



Judicial Council of California

Shriver Civil Counsel Act
Implementation Committee

ACTION BY EMAIL

Title: 2025 Mid-Year Augmentation to Current Shriver Projects

Date: July 18, 2025, 10:00 AM

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Issue

Approval for an augmentation of up to \$1.4 million in reserves to current Shriver qualified legal service providers and their court partners for the administration of projects on a pro rata basis for the 2025-26 grant period.

Background

On November 15, 2024, the Judicial Council approved a one-time midcycle allocation of \$3.6 million from the Sargent Shriver Counsel Act grant program's existing Trial Court Trust Fund reserves to current Shriver projects on a pro rata basis. This allocation enabled existing projects to increase and sustain legal representation and court services for low-income, unrepresented parties in housing, domestic violence and civil harassment restraining orders, probate conservatorships, guardianships, elder abuse and child custody. Initially \$5 million in program reserves were approved for distribution, but only \$3.6 million was requested by the projects. The remaining \$1.4 million was to be held in program reserves to be allocated in 2026-29.

Analysis/Rationale

On June 5, 2025, the Shriver Civil Counsel Act Implementation Committee met to discuss the need to provide additional funding to the Shriver project during the remainder of the grant period to support the increased need for services.

On June 9, 2025, a request for proposal was released to current Shriver projects, inviting them to submit revised project plans, budgets, and narratives outlining how they would use their proposed pro rata augmentation if it was available. Projects were also asked to indicate whether they could use additional funds from any funds not claimed by other projects. Of the 14 Shriver

projects, 12 submitted proposals for their full pro rata amounts, one requested less than its share, and one declined the allocation entirely. The resulting unclaimed funds were redistributed on a pro rata basis among the projects that had expressed interest and the ability to spend the additional funding.

Most Shriver projects focused their pro rata augmentation on personnel costs. Some projects increased staffing (FTEs or full-time equivalents) to increase service levels, while others increased salary and benefits to improve recruitment and retention, aligning salaries with collective bargaining agreements and cost-of-living increases. Other ways the additional funding would be utilized include staff training, increasing the in-house hotline staff, improving operational efficiency in coordination with partner agencies, case management and deliverables, and building a reference library to increase legal research capacity.

Some projects increased non-personnel costs proportionally to increase their personnel costs. Other projects increased non-personnel costs to improve service delivery such as development of marketing and outreach instructional materials to assist self-represented litigants.

Of the six projects that include funding for their court partners, one requested a portion of the project's pro rata amount. No other court partners requested additional funds. Committee staff reviewed all proposals and determined that they are an effective use for the additional funds.

The total \$1.4 million that was not previously allocated during the most recent midcycle allocation was requested by projects.

Summaries of all proposals are provided in Attachment A. All proposals are provided in their entirety in Attachment B.

Recommendation

The Shriver Civil Counsel Act Implementation Committee recommends that \$1.4 million from the Sargent Shriver Counsel Act grant program's existing Trial Court Trust Fund reserves be distributed to current Shriver projects on a pro rata basis with any unclaimed funds to be distributed to projects requesting additional funds on a pro rata basis for the 2025-26 grant period.

The table below shows the pro rata augmentation amounts requested by each project.

Mid-Year Augmentation Pro Rata Distribution Amounts

Lead Legal Services Agency	Approved 2023–26 Grant Awards	Mid-Cycle Amount FY2024	Total Revised 2023–26 Grant Amounts* (2024)	\$1.43M Midyear Augmentation Requests (2025)	Total Revised 2023–26 Grant Amounts
California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.	2,456,611	255,716	2,712,327	76,925	\$2,789,252
Central California Legal Services	1,979,657	206,068	2,185,725	61,989	\$2,247,714
Centro Legal de la Raza	2,168,678	225,745	2,394,423	67,909	\$2,462,332
Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance	3,066,468	319,077	3,385,545	96,021	\$3,481,566
Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco	1,219,949	126,988	1,346,937	38,201	\$1,385,138
Legal Access Alameda	313,938	0	313,938	9,831	\$323,769
Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara	3,914,413	117,125	4,031,538	116,666	\$4,148,204
Legal Aid Society of San Diego	10,149,125	0	10,149,125	317,802	\$10,466,927
Legal Services of Northern California	1,147,846	119,483	1,267,329	35,943	\$1,303,272
Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice	3,007,407	313,050	3,320,457	94,172	\$3,414,629
Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles	12,911,086	1,343,954	14,255,040	404,289	\$14,659,329
Public Law Center	489,484	0	489,484	0	\$489,484
San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program (custody)†	1,392,980	144,202	1,537,182	13,563	\$1,550,745
San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program (domestic violence)	961,185	99,774	1,060,959	8,904	\$1,069,863
San Luis Obispo Legal Assistance Foundation	2,855,136	297,200	3,152,336	89,403	\$3,241,739
TOTAL	\$48,033,963	\$3,568,382	\$51,602,345	\$1,431,618	\$53,033,963