

California's Access to Visitation Grant Program

Grant Applicant Webinar

Fiscal Years 2027–28 through 2029–30

Wednesday, October 7, 2026 | 2:00–3:30 p.m.

Judicial Council of California | Center for Families, Children & the Courts

Welcome



Please stay muted

Use the Zoom chat or Q&A to send questions at any time.



Questions

Time for Q&A is set aside at the end. Staff may paraphrase or consolidate similar questions.



Written answers

Questions and answers will be emailed to registrants within one week following the webinars.



Materials

Grant application instructions and templates are posted on the Access to Visitation website.

Agenda

01 Program overview

02 Funding

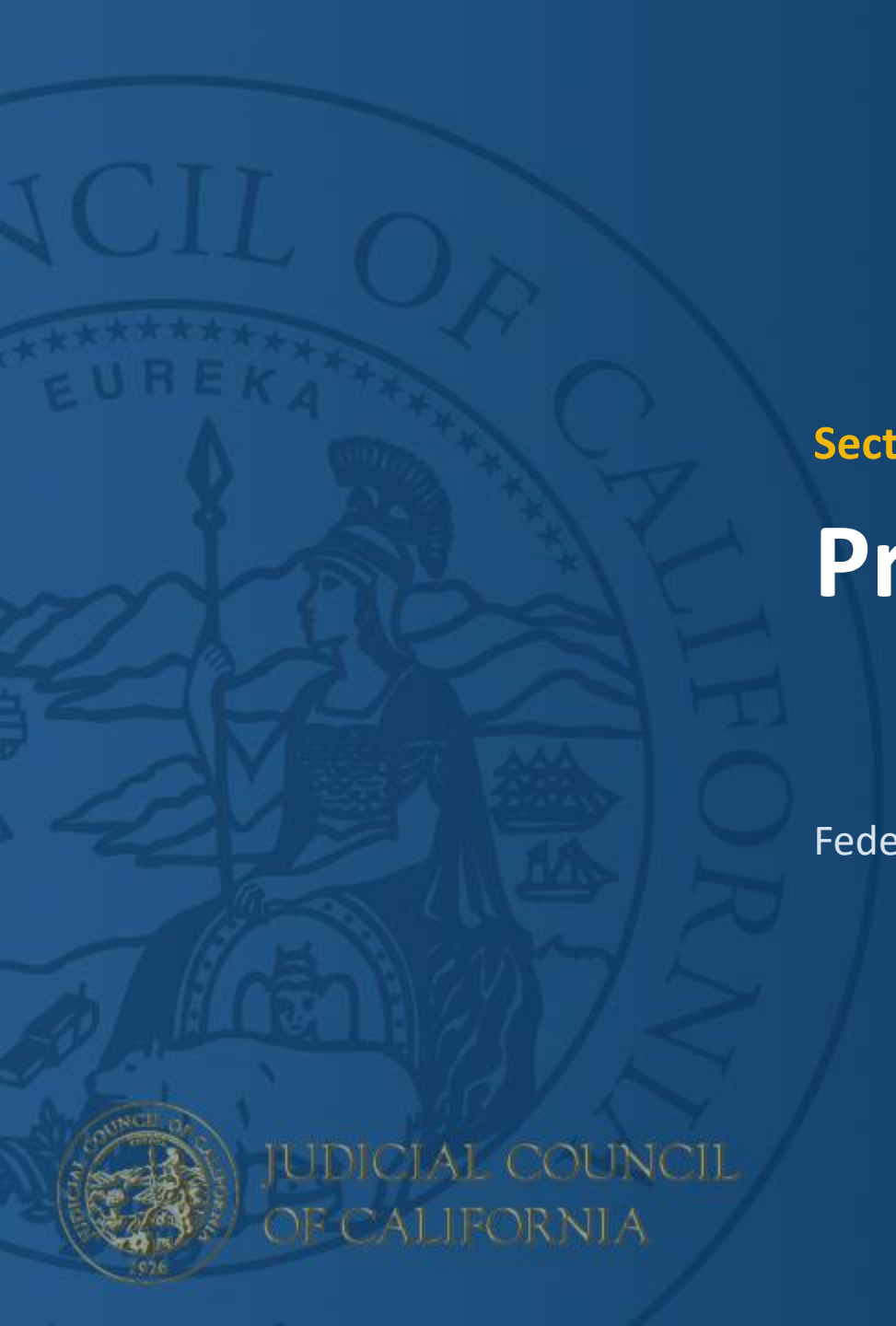
03 Grant application evaluation and scoring

04 Required attachments and templates

05 Applying through Submit.com

06 Key dates and next steps

07 Questions and answers



Section 01

Program Overview

Federal and state program goals, eligible applicants, and who can be served



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The Federal Child Access and Visitation Grant

- Established under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996
- Since 1997, Congress has authorized \$10 million per year in block grants to states
- Formula grant: state allocations are based on the number of single-parent households
- Administered by HHS, Administration for Children and Families
- The Judicial Council applies annually and awards funds to California superior courts

Federal program goal

“Remove barriers and increase opportunities for biological parents who are not living in the same household as their children to become more involved in their children’s lives.”

42 U.S.C. § 669b

California's Three Program Service Areas



Supervised visitation and exchange services

Must comply with Fam. Code § 3200.5 and Standard 5.20 (Uniform Standards of Practice for Providers of Supervised Visitation)



Education

Education about protecting children during family disruption



Group counseling

Group counseling services for parents and children

Program goal: promote healthy relationships between noncustodial parents and their children while ensuring children's health, safety, and welfare. The program supports noncustodial parents' access and visitation; all other benefits are secondary outcomes.

Who Can Apply and Who Can Be Served

Eligible applicants

- All California superior courts are eligible
- Family law divisions must administer the program
- One court serves as lead applicant and primary liaison with Judicial Council staff
- Nonprofit agencies participate only as part of a court's application
- Collaboration with other courts and agencies is encouraged

Target population

- Low-income separated, separating, divorced, or unmarried parents and their children in Family Code custody and visitation proceedings
- Funds serve noncustodial parents only



Funds may not be used for

- Dependency cases or proceedings
- Tribes or Tribal Courts
- Off-site or in-home supervised visitation



Section 02

Funding

Funding categories, the 20 percent match, and how funds are paid



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Funding at a Glance

~\$655,000

awarded to courts
statewide each year

3 years

April 1, 2027 – March 31,
2030

20%

non-federal match
required

58

superior courts eligible to
apply

- Contract agreements are single-year contracts, renewable based on available funds
- Judicial Council contracts are executed only with the lead applicant court
- Courts must have a contract or Memorandum of Understanding with each subcontractor

Funding Categories

Up to

\$100,000

Counties ranked 1–19 · 19 courts
per fiscal year

Up to

\$60,000

Counties ranked 20–38 · 19 courts
per fiscal year

Up to

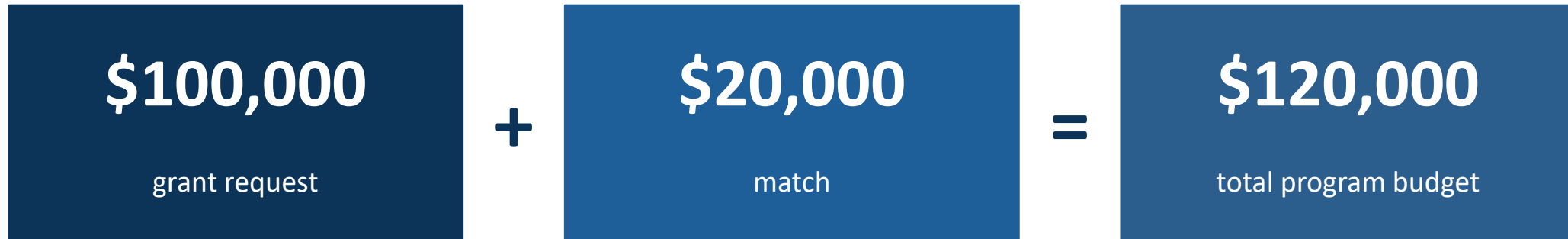
\$45,000

Counties ranked 39–58 · 20 courts
per fiscal year

How courts are placed

- Allocation methodology adopted by the Judicial Council, using two U.S. Census factors: the number of single-parent households and the number of individuals below the federal poverty level in each county
- Counties are ranked by their average share of the statewide totals; see Attachment C for every court's eligibility amount

The 20 Percent Match Requirement



- 20% = 10% federal requirement + 10% additional California requirement for sustainability
- Met with cash, in-kind contributions, or both
- May come from the court, the subcontractor, or both; the court decides how the match is met
- Only allowable costs count toward match
- Costs paid with program income cannot count toward match

How Funds Are Paid and Reallocated



Reimbursement-based

Courts submit monthly invoices for approved, allowable expenses. Funds are disbursed once staff confirm claims meet state and federal requirements.



Midyear reallocation

Courts complete a midyear questionnaire on funding needs. Staff may redistribute funds among grantees to ensure full expenditure; reallocation requires Judicial Council approval.



Declined awards

If a court declines before its contract is executed, funds go to the next-ranking court. Funds declined during the funding period are redistributed through the midyear reallocation.



Section 03

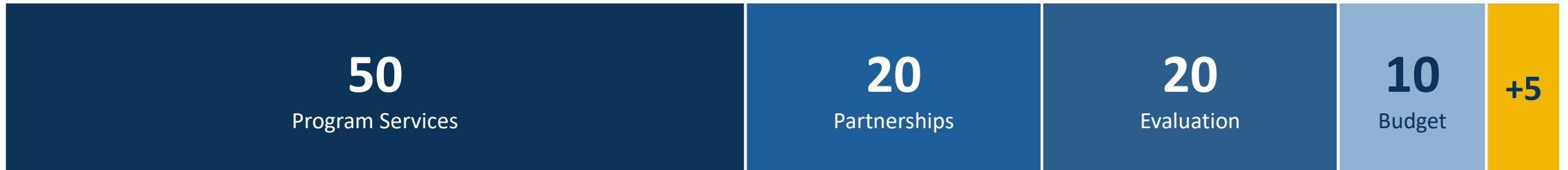
Grant Application Evaluation and Scoring

How applications are scored and selected (Attachment A)



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How Applications Are Scored: 105 Points



100 points for the grant application narrative, plus 5 bonus points for multicourt or multiagency collaboration

- Reviewers read each application in full and score responsiveness to each question
- Numeric scores alone do not determine funding recommendations
- Statewide geographic diversity, including court size and population, is also considered
- The Judicial Council makes all final funding decisions

Strength of Program Services: 50 Points

Scoring item	What reviewers look for	Points
Program start (Q31)	Will the program start on time? If not, is there a reasonable explanation?	5
Need for proposed services (Q32–34)	Supports AV goals by increasing noncustodial parents' access to and visitation with their children; describes the particular need for services in the target population; describes innovative or unique aspects	20
Program service delivery (Q35–38)	How services remove barriers to visitation, including location, eligibility, outreach, and cultural competency	15
Safety and security (Q39–42)	Safety and security policies and procedures for compliance with Standard 5.20; safety screening and protocols that identify and protect victims of domestic violence, described in detail	10

Partnerships and Evaluation: 20 Points Each

Scoring item	What reviewers look for	Points
Partnerships (Q43–44)	Services complement existing court-based programs; planned coordination with government, community-based, or domestic violence services	10
Experience (Q45–46)	Background, experience, and training of court staff and subcontractor agency; if expertise is lacking, a plan to obtain it	10
Evaluation (Q28.5, Q28.10, Q47)	How client satisfaction, program effectiveness, and efficiency will be measured. New applicants: how outcomes will be measured. Past grantees: changes made in service delivery	15
Sustainability (Q49–50)	A sustainability plan that includes other sources of support and efforts to seek additional funding	5

Budget and Bonus Points



Budget: 10 points (Q48, B1–B3)

- Funds allocated to minimize administrative costs and support direct services to clients
- How the court and subcontractor will monitor compliance with statutory and grant requirements
- Costs are reasonable for the service design, number of clients, and hours of service



Bonus: 5 points

- Multicourt collaboration: a lead applicant court partnering with courts or counties in other jurisdictions
- Multiagency collaboration: a single applicant court partnering with two or more local service providers
- Multiple site locations alone do not count as multiagency collaboration

Review and Selection Process



- Goal: approve as many requests as possible while ensuring services align with program goals
- Program staff do not score applications
- Before a contract is executed, awarded courts must certify that they have secured a subcontractor



Section 04

Required Attachments and Templates

Attachment B: the court and subcontractor budget



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Attachment B: Project Budget (Required for All Applicants)



B1: Budget Form

Excel workbook with budget and written justification narrative for the court and up to three subcontractors



B2: Summary of Client Services

Clients to be served and hours of service by service area, for the court and each subcontractor



B3: Summary of Program Budget

AV funds and match by expense category for the court and each subcontractor

- Budget covers the first contract year only: April 1, 2027 – March 31, 2028
- A new budget form is submitted each fiscal year for the contract agreement
- The grant is reimbursement-based; costs must fall within allowable cost categories
- Do not change the date on the budget form: April 1, 2027 is the funding period start date
- Upload the completed attachments only, not the grant application instructions

Application Documents and Where to Find Them

Document	Purpose	Where to find it
Grant Application Instructions	Program requirements, deadlines, and review process	AV website
Attachment A: Scoring Sheet	Reviewer rating criteria; use as a self-check	In instructions
Attachment B: Budget Form (B1)	Court and subcontractor budget and narrative (Excel)	AV website
Attachment B: Tables B2 and B3	Summary of client services and program budget (Excel)	AV website
Attachment C: Eligibility List	Each court's funding category and amount	In instructions
Questions Drafting Worksheet	All form questions, for drafting offline (Word)	AV website
Application form	Narrative questions and uploads	cfcc.submit.com/show/5



courts.ca.gov/cfcc-accesstovisitation.htm



Section 05

Applying Through Submit.com

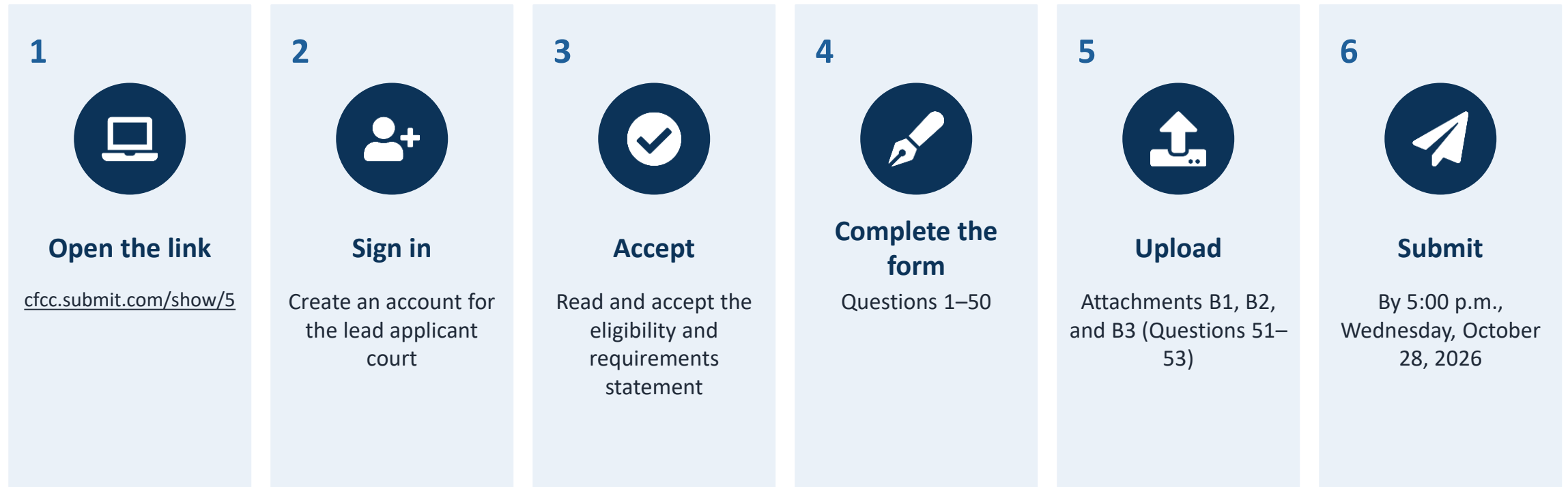
Our new online application platform for this grant cycle



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How to Apply in Submit.com

Submit.com replaces Submittable for the FY 2027–30 application. The lead applicant court submits one application.



Applications must be signed by the appropriate authorized court representative. Late applications will not be accepted.

The Application Form at a Glance

Questions	Section	What to enter
1–7	Lead court information	Program title, court, contact, address, county, phone, email
8–24	Partner courts and subcontractors	Partnering courts (yes/no); up to three subcontractors with contact details
25–27	Program overview	AV funding total, geographic service areas, program summary
28–30	Service areas	Services selected; days/hours, clients, hours, sites, and evaluation plan for each
31–42	Program services	Start date, need, barriers to visitation, safety and domestic violence protocols
43–46	Partnerships and experience	Court programs, community partners, subcontractor and staff qualifications
47–50	Evaluation and sustainability	Outcomes or program changes, fiscal monitoring, other funding
51–53	Budget attachments	Upload Attachments B1, B2, and B3

Tips for a Complete Application



Draft offline first

Use the Questions Drafting Worksheet, then paste final responses into the form.



Upload attachments only

Upload B1, B2, and B3, not the grant application instructions.



Get the right signature

An authorized court representative must sign.



Use Attachment A as a checklist

Answer every element reviewers score.



Submit early

Late applications are not accepted. Contact Jodi right away if something goes wrong before the deadline.



Section 06

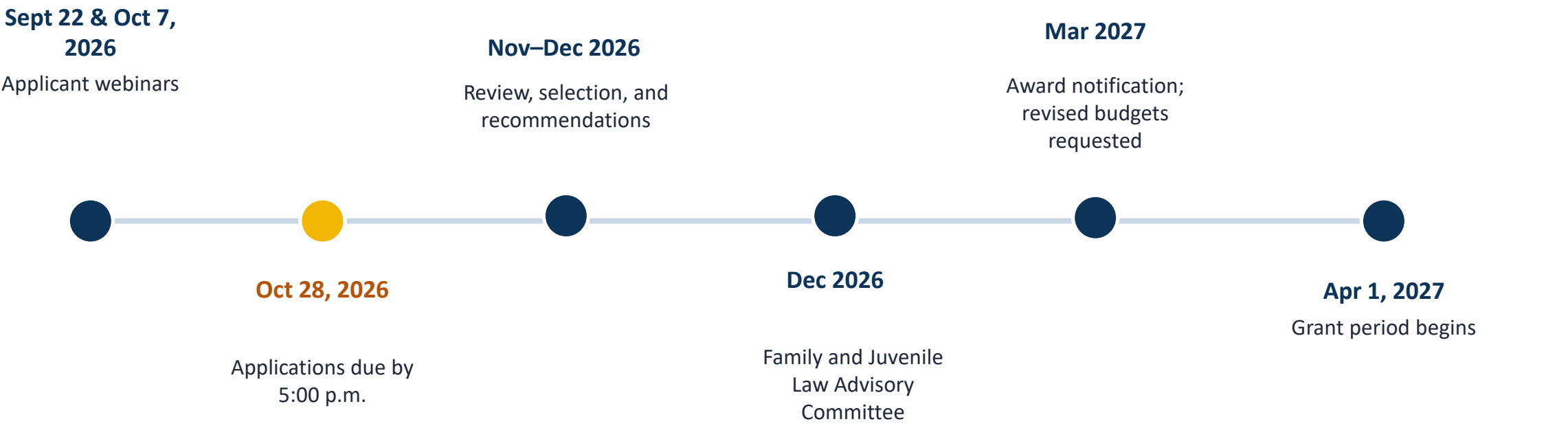
Key Dates and Next Steps

Grant application timeline and what to expect if funded



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Grant Application Timeline



Applications due through Submit.com by 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 28, 2026

If Your Court Is Funded

- Certify that a subcontractor is secured before the contract is executed
- Execute a contract or MOU with each subcontractor
- Follow the plan proposed in the application unless the Judicial Council approves a modification
- Submit monthly invoices with supporting grant billing forms
- Submit quarterly statistical reports and bi-annual progress summary reports
- Comply with Family Code section 3200.5 and Standard 5.20
- Participate in the midyear reallocation questionnaire
- Attend required grantee orientation and trainings

Grant billing forms (post-award)

- Attachment 2: Time Sheet
- Attachment 3: Payroll Summary
- Attachment 4: Invoice
- Attachment 5: Matching Form
- Attachment 19: Travel Expense Claim
- Attachment 20: Annual Leave Earned Report
- Attachment 22: Contractor Activity Log

Common Questions from Past Cycles

Is the award amount for all three years?

No. The amount is per fiscal year, subject to federal funds.

Can a for-profit agency be a subcontractor?

Supervised visitation providers must be a local public agency or nonprofit (Fam. Code, § 3202).

Is virtual visitation allowed?

It is a type of supervised visitation, but it does not replace in-person services and must meet Standard 5.20.

Is there a set hourly rate?

No. Rates must be reasonable and within the industry standard for the services.

Can providers charge client fees?

Fees are program income and must go back into the AV program; no profit may be made.

Must we have a provider before applying?

You may apply while procuring one, but must certify a subcontractor before the contract is executed.

Questions?

Jodi Mulligan-Pfile, MPPA

Access to Visitation Grant Program Coordinator | Center for Families, Children & the Courts

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courts.ca.gov/cfcc-accesstovisitation.htm

Apply: cfcc.submit.com/show/5