



## Judicial Council of California

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# REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

*Item No.: 26-081*

For business meeting on July 17, 2026

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**Title**

Language Access Plan: Allocations for Signage and Technology Grant Program, Cycle 8, Fiscal Year 2026–27

**Report Type**

Action Required

**Effective Date**

July 17, 2026

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

None

**Date of Report**

March 16, 2026

**Recommended by**

Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness

Hon. Kevin C. Brazile, Cochair

Hon. Victor A. Rodriguez, Cochair  
Information Technology Advisory Committee

Hon. Sheila F. Hanson, Chair

Hon. Samantha P. Jessner, Vice-Chair

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## Executive Summary

The Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness and the Information Technology Advisory Committee recommend approving proposed grant awards for the Language Access Signage and Technology Grant Program of \$2.35 million to improve services and expand language access for court users. For Cycle 8 (fiscal year 2026–27), 23 courts applied for and will be awarded grants for signage and technology projects.

## Recommendation

The Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness and the Information Technology Advisory Committee recommend that the Judicial Council, effective July 17, 2026:

1. Approve the proposed allocations for the Language Access Signage and Technology Grant Program for fiscal year 2026–27; and

2. Direct Language Access Services staff to work with Branch Accounting and Procurement to draft and execute intra-branch agreements with each awarded court.

The proposed allocations and summary of the requests for funding are included as Attachment A.

### **Relevant Previous Council Action**

In January 2015, the Judicial Council adopted the *Strategic Plan for Language Access in the California Courts*.<sup>1</sup> The plan provides recommendations, guidance, and a consistent statewide approach to ensure language access for all of California's approximately 6.4 million limited-English-proficient (LEP) residents, as well as those who are deaf or hard of hearing.

The Budget Act of 2018 (Stats. 2018, ch. 29) included \$2.55 million in ongoing funding for language access signage and technology (S&T) infrastructure support and equipment needs for the trial courts and the Judicial Council. On September 24, 2019, the Judicial Council adopted a process to annually disburse these S&T grants to the trial courts and directed Language Access Services staff to solicit and review grant applications and develop recommendations for review and approval by the Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness, the Information Technology Advisory Committee, the Technology Committee, and the Judicial Council.<sup>2</sup>

This is the eighth year of the Language Access Signage and Technology Grant Program (Cycle 8). In July 2025, for Cycle 7, the Judicial Council approved S&T grants to all 17 trial courts that applied under the \$2.35 million annual allocation.<sup>3</sup>

### **Analysis/Rationale**

To support judicial branch language access expansion efforts, the Budget Act of 2018 included ongoing funding of \$1 million per year for language access signage and \$1.55 million per year for language access technology infrastructure support and equipment needs. Of the \$1.55 million for technology, \$200,000 is dedicated to the Judicial Council for updates to the Language Access Toolkit resources, which now include multilingual resources on the California Courts Self-Help Guide site, and other council language access resource development, including translation of court forms and web content. The amount available to trial courts for technology is, therefore, \$1.35 million each year. With the \$1 million available for signage funding, the total grant amount available to trial courts each year is \$2.35 million.

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<sup>1</sup> Available at [https://languageaccess.courts.ca.gov/sites/default/files/partners/default/2024-01/CLASP\\_report\\_060514.pdf](https://languageaccess.courts.ca.gov/sites/default/files/partners/default/2024-01/CLASP_report_060514.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> See Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Language Access Plan: Signage and Technology Grants* (Sept. 9, 2019), <https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=7675626&GUID=F2CCA714-356A-41B7-82B5-05C058CE0D6E>.

<sup>3</sup> See Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Language Access Plan: Allocations for Signage and Technology Grant Program, Cycle 7, Fiscal Year 2025–26* (July 18, 2025), <https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=14303021&GUID=360283ED-ACFE-4EB7-A1E8-D54887DCBA8C>.

Under the Language Access Signage and Technology Grant Program, courts can apply for up to \$200,000 for signage projects and up to \$270,000 for technology projects. If total requests are under the annual allocation for each category, then larger amounts may be requested and approved by the council in order to expend funding.<sup>4</sup>

Following are the goals of the Language Access Signage and Technology Grant Program, which are aimed at enhancing court access for LEP, deaf, or hard-of-hearing court users:

- Support courts with the development of multilingual signage to help court users navigate the courthouse.
- Assist courts that may need equipment or software that will facilitate communication with court users.
- Allocate funds to as many trial courts as possible within the given budget to support language access signage and technology initiatives.
- Fund enhancements that provide court users with greater access to the courts and to information in the languages needed to serve court users.
- Encourage courts to establish an ongoing plan that coordinates with other facilities planning and/or with planned or ongoing technology initiatives that support language access as a core service of the court.

On January 14, 2026, Judicial Council Information Technology released a memorandum to courts on how to request funding for various technology grant opportunities via a single application process. The deadline for courts to apply was February 6, 2026. Judicial Council staff coordinated the review of Cycle 8 Language Access Signage and Technology Grant requests with the other technology funding requests (i.e., IT Modernization Funding Program and Jury Management Systems Grant (JMSG)) to ensure that no court would receive duplicate funding for the same project.

For Cycle 8, 23 courts applied for signage and technology needs totaling \$5.67 million (see Table 1 for details). The majority of the projects proposed by all 23 courts can be fully or partially funded up to the total grant amount available to trial courts of \$2.35 million. Two project requests will not be funded: one court submitted a jury-related project that is being considered under the JMSG, and another court submitted a proposal that did not meet the program requirements.

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<sup>4</sup> See Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Language Access Plan: Signage and Technology Grant Program, Fiscal Year 2021–22: Requests and Proposed Allocations* (Sept. 30, 2021), <https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=9942092&GUID=5220FB28-A269-47DA-BAAD-4D8A89638903>.

Table 1. Requested Signage and Technology Projects by Trial Courts

<b>Court</b>	<b>Signage Request</b>	<b>Technology Request</b>	<b>Total Request by Court</b>	<b>Total Proposed Grant Award</b>
Calaveras	\$70,000	\$16,000	\$86,000	\$86,000
Contra Costa		109,068	109,068	109,068
Kern		33,117	33,117	33,117
Kings	11,523		11,523	11,523
Lassen	6,278	1,215	7,493	7,493
Madera		443,908	443,908	213,760.33
Merced		77,940	77,940	77,940
Monterey		271,743	271,743	213,760.33
Orange		253,323	253,323	213,760.33
Placer		13,923	13,923	13,923
Riverside	75,000	238,645	313,645	213,760.33
Sacramento		163,375	163,375	163,375
San Benito		74,800	74,800	74,800
San Bernardino		95,235	95,235	95,235
San Diego		50,000	50,000	50,000
San Francisco	470,000		470,000	200,000
San Mateo	2,000		2,000	2,000
Santa Clara		10,000	10,000	10,000
Shasta		42,000	42,000	42,000
Solano		600,000	600,000	213,760.33
Sonoma		28,350	28,350	28,350
Sutter	62,614		62,614	62,614
Yolo		2,450,000	2,450,000	213,760.33
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$697,415</b>	<b>\$4,972,643</b>	<b>\$5,670,058</b>	<b>\$2,350,000</b>

The trial courts have requested a total of \$697,415 for signage. Of this amount, \$427,415 is recommended for funding. All courts, except one, can be fully funded for their signage requests. The exception is a court that requested more than the maximum allowed for signage; this court will receive the \$200,000 maximum for its signage project. The remaining unallocated signage funds, totaling \$572,585, may be used for technology projects, provided those projects support language access for LEP, deaf, or hard-of-hearing court users. As in previous cycles, it is recommended that the \$572,585 in unallocated signage funds be applied to the technology category, where requests for technology funding have greatly exceeded the available resources (see Table 1). Table 2 below summarizes the number of eligible project requests by signage grant category.

Table 2. Signage Grant Project Requests

<b>Category #</b>	<b>Signage Grant Project Category</b>	<b>Total # of Project Requests</b>
1	Translation of Signage	0
2	Court Website Translations	1
3	Multilingual Wayfinding Strategies	4
4	Automated Queue Management System	2
5	Multilingual Nonelectronic Signage	0
	<b>Total Signage Grant Projects</b>	<b>7</b>

The total amount requested by the trial courts for technology is \$4.97 million. The total recommended technology allocation is \$1.92 million. At this funding level, all but six courts can be fully funded for the amounts they requested. Because total requests exceeded available resources, the allocation strategy focused on supporting as many projects as possible. Smaller projects were funded first, and the remaining funds were then distributed evenly among the six courts with the largest requests, providing them with a combined total of \$213,760.33 in partial funding per court. Table 3 below summarizes the number of eligible project requests by technology grant category.

Table 3. Technology Grant Project Requests

<b>Category #</b>	<b>Technology Grant Project Category</b>	<b>Total # of Project Requests</b>
1	Telephonic/Video Remote Solutions	5
2	Interpreter Equipment	10
3	Virtual Assistance, Scheduling, or Other Software	3
4	Multilingual Videos	0
5	Audiovisual Systems Upgrades	5
6	Multilingual Kiosks	4
	<b>Total Technology Grant Projects</b>	<b>27</b>

The proposed allocations outlined in Attachment A are to be reviewed and approved by the Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness in March 2026, and the Information Technology Advisory Committee and the Technology Committee in April 2026.

## **Policy implications**

Under the grant program, courts can apply for funding for audio or video remote solutions to support language access, including video remote interpreting (VRI), if permitted by their memorandums of understanding and any other agreements between court administration and court employees or independent contractors. All courts, including courts that participate in the grant program and request funding for VRI equipment, will be asked to follow the council's VRI guidelines for interpreted court events in spoken languages and American Sign Language.<sup>5</sup>

## **Comments**

This proposal was not circulated for public comment. However, the recommendations were considered at meetings that were open to the public, and no public comments were received.

## **Alternatives considered**

No alternatives were considered because the recommended allocations were calculated using the funding methodology approved by the Judicial Council.

## **Fiscal and Operational Impacts**

Funding assists courts with language access signage and technology initiatives. Courts may use grant funding for facilities modification costs that directly relate to the purpose of the grant—for signage or technology—as long as the anticipated facility modification costs are built into the total grant amount. Courts may use remaining awarded funding for additional signage and technology needs if those projects benefit LEP, deaf, or hard-of-hearing court users. Courts will need to notify Language Access Services staff and receive approval. The Signage and Technology Grant Program's application cycle renews annually; however, all state funding is subject to budget approval. The program encourages courts to develop diverse funding plans that align with other facilities or technology initiatives underway or are planned in their court to support language access.

## **Attachments**

1. Attachment A: Language Access Signage and Technology Grant Program, Proposed Allocations for Cycle 8, FY 2026–27

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<sup>5</sup> See Judicial Council of Cal., *Recommended Guidelines and Minimum Specifications for Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) for Spoken Language-Interpreted Events* (May 21, 2021), <https://languageaccess.courts.ca.gov/sites/default/files/partners/default/2023-07/vri-guidelines.pdf>.

See Judicial Council of Cal., *Recommended Guidelines for Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) for ASL-Interpreted Events* (2012), <https://languageaccess.courts.ca.gov/sites/default/files/partners/default/2023-07/cip-asl-vri-guidelines.pdf>.

Language Access Signage and Technology Grant Program,  
Proposed Allocations for Cycle 8, FY 2026–27

Attachment A

Court	Grant Category	Project Description	Request Amount	Proposed Grant Award
Calaveras	Signage 3 – Multilingual Wayfinding Strategies	Multilingual Wayfinding Signs	\$70,000	\$70,000
	Technology 2 – Interpreter Equipment	Language and Assisted Hearing Project	16,000	16,000
Contra Costa	Technology 2 – Interpreter Equipment	Wireless Audio Interpreter Devices	21,500	21,500
	Technology 3 – Virtual Assistance, Scheduling, or Other Software	AI-Enabled Multilingual Court Navigation and Q&A Assistant	45,000	45,000
	Technology 5 – Audiovisual Systems Upgrades	Artificial Intelligence (AI) Live Language Translation	42,568	42,568
Kern	Technology 2 – Interpreter Equipment	Interpreter Microphones and Listening Devices	33,117	33,117
Kings	Signage 4 – Automated Queue Management System	Accessibility Compliant Self-Queueing Kiosk	11,523	11,523
Lassen	Signage 3 – Multilingual Wayfinding Strategies	Electronic Signage System	6,278	6,278
	Technology 6 – Multilingual Kiosks	Multilingual Kiosks	1,215	1,215
Madera	Technology 2 – Interpreter Equipment	Interpreter ListenTALK System	3,202	3,202
	Technology 2 – Interpreter Equipment	Court Interpreter iPad	395	395
	Technology 5 – Audiovisual Systems Upgrades	Courtroom Audio Visual Upgrades	440,312	210,163
Merced	Technology 2 – Interpreter Equipment	Interpreter System Upgrade Project	77,940	77,940
Monterey	Technology 5 – Audiovisual Systems Upgrades	Courtroom Audio Visual Improvements	247,143	189,160
	Technology 6 – Multilingual Kiosks	Public Kiosks	24,600	24,600
Orange	Technology 1 – Telephonic/Video Remote Solutions	In-Custody Video Remote Interpreting Kits	253,323	213,760
Placer	Technology 2 – Interpreter Equipment	Interpreter Equipment	13,923	13,923
Riverside	Signage 3 – Multilingual Wayfinding Strategies	Court wide Digital Calendar and Information Display System	75,000	75,000
	Technology 5 – Audiovisual Systems Upgrades	Courtroom Assisted Listening Devices	238,645	138,760

Language Access Signage and Technology Grant Program,  
Proposed Allocations for Cycle 8, FY 2026–27

Attachment A

<b>Court</b>	<b>Grant Category</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Request Amount</b>	<b>Proposed Grant Award</b>
Sacramento	Technology 2 – Interpreter Equipment	Expand ListenTALK Devices	12,000	12,000
	Technology 6 – Multilingual Kiosks	Multilingual Check-In Kiosks	151,375	151,375
San Benito	Technology 1 – Telephonic/Video Remote Solutions	Courtroom Judicial Camera Installation for Remote Proceedings	59,300	59,300
	Technology 3 – Virtual Assistance, Scheduling, or Other Software	Multilingual Voice-to-Text and Speech Translation Solution	2,500	2,500
	Technology 6 – Multilingual Kiosks	Public Kiosk Software Modernization	13,000	13,000
San Bernardino	Technology 1 – Telephonic/Video Remote Solutions	Mobile Video Remote Interpreting Kits	95,235	95,235
San Diego	Technology 2 – Interpreter Equipment	Interpreter Audio Equipment	50,000	50,000
San Francisco	Signage 3 – Multilingual Wayfinding Strategies	ACCESS Center PARTWAYS Virtual Wayfinder Project	470,000	200,000
San Mateo	Signage 2 – Court Website Translations	Wayfinding Translation of Instructions and Forms	2,000	2,000
Santa Clara	Technology 2 – Interpreter Equipment	Interpreter Equipment	10,000	10,000
Shasta	Technology 1 – Telephonic/Video Remote Solutions	Video Remote Interpreting Solutions	42,000	42,000
Solano	Technology 1 – Telephonic/Video Remote Solutions	Courtroom Audiovisual Upgrades	600,000	213,760
Sonoma	Technology 3 – Virtual Assistance, Scheduling, or Other Software	Automated Hearing Reminder System	28,350	28,350
Sutter	Signage 4 – Automated Queue Management System	Public Signage/Queueing Upgrades	62,614	62,614
Yolo	Technology 5 – Audiovisual Systems Upgrades	Courtroom Audiovisual Hardware Upgrades	2,450,000	213,760
<b>Totals</b>			<b>\$5,670,058</b>	<b>\$2,350,000</b>