



Judicial Council of California

455 Golden Gate Avenue, 6th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102

Request for Proposals SB331 FCS DV Toolkit, Curriculum Development & Training RFP No: CFCC-2026-12-DM

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

March 17, 2026

1. Where can one find a copy of the curriculum developed by Judicial Council in 2025 that this project is intended to build upon?

Answer: Here is the list of topics covered in the 2025 curricula:

- Defining Domestic Violence and the Challenges it Brings to Your Role
- Screening: Identifying and Assessing Abuse
- Emotional abuse and coercive control: Impact on mediation
- Trauma-Responsive Mediation Strategies in Cases Involving Domestic Violence
- Mitigating Bias
- Putting it all together: Practical strategies for safe and effective mediation in cases involving domestic violence
- Impact of Domestic Violence on Children: Long-and Short-Term Risks
- Identify the Nature, Context, and Effects of Abuse on Parenting and Children
- Co-occurring Issues
- Putting it all together: Crafting Recommendations.

2. Who is the "leadership" referred to in the description of the RFP where it lists the audience for the training as FCS professionals, court connected mediators, child custody recommending counselors, evaluators and "their leadership"? Does that refer to FCS supervisors or judges or court administrative staff?

Answer: FCS Leadership is made up of Family Court Services Directors, Managers, Supervisors, and Court Administrators of Family Court Services departments within superior courts statewide. Depending upon size of courts, resources, and capacity, some courts have other court administrators, such as Court Executive Officers, Family Law Facilitators, or other Court Operation Managers, to oversee the mediation services in the county.



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3. Does the Judicial Council expect the proposal to come in on any specific required RFP form or with a certain type of cover sheet in order to be accepted?

Answer: No, there's no specific required RFP form or with a certain type of cover sheet in order to be accepted? Both the Technical and Cost proposals should include signature of an authorized representative. To fulfill this requirement, the proposer may include signed cover letters for the Technical and Cost Proposals. The Technical and Cost Proposal can be submitted in the same email but must be attached as separate attachments. Please refer to RFP Section 6.0 Submission of Proposals and Section 7.0 Proposal Contents.

4. Where can we find FCS' existing intake and screening process?

Answer: There is no existing statewide intake and screening process. Currently, each county FCS program has its own forms and methods. The contractor will be responsible for designing a statewide model template.

5. On page 3 item 3 Training Delivery (a), does the Judicial Council want presenters to just create and make available to the Judicial Council a video of each of the six (6) live three (3) hour regional trainings, or is this more videos to create in addition to the live presentations?

Answer: The contractor shall provide a separately recorded version (3-hour) of the material presented during the live, in-person trainings delivered in 6 locations across the state, to be made available for on-demand education. In addition to that recording the contractor shall also develop and deliver three (3) new and separate on-demand DV training modules (approximately two hours each) designed to provide advanced, in-depth curriculum on DV concepts, dynamics, and application to mediation practices different from the content delivered in person. Combine these three additional training modules with the recorded Curriculum from the live in-person training will total nine (9) hours of unique on-demand content.

6. Who are the Judicial Council approved experts the contract may subcontract with? Is there a list of experts available?

Answer: The Judicial Council does not maintain a list of approved experts. The contractor is expected to provide the necessary subject-matter expertise directly and/or subcontract with qualified experts. Any proposed experts will be submitted to the Project Manager for review and approval on this project.



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7. Is there a preferred assessment tool that will be used? Or is the expectation that the provider will develop a new assessment tool?

Answer: There is no preferred or pre-identified assessment tool. The contractor may use an existing tool or develop a new one. Any tool must support custody determinations that prioritize child safety and well-being, are culturally responsive, and identify domestic-violence-related safety risks while also balancing parents' legal rights.

8. Is there a specific team at the Judicial Council that the provider would be working with throughout the course of the project?

Answer: Yes. The provider will work closely with the Family Court Services (FCS) team within the Center for Families, Children & the Courts. This team provides mandated education, training, and technical assistance to FCS professionals statewide and includes a Supervising Analyst, two Senior Analysts, and an Administrative Specialist. The FCS team also collaborates with the Domestic Violence and Family Law legal team, who will be key partners in the project's development and implementation.

9. Would the Judicial Council consider an extension of the 12-month term if deemed necessary?

Answer: The project timeline is structured to meet the annual calendar-year training requirements for FCS professionals; therefore, the six regional trainings must occur within calendar year 2026. Extensions to the 12-month term are not anticipated. In the event of extenuating circumstances, limited extensions for the on-demand training deliverable may be considered, though such extensions are strongly discouraged.

10. Will the Judicial Council conduct outreach for the trainings or will the provider be expected to?

Answer: Outreach related to securing logistics including dates, times, venues, attendee meals, and onsite technical support, will be conducted by the Judicial Council. The Judicial Council will also manage participant outreach and communication for the trainings.

11. What the anticipated/target range for the number of people to be trained at each of the in-person trainings?



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Answer: Attendance will vary by regional location, but each in-person training is expected to have no more than approximately 75 participants. Actual attendance may be lower depending on regional demand.

12. Does the Judicial Council have a platform that the provider would use for the online training? If so, would support be provided in utilizing the platform?

Answer: The Judicial Council uses the Zoom for Government platform to record the on-demand training sessions and will provide the necessary access links to the contractor. The Family Court Services team will provide technical support during the recording process. Once finalized, JC staff will upload recordings and accompanying materials, including post-tests, to a secure Moodle site for statewide access by FCS professionals.

13. I am considering applying or sub-contracting with an applicant for this Training. I do not fully understand whether the "Toolkit," which is defined in purely process terms, is intended to include substantive training/content on abuse and custody. I also am unclear whether the Toolkit is aimed solely at mediators, rather than at judges and other court-related personnel, such as evaluators and GALs. Please clarify.

Answer: The toolkit is intended to provide practical, process-focused tools, guides, and resources that support mediators, child custody recommending counselors (CCRCs), and evaluators/investigators in consistently and safely screening for domestic violence and applying that information during mediation. While the toolkit is not designed to provide comprehensive substantive training on abuse and custody, it should incorporate domestic-violence-informed best practices that strengthen screening, assessment, and mediation procedures.

The ideal toolkit will:

- Provide standardized intake forms and processes, including a mediation-specific domestic violence assessment tool.
- Offer step-by-step guidance on how to use information gathered during screening throughout the mediation process.
- Include sample language and follow-up questions that support domestic-violence-informed mediation practices.
- Include resources that promote the safety of all participants engaged in mediation services.
- Include any additional tools, job aids, or supports needed to ensure consistent, safe, and effective domestic violence screening and mediation practices statewide.



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The toolkit is intended for court-connected mediators, CCRCs, and evaluators/investigators. It is not designed for judges or GALs. Judicial officers receive training through separate funding streams and through a different Judicial Council department responsible for judicial education. The toolkit focuses on mediation-specific screening and assessment practices, which fall within the responsibilities of mediators, CCRCs, and evaluators/investigators rather than judicial officers.