

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA  
BUDGET SERVICES  
Report to the Revenue and Expenditure Subcommittee  
(Action Item)

**Title:** Fiscal Year 2025–26 Trial Court Trust Fund Allocation Increase for Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Program

**Date:** 8/12/2025

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**Issue**

Consider a recommendation from the Shriver Civil Counsel Act Implementation Committee (Shriver Committee) to increase the FY 2025–26 allocation for the Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Program to fund additional grant allocations from existing program reserves in the amount of \$1.4 million. The augmentation will increase the Judicial Council–approved FY 2025–26 allocation from \$18.2 million to \$19.6 million, for the Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Pilot Program.

**Background**

On July 21, 2023, the Judicial Council approved 14 grants for a total of \$48.3 million to qualified legal services providers and court partners for the administration of Shriver projects (effective October 1, 2023). These grants are awarded for a three-year period beginning October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2026<sup>1</sup>. The projects, in partnership with their local superior courts, provide legal representation and assistance to low-income Californians consistent with the Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Act (as amended by Assem. Bill 2193; Stats. 2022, ch. 486) in civil matters involving housing-related matters, domestic violence and civil harassment restraining orders, probate conservatorships, guardianships of the person, elder abuse, or actions by a parent to obtain legal or physical custody of a child.

On April 12, 2024, the Shriver Committee approved an application process for a recommendation to the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee (TCBAC) to allocate and distribute up to \$5 million in program reserves to current Shriver projects. Funding was offered to grant recipients based on pro rata award amounts from the 2023–26 grant cycle, for expenditure during fiscal years 2024–25 and 2025–26. Of the \$5 million, a total of \$3.6 million was requested by 11 programs. This allocation was approved by the TCBAC on October 4, 2024<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Judicial Council of Cal., Staff Rep., *Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Act* | *Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Act: Selection of Pilot Projects* (July 21, 2023), <https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=12124930&GUID=FB567EA4-D0EA-4B2E-A554-6352E555984D>

<sup>2</sup> Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee, Staff Rep. 2024-25 Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Pilot Program Pro Rata Distribution for a Mid-Cycle Allocation (October 4, 2024), <https://courts.ca.gov/system/files/file/tcbac-20241004-materials.pdf>

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On November 15, 2024, the Judicial Council approved TCBAC’s recommendation for a one-time midcycle allocation of \$3.6 million from the Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Act grant program’s existing reserves within the Trial Court Trust Fund (TCTF) to current Shriver projects. The council also approved retaining the unrequested amount of \$1.4 million in reserve for allocation in the next 2026–29 grant cycle.<sup>3</sup>

On April 3, 2025, the Revenue and Expenditure Subcommittee considered the annual allocations from the TCTF for FY 2025–26 and approved a recommendation to allocate \$18.2 million to the Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Program. The allocation was approved at the Judicial Council’s July 12, 2025, business meeting.<sup>4</sup> This request will augment the approved allocation for current year (Attachment B).

**Proposed Augmentation for Consideration**

In response to the urgent need for legal aid services due to recent wildfires that caused widespread housing loss, in addition to cuts in federal funding, on June 5, 2025, the Shriver Committee approved funding existing projects in FY 2025–26 with the remaining \$1.4 million, rather than reserving it for the 2026–29 grant cycle.<sup>5</sup> In support of this request, on June 9, 2025, a request for proposals was issued to current Shriver projects, inviting them to submit revised project plans, budgets, and budget narratives detailing how they would use a proposed pro rata allocation of the \$1.4 million augmentation. Of the 14 Shriver projects, 12 submitted proposals for their full pro rata amount, one submitted a proposal for less than its share, and one project declined their full pro rata share.

On July 18, 2025, the Shriver Committee approved 13 proposals through action by email between meetings to augment the current projects using up to \$1.4 million in program reserves, bringing the total grant awards to \$53 million for the 2023–26 grant cycle.<sup>6</sup> Attachment A displays the \$3.6 million pro rata midcycle allocation award amounts in column E, and the proposed pro rata mid-year augmentation allocations of \$1.4 million in column F, which is also based on the same 2023–26 grant cycle. The following table shows the total funding amounts, including the initial grant awards, the midcycle allocation, and the proposed mid-year augmentation. After the allocation of \$1.4 million, remaining reserve funding for the program will be \$13.9 million.

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<sup>3</sup> Judicial Council of Cal., Staff Rep., *Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Act | Midcycle Allocation to Current Projects* (Nov. 15, 2024), <https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=13393796&GUID=0C4E75C5-E5D4-4AD1-8CE2-5832105FA27F>.

<sup>4</sup> Judicial Council of Cal., <https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=14317995&GUID=ECD8C9DA-C4D0-4251-9D6E-F59B81DF112E>

<sup>5</sup> Shriver Civil Counsel Act Implementation Committee meeting agenda, June 5, 2025, [https://courts.ca.gov/system/files/file/shriver-060525-noticeagenda\\_0.pdf](https://courts.ca.gov/system/files/file/shriver-060525-noticeagenda_0.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> The July 18, 2025, Shriver Civil Counsel Act Implementation Committee meeting by vote by email and closed to the public under California Rules of Court, rule 10.75(D)(9); <https://courts.ca.gov/system/files/file/shriver-20250718-minutes-actionbyemail.pdf>.

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| 2023–26<br>Total Grant Awards  | Additional 2023–26<br>Midcycle<br>Allocation | Proposed Mid-Year<br>Augmentation | Revised 2023–26<br>Total Grant Awards |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| \$48,033,963   | \$3,568,382                                  | \$1,431,618                       | \$53,033,963                          |
| <i>Note: The initial allocation of \$48,328,296 approved by the Judicial Council on July 21, 2023, was reduced to \$48,033,963 after two programs were unable to accept their full awards.</i> |  |                                   |                                       |

**Recommendation**

The Shriver Committee recommends an increase to the approved FY 2025–26 TCTF allocation for the Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Pilot Program of \$1.4 million, which results in a total program allocation of \$19.6 million for the current year. This amount will be allocated and distributed to current Shriver projects, on a pro rata basis according to the award amounts for the 2023–26 grant cycle, for FY 2025–26 as identified in Attachment A.

This recommendation will be considered by the TCBAC, the Judicial Branch Budget Committee, and then the Judicial Council at its October 24, 2025, business meeting.

**Attachments**

1. Attachment A: Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Program Mid-Year Augmentation Pro Rata Distribution
2. Attachment B: Approved FY 2025–26 Allocations and Proposed FY 2025–26 Augmentation State Operations and Local Assistance Trial Court Trust Fund

**Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Program Mid-Year Augmentation Pro Rata Distribution<sup>7</sup>**

| <b>A</b>   | <b>B</b>             | <b>C</b>   | <b>D</b>                             | <b>E</b>                        | <b>F</b>                          | <b>G</b>   |
|--|----------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Lead Legal Services Agency</b>                                    | <b>Court Partner</b> | <b>Case Type</b>                                 | <b>Approved 2023–26 Grant Awards</b> | <b>Midcycle Allocation 2024</b> | <b>Mid-Year Augmentation 2025</b> | <b>Total Revised 2023–26 Grant Amounts<sup>8</sup></b> |
| California Rural Legal Assistance                                    | San Joaquin          | Housing  | 2,456,611                            | 255,716                         | 76,925                            | 2,789,252  |
| Central California Legal Services                                    | Fresno               | Housing  | 1,979,657                            | 206,068                         | 61,989                            | 2,247,714  |
| Centro Legal de la Raza  | Alameda              | Housing  | 2,168,678                            | 225,745                         | 67,909                            | 2,462,332  |
| Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance, Inc.                           | Kern                 | Housing  | 3,066,468                            | 319,077                         | 96,021                            | 3,481,566  |
| Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco   | San Francisco        | Child Custody                                    | 1,219,949                            | 126,988                         | 38,201                            | 1,385,138  |
| Legal Access Alameda   | Alameda              | Child Custody                                    | 313,938                              | 0                               | 9,831                             | 323,769  |
| Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County                         | Santa Barbara        | Housing Guardianship Conservatorship             | 3,914,413                            | 117,125                         | 116,666                           | 4,148,204  |
| Legal Aid Society of San Diego                                       | San Diego            | Housing  | 10,149,125                           | 0                               | 317,802                           | 10,466,927   |
| Legal Services of Northern California                                | Yolo                 | Housing  | 1,147,846                            | 119,483                         | \$35,943                          | 1,303,272  |
| Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice dba Survivor Justice Center   | Los Angeles          | Child Custody                                    | 3,007,407                            | 313,050                         | \$94,172                          | 3,414,629  |
| Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County                    | Los Angeles          | Housing  | 12,911,086                           | 1,343,954                       | 404,289                           | 14,659,329   |
| Public Law Center  | Orange               | Child Custody                                    | 489,484                              | 0                               | 0                                 | 489,484  |
| San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program (custody) <sup>9</sup>            | San Diego            | Child Custody                                    | 1,392,980                            | 144,202                         | 13,563                            | 1,550,745  |
| San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program (domestic violence) <sup>10</sup> | San Diego            | Domestic Violence                                | 961,185                              | 99,774                          | 8,904                             | 1,069,863  |
| San Luis Obispo Legal Assistance Foundation                          | San Luis Obispo      | Housing Elder Abuse Guardianship Conservatorship | 2,855,136                            | 297,200                         | 89,403                            | 3,241,739  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   |                      |  | <b>\$48,033,963</b>                  | <b>\$3,568,382</b>              | <b>\$1,431,618</b>                | <b>\$53,033,963</b>                                    |

<sup>7</sup> The mid-year augmentation will allow 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.

<sup>8</sup> Total Revised 2023–26 Grant Amounts are inclusive of approved TCTF allocations for FY 2023–24, FY 2024–25 and the allocation to be requested for FY 2025–26.

<sup>9</sup> San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program is one Shriver project, but their funding is separated by case type to demonstrate compliance with Gov. Code 68651(2), which states that proposals to provide counsel in child custody cases should be considered among the highest priorities for funding and that up to 20 percent of available funds shall be directed to programs involving actions under the Family Code

([https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=GOV&division=&title=8.&part=&chapter=2.1.&article=3](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=GOV&division=&title=8.&part=&chapter=2.1.&article=3))

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

**Judicial Council of California**  
**Approved FY 2025-26 Allocations and Proposed FY 2025-26 Augmentation**  
**State Operations and Local Assistance**  
**Trial Court Trust Fund**

**Attachment B**

| #  | Program Name   | Program Number | Office | FY 2024-25 Allocations |                       |                                  | Recommended FY 2025-26 Allocations |                       |                     |                                  | \$<br>Change from<br>FY 2024-25 | %<br>Change from<br>FY 2024-25 |
|----|--|----------------|--------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|    |  |                |        | State<br>Operations    | Local<br>Assistance   | Total<br>Approved<br>Allocations | State<br>Operations                | Local<br>Assistance   | Augmentation        | Total<br>Proposed<br>Allocations |                                 |                                |
| A  | B  | C              | D      | E                      | F                     | G (E + F)                        | H                                  | I                     |                     | J (H + I)                        | K (J - G)                       | L (K / G)                      |
| 1  | SCO Audit - Pilot program per GC 77206 (h)(4) <sup>1</sup>         | 0150095        | AS     |                        | \$ 1,850,000          | \$ 1,850,000                     |                                    | \$ 1,887,000          |                     | \$ 1,887,000                     | 37,000                          | 2%                             |
| 2  | California State Auditor Audits                                    | 0150010        | AS     |                        | 325,000               | 325,000                          |                                    | 325,000               |                     | 325,000                          | -                               | 0%                             |
| 3  | Phoenix Financial Services   | 0140010        | BAP    | 103,000                |                       | 103,000                          | 107,000                            |                       |                     | 107,000                          | 4,000                           | 4%                             |
| 4  | Phoenix HR Services  | 0140010        | BAP    | 1,723,000              |                       | 1,723,000                        | 1,776,000                          |                       |                     | 1,776,000                        | 53,000                          | 3%                             |
| 5  | Other Post Employment Benefits Valuations                          | 0150095        | BAP    |                        | 131,000               | 131,000                          |                                    | 643,000               |                     | 643,000                          | 512,000                         | 391%                           |
| 6  | Statewide Support for Collections Programs <sup>1</sup>            | 0140010        | BS     | 747,000                |                       | 747,000                          | 827,000                            |                       |                     | 827,000                          | 80,000                          | 11%                            |
| 7  | Jury   | 0150010        | BS     |                        | 18,700,000            | 18,700,000                       |                                    | 14,500,000            |                     | 14,500,000                       | (4,200,000)                     | -22%                           |
| 8  | Elder Abuse  | 0150010        | BS     |                        | 1,400,000             | 1,400,000                        |                                    | 1,500,000             |                     | 1,500,000                        | 100,000                         | 7%                             |
| 9  | SCO Administrative Costs per GC 68085(g)                           | 0150010        | BS     |                        | 88,000                | 88,000                           |                                    | 88,000                |                     | 88,000                           | -                               | 0%                             |
| 10 | Children in Dependency Case Training                               | 0150095        | CFCC   |                        | 113,000               | 113,000                          |                                    | 113,000               |                     | 113,000                          | -                               | 0%                             |
| 11 | Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Pilot Program                        | 0140010        | CFCC   | 780,000                |                       | 780,000                          | 960,000                            |                       |                     | 960,000                          | 180,000                         | 23%                            |
| 12 | Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Pilot Program                        | 0150095        | CFCC   |                        | 21,032,000            | 21,032,000                       |                                    | 18,200,000            | 1,440,000           | 19,640,000                       | (1,392,000)                     | -7%                            |
| 13 | Equal Access Fund  | 0140010        | CFCC   | 274,000                |                       | 274,000                          | 274,000                            |                       |                     | 274,000                          | -                               | 0%                             |
| 14 | Court-Appointed Dependency Counsel Collections                     | 0140010        | CFCC   | 556,000                |                       | 556,000                          | 556,000                            |                       |                     | 556,000                          | -                               | 0%                             |
| 15 | Court-Appointed Dependency Counsel                                 | 0150011        | CFCC   |                        | 186,700,000           | 186,700,000                      |                                    | 186,700,000           |                     | 186,700,000                      | -                               | 0%                             |
| 16 | Juvenile Dependency Collections Reimbursement                      | 0150010        | CFCC   |                        | 350,000               | 350,000                          |                                    | 363,458               |                     | 363,458                          | 13,458                          | 4%                             |
| 17 | Self-Help Center   | 0150010        | CFCC   |                        | 25,300,000            | 25,300,000                       |                                    | 25,300,000            |                     | 25,300,000                       | -                               | 0%                             |
| 18 | Screening Equipment Replacement                                    | 0150010        | FS     |                        | 2,511,000             | 2,511,000                        |                                    | 2,000,000             |                     | 2,000,000                        | (511,000)                       | -20%                           |
| 19 | Court Interpreters Data Collections System (CIDCS)                 | 0150037        | IT     | 87,000                 |                       | 87,000                           | 87,000                             |                       |                     | 87,000                           | -                               | 0%                             |
| 20 | Data Center and Cloud Services                                     | 0150095        | IT     |                        | 4,611,000             | 4,611,000                        |                                    | 4,611,000             |                     | 4,611,000                        | -                               | 0%                             |
| 21 | Electronic Courts of Appeal Record and Transcripts (eCART) Program | 0150095        | IT     |                        | 200,000               | 200,000                          |                                    | 200,000               |                     | 200,000                          | -                               | 0%                             |
| 22 | <b>Total Allocations</b>   |                |        | <b>\$ 4,270,000</b>    | <b>\$ 263,311,000</b> | <b>\$ 267,581,000</b>            | <b>\$ 4,587,000</b>                | <b>\$ 256,430,458</b> | <b>\$ 1,440,000</b> | <b>\$ 262,457,458</b>            | <b>\$ (5,123,542)</b>           | <b>-1.91%</b>                  |

| Totals by Office  |  |  | Office | State Operations | Local Assistance | Total Approved Allocations | State Operations | Local Assistance | Augmentation | Total Proposed Allocations | \$<br>Change from FY 2024-25 | %<br>Change from FY 2024-25 |
|-------------------|--|--|--------|------------------|------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Legend            |  |  |        | E                | F                | G (E + F)                  | H                | I                |              | J (H + I)                  | K (J - G)                    | L (K / G)                   |
| 23                | Audit Services                               |  | AS     | \$ -             | \$ 2,175,000     | \$ 2,175,000               | \$ -             | \$ 2,212,000     |              | \$ 2,212,000               | \$ 37,000                    | 1.70%                       |
| 24                | Branch Accounting and Procurement            |  | BAP    | 1,826,000        | 131,000          | 1,957,000                  | 1,883,000        | 643,000          |              | 2,526,000                  | 569,000                      | 29.08%                      |
| 25                | Budget Services                              |  | BS     | 747,000          | 20,188,000       | 20,935,000                 | 827,000          | 16,088,000       |              | 16,915,000                 | (4,020,000)                  | -19.20%                     |
| 26                | Center for Families, Children and the Courts |  | CFCC   | 1,610,000        | 233,495,000      | 235,105,000                | 1,790,000        | 230,676,458      | 1,440,000    | 233,906,458                | (1,198,542)                  | -0.51%                      |
| 27                | Facility Services                            |  | FS     | -                | 2,511,000        | 2,511,000                  | -                | 2,000,000        |              | 2,000,000                  | (511,000)                    | -20.35%                     |
| 28                | Information Technology                       |  | IT     | 87,000           | 4,811,000        | 4,898,000                  | 87,000           | 4,811,000        |              | 4,898,000                  | -                            | 0.00%                       |
| Total Allocations |  |  |        | \$ 4,270,000     | \$ 263,311,000   | \$ 267,581,000             | \$ 4,587,000     | \$ 256,430,458   |              | \$ 262,457,458             | \$ (5,123,542)               | -1.91%                      |

| Totals by Program |   | Program Number | State Operations | Local Assistance | Total Approved Allocations | State Operations | Local Assistance | Augmentation | Total Proposed Allocations | \$S Change from FY 2024-25 | % Change from FY 2024-25 |
|-------------------|---|----------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Legend            |   |                | E                | F                | G (E + F)                  | H                | I                |              | J (H + I)                  | K (J - G)                  | L (K / G)                |
| 29                | Judicial Council (Staff)                      | 0140010        | \$ 4,183,000     | \$ -             | \$ 4,183,000               | \$ 4,500,000     | \$ -             |              | \$ 4,500,000               | \$ 317,000                 | 7.58%                    |
| 30                | Support for the Operation of the Trial Courts | 0150010        | -                | 48,674,000       | 48,674,000                 | -                | 44,076,458       |              | 44,076,458                 | (4,597,542)                | -9.45%                   |
| 31                | Court Appointed Dependency Counsel            | 0150011        | -                | 186,700,000      | 186,700,000                | -                | 186,700,000      |              | 186,700,000                | -                          | 0.00%                    |
| 32                | Court Interpreters                            | 0150037        | 87,000           | -                | 87,000                     | 87,000           | -                |              | 87,000                     | -                          | 0.00%                    |
| 33                | Expenses on Behalf of the Trial Courts        | 0150095        | -                | 27,937,000       | 27,937,000                 | -                | 25,654,000       | 1,440,000    | 27,094,000                 | (843,000)                  | -3.02%                   |
| Total Allocations |   |                | \$ 4,270,000     | \$ 263,311,000   | \$ 267,581,000             | \$ 4,587,000     | \$ 256,430,458   |              | \$ 262,457,458             | \$ (5,123,542)             | -1.91%                   |

<sup>1</sup> The allocation increase of \$1.5 million for FY 2024-25 was approved by Judicial Council at its February 21, 2025 business meeting.