

E-SJI News

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BOARD AWARDS NEW GRANTS FOR THE 2nd QUARTER

On April 24, 2009, the SJI Board of Directors met to award grants for the 2nd quarter of FY 2009. A total of \$895,086 in new grants was awarded, including \$500,000 in new Strategic Initiatives Grants (SIG) projects. Awarded grants included a Project Grant to the California Administrative Office of the Courts for the developing and piloting of dependency drug court performance measures. This project will allow California to track dependency drug court programs and services to see if they are achieving desired outcomes. Seven (7) Technical Assistance (TA) applications were awarded, including a criminal caseflow management project for King County, Washington; a pre-trial services validation study for Coconino County, Arizona; video teleconferencing assessment and planning for the New Hampshire Administrative Office of the Courts; and a problem solving court and criminal caseflow evaluation for the Court of Common Pleas in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. Four (4) Curriculum Adaptation and Training (CAT) grants were awarded, including training for Minnesota court managers; a family law bench book for the New Mexico judiciary; and a new National Center for State Courts (NCSC) course on managing court financial resources.

Also during the 2nd quarter, SJI also entered into a second year Partner Grant with the U.S. Marshals Service for the Judicial Security Fellows (JSF) program. This Partner Grant is discussed in more detail in the next article. SJI also awarded \$500,000 in new SIG grants to support national court issues. SJI will continue focusing on immigration issues in the state courts by expanding pilot sites to other states; therefore \$250,000 was awarded to the Center for Public Policy Studies to continue these critical efforts. The remaining \$250,000 was awarded to NCSC to focus on court budgeting issues and court security. More details about these new SIG projects will be made available in future editions of the E-SJI News.

Inside

U.S. Marshals Service and SJI
Continue Working to Improve
Judicial Security **2**

Guardian Assistance Network in New
York **2**

Scholarship Limitations & Special
Announcements **3**

U.S. MARSHALS SERVICE AND SJI CONTINUE WORKING TO IMPROVE JUDICIAL SECURITY



The U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) and SJI recently finalized a second year Partner Grant to support a component of the USMS Judicial Security Fellowship Program. This program provides an opportunity for state and local law enforcement officers charged with court security to train with the USMS. This includes training on high level executive protection and court security operations. During the program, the Judicial Security Fellow (JSF) is exposed to all aspects of USMS judicial and court security, and travels to sites of ongoing high-threat trials and protective details. JSFs are full-time sworn officers of a duly constituted law enforcement agency, whose responsibility includes judicial and court security in the jurisdiction of the JSF. Furthermore, the JSF is at the rank of lieutenant or above, and has at least five years court security experience.

The USMS/SJI Partner Grant will directly support a component of JSF program that includes joint training with court administrators at the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). This training includes coordination of public and media relations in high visibility trials, coordinated approaches to policy and procedures, and consolidated training for court staff in security awareness and response. Furthermore, the NCSC assists the JSF and his/her court counterpart in developing close working relationships for analyzing security needs and formulating action plans to improve security in the state or location jurisdiction they represent. The JSFs will also achieve an understanding of court security needs from a court perspective.

GUARDIAN ASSISTANCE NETWORK IN NEW YORK

The New York Unified Court System recently completed work on a SJI grant (SJI-06-N-067) that established a Guardian Assistance Network in Kings and Queens Counties. This goal of this project was to assist guardians with their court-mandated duties. Specifically, the Network: 1) supports lay-guardians; 2) increases compliance with court reporting requirements; and 3) ensures other jurisdictions can learn from and replicate the Network model. The project also produced a training module along with a manual for lay-guardians in both English and Spanish. Approximately 408 lay-guardians attended the training programs, and approximately 963 lay-guardians were served by the Network.

Now that the SJI grant has been completed with the establishment of the Guardian Assistance Network, the Vera Institute for Justice will conduct an ongoing evaluation to track whether the Network reduces the use of court personnel for routine inquiries; measure compliance with reporting requirements; measure the outcomes for incapacitated adults; and determine cost savings.

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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.



SCHOLARSHIP LIMITATIONS

SJI continues to receive scholarship applications for attendance at meetings or conferences. Section IV.E.1. of the FY 2009 Grant Guideline states that: "Attendance at annual or mid-year meetings or conferences of a state or national organization does not qualify as an out-of-state education program for scholarship purposes, even though it may include workshops or other training sessions." All future scholarship applicants and judicial educators should be aware of this limitation prior to submitting a scholarship application.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next grant and scholarship application deadline: **August 1, 2009** (4th Quarter, FY 2009).
- The FY 2009 SJI [Grant Guideline](#) is available on the SJI website.
- All SJI forms are available on the website under the following tab: <http://www.sji.gov/forms.php>.