

E-SJI News

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SJI/PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS PARTNERSHIP ON EVIDENCE-BASED SENTENCING



SJI recently finalized a new Partner Grant with Pew Charitable Trusts' Public Safety Performance Project. The goal of these activities is to promote fiscally sound, data-driven policies and practices on sentencing and corrections that protect the public safety, hold offenders accountable, and control correctional costs. The National Center for State Courts (NCSC), the Crime and Justice Institute (CJI), and the National Judicial College (NJC) will be working together to provide technical assistance, education, and training to State courts in this vital area. The participating organizations are pleased to be working together on this partnership activity.

The three main areas of activity for this project are: 1) educating and mobilizing chief justices and other state court leaders in support of state sentencing and corrections reforms; 2) helping create national visibility and awareness of the need for state sentencing and corrections reforms; and 3) training state judges and other court leaders in select states on the use of evidence-based practices, particularly in the areas of

offender risk assessment, correctional programming, responding to technical violations of probation, and performance measurement. As part of these activities, NCSC and CJI will work intensively in select states where the Public Safety Performance Project is working to provide non-partisan research, analysis, training, and consulting services regarding evidence-based practices to court officials and community corrections executives. Information and services will also be available to state courts and judges across the United States. In addition, NCSC and NJC will develop an innovative model curriculum for state judges on evidence-based practices to reduce recidivism.

The Pew Public Safety Performance Project currently works in 11 states to promote policies that maintain public safety, hold offenders accountable, and control corrections costs. For more information please visit the project's website: www.pewpublicsafety.org.

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SJI GRANT PROGRAMS

SJI's mission is to improve the quality of justice in State courts, and foster innovative, efficient solutions to common issues faced by all courts. To fulfill this mission, SJI awards grants that benefit the nation's judicial system and the public it serves. SJI currently awards six types of grants, each of which is specifically targeted:

Project Grants – are the centerpiece of the SJI's efforts to improve the administration of justice in State courts nationwide. Project Grants are intended to support innovative technical assistance, education and training, and demonstration projects that can improve the administration of justice in State courts locally or nationwide.

Partner Grants – allow SJI and Federal, State, or local agencies or foundations, trusts, or other private entities to combine financial resources in pursuit of common interests.

Strategic Initiatives Grants – provide SJI the flexibility to address national court issues as they occur, and develop solutions to those problems. For FY 2008, SJI is using this program to address immigration issues in the State courts.

Technical Assistance (TA) Grants – designed to provide State and local courts with funding to obtain expert assistance to diagnose a problem, develop a response to that problem, and initiate implementation of any needed changes. Only State or local courts may apply for Technical Assistance grants.

Curriculum Adaptation and Training (CAT) Grants – enable courts to modify and adapt model curricula or course modules to meet State or local jurisdiction educational needs; train instructors to present portions or all of the curricula; and pilot-test them to determine their appropriateness, quality, and effectiveness.

Scholarships – enhance the skills, knowledge, and abilities of judges and court managers by supporting attendance at programs sponsored by national and state providers that they could not otherwise attend because of limited State, local, and personal budgets. SJI has reserved a total of \$175,000 for scholarships for FY 2008.

There are no funds reserved specifically for Project, Partner, TA, or CAT grants. SJI reviews applications for these grants on a competitive basis (in the case of Partner Grants, other review factors are used) to determine awards. Applicants may directly apply for each of the grant types above, within the requirements contained in the FY 2008 SJI Grant Guideline. The exception is Strategic Initiatives Grants, which are awarded by SJI directly to select grantees based on the scope and objectives of the issue being addressed. Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to contact SJI with any questions prior to submitting grant applications, or to discuss ideas about future projects.

FY 2008 2nd QUARTER GRANT APPLICATIONS

SJI received 21 grant applications requesting a total of **\$843,349** for the 2nd quarter of FY 2008. This represents an increase of \$311,434 (or 59 percent) over the amount requested for the 2nd quarter of FY 2007. For the 1st and 2nd quarters of FY 2008, SJI has received 27 grant applications requesting a total of **\$1,062,841**. The Board will meet on April 18, 2008, to make decisions on grant awards for the 2nd quarter. The results of this Board meeting will be available the following week.

SCHOLARSHIP REIMBURSEMENT

In recent months, SJI has been carefully reviewing the Scholarship Program and making various changes which have been mentioned in previous versions of the E-SJI News. Current scholarship recipients who will be submitting reimbursement requests are reminded of the following:

- Scholarship awards and payment requests may not exceed \$1,500.
- Scholarship funds may only be used to cover the costs of reasonable lodging expenses not to exceed \$150 per night.
- Recipients who drive to a program site may only receive \$.485/mile up to the amount of the advanced-purchased round-trip airfare between their homes and the program sites.
- Funds to secure conference fees, meals, materials, transportation to and from airports, and local transportation (including rental cars) – at the program site must be obtained from other sources or borne by the scholarship recipient.
- To receive the funds authorized by the scholarship award, recipients must submit a paid tuition statement from the program sponsor, a transportation fare receipt (or statement of driving mileage to and from the recipient's home to the site of the educational program), and a lodging receipt. Copies of methods of actual payment for each expense (i.e. checks, credit cards, etc.) may also be submitted.
- Payment requests must be for the course specified in the original application. A scholarship award is non-transferable to another individual.

Scholarship recipients are encouraged to refer to the FY 2008 Grant Guideline for more information, or contact SJI with any questions prior to submitting the reimbursement request.

REMINDERS

NEXT GRANT & SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE

Applications for all grants and scholarships must be received by SJI on **May 1, 2008**, to be considered for the 3rd quarter of FY 2008. Please be advised this is not a mail date, but the date the application must be physically received by SJI. Notification of awards for scholarships will be completed by early June. New grant awards should be made by the end of the month, depending on the date of the Board of Director's meeting. The date of that meeting will be placed on the SJI website as soon as possible, so that you will know the earliest start date for approved projects.

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The State Justice Institute is a private, non-profit corporation established by Congress in 1984 to provide support for projects to improve the quality of justice in State courts. SJI is governed by a Board of Directors appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.



NEW SJI WEBSITE

SJI launched its new website in October 2007. The goal of this website is to provide information about what SJI does, in addition to useful information and forms to grant applicants and current grantees. The website contains the latest news, copies and archives of E-SJI News, an "About Us" tab that provides information about SJI and its Board of Directors, and information on the different types of grants. Just as important, the website contains a forms page that includes all the SJI forms required to apply for and manage a SJI grant. These electronic forms can be saved by the user and are in formats that are compatible with the vast majority of computer operating systems. SJI is committed to further improving the website, and we hope that you find the information contained on the website helpful.

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Are you on the E-SJI News e-list? Would you like to be? If so, please send your name and email address to esjinews@statejustice.org to start receiving the E-SJI Newsletter.

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