

Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Act Implementation Committee
Annual Agenda¹—2026
Approved by Executive and Planning Committee: [November 18, 2025]

I. COMMITTEE INFORMATION

Cochair:	Hon. Gary Slossberg, Judge, Superior Court of El Dorado County Hon. Pahoua C. Lor, Judge, Superior Court of Fresno County
Lead Staff:	Ms. Melanie Snider, Supervising Attorney, Center for Families, Children & the Courts Ms. Youn Kim, Senior Analyst, Center for Families, Children & the Courts

Advisory Body's Charge/Membership:

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 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 projects will be selected from a competitive grant application process and provide input into the design of the projects' study. With the adoption of AB 330, a study and report of findings and recommendations of the projects must be submitted to the Governor and the Legislature every five years, commencing June 1, 2020.

The Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Act Implementation Committee currently has 9 members. These include:

- 3 active judges
- 1 law professor
- 4 individuals with experience in legal aid programs
- 1 representative of the State Bar of California

The current committee [roster](#) is available on the committee's webpage.

¹ The Annual Agenda outlines the work an advisory body will focus on in the coming year or cycle and identifies areas of collaboration with other advisory bodies and Judicial Council staff resources.

Subgroups of the Advisory Body²:

None.

Advisory Body and Subgroup Meetings Planned for 2026³

Videoconferences:

1. January/February
2. April/May
3. August/September
4. October (Ad-Hoc if needed)
5. November/December

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

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

³ Refer to section IV. 2 (Meeting frequency) 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 extending the suspension of advisory body in-person meetings for the 2025–2026 annual agenda cycle. If an in-person meeting is needed, the responsible Judicial Council office head must seek approval from their advisory body’s internal oversight committee chair. Please see the prioritization memo dated July 1, 2025, for additional details.

II. COMMITTEE PROJECTS

Priority Levels and Branch Goals Key:

Refer to the following key for populating your project priority levels and branch goals. 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. 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.

Priority Levels for Non-Rules/Forms	
1	Must be done
2	Should be done
Priority Levels for Rules/Forms Proposals	
1a (Legal Compliance)	Proposal urgently needed to conform to or accurately reflect the law.
1b (Council Directive)	Council has directed the committee to consider new or amended rules and forms.
1c (Urgent Remedial Action)	Change is urgently needed to remedy a problem that is causing significant cost or inconvenience to the courts or the public.
1d (Financial/ Legal Risk Mitigation)	Proposal is otherwise urgent and necessary, such as a proposal that would mitigate exposure to immediate or severe financial or legal risk.
2a (Useful Changes in Law)	Useful, but not necessary, to implement changes in law.
2b (Responsive to Concerns)	Responsive to identified concerns or problems.
2c (Helpful Advancing Branch Goals)	Helpful in otherwise advancing Judicial Council goals and objectives.

Judicial Branch Strategic Plan–Branch Goals	
I.	<u>Access, Fairness, Diversity, and Inclusion</u>
II.	<u>Independence and Accountability</u>
III.	<u>Modernization of Management and Administration</u>
IV.	<u>Quality of Justice and Service to the Public</u>
V.	<u>Education for Branchwide Professional Excellence</u>
VI.	<u>Branchwide Infrastructure for Service Excellence</u>
VII.	<u>Adequate, Stable, and Predictable Funding for a Fully Functioning Branch</u>

#	New or One-Time Projects												
1.	Project Title: Make Recommendations to the Judicial Council for the 2026–2029 Grant Cycle						Priority: 1						
Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals:													
	I Access <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	II Independence <input type="checkbox"/>	III Modernization <input type="checkbox"/>	IV Quality <input type="checkbox"/>	V Education <input type="checkbox"/>	VI Infrastructure <input type="checkbox"/>	VII Funding <input type="checkbox"/>						
<p>Project Summary: In order to make recommendations to the Judicial Council regarding grants for the 2026–29 grant cycle as required by statute, a Request for Applications (RFA) was circulated in October of 2025. The committee will review and make recommendations to the Judicial Council in early 2026.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: This review approval is anticipated in January/February 2026.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Center for Families, Children & the Courts staff and committee expenses are covered by an administrative allocation of grant funds.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. <i>Advisory body staff will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure its review of relevant materials.</i> Budget Services has reviewed and has determined that this is not within their purview since the allocations are governed by statute.</p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: The legal services community and partner courts are the external stakeholders.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: None.</p>													

#	Ongoing Projects and Activities																				
1.	Project Title: Research and Data Collection						Priority: 1														
Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals:																					
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<p>Project Summary: Government Code section 68651 requires a study to demonstrate the effectiveness and continued need for the projects and report its findings and recommendations submitted to Legislature on or before January 31, 2016. AB 330 added a requirement to conduct the study and report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature every five years beginning June 30, 2020. A study was completed and submitted in June 2025. The next report will be due in June 2030. The committee provides input on the design of the study and reviews results data from the programs.</p>																					
<p>Status/Timeline: Ongoing.</p>																					
<p>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: CFCC staff, committee, and contractor expenses are covered by an administrative allocation under the grant.</p>																					
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts.</p>																					
<p>Internal/External Stakeholders: The Judicial Council will work closely with the projects and research firm contractor to assist in data collection and analysis.</p>																					
<p>AC Collaboration: None.</p>																					
2.	Project Title: Implementation and Oversight of Projects' Outcomes and Expenditures (Implementation Project)						Priority: 1														
Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals:																					
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<p>Project Summary: As required by Government Code section 68651, the committee will provide continued oversight of the projects approved by the Judicial Council. The committee's oversight will include outcomes of service data, provided by lead legal agencies, court partners, and projects' expenditures. If reallocation of funds is needed, the committee will make recommendations to the Judicial Council. Focus will be on coordination with projects and other legal services funding administrators to explore streamlining and aligning reporting requirements.</p>																					

#	Ongoing Projects and Activities							
	<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"/> Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts.</p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: The programs – legal services and their court partners are stakeholders.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: None.</p>							
3.	<p>Project Title: Identify and Replicate Effective Service Delivery and Best Practices Priority: 2</p> <p>Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals:</p> <table style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>I Access <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>II <i>Independence</i> <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>III <i>Modernization</i> <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>IV <i>Quality</i> <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>V <i>Education</i> <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>VI <i>Infrastructure</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>VII <i>Funding</i> <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table> <p>Project Summary: The committee will continue to develop approaches to identify effective service delivery models and best practices implemented by Shriver projects with the goal of replicating successful strategies among legal aid providers and court partners. Focus on research and document best practices in a range of settlement procedures used by the projects and the courts and disseminate to the legal services and court community.</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"/> Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts.</p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: Project lead legal services agencies and trial court partners.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: None.</p>	I Access <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	II <i>Independence</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	III <i>Modernization</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	IV <i>Quality</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	V <i>Education</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	VI <i>Infrastructure</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	VII <i>Funding</i> <input type="checkbox"/>
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#	Ongoing Projects and Activities																				
4.	Project Title: Serve as a Resource Priority: 2																				
Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals:																					
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<p>Project Summary: Serve as a subject matter resource to other Judicial Council advisory bodies and staff with subjects under the committee's charge. Conduct outreach to court leadership to ensure that they are aware of potential Shriver resources available for settlement assistance and other innovative housing projects.</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"/> Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts.</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>																					

III. LIST OF 2025 PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#	Project Highlights and Achievements
1.	Report to the Legislature: The committee submitted the <i>Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Act Report</i> to the Legislature on June 30, 2025, as required by Assembly Bill 330 (Gabriel) . The council received this report at the July 2025 business meeting.
2.	Midyear Augmentation Funding: In June 2025, the committee recommended distributing \$1.4 million—unclaimed funds from the previous \$5 million midcycle allocation—to current projects on a pro rata basis, based on the award amounts from the 2023–2026 grant cycle. A Request for Proposals was issued, inviting applicants to submit revised project plans, budgets, and budget narratives to demonstrating how they would utilize their pro rata shares. The committee reviewed and developed recommendations to allocate \$1.4 million across 13 proposals for FY 2025–26. The council approved this recommendation at the October 2025 business meeting.
3.	Request for Applications for 2026–2029 Grant Cycle: A Request for Applications was administered for Shriver project grants for the 2026–2029 grant cycle. The ad hoc subcommittee reviewed and analyzed the submitted applications.
4.	Continuation of Research and Data Collection: Comprehensive study is ongoing for research and data collection. From April through June 2025, a Request for Proposals was issued, resulting an agreement with a research firm contractor, National Center for State Courts for ongoing of the data collection and reporting of the program.
5.	The committee continues to monitor grants awarded that provide representation and make court services more efficient and effective for those who remain unrepresented.