

**Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Act Implementation Committee
Annual Agenda¹—2025
Approved by Executive and Planning Committee: December 5, 2024**

I. COMMITTEE INFORMATION

Chair:	Vacant
Lead Staff:	Ms. Melanie Snider, Supervising Attorney, Center for Families, Children & the Courts
<p>Committee’s Charge/Membership:</p> <p>The Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Act Implementation Committee is required by Government Code section 68651(b)(5) to implement the Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Act (Assem. Bill 590 [Feuer]; Stats. 2009, ch. 457), which was amended by the Appointed Legal Counsel in Civil Cases Act (Assem. Bill 330 [Gabriel]; Stats 2019, ch. 217). The statute requires the Judicial Council to develop one or more model pilot projects in selected courts for three-year periods. The projects will provide legal representation to low-income parties on critical legal issues affecting basic human needs. At the direction of the Judicial Council, the implementation committee will make recommendations on which pilot projects will be selected from a competitive grant application process and provide input into the design of the pilot projects’ evaluations. With the adoption of AB 330, evaluations of the pilot projects must be submitted to the Governor and the Legislature every five years, commencing June 1, 2020.</p> <p>The Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Act Implementation Committee currently has 9 members. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 active judges • 1 law professor • 4 individuals with experience in legal aid programs • 1 representative of the State Bar of California <p>The current committee roster is available on the committee’s web page.</p>	
<p>Subgroups of the Advisory Committee²:</p> <p>Grant Applications Review Subcommittees</p>	

¹ The annual agenda outlines the work a committee will focus on in the coming year or cycle and identifies areas of collaboration with other advisory bodies and the Judicial Council staff resources.

²For the definition of “subcommittee” see Cal. Rules of Court, rule 10.30(c); “working group” see rule 10.70, “workstream,” see rule 10.53(c); and “education curriculum committee,” see rule 10.50(c)(6).

Meetings Planned for 2025³ (Advisory body and all subgroups listed above.)

1. January/February 2025: Full committee videoconference.
2. June/July 2025: Full committee videoconference.
3. October 2025: Full committee videoconference.
4. November 2025: Ad-hod subcommittees' videoconferences.
5. December 2025/January 2026: Full committee videoconference.

Check here if in-person meeting is approved by the internal committee oversight chair.

³ Refer to section IV. 2. of the [Operating Standards for Judicial Council Advisory Bodies](#) for governance on in-person meetings.

Note: Because of the current budget and staffing constraints, advisory body chairs and staff must first consider meeting remotely. The chair of the Executive and Planning Committee is suspending advisory body in-person meetings for the 2024–2025 annual agenda cycle. If an in-person meeting is needed, the responsible Judicial Council office head must seek final approval from the advisory body's internal oversight committee chair. Please see the prioritization memo dated July 1, 2024, for additional details.

II. COMMITTEE PROJECTS

#	New or One-Time Projects ⁴	
1.	Project Title: Request for Applications for the 2026–2029 Grant Cycle (New)	Priority⁵ 1
	Strategic Plan Goal⁶ I	
	<p>Project Summary: Develop and release a Request for Applications (RFA) for project grants for the 2026–2029 grant cycle. The committee will receive and assess project applications and make recommendations to the Judicial Council as required by statute.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: The committee will provide input on the development of the RFA before it is released in mid-2025. The committee will determine its recommendations in late 2025. The committee’s recommendations will be reported to the Judicial Council at its May 2026 business meeting.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Center for Families, Children & the Courts (CFCC) staff and committee expenses are covered by an administrative allocation of grant funds.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>This project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts in FY 2026–27. We will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure their review of relevant materials.</i></p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: The legal services community and partner courts are the external stakeholders.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: None.</p>	

⁴ All proposed projects for the year must be included on the Annual Agenda. If a project implements policy or is a program, identify it as *implementation* or a *program* in the project description and attach the Judicial Council authorization/assignment or prior approved Annual Agenda to this Annual Agenda.

⁵ For non-rules and forms projects, select priority level 1 (must be done) or 2 (should be done). For rules and forms proposals, select one of the following priority levels: 1(a) Urgently needed to conform to or accurately reflect the law; 1(b) Council has directed the committee to consider new or amended rules and forms; 1(c) Change is urgently needed to remedy a problem that is causing significant cost or inconvenience to the courts or the public; or 1(d) Proposal is otherwise urgent and necessary, such as a proposal that would mitigate exposure to immediate or severe financial or legal risk. For each priority level 1 proposal, the advisory body must provide a specific reason why it should be done this year and how it fits within the identified category. 2(a) Useful, but not necessary, to implement changes in law; 2(b) Responsive to identified concerns or problems; or 2(c) Helpful in otherwise advancing Judicial Council goals and objectives. If an advisory committee is interested in pursuing any Priority Level 2 proposals, please include justification as to why the proposal should be approved at this time.

⁶ Indicate which goal number of The Strategic Plan for California’s Judicial Branch the project most closely aligns.

#	New or One-Time Projects⁴	
2.	Project Title: Request for Proposals and New Contract for Evaluation of Pilot Projects Under the Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Act (New)	Priority 1 Strategic Plan Goal II, III
<p>Project Summary: Develop and Release a Request for Proposals (RFP) to enter into a new contract with a research firm contractor for ongoing evaluation of the program.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: The RFP will be released in early 2025 and completed with the execution of a new contract by July 1, 2025.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: CFCC staff and evaluator expenses are covered by an administrative allocation of grant funds. <input type="checkbox"/> This project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. We will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure their review of relevant materials.</p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: Pilot project lead legal services agencies, trial court partners and Branch Accounting and Procurement.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: None.</p>		
3.	Project Title: 2025 Report to the Legislature (One-Time)	Priority 1 Strategic Plan Goal II, III
<p>Project Summary: Government Code section 68651 requires the Judicial Council to conduct an evaluation of the pilot projects and submit a report to Legislature every five years, commencing January 31, 2020. The next report is due in June 2025 and will cover the timeframe of January 2019 to December 2023. The committee will review project data and provide input on the evaluation design.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: The committee will review the report in early 2025. The report will be submitted to the Judicial Council at its business meeting in May 2025 and to the Legislature in June 2025.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Expenses are covered by an administrative allocation to the program. The work will be conducted using existing resources and staffing from CFCC. <input type="checkbox"/> This project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. We will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure their review of relevant materials.</p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: Pilot project lead legal services agencies and trial court partners.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: None.</p>		

#	Ongoing Projects and Activities	
1.	Project Title: Oversight of Pilot Projects' Outcomes and Expenditures	Priority 1
<p>Project Summary: As required by Government Code section 68651, the committee will provide oversight of the program's 14 pilot projects that were approved for the 2023-2026 grant cycle by the Judicial Council at its July 2023 business meeting. The committee's oversight will include outcomes of service data provided by lead legal agencies and court partners and projects' expenditures. If reallocations of funds are needed, the committee will make recommendations to the Judicial Council.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: Ongoing.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Expenses are covered by an administrative allocation to the program. The work will be conducted using existing resources and committee staffing from CFCC.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>This project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. We will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure their review of relevant materials.</i></p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: Pilot projects lead legal services agencies, trial court partners, and research firm contractor.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: None.</p>		Strategic Plan Goal I, II, IV
2.	Project Title: Identify and Replicate Effective Service Delivery and Best Practices	Priority 2
<p>Project Summary: The committee will continue to develop approaches to identify effective service delivery models and best practices implemented by Shriver pilot projects with the goal of replicating successful strategies among legal aid providers and court partners.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: Ongoing</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Expenses are covered by an administrative allocation to the program. The work will be conducted using existing resources and committee staffing from CFCC.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>This project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. We will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure their review of relevant materials.</i></p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: Pilot project lead legal services agencies and trial court partners.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: None.</p>		Strategic Plan Goal I, IV

#	Ongoing Projects and Activities	
3.	Project Title: Serve as a Resource	Priority 2
<p>Project Summary: Serve as a subject matter resource to other Judicial Council advisory bodies and staff with subjects under the committee's charge.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: Ongoing.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Resources: Expenses are covered by an administrative allocation to the program. The work will be conducted using existing resources and committee staffing from CFCC.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>This project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. We will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure their review of relevant materials.</i></p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: Trial courts impacted by work of the advisory committees that collaborate on shared interests with the Shriver Committee.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness, Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee, Probate and Mental Health Advisory Committee, and Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee.</p>		Strategic Plan Goal I, IV

III. LIST OF 2024 PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#	Project Highlights and Achievements
1.	On April 12, the committee met and received an update on pilot project services and outcomes data from the program’s data evaluator and approved the distribution of up to \$5 million to current pilot projects on a pro rata basis according to the award amounts for the 2023-2026 grant cycle.
2.	On April 25, a request for proposals was released to current pilot projects to submit revised project plans, budgets, and budget narratives to demonstrate how they would spend their pro rata amounts of the \$5 million distribution.
3.	In April, the program implemented a new quarterly progress reporting method to gather qualitative assessments of projects as part of its ongoing oversight of pilot projects.
4.	On May 8 staff to the committee conducted an in-person site visit of the housing project administered by Centro Legal de la Raza at the Alameda Superior Court as part of the ongoing oversight of pilot projects.
5.	On June 18, the committee approved 11 proposals to distribute \$3,568,382 of the \$5 million to current pilot projects on a pro rata basis in FY 23-24 and 24-25.
6.	On July 12, the Judicial Council approved the Trial Court Trust Fund allocation for the Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Pilot Program, which included the \$5 million of additional funding for the mid-cycle allocation.
7.	On July 16, staff to the committee conducted an in-person site visit of the custody project administered by Legal Access Alameda at the Alameda Superior Court as part of the ongoing oversight of pilot projects.
8.	On September 10 and 11, staff to the committee conducted an in-person site visit of the custody project administered by the Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco at the San Francisco Superior Court as part of the ongoing oversight of pilot projects.
9.	On September 11, the Funding Methodology Subcommittee approved the committee’s recommendation to distribute \$3,568,382 to current pilot projects on a pro rata basis in FY 23-24 and 24-25.
10.	On October 4, the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee approved the committee’s recommendation to distribute \$3,568,382 to current pilot projects on a pro rata basis in FY 23-24 and 24-25.
11.	On October 11, the Judicial Branch Budget Committee approved the committee’s recommendation to distribute \$3,568,382 to current pilot projects on a pro rata basis in FY 23-24 and 24-25.
12.	On October 29 and 30, the Committee convened the program’s pilot projects at the Pathways to Justice conference held at the Judicial Council Conference Center, where pilot projects learned about and shared best practices for implementing right to counsel models, utilizing pro bono attorneys, the project administration, and pilot project data.
13.	On November 18, the Judicial Council will receive the recommendation to distribute \$3,568,382 to current pilot projects on a pro rata basis in FY 23-24 and 24-25.