



GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

NACM Leadership Seminar
July 10, 2011

www.sji.gov

Overview

- SJI was established by Congress in 1984 to award grants to improve the quality of justice in the state courts. SJI is 100% federally-funded, non-profit corporation with an 11-member Board of Directors. SJI awards grants, but does not provide direct technical assistance.
- In addition to grants directly to the state courts, SJI also funds grants to national court organizations such as the National Association for Court Management (NACM), Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA), and the National Association for State Judicial Educators (NASJE).
- SJI awards 6 types of grants:
 - 1) Project Grants (generally do not exceed \$300,000; 100% cash match)
 - 2) Partner Grants (funding levels determined by SJI and its funding partner)
 - 3) Strategic Initiatives Grants (set by the Board based on available funding)
 - 4) Technical Assistance Grants (up to \$50,000; 50% match, of which 10% must be cash match)
 - 5) Curriculum Adaptation & Training Grants (up to \$30,000; 50% match, of which 10% must be cash match)
 - 6) Scholarships for judges and court managers (up to \$1,500 each)

Project Grants

- Project Grants support innovative technical assistance, training, and demonstration projects that can improve the administration of justice in state courts locally or nationwide; can also formulate new court procedures and techniques, or develop products or services that can be used in other states.
- Example – Project Grants to NACM and COSCA
 - While SJI does not fund the travel of conference participants, SJI is supporting the educational component of the NACM mid-year and annual conferences.
 - Educational component includes curriculum development, faculty costs, and guest speakers, in addition to other conference-related items.
 - SJI also supporting a Project Grant to NCSC (on behalf of COSCA) to update the COSCA Delay Reduction Time Standards. This project will review and update the standards for processing and disposition of court cases that are relevant and meaningful to today's state courts.

Partner Grants

- Allow SJI and federal, state, or local agencies or foundations, trusts, or other private organizations to combine financial resources in pursuit of common interests.
- These grants enable SJI and its partner to fund projects that will have a national impact on the courts.
- SJI has supported Partner Grants with the Department of Justice/Office of Justice Programs, the U.S. Marshals Service, Legal Services Corporation, and Federal Bureau of Prisons/National Institute of Corrections, in addition to other organizations.
 - DOJ Partner Grants have supported evidence-based sentencing in Alabama, drug court training, and state court workforce training.
 - BOP/NIC Partner Grant is supporting evidenced-based sentencing in California to hold offenders accountable and reduce state court and correctional costs.

Strategic Initiatives Grants (SIG) Program

- The SIG program provides SJI the flexibility to address national court issues as they occur, and develop solutions to those problems. SJI is currently using the SIG program to address:
 - 1. State court reengineering** – the SIG program is being used to support direct technical assistance to state courts that need help determining how best to reduce costs, while maintaining access to justice.
 - 2. Immigration issues in the state courts at a national impact level** – includes projects to help the state courts manage the intersection of state/federal law; a training curriculum on immigration issues for state court judges; and technical assistance.

Other Grant Programs

- Technical Assistance Grants – are designed to provide state and local courts with funding to obtain expert assistance to diagnose a problem, develop a response, and implement required changes. Recent examples include:
 - NASJE– Curriculum development for the NASJE Conferences.
 - Council of Chief Judges of the State Courts of Appeal (CCJSCA) – Evaluation of cost/benefit of appellate court staffing. Specifically, the evaluation of the benefits/drawbacks of central appellate research staffs, as compared to one-year law clerks, especially in varying size appellate courts.
 - American Judges Association (AJA) – Support for the redesign of the AJA website; thereby providing better information to AJA members and the public.

Other Grant Programs (cont.)

- Curriculum Adaptation & Training Grants – enable courts to modify and adapt curricula or course modules to meet state court educational needs, or conduct judicial and/or court management training. Recent examples include:
 - NACM – Distance learning content development for the NACM Core Competencies.
 - Council for Court Excellence (D.C.) – Educational program to address current and local D.C. issues concerning the intersection of the courts, law, and journalism.
 - Minnesota Association for Court Management (MACM) – Support to administer ICM’s Court Management Program in Minnesota.
- Scholarships – enhance the knowledge, skills, and abilities of judges and court managers by supporting attendance at programs, such as those offered by the National Judicial College (NJC) and NCSC’s Institute for Court Management (ICM).

APPLYING FOR SJI GRANTS

- The SJI grant program is governed by the *Grant Guideline*, which is published in the Federal Register each fiscal year (Oct.). The Grant Guideline is available on SJI's website (www.sji.gov) and contains all the information needed to apply for a SJI grant; and execute the grant if awarded.
- All forms are available on the SJI website, including the Form A – Grant Application; Form B – Certificate of State Approval, which must be signed by Chief Justice or State Court Administrator (for state courts only); and Form C – Project budget.
- In FY 2010, SJI instituted a temporary cash match reduction process for Project Grant applications from state courts. The process requires that a state court formally request a reduced cash match, and that the request be certified by the Chief Justice.

APPLYING FOR SJI GRANTS (cont.)

- The application should describe the purpose of the proposed activities.
- Need for the project – Why is this project important?
- Goals and objectives of the project – Explain the benefits of the project.
- Project Budgets should also include a budget narrative.
 - For state courts, operational costs (i.e. personnel salaries) may not be funded out of SJI or cash match funds.
 - Personnel costs may only be included as in-kind match for state courts.
 - Equipment costs should be as minimal as possible.
- Tasks and project management.
 - Start and completion dates.
 - Quarterly reporting of program and financial reports.

QUESTIONS?

- Please feel free to contact us:

Jonathan Mattiello

Executive Director

State Justice Institute

11950 Freedom Drive, #1020

Reston, VA 20190

571-313-8843

jonathan.mattiello@sjj.gov