

SJI NEWSLETTER

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New Juvenile Justice Reform and the State Courts Initiative Will Work to Improve Outcomes for Youth and Families

Over the past several years, the [MacArthur Foundation](#) has provided significant funding to support the *Models for Change* initiative,



which has identified and developed juvenile justice reform

efforts and programs across the U.S. Beginning in 2013, MacArthur transitioned to a “legacy phase” which developed Resource Centers for juvenile justice focused on specific areas of reform. The state courts have been a major stakeholder group throughout these efforts. As part of the legacy phase, MacArthur funded five Conference of Chief Justices/Conference of State Court Administrators (CCJ/COSCA) regional juvenile justice reform summits, led by the CCJ/COSCA Courts, Children, and Families Committee and staffed by the [National Center for State Courts](#) (NCSC). For the summits, the Chief Justices were invited to send a 5-person state team to participate in each region. The purpose of the summits was to identify best practices and develop state level plans for addressing juvenile justice reform. States are now in the process of implementing these action plans.

Resource Center partners and other key organizations have been involved in the *Models for Change* initiative and the CCJ/COSCA summits, including the NCSC, the [National Council of State Legislatures](#) (NCSL), the [National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges](#) (NCJFCJ), the [Center for Children’s Law & Policy](#) (CCLP), the [National Juvenile Defender Center](#) (NJDC), and the [RFK National Resource Center](#) (RFK-NRC). Unfortunately, there were no resources to provide technical assistance to state teams as they implement their action plans, and work with key stakeholders on juvenile justice reform efforts.

SJI is excited to announce it is funding the *Juvenile Justice Reform and State Courts Initiative*, which will

enable the Resource Center partners to develop national resources and TA for the state courts on this critical area. In collaboration with CCJ and COSCA, the 2-year project will build on the CCJ/COSCA regional summit and state team work, and be informed by the *Models for Change* Initiative. The CCJ/COSCA Courts, Children, and Families Committee and the CCJ/COSCA Criminal Justice Committee will appoint a 10-member Advisory Committee to oversee the project.

The NCSC, NCSL, NCJFCJ, CCLP, NJDC, and RFK-NRC will serve as the Expert Working Group for the project. The Expert Working Group will:

- identify juvenile justice policy, procedures, and practices that should be reformed;
- propose projects to be funded by the initiative;
- provide expertise to identify subject matter experts; and
- provide TA, training and other activities to the state teams as they continue to implement their action plans.

The Expert Working Group will also promote court community sharing by disseminating information about the initiative and its resources through various websites, conference presentations, and social media. Initial topics identified by the Expert Working Group include: access to counsel; dual status youth; mental and behavioral health; probation; risk/needs assessments; status offenders; court administration (e.g. data collection, court rules, alternatives to fines and fees); and model protocols for special populations, such as military families.

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SJI Awards FY 2017 Third Quarter Grants

The SJI Board of Directors met on June 5, 2017, at SJI Headquarters in Reston, Virginia, to make decisions on quarterly grant applications, and awarded a total of ten (10) new grants.

A Strategic Initiatives Grant (SIG) was awarded to the [National Center for State Courts](#) (NCSC), in partnership with the [Conference of Chief Justices](#) (CCJ), the [Conference of State Court Administrators](#) (COSCA), the [National Council of State Legislatures](#) (NCSL), the [National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges](#) (NCJFCJ), the [Center for Children's Law & Policy](#) (CCLP), the [National Juvenile Defender Center](#) (NJDC), and the [RFK National Resource Center](#) (RFK-NRC), to advance juvenile justice efforts through developing national resources and technical assistance for state courts. The project will build on the CCJ/COSCA regional juvenile justice summits and state team work, and be informed by the [Models for Change Initiative](#). A SIG was also awarded to the NCJFCJ to update the [Juvenile Delinquency Guidelines](#), which will be linked to the work of the broader effort on juvenile justice reform. SJI remains committed to improving juvenile justice in the state courts, and these two major initiatives will further advance those efforts. A SIG was also awarded to the NCSC to develop a Leadership Academy for presiding judges and court administrators to promote a new approach to judicial leadership based on previous work, such as the [Harvard Executive Session for State Court Leaders in the 21st Century](#).

Two (2) Project Grants were awarded: 1) a collaboration between the NCSC, the [American Judges Association](#) (AJA), NCJFCJ, and the [National College of Probate Judges](#) (NCPJ) to develop judicial response



protocols to guide judges in taking preemptive steps to address allegations or evidence of abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation in guardianship cases; and 2) a project to provide guidance to state courts on how to respond to requests for accommodations related to disabilities in the jury setting.

A Technical Assistance Grant was awarded to the 2nd Judicial District Court of Nevada plan and develop a shared Self-Help Center for self-represented litigants accessing the District Court and the Reno Justice Court. Four (4) Curriculum Adaptation and Training Grants were awarded including: support to the [National Judicial College](#) (NJC) to adapt *Probate Courts: Contemporary Issues* using the highly successful SJI-funding curriculum *Probate Matters*, with an emphasis on the *National Probate Court Standards*; an Institute for Court Management training program for the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois; and a faculty development workshop for judges and court staff in New York.

Education Support Program Changes for FY 2018

The [Education Support Program](#) (ESP) supports full-time



state court judges and court managers to attend courses that enhance their knowledge, skills, and abilities which they could not otherwise attend because of limited state, local, and personal budgets. Beginning in FY 2018 (October 1st), the [National Judicial College](#) (NJC) and the [National Center for State Courts/Institute for Court Management](#) (ICM) will administer the ESP program separately, in partnership and with funding from SJI.

COVERED COSTS

The Education Support Program (ESP) only covers the cost of tuition

up to a maximum of \$1,000 per award. Awards will be made for the exact amount requested for tuition. Funds to pay tuition in excess of \$1,000, and other costs of participating in a course such as travel, transportation, meals, materials, and transportation to and from airports (including rental cars) at the site of the education program, must be obtained from other sources or be borne by the ESP award recipient.

ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS

Because of the limited amount of funding available, only full-time judges of state or local trial and appellate courts; full-time professional state or local court personnel with management responsibilities or on a professional career track; and supervisory and management probation officials in judicial branch probation offices are eligible for the program. Senior judges, part-time judges, quasi-judicial hearing officers including referees and commissioners, administrative law judges, staff attorneys, law clerks, line staff, law enforcement officers, and other executive branch personnel are not eligible. Applicants are limited to one

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ESP award every other fiscal year (i.e. if awarded an ESP in FY 2018, the applicant will remain ineligible until FY 2020), unless the course specifically assumes multi-year participation as part of a certificate program.

ELIGIBLE COURSES

Awards are only for courses presented by the NJC and ICM in a U.S. jurisdiction to participants in the U.S. or U.S. Territories. These courses are designed to enhance the skills of new or experienced judges and court managers. Participation during annual or mid-year conferences or meetings of a state or national organization does not qualify for ESP purposes, even though the conference may include workshops or other training sessions.

HOW AND WHEN TO APPLY

For NJC courses:



To seek an ESP to attend an NJC course, simply find the course you wish to attend on the NJC website: www.judges.org/courses, and click “register.” During the registration process, the website will ask whether you need a scholarship to attend. Simply follow the online instructions to request tuition assistance. If you have any questions about this process, you may contact NJC Scholarship Coordinator Rebecca Bluemer, at bleumer@judges.org; or 800-255-8343. The NJC

reserves the right to apply additional selection criteria.

For ICM courses:



To seek an ESP to participate in the ICM Fellows Program, submit a completed application to ICM Education Program Manager Amy McDowell, at amcdowell@ncsc.org. If you have any questions about this process, you may contact her at 757-259-1552 or via email.

To seek an ESP to participate in an ICM course, find the course you wish to attend on the ICM website: www.courses.ncsc.org, and click “register.” During the registration process, the website will ask if you need a scholarship to participate. Follow the online instructions to request tuition assistance. If you have any questions about this process, you may contact, ICM Director of National Programs Margaret Allen, at mallen@ncsc.org; or 757-259-1581. ICM reserves the right to apply additional selection criteria.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF ESP AWARD RECIPIENTS

Recipients are responsible for disseminating the information received from the course, when possible, to their court colleagues locally and, if possible, throughout the state. The NJC and ICM may impose additional requirements on recipients.

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The State Justice Institute is a federally-funded, non-profit corporation established by federal law in 1984 to improve the quality of justice in the state courts.

