



## JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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### MEMORANDUM

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Date	Action Requested
July 30, 2018	Please review and approve
To	Deadline
Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee	July 30, 2018
From	Contact
Penelope Davis Supervising Analyst, Center for Families, Children & the Courts	Penelope Davis 415-865-8815 phone penny.davis@jud.ca.gov
Subject	
Court Appointed Special Advocate Grant Program - Proposed Funding Distribution for Additional Funding and Proposed Quarter System for Data Collection	

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On June 27, 2018, the Budget Act of 2018, signed into law by the Governor, included an additional \$500,000 in funding for the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) grant program.<sup>1</sup> The augmentation will provide funding to increase the number of foster youth served by 20 percent (approximately 2,200 additional foster youth) and reduce backlogs of youth in local courts waiting for a volunteer assignment.

Staff supporting the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) grant program request that the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee (F&J) review and approve:

1. The two year distribution plan for the additional \$500,000 funding as described below.

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<sup>1</sup> This represents a more than 20 percent increase in funding from \$2,213,000 to a new total of \$2,713,000.

2. The attached draft report to the Judicial Council, for its business meeting of September 20-21, 2018.
3. The proposed quarter system for data collection described below.

### **Proposed Funding Distribution**

Staff recommend distributing the additional \$500,000 to CASA programs as additional base funding for fiscal years (FY) 2018-2019 and 2019-2020, using the current base funding methodology adopted by the Council in 2013 and reaffirmed at the July 20, 2018 Judicial Council meeting.<sup>2</sup> During this time, local CASA programs will develop and implement plans to increase the number of children served. Staff will collect data capturing the impact of funding and number children served. Staff will then compile data and seek guidance from the committee on developing a methodology to distribute funds and determine eligibility for continued funding.

Attachment A contains FY 2018-2019 distribution amounts based on the current base funding methodology.

### **FY 2018-2019 and FY 2019-2020**

- Distribute \$500,000 among all CASA programs based on the four tiers approved by the Council in 2013 to determine base funding.
- CASA programs will develop and submit a general plan to increase the number of children served.
- Collect data to establish benchmarks, monitor funding, measure improvements, and changes.

### **Data Collection and Reporting Requirements:**

- Judicial Council program staff will collect data by survey to monitor funding requirements and the impact of funding on children in foster care. Data will be collected to determine baseline of September 1, 2018 and at subsequent time points so that staff can determine changes from the baseline.
- CASA programs will report data to establish benchmarks and track progress.
  - Staff will monitor data including, but not limited to:
    - Number of supervisors for volunteers
    - Number of volunteers
    - Number of children served

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<sup>2</sup> Base funds are distributed in accordance with the four tiers adopted by the Council in 2013. The county population of each local program determines the tier, with Tier 1 comprising the least populous counties and Tier 4 comprising the most populous counties.

- Court backlog (youth waiting for volunteer assignment)
- Training (of staff and volunteers)
- Staff will compile FY 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 data and seek guidance from the committee on developing a methodology to distribute funds and determine eligibility for continued funding beginning in FY 2020-2021.

### **Alternatives**

Staff considered the option of equally distributing the \$500,000 among the 45 local programs as an alternative. While this method would provide the same amount of funding for each program (\$11,111), it does not account for county population, multi-county programs, or any other factors. Thus, in the interest of equity, and to maintain consistency with approved methods for CASA grant funding distribution, staff recommend use of the base funding method approved by the Council in 2013 to distribute the additional \$500,000.

Distribution based on equal distribution are listed in Attachment A.

### **Proposed Quarter System for Data Collection**

As you may recall, the committee met on May 30, 2018 to discuss the CASA Grant Program funding methodology. Specific concerns expressed by the local CASA programs regarding data were raised during the meeting. One concern was confusion about the time period of data collection used to determine allocations. Current practice is to use three quarters of data, as opposed to a full year, in order to meet Judicial Council deadlines for contract development.

To address concerns regarding the time period of data collection used to determine allocations, staff propose a four quarter system, using data starting with the third and fourth quarter of the previous year and the first and second quarter of the current year to determine allocations. The proposed system will provide a full year of data that will be more useful for determining allocations and will not conflict with Judicial Council deadlines for contract development. Please see below for the breakdown of quarters.

- **Quarter 1:** September, October, November
- **Quarter 2:** December, January, February
- **Quarter 3:** March, April, May
- **Quarter 4:** June, July, August



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# REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

For business meeting on September 20-21, 2018

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Title	Agenda Item Type
Judicial Council Budget: Court Appointed Special Advocate Grant Program - Allocation of Augmented Funding	Action Required
Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes Affected	Effective Date
None	July 1, 2018
Recommended by	Date of Report
Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee	July 24, 2018
Hon. Jerilyn L. Borack, Cochair	Contact
	Penelope Davis, 415-865-8815 penny.davis@jud.ca.gov

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### Executive Summary

The Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee recommends that the Judicial Council approve a two year plan for allocation of the \$500,000 in additional Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) grant funding, included in the Budget Act of 2018, and signed into law on June 27, 2018. The \$500,000 augmentation provides funding to support efforts to increase the number of foster youth served by 20 percent (approximately 2,200 additional foster youth) and reduce backlogs of youth in local courts waiting for a volunteer assignment.

### Recommendation

The Family Law and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee recommends that the Judicial Council, effective July 1, 2018:

Approve the allocation of \$500,000 to CASA programs, as additional base funding for fiscal years (FY) 2018-2019 and 2019-2020, using the four-tiered base funding methodology, adopted by the Council in 2013 and reaffirmed at the July 20, 2018 Judicial Council meeting.

## Relevant Previous Council Action

Legislation (Stats. 1988, ch. 723) amended Welfare and Institutions Code section 100 et seq. to require the Judicial Council to establish guidelines encouraging the development of local CASA programs that assist abused and neglected children who are the subject of judicial proceedings. The legislation also called for the establishment of a CASA grant program to be administered by the Judicial Council and required CASA programs to provide local matching—or in-kind—funds equal to program funding received from the Judicial Council.

At its August 23, 2013 meeting, the Judicial Council approved a funding methodology that utilizes four tiers, based on county population, to establish base funding allocations for local CASA programs.<sup>1</sup> At the July 20, 2018 Judicial Council meeting the council adopted a new methodology but did not make any changes to the four-tiered base funding portion of the methodology.

## Analysis/Rationale

On June 27, 2018, the Budget Act of 2018, signed into law by the Governor, included an additional ongoing augmentation of \$500,000 for the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) grant program.<sup>2</sup> This represents a more than 20 percent increase in funding from \$2,213,000 to a new total of \$2,713,000. The augmentation is intended to provide funding to CASA programs to increase the number of foster youth served by 20 percent and reduce backlogs of youth in local courts waiting for a volunteer assignment. Allocating the \$500,000 as additional base funds for the first two years will support programs to develop and implement plans to increase the number of volunteer supervisors, CASA volunteers, children served, and to clear backlogs.

The two-year funding plan is detailed below. Please see Attachment A for allocations based on the current base funding methodology.

## Proposed Funding Plan

### *FY 2018-2019 and FY 2019-2020*

- Distribute \$500,000 among all CASA programs based on the four tiers approved by the Council in 2013 to determine base funding.
- CASA programs will develop and submit a general plan to increase the number of children served.
- Judicial Council CASA program staff will collect data to establish benchmarks, monitor funding, measure improvements, and changes.

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<sup>1</sup> Judicial Council of California, Advisory Com. Rep., *Juvenile Dependency: Court Appointed Special Advocate Program Funding Methodology* (Aug. 23, 2013), [www.courts.ca.gov/documents/jc-20130823-itemM.pdf](http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/jc-20130823-itemM.pdf) (as of June 27, 2017).

<sup>2</sup> The initial FY 2018-2019 state budget for Judicial Council CASA grant programs was set at \$2.213 million.

### ***Data Collection and Reporting Requirements:***

- Judicial Council CASA program staff will collect data by survey to monitor funding requirements and the impact of funding on children in foster care. Data will be collected to determine baseline of September 1, 2018 and at subsequent time points so that staff can determine changes from the baseline.
- CASA programs will report data to establish benchmarks and track progress.
  - Judicial Council CASA program staff will monitor data including, but not limited to:
    - Number of supervisors for volunteers
    - Number of volunteers
    - Number of children served
    - Court backlog (youth waiting for volunteer assignment)
    - Training (of staff and volunteers)
- The Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee will review data from FY 2018-2019 through FY 2019-2020, and work with Judicial Council CASA program staff to develop a methodology to distribute funds and determine eligibility for continued funding beginning in FY 2020-2021.

### **Policy implications**

As discussed below, the committee considered equal distribution of the \$500,000 across all counties. The committee believes that the proposed distribution will best match the budget augmentation rationale and will allow for more meaningful data collection.

### **Comments**

The committee did not seek formal comment. Circulation for public comment was not required for this report.

### **Alternatives considered**

The committee considered the option of equally distributing the \$500,000 among the 45 local programs as an alternative. While this method would provide the same amount of funding for each program (\$11,111), it does not account for county population, multi-county programs, or any other factors. Thus, in the interest of equity, and to maintain consistency with approved methods for CASA grant funding distribution, the committee recommends use of the base funding method approved by the Council in 2013 to distribute the additional \$500,000.

Please see Attachment A for allocations based on equal distribution.

### **Fiscal and Operational Impacts**

Implementation of this distribution plan and allocation of funds would be effective beginning FY 2018-2019. CASA funds are distributed effective September 1<sup>st</sup> of each year and continue

through August 31<sup>st</sup> of the subsequent year. Judicial Council CASA program staff currently monitor several CASA program outcomes and collect a variety of data including the number of supervisors; volunteers recruited and trained; staff and volunteer demographics; budget; and number of children served. Additional data collection will be minimal and have little operational impact on Judicial Council CASA program staff and the local CASA programs.

### **Attachments and Links**

1. Attachment A: Proposed Distribution of Augmented CASA Funding for FY 2018-2019  
Judicial Council CASA Local Assistance

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**Distribution of New CASA Funding  
FY 2018-19 and FY 2019-20**

Local CASA Programs by County	Initial Base 2018-19	Distribution of New Funding Based on Tier Methodology	Total Base 2018-19 (Tier Methodology)	Disbriution of New Funding Equally Distributed	Total Base 2018-19 (Equal Distribution)
Alameda	\$57,500.00	\$ 13,827.43	\$71,327.43	\$11,111.00	\$68,611.00
Amador/Calevaras*	\$44,850.00	\$ 10,785.40	\$55,635.40	\$11,111.00	\$55,961.00
Butte/Glenn	\$58,650.00	\$ 14,103.98	\$72,754	\$11,111.00	\$69,761.00
Contra Costa	\$57,500.00	\$ 13,827.43	\$71,327	\$11,111.00	\$68,611.00
Del Norte	\$29,900.00	\$ 7,190.27	\$37,090.27	\$11,111.00	\$41,011.00
El Dorado	\$39,100.00	\$ 9,402.65	\$48,503	\$11,111.00	\$50,211.00
Fresno/Madera	\$86,250.00	\$ 20,741.15	\$106,991.15	\$11,111.00	\$97,361.00
Humboldt	\$29,900.00	\$ 7,190.27	\$37,090.27	\$11,111.00	\$41,011.00
Imperial	\$39,100.00	\$ 9,402.65	\$48,502.65	\$11,111.00	\$50,211.00
Inyo/Mono	\$44,850.00	\$ 10,785.40	\$55,635.40	\$11,111.00	\$55,961.00
Kern	\$57,500.00	\$ 13,827.43	\$71,327.43	\$11,111.00	\$68,611.00
Kings	\$39,100.00	\$ 9,402.65	\$48,503	\$11,111.00	\$50,211.00
Lassen	\$29,900.00	\$ 7,190.27	\$37,090.27	\$11,111.00	\$41,011.00
Los Angeles	\$57,500.00	\$ 13,827.43	\$71,327.43	\$11,111.00	\$68,611.00
Marin	\$39,100.00	\$ 9,402.65	\$48,502.65	\$11,111.00	\$50,211.00
Mariposa	\$29,900.00	\$ 7,190.27	\$37,090.27	\$11,111.00	\$41,011.00
Mendocino/Lake	\$58,650.00	\$ 14,103.98	\$72,753.98	\$11,111.00	\$69,761.00
Merced	\$39,100.00	\$ 9,402.65	\$48,502.65	\$11,111.00	\$50,211.00
Modoc	\$29,900.00	\$ 7,190.27	\$37,090.27	\$11,111.00	\$41,011.00
Monterey	\$48,300.00	\$ 11,615.04	\$59,915.04	\$11,111.00	\$59,411.00
Napa	\$39,100.00	\$ 9,402.65	\$48,502.65	\$11,111.00	\$50,211.00
Nevada	\$29,900.00	\$ 7,190.27	\$37,090.27	\$11,111.00	\$41,011.00
Orange	\$57,500.00	\$ 13,827.43	\$71,327.43	\$11,111.00	\$68,611.00
Placer	\$48,300.00	\$ 11,615.04	\$59,915.04	\$11,111.00	\$59,411.00
Plumas	\$29,900.00	\$ 7,190.27	\$37,090.27	\$11,111.00	\$41,011.00
Riverside	\$57,500.00	\$ 13,827.43	\$71,327.43	\$11,111.00	\$68,611.00
Sacramento	\$57,500.00	\$ 13,827.43	\$71,327.43	\$11,111.00	\$68,611.00
San Benito	\$29,900.00	\$ 7,190.27	\$37,090.27	\$11,111.00	\$41,011.00
San Bernardino	\$57,500.00	\$ 13,827.43	\$71,327.43	\$11,111.00	\$68,611.00
San Diego	\$57,500.00	\$ 13,827.43	\$71,327.43	\$11,111.00	\$68,611.00
San Francisco	\$48,300.00	\$ 11,615.04	\$59,915.04	\$11,111.00	\$59,411.00
San Joaquin	\$48,300.00	\$ 11,615.04	\$59,915	\$11,111.00	\$59,411.00
San Luis Obispo	\$39,100.00	\$ 9,402.65	\$48,503	\$11,111.00	\$50,211.00
San Mateo	\$48,300.00	\$ 11,615.04	\$59,915	\$11,111.00	\$59,411.00
Santa Barbara	\$48,300.00	\$ 11,615.04	\$59,915.04	\$11,111.00	\$59,411.00
Santa Clara	\$57,500.00	\$ 13,827.43	\$71,327.43	\$11,111.00	\$68,611.00
Santa Cruz	\$39,100.00	\$ 9,402.65	\$48,502.65	\$11,111.00	\$50,211.00
Shasta/Tehama	\$58,650.00	\$ 14,103.98	\$72,753.98	\$11,111.00	\$69,761.00
Siskiyou	\$29,900.00	\$ 7,190.27	\$37,090.27	\$11,111.00	\$41,011.00
Solano	\$48,300.00	\$ 11,615.04	\$59,915.04	\$11,111.00	\$59,411.00
Sonoma	\$48,300.00	\$ 11,615.04	\$59,915.04	\$11,111.00	\$59,411.00
Stanislaus	\$48,300.00	\$ 11,615.04	\$59,915.04	\$11,111.00	\$59,411.00
Tulare	\$48,300.00	\$ 11,615.04	\$59,915.04	\$11,111.00	\$59,411.00
Ventura	\$48,300.00	\$ 11,615.04	\$59,915.04	\$11,111.00	\$59,411.00
Yolo	\$39,100.00	\$ 9,402.65	\$48,502.65	\$11,111.00	\$50,211.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$2,079,200.00</b>	<b>\$ 500,000.00</b>	<b>\$2,579,200.00</b>	<b>\$ 499,995.00</b>	<b>\$2,579,195.00</b>