior Court	Homeless Court Program	\$ 593,090
<b>Self-help, Family and Juvenile Courts</b>			<b>\$ 7,449,275</b>
16	5th District Court of Appeal	Self-Help and Learning Center Website	\$ 317,916
17	Butte Superior Court	Remote Video-Conferencing Technology	\$ 576,140
18	Contra Costa Superior Court	California's Virtual Self Help Site	\$ 970,365
19	El Dorado Superior Court	One Family/One Judge Pilot Project	\$ 66,599
20	Los Angeles Superior Court	Self-Help Traffic Avatar (Gina) Expansion	\$ 59,373
21	Monterey Superior Court	California Court Access App	\$ 789,940
22	Orange Superior Court	Enhance Self-Help Portal	\$ 326,800
n/a	Placer Superior Court <sup>ii</sup>	Video Appearances	\$ 280,000
23	Riverside Superior Court	Attorney and Litigant Electronic Courtroom Self Check-In	\$ 178,732
24	Riverside Superior Court	Intelligent Self-Help Kiosk	\$ 628,774
25	Riverside Superior Court	Traffic Avatar	\$ 66,866
26	San Bernardino Superior Court	Customer Relationship Management Portal	\$ 430,756
27	San Bernardino Superior Court	Video-Conferencing Child Custody Recommending Counseling	\$ 35,538
28	San Diego Superior Court	Access to Information Made Simple	\$ 276,320
29	San Mateo Superior Court	Develop and Provide Expanded Online Self-help	\$ 336,000
30	Santa Barbara Superior Court	Instant Family Law Orders	\$ 312,926
31	Shasta Superior Court	Cooperative Parenting Program	\$ 603,559
32	Sonoma Superior Court	Queuing/Appointment/Calendaring System	\$ 56,586
33	Tuolumne Superior Court	Expand Small Claims-Civil Mediation Program	\$ 24,000
34	Ventura Superior Court	Internet Based Self-help Workshops	\$ 932,404
35	Ventura Superior Court	Juvenile Delinquency Family Engagement Workshops	\$ 88,182
36	Yolo Superior Court	Online Interactive Multilingual Tool	\$ 91,500
<b>Other Efficiencies</b>			<b>\$ 4,726,613</b>
37	5th District Court of Appeal	Modernize the Transcript Assembly Program	\$ 793,000
38	Contra Costa Superior Court	Expanding LEP Court Access	\$ 239,000
39	Humboldt Superior Court	Interactive Video Conferencing System	\$ 170,920
40	Los Angeles Superior Court	E-Filing	\$ 114,760
41	Los Angeles Superior Court	Justice System Partner and Litigant Portal	\$ 637,500
42	Merced Superior Court	Video Conference Hearings Project	\$ 194,540
43	Monterey Superior Court	Cloud Based Disaster Recovery Solution	\$ 209,361
44	Orange Superior Court	Automating the Courtroom Check-in	\$ 246,190
45	Orange Superior Court	Conservatorship Accountability Portal	\$ 212,972
46	Orange Superior Court	Court User Portal	\$ 511,200
47	Orange Superior Court	Improving Court Management Through the Use of Analytics	\$ 938,851
48	Sacramento Superior Court	Videoconferencing of Mental Health Hearings	\$ 52,860
49	San Bernardino Superior Court	Remote Video Proceedings	\$ 244,699
50	San Mateo Superior Court	Automated Line Queuing System	\$ 125,000
51	Santa Cruz Superior Court	SMS Notifications	\$ 35,760
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>\$ 22,318,354</b>

<sup>i</sup> Grant award projects and amounts differ from the original awards as one court declined the grant award and additional monies were approved by the Judicial Branch Budget Committee for reconsideration in June of 2017 in response to funding reconsideration requests.

<sup>ii</sup> The Judicial Branch Budget Committee recommended the Placer Superior Court Video Appearances project to be awarded split funding from both the Collaborative Courts and the Self-help, Family and Juvenile Courts grant categories.