



## JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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# REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

*Item No.: 21-080*

For business meeting on: July 8-9, 2021

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**Title**

Juvenile Law: Fiscal Year 2021-22 Funding Allocations for Court-Appointed Special Advocate Local Assistance

**Agenda Item Type**

Action Required

**Effective Date**

September 24, 2020

**Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes Affected**

None

**Date of Report**

May 5, 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 Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program grant funding allocations for fiscal year (FY) 2021-22. The judicial branch budget for Judicial Council CASA grants for FY 2021-22 is \$2.713 million, which includes a \$500,000 augmentation to support efforts to increase the number of foster children served. The recommended allocations were calculated based on the CASA funding methodology approved by the Judicial Council at its July 20 and September 21, 2018, business meetings.

### Recommendation

The Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee recommends that the Judicial Council, effective July 8, 2021, (1) continue the allocation of the \$500,000 augmentation as base funding for FY 2021-22 to CASA programs using the four-tiered base funding methodology approved by the council on September 21, 2018; and (2) allocate \$2.713 million for CASA local assistance grants to 46 CASA programs serving 51 California counties using the council's funding

methodology approved July 20 and September 21, 2018. Attachment A, *Proposed Allocation for FY 2021-22 Court Appointed Special Advocate Local Assistance*, is attached to this report.

## 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. At its February 9, 1999, meeting, the Judicial Council delegated approval of the allocation of the Judicial Council CASA grant funds to the Executive and Planning Committee (Executive Committee).

In August 2003, at the recommendation of the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee, the Executive Committee approved a formula-based method for distributing Judicial Council CASA program funding to California CASA programs. The new funding approach replaced the previous competitive request-for-proposals process with predetermined program awards. When the allocation process transitioned to a formula-based method, the baseline awards were determined by averaging the amounts of the previous two years of funding. In 2011, the Executive Committee decided that the approval of budget allocations for CASA programs be made by the Judicial Council.

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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> The revised methodology made no changes to the four-tiered base funding portion of the methodology. At its September 21, 2018,

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<sup>1</sup> 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](http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/jc-20130823-itemM.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> 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>.

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.<sup>3</sup>

## **Analysis/Rationale**

The judicial branch budget for Judicial Council CASA grants for FY 2021-22 is \$2.713 million. The Budget Act of 2018, signed into law by the Governor, included an additional ongoing augmentation of \$500,000 for the CASA grant program to support efforts to increase the number of foster children served. The Judicial Council at its meeting on September 20, 2018, approved allocation of the \$500,000 on a two-year funding plan using the four-tiered base funding methodology. In fiscal year 2020-21 the Judicial Council approved extending the application of the four-tiered case funding methodology for allocation of the augmented funds as additional base funding to CASA programs one additional year beyond the two-year funding plan.

The COVID-19 pandemic has strained all facets of the child welfare system. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, CASA programs have been challenged to recruit, train and supervise CASA volunteers. Continued utilization of the four-tiered base funding methodology approved in September 2018 for augmented funds is requested for the FY 2021-22 funding cycle. Judicial Council program staff will continue collecting data to develop and present a methodology to distribute the augmented funds and determine eligibility for continued funding beginning in FY 2021–22.

### ***Proposed funding plan for augmented funds for FY 2021-22***

- The Judicial Council CASA Grant program will continue the allocation of \$500,000 as base funding for FY 2021-22 to CASA programs using the four-tiered base funding methodology approved by the council on September 21, 2018.
- Judicial Council CASA program staff will continue collecting data to monitor funding, and measure improvements and changes.

The committee recommends that the methodology adopted at the Judicial Council meetings of July 20 and September 21, 2018, be applied, providing CASA programs and those programs that are eligible for the financial incentives with a baseline allocation. These funding allocations are listed in Attachment A.

## **Policy implications**

The committee has no policy implications to present this fiscal year.

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<sup>3</sup> 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>.

**Comments**

Because the recommended allocations were calculated based on the CASA funding methodology approved by the Judicial Council, comments were not sought.

**Alternatives considered**

The committee has no alternatives to present this fiscal year.

**Fiscal and Operational Impacts**

There are no fiscal or operational impacts other than the estimated \$2.713 million judicial branch funding to be distributed to CASA programs.

**Attachments and Links**

1. Attachment A: *Proposed Allocation for FY 2021-22 Court Appointed Special Advocate Local Assistance*

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Attachment A: Proposed Allocation for FY 2021-22  
Judicial Council Local Assistance

Local CASA Programs by County(ies)	Base Allocations	Allocation of \$500,000	Proposed Growth Incentive	Total Proposed JC Local Assistance Grant
Alameda	\$57,500.00	\$13,827.00	\$0.00	\$71,327.00
Amador /Calaveras	\$44,850.00	\$10,785.00	\$4,955.00	\$60,590.00
Butte/Glenn	\$58,650.00	\$14,104.00	\$0.00	\$72,754.00
Contra Costa	\$57,500.00	\$13,827.00	\$4,955.00	\$76,282.00
Del Norte	\$29,900.00	\$7,190.00	\$4,955.00	\$42,045.00
El Dorado	\$39,100.00	\$9,403.00	\$4,955.00	\$53,458.00
Fresno/Madera	\$86,250.00	\$20,741.00	\$4,955.00	\$111,946.00
Humboldt	\$29,900.00	\$7,190.00	\$4,955.00	\$42,045.00
Imperial	\$39,100.00	\$9,403.00	\$4,955.00	\$53,458.00
Inyo/Mono	\$44,850.00	\$10,785.00	\$0.00	\$55,635.00
Kern	\$57,500.00	\$13,827.00	\$4,955.00	\$76,282.00
Kings	\$39,100.00	\$9,403.00	\$0.00	\$48,503.00
Lassen	\$29,900.00	\$7,190.00	\$4,955.00	\$42,045.00
Los Angeles	\$57,500.00	\$13,827.00	\$4,955.00	\$76,282.00
Marin	\$39,100.00	\$9,403.00	\$4,955.00	\$53,458.00
Mariposa	\$29,900.00	\$7,190.00	\$0.00	\$37,090.00
Mendocino/Lake	\$58,650.00	\$14,104.00	\$4,955.00	\$77,709.00
Merced	\$39,100.00	\$9,403.00	\$0.00	\$48,503.00
Modoc	\$29,900.00	\$7,190.00	\$0.00	\$37,090.00
Monterey	\$48,300.00	\$11,615.00	\$4,955.00	\$64,870.00
Napa	\$39,100.00	\$9,403.00	\$4,955.00	\$53,458.00
Nevada	\$29,900.00	\$7,190.00	\$4,955.00	\$42,045.00
Orange	\$57,500.00	\$13,827.00	\$4,955.00	\$76,282.00
Placer	\$48,300.00	\$11,615.00	\$4,955.00	\$64,870.00
Plumas	\$29,900.00	\$7,190.00	\$0.00	\$37,090.00
Riverside	\$57,500.00	\$13,827.00	\$4,955.00	\$76,282.00
Sacramento	\$57,500.00	\$13,827.00	\$0.00	\$71,327.00
San Benito	\$29,900.00	\$7,190.00	\$0.00	\$37,090.00
San Bernardino	\$57,500.00	\$13,827.00	\$4,955.00	\$76,282.00
San Diego	\$57,500.00	\$13,827.00	\$0.00	\$71,327.00
San Francisco	\$48,300.00	\$11,615.00	\$0.00	\$59,915.00
San Joaquin	\$48,300.00	\$11,615.00	\$0.00	\$59,915.00
San Luis Obispo	\$39,100.00	\$9,403.00	\$4,955.00	\$53,458.00
San Mateo	\$48,300.00	\$11,615.00	\$4,955.00	\$64,870.00
Santa Barbara	\$48,300.00	\$11,615.00	\$4,955.00	\$64,870.00
Santa Clara	\$57,500.00	\$13,827.00	\$0.00	\$71,327.00
Santa Cruz	\$39,100.00	\$9,403.00	\$4,955.00	\$53,458.00
Shasta/Tehama	\$58,650.00	\$14,104.00	\$0.00	\$72,754.00
Siskiyou	\$29,900.00	\$7,190.00	\$4,955.00	\$42,045.00
Solano	\$48,300.00	\$11,615.00	\$4,955.00	\$64,870.00
Sonoma	\$48,300.00	\$11,615.00	\$0.00	\$59,915.00
Stanislaus	\$48,300.00	\$11,615.00	\$4,955.00	\$64,870.00
Tulare	\$48,300.00	\$11,615.00	\$0.00	\$59,915.00
Ventura	\$48,300.00	\$11,615.00	\$4,955.00	\$64,870.00
Yolo	\$39,100.00	\$9,403.00	\$0.00	\$48,503.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$2,079,200.00</b>	<b>\$499,995.00</b>	<b>\$133,785.00</b>	<b>\$2,712,980.00</b>

Total Local Assistance Grant	\$2,713,000.00
Total Base Amounts	\$2,579,195.00
Incentives Awards for Top 27 Program (Small 13 & Large 14)	\$133,785.00

\*Base Allocations are based on the four-tier methodology

The CASA Methodology specifies \$5,000 for incentives.

After allocating funds to the base according to the methodology, \$4,955 per qualified program was available for incentive funding.