

E-SJI News

November 2009



Vol. 20, No. 2

INCREASE IN GRANT APPLICATIONS MAY LIMIT SJI-FUNDED PROJECTS IN FY 2010

SJI received 30 grant applications requesting a total of **\$1,720,544** for the 1st quarter of FY 2010. The amount requested is double the amount normally requested during a given quarter, and historically SJI receives the least amount of grant applications in 1st quarter of the fiscal year. There may be several reasons why grant applications have increased: 1) the state courts are dealing with severe budget constraints, and need financial assistance in order to conduct critical projects; 2) SJI increased the amount available for Technical Assistance (TA) and Curriculum Adaptation and Training (CAT) grants. TA Grants were increased from \$30,000 to \$50,000, and CAT Grants were increased from \$20,000 to \$30,000. This has provided more flexibility to the state courts to conduct larger projects; and 3) SJI has increased its visibility with the state courts through outreach, which combined with limited federal funds for the state courts in general, has led to an increase in applications.

While SJI is excited about the sharp increase in grant applications, we anticipate an appropriation of approximately \$5,000,000 for FY 2010; **which means that there will be limited grant funding available in FY 2010.** SJI reviews all grant applications on competitive basis and does not allocate grant funding by quarter. If grant applications continue to be received at this level, SJI will likely be limited in grant funding by the 3rd and 4th quarters. Therefore, potential applicants are strongly encouraged to submit their grant applications as soon as possible, since **SJI is now on a first-come, first-served, basis for grant applications that merit funding.**

The Board will meet on December 11, 2009, to make decisions on grant awards for the 1st quarter. The results of this Board meeting will be available the following week.

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NEW COURSE ON INTIMATE PARTNER SEXUAL ABUSE AVAILABLE FOR JUDGES



Sexual abuse is far more prevalent in cases involving other forms of intimate partner violence than is generally recognized. Recent research with battered women reveals that intimate partner sexual abuse is a hidden but frequent aspect of family violence with significant implications for the courts. Legal Momentum's National Judicial Education Program has recently released an online course that provides education on this issue. The SJI-supported course (SJI-04-N-045), is a comprehensive educational resource about the nature, prevalence, and impact of intimate partner sexual abuse, and is intended to inform courts' response to this issue. The course has the following overarching goals:

- Familiarize judges with the characteristics and dynamics of intimate partner sexual abuse and the implications for civil, criminal, family, juvenile and probate courts;
- Demonstrate the importance of including intimate partner sexual abuse in assessing risk to protect victims, their children and the community;
- Review the historical foundations, evolving law and currently emerging legal framework for adjudicating intimate partner sexual abuse;
- Provide judges with the practices and tools courts may use pre- and post- adjudication to identify intimate partner sexual abuse, assess risk and protect victims, their children and others;
- Provide judges with the practices and tools course may use to seat an unbiased jury in intimate partner sexual abuse cases;
- Enable judges to apply the rules of evidence in intimate partner sexual abuse cases;
- Support the crafting of comprehensive dispositions in civil, criminal, family, juvenile and probate cases involving intimate partner sexual abuse;
- Enable judges to assess the capability of batterer intervention and sex offender programs to address intimate partner sexual abuse and determine appropriate sanctions and treatment for offenders;
- Demonstrate how, within the code of judicial conduct, judges can be leaders in developing an effective justice system and community response to intimate partner sexual abuse.

The course was researched and written by the National Judicial Education Program to Promote Equality for Women and Men in the Courts, a project of Legal Momentum in cooperation with the National Association of Women Judges. Web-based instructional course design, web design and programming, and the New Mexico state-specific materials were provided by the Rozier E. Sanchez Judicial Education Center of New Mexico Institute of Public Law at the University of New Mexico Law School. **(continued on page 3)**

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The State Justice Institute is a private, non-profit corporation established by Federal law in 1984 to improve the quality of justice in state courts, and foster innovative, efficient solutions to common issues faced by all courts. SJI is governed by a Board of Directors appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.



The web course is currently listed in the new Georgia Domestic Violence Benchbook, and course completion will count as education credit for Superior and State Court Judges in Georgia. In addition, the course is required reading at the Louisiana State University School of Social Work.

The course is available online: www.njep-ipsacourse.org.

FY 2010 GRANT GUIDELINE NOW AVAILABLE

On October 16, 2009, the FY 2010 SJI Grant Guideline was published in the Federal Register. The Guideline sets forth the administrative, programmatic, and financial requirements for FY 2010 grants and scholarships. A PDF version of the Guideline is available for download on the SJI website:

http://www.sji.gov/PDF/Grant_Guideline_FY_2010.pdf

STATUS OF APPROPRIATIONS



On June 18, 2009, the House passed the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) Bill (H.R. 2847), providing appropriations for FY 2010. SJI received its full request of \$5,131,000, as proposed in the President's Budget. The Senate passed its version of the CJS Bill on November 5, 2009. The Senate mark includes \$5,000,000 for SJI. Since the CJS Bill has yet to be finalized, SJI is currently operating on a Continuing Resolution (CR) that expires on December 18, 2009. Any new grants or scholarships approved by the Board during the 1st Quarter of FY 2010 will not be awarded until the final appropriation is available. SJI will provide updates as the FY 2010 appropriations process continues to move forward.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

- Next grant and scholarship application deadline: **February 1, 2010** (2nd Quarter, FY 2010).