

E-SJI News

September 2007

The Voice of the State Justice Institute

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SJI BOARD AWARDS FINAL GRANTS FOR FY 2007

The SJI Board of Directors held its final meeting for the fiscal year on September 21, 2007, in Alexandria, Virginia. During this meeting, the Board awarded approximately \$400,000 in new grants. These will fund a wide range of activities, including two grants to the Vermont Supreme Court to improve court interpreter services and document conversion, weighted caseloads for probation officers in Colorado, the development of a guide to the D.C. Juvenile Justice System, and the design and implementation of a court performance measurement system for the Montana courts.

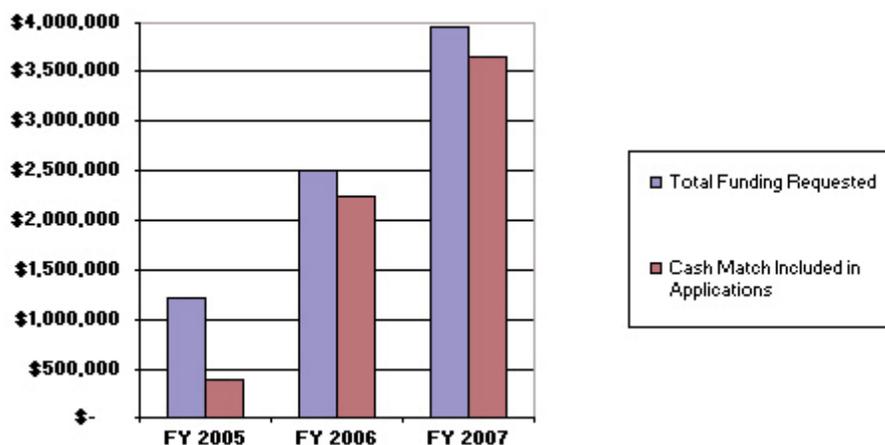
Grant Applications are Increasing

The total amount awarded (excluding Partnership Grants) in FY 2007 for Project Grants, Technical Assistance Grants, Curriculum & Adaptation Training

Grants, and Scholarships was \$2.06 million. However, total grant applications requested (excluding Partnership Grants) for FY 2007 was \$3.95 million, an increase in requests of \$1.46 million (58%) over FY 2006, and \$2.73 million (223%) over FY 2005 (see chart below).

In FY 2006, Congress directed SJI to require cash match for its grants. The availability of match funding from grantees has been amazing. In FY 2005, the requests for funding included only \$392,892 as cash match, and most of this was for small grant programs. In comparison, for the FY 2007 applications, there was over \$3.66 million available for cash match, most of which was for larger project grants. This clearly demonstrates that Congress' intent to leverage match funding to support court projects is working.

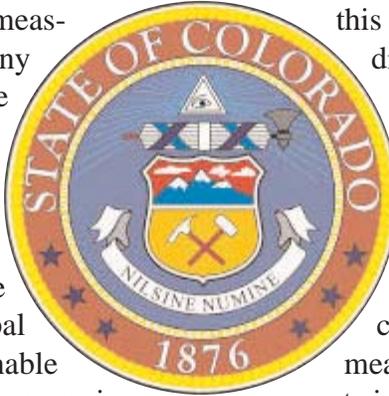
**TOTAL FUNDING REQUESTED & CASH MATCH INCLUDED
IN SJI GRANT APPLICATIONS:
FY 2005 - 2007**



What's Inside

TEEN COURTS IN COLORADO

At the May 2007 Board of Directors Meeting, a Technical Assistance grant for the Colorado Office of the State Court Administrator was awarded to support the efforts of the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) in developing performance measures for Colorado's Teen Courts. Many Teen Courts are not operated through the court system; therefore, before SJI could make an award, the question was raised as to whether the proposed activities would actually support court-based programs. In Colorado, there are 9 teen courts associated with municipal courts, and the proposed project will enable those courts to develop measures most appropri-



ate for each. The project recently began, and 10 teen court coordinators have participated so far. NCSC is now collecting data on the performance measures that have been identified. It was reported to SJI that this grant has reinforced the teen court coordinators' dedication to serving the teen population and improving their individual courts. Now the coordinators are working to find a new way to continue their efforts and maintain communication with each other. They have considered starting a state association of teen court coordinators. The performance measures will be distributed to all the teen courts in Colorado in the near future.

CHANGES TO THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR FY 2008

SJI will be maintaining all five types of grant programs in FY 2008; Project Grants, Partner Grants, Technical Assistance Grants, Curriculum Adaptation & Training Grants, and Scholarships. The new Guideline for FY 2008 will be published in the Federal Register within the next couple of weeks, and it will contain some changes to the Scholarship program. Here are some of the changes for FY 2008:

1) The Board of Directors discussed the importance of Scholarships during the September 21, 2007, Board meeting. Specifically, the Board highlighted the continued need and voted to continue the program in FY 2008, although at a reduced level due to other funding priorities. Therefore, the amount available for scholarships has been reduced from \$250,000 to \$175,000 for FY 2008.

2) Scholarship funding **may not** be used for attendance at annual conferences or meetings. Funds may only be used for attendance at an educational program designed specifically for judges and court managers, and that addresses issues essential to judicial and court administrative personnel.

3) Scholarship applications will be reviewed on a "first come/first considered" basis. No longer will an applicant need to wait for the quarter preceding the education program to submit a scholarship application to SJI. The applications will be reviewed on a quarterly basis, and we will distribute available funding as evenly as possible across the fiscal year. However, applicants are strongly urged to apply as soon as a program has been identified, since applications may be submitted at any time. Those **received** by the first day of the second month of a fiscal quarter will be reviewed, and awards will be made by the end of each fiscal quarter. **This means the next due date is November 1, 2007, and scholarship applications must be received by that date; it is no longer a mail due date.** The remaining due dates in FY 2008 are February 1, May 1, and August 1. Please be aware there are new application forms for this program available on the SJI website. If you have any questions about this process or the Scholarship program in general, please contact us.

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The State Justice Institute is a private, non-profit corporation established by Congress in 1984 to provide financial 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.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR NEW GRANT APPLICANTS

New grant applicants should be advised that grant funding may not be used for the primary purpose of purchasing equipment. Only small amounts of funds may be used for equipment that is essential to the program being implemented. For further information, please refer to Section IV.A.4.e. of the SJI Guideline regarding equipment purchases.

In addition, please remember that software or other computer programs developed with SJI grant funds must be made available to all the SJI State Libraries, and at cost of duplication, to any court that requests copies of the software or program. Please refer to Section VI.A.11.b. and c. for more information.

CONTACT THE STAFF

Please note staff phone extensions changed effective April 1, 2007.

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