

Responses to questions posed regarding the ShriverCommittee@jud.ca.gov by January 31, 2020.

- 1) **Question:** Is the lead agency responsible for paying or sending in quarterly invoices for the applicable cooperative court partners?

Answer: No. The court prepares and submits its own quarterly invoices.

- 2) **Question:** While reading the information on the Judicial Council website regarding the request for applications for the 2020-2023 Sargent Shriver grant, I noticed this:

“the Judicial Council may award amounts that are less than the full projection in the initial year and then consider increases to the grants in future years, staged implementation of new grants, or other steps to ensure sufficient funding for all awards.”

I’m curious what is meant by the staged implementation of new grants? It seems like there is a possibility that applicants from this pool may be selected at a later date, or a second application will open up at some point. I read that previous grant cycles were 2-3 years apart, so the length of time between grant opportunities would be factored into our decision to apply.

Answer: Please apply in this cycle. Grants are normally 3 years. It is possible that the committee may recommend that some grants may start later in order to ensure that there are sufficient funds to support those grants. But we currently anticipate that the grant decisions for the next three years will be made in this round of applications. The issue is when those programs would start. We anticipate that the next time applications will be considered will be in 2023.

- 3) **Question:** We have done some landlord tenant work where the possibility of securing attorney’s fees has arisen (under CCC 789.3 and 1942.4, to date), which is a problem for some of our very limited existing grant funding for this work. Would there be any similar constraint on accepting cases that generate attorney’s fees attached to the Shriver grant?

Answer: There is no constraint against accepting cases that generate attorney’s fees under statutes such as Civil Code 789.3 and 1942.4 with this funding.

- 4) **Question:** Our office is in a very rural area and we are the only legal services provider within about a 3.5 - 4 hour driving radius, depending on which direction you’re driving. We would qualify to be a Lead Legal Services Agency, but there are no other legal services providers that we could work with. In regard to “other legal services providers” – can you confirm that working with other providers is optional but not required?

Answer: Working with other legal services providers is optional, not required.

- 5) **Question:** Is there any restriction on representing undocumented individuals? The application suggests that there is not, but please confirm.

Answer: There is no restriction on representing undocumented individuals.

- 6) **Question:** My question is regarding the **budget narrative**.

In reviewing page 12 of the RFA, **Section 2.3 – Budget Proposal**, we are instructed to complete the 7 tabs in the excel worksheet. I do note that a new budget worksheet was issued on January 30, 2020. However, there is NOT a tab or written instructions, on the format or content of a corresponding line item budget narrative. Even **Appendix C, “Directions for the Shriver Proposed Budget”** does not address the budget narrative issue.

Kindly advise how this should be handled (ie., content, format, etc) and where specifically it should be attached or assembled within the budget package. Thank you.

Answer: You do not need to provide a detailed budget narrative. If you would like to provide Information beyond what is on the Excel spreadsheet, you can add that in Word format. The committee may request additional information from applicants if that is required to make recommendations.

- 7) **Question:** Will the revised “Grant Application Cover Page” and the timeframes provided in the Shriver Budget under “Directions” and also “Tab 7” be posted on the Shriver webpage (link below)? Or, where will the revisions be posted?

<https://www.courts.ca.gov/shrivercommittee.htm?print=1>

As a reminder, the “Grant Application Cover Page” needs a field to include a signature from the president of the Board of Directors of the lead legal services agency. Also, I believe the timeframes provided in the Shriver Budget need to be revised. For example, under Tab 7 it asks for “Civil Legal Services Provided from February 1, 2019 to December 31, 2020” and the timeframes provided in the “Directions” also need to be revised.

Answer: Those changes have been made and a revised Grant Application Cover Page. The date range has been changed to January 1, 2019 – December 30, 2019. It has also been amended to make it clear that the Presiding Judge or Chief Executive Officer must sign on behalf of the court, and that the Executive Director must sign on behalf of the collaborating legal services agency.

- 8) **Question:** There is a document included in the application packet ([Shriver Application Budget 2020-2023](#)) that is entitled:

“Project Title: Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Act Pilot projects
RFP Number: CFCC-2016-12LB
Appendix C”

Which contains the following: “7: Civil Legal Services Provided from Feb. 1, 2019 to Dec. 31, 2020”

And states, “Provide Information for All Partner Organizations That Will Participate in This Project.”

On the one hand it is asking for past programmatic statistics, covering the period from Feb. 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019, which would only apply to current grantees; and it is also asking for stats for the entire 2020 calendar year, which has not yet taken place.

Further, it does not relate to Budget information. There appear to be errors in the form and with the inclusion of this form in the application packet.

Can you please clarify the above issues (if we are meant to complete this form); and also if there is another Budget Form that applicants should utilize for presenting budget information?

Answer: We are sorry for the confusion. This is just one sheet in the Budget Narrative. Please check all the tabs on the Excel spreadsheet to see the other budget questions. A revised form has been posted correcting the date range to show that the data regarding cases served should be from January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019.

- 9) **Question:** Would the committee consider funding a Legal Services attorney position that is 50% Probate, 50% Custody/Family law? Can we link the two programs even if they have separate applications and separate pools of funding?

Answer: Yes, the committee would consider that. Just to clarify that funding cannot be used for general family law, but for child custody and domestic violence restraining orders.

AB 330 changed the restrictions on child custody to allow representation "when the parent is seeking to obtain any level of legal or physical custody." It also placed "the highest priority for funding on proposals to provide counsel in child custody cases, irrespective of whether one side is represented and the other is not." (Quotes from Legislative Counsel's Digest)

It did not expand the category to fund other types of family law such as child support and divorce. Those services can be provided, but not with Shriver funds.

- 10) **Question:** Are there any geographical restrictions or priorities regarding where the funds can be used within a County other than unmet legal need?

Answer: There are no geographic restrictions on applications. In reviewing the all the proposals, the committee is to consider the unmet need for legal services in the geographic area to be served; the availability and effectiveness of other types of court services such as self-help; and may make recommendations regarding distribution of funds to allow evaluation of different types of services in different areas.

- 11) **Question:** Is there any possibility of moving up the grant notification date for current Shriver organizations for planning purposes?

Answer: All potential grantees must be treated equally. If information is available before May 15, it will be available to all applicants.

- 12) **Question:** Can you give me an idea of how much money is involved in the average Shriver Civil Counsel Grant? Annually or over the life of the grant?

Answer: The allocation for the last Shriver 3-year grant cycle was \$7.2 million annually, distributed to 8 legal services providers and their partners, with a range of \$300,000 -2,000,000 per year the legal services provider.