



Judicial Council of California · Administrative Office of the Courts

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

For business meeting on: October 26, 2012

Title

Proposed Allocation for Fiscal Year 2012–
2013 Judicial Council Court Appointed
Special Advocate (CASA) Local Assistance

Agenda Item Type

Action Required

Effective Date

September 1, 2012

Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes Affected

N/A

Date of Report

August 23, 2012

Recommended by

Family and Juvenile Law Advisory
Committee

Hon. Kimberly J. Nystrom-Geist, Cochair

Hon. Dean Stout, Cochair

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Executive Summary

The Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee recommends that the Judicial Council approve Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) grant funding allocations for fiscal year 2012–2013. The recommended allocations will fund current programs with the same methodology used in FY 2011-2012, award implementation funding for four new programs which received development funding last year, and set aside funds for technical assistance.

Recommendation

The state judicial branch budget for Judicial Council CASA grants for FY 2012–2013 is \$2.213 million. No new grant applications were submitted for FY 2012-13, however four new programs will be entering their first year of full operation.

The Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee recommends that the Judicial Council, effective September 1, 2012:

1. Allocate CASA local assistance grants to existing CASA programs using the methodology used in FY 2011–2012;
2. Award implementation funding to four new CASA programs which have completed their development phase, and
3. Continue to set aside funds for technical assistance to local programs to address program challenges.

The proposed allocation is included in Attachment A.

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

In August 2003, at the recommendation of the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee, the Executive and Planning 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 and Planning Committee decided that the approval of budget allocations for CASA programs be made by the Judicial Council.

While the application for funding process is formula based, programs are required, through both a contract and an evaluation process, to demonstrate that they meet a number of program objectives, including compliance with rule 5.655 of the California Rules of Court, volunteer recruitment, volunteer training, board development, and sound fiscal management.

Rationale for Recommendation

Currently, 44 CASA programs serve 49 of California's 58 counties. These programs include four programs which received development funding last year and should commence full implementation this fiscal year.

CASA program growth

In FY 2009–2010 and FY 2010–2011, the CASA grant program began program development in six new counties. This growth is largely attributed to the recommendation by the California Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care that “the Judicial Council continue to support the development and expansion of CASA programs and to help make available CASA volunteers

for all foster children in the dependency system.”¹ As a result of this effort, 44 programs serving 49 counties are expected to apply for Judicial Council funding in FY 2012–2013.

CASA program development and implementation

Each year, the CASA grant program provides a portion of funding for CASA program development. The program development option is available to those courts or organizations interested in developing CASA programs in their counties. This year the AOC did not receive any solicitations for CASA program development, and hence, no funding has been allocated in FY2012-13 for program development.

Reserve fund for technical assistance

Every CASA program faces the challenge of increased needs for services combined with diminishing resources to fund costs for salaries, benefits, financial audits, background checks, and volunteer training and supervision. A small fund will continue to be reserved for technical assistance to local programs as program challenges arise.

Alternatives Considered and Policy Implications

The following alternative actions were considered, but are not recommended for adoption by the Judicial Council at this time:

Implement new funding methodology based on need

A new funding methodology could be implemented next fiscal year based on program need. The new funding methodology should ensure equitable funding distribution and should be based on program needs. CASA programs should be provided ample notice to changes in the award methodology to prepare for the effects on program budgets and operations, therefore the committee does not recommend changing the funding methodology this year. The committee recommends a CASA stakeholders workgroup be developed to assist the committee in developing new funding methodology options for FY 2013–2014.

Implementation Requirements, Costs, and Operational Impacts

There are no implementation requirements and costs other than the estimated \$2.213 million of state judicial branch funding to be distributed to the CASA programs.

Attachments

1. Attachment A: Proposed Allocation for FY 2012–2013 Judicial Council CASA Local Assistance

¹ Judicial Council of California, California Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care. *Fostering a New Future for California’s Children: Ensuring Every Child a Safe, Secure, and Permanent Home, Final Report and Action Plan*, (May 2009), p. 18.

**Attachment A: Proposed Allocation for FY 2012–2013
Judicial Council CASA Local Assistance**

COUNTY	JC Local Assistance FY 2012-2013
Alameda	\$ 58,900.00
Amador	\$ 39,700.00
Butte/Glenn	\$ 70,100.00
Contra Costa	\$ 58,900.00
Del Norte	\$ 37,500.00
El Dorado	\$ 56,100.00
Fresno/Madera	\$ 92,400.00
Humboldt	\$ 54,300.00
Imperial	\$ 54,300.00
Inyo/Mono*	\$ 36,000.00
Kern	\$ 61,000.00
Kings*	\$ 35,500.00
Lassen	\$ 37,500.00
Los Angeles	\$ 54,100.00
Marin	\$ 41,800.00
Mariposa	\$ 37,500.00
Mendocino/Lake*	\$ 65,000.00
Merced*	\$ 35,500.00
Modoc	\$ 39,700.00
Monterey/San Benito	\$ 72,000.00
Napa	\$ 41,800.00
Nevada	\$ 40,100.00
Orange	\$ 58,900.00
Placer	\$ 36,000.00
Plumas	\$ 37,500.00
Riverside	\$ 53,900.00
Sacramento	\$ 52,500.00
San Bernardino	\$ 61,800.00
San Diego	\$ 60,900.00
San Francisco	\$ 60,900.00
San Joaquin	\$ 40,700.00

COUNTY	JC Local Assistance
San Luis Obispo	\$ 56,300.00
San Mateo	\$ 60,900.00
Santa Barbara	\$ 49,300.00
Santa Clara	\$ 60,900.00
Santa Cruz	\$ 47,300.00
Shasta	\$ 35,500.00
Siskiyou	\$ 37,500.00
Solano	\$ 40,700.00
Sonoma	\$ 44,400.00
Stanislaus	\$ 38,600.00
Tulare	\$ 54,300.00
Ventura	\$ 55,300.00
Yolo	\$ 46,000.00
Total Judicial Council PROGRAM GRANTS	\$ 2,209,800.00
Set aside	\$ 3,200.00
Total Judicial Council Local Assistance BUDGET	\$ 2,213,000.00
*Programs that received FY 11-12 development grants that will be in operating mode for FY 12-13.	