

E-SJI NEWS

New Practitioners Guidebook For Addressing The Impact of Immigration In The State Courts



The Center For Public Policy Studies (CPPS) has released a detailed, electronic, interactive *Practitioners Guidebook* to provide practical information and tools to help the state courts determine the impact of immigration on court caseloads, policy, operations, and practice, and develop responses for improving court performance in cases involving both lawful and illegal immigrants.

The *Guidebook* is designed to be used by court practitioners who want to obtain the knowledge, skills, and tools required to:

- understand the size, composition, and needs of immigrant populations in the court;
- understand the connections between federal, state, and local immigration law, policy, and practice and the implications of these connections on court structure and operations;
- address the multiple aspects of culture that routinely accompany immigration;
- implement long-lasting improvements for better serving immigrants in court;
- monitor court effectiveness in serving immigrants in court; and
- help to build a national courts agenda for improving court and justice system capacity for addressing the impacts of immigration on the state courts.

The contents of the 170 page *Guidebook* are structured around finding answers to the following four essential questions about immigration issues

in the state courts:

- Why should court administrators be concerned about immigration?
- What are the major impacts of federal immigration law, policy, and practice on the state courts?
- How can state court actions impact immigrants in ways that differ from other litigants?
- What types of improvements are state courts making to address immigration concerns?

The electronic format of the *Guidebook* is highly flexible and user friendly. For example words or phrases included in a topic-based index provide clickable links to specific topical sections. Web links to additional resources are also incorporated throughout the document. Moreover, a glossary of immigration terms and concepts can be accessed by using a “glossary” link at any point in the document. The *Guidebook* can be downloaded free of charge from the [SJI website](#), or the [CPPS website](#).

This project was funded by an SJI Strategic Initiatives Grant (SJI-10-P-045). SJI has been focused on addressing immigration issues in the state courts since FY 2008.

For additional information about this initiative and technical assistance opportunities, contact Dr. John Martin, CPPS, at jamartin@indra.com.

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Lycoming, PA Adult Treatment Court Completes Outcome Evaluation



The 29th Judicial District, Court of Common Pleas located in Lycoming, Pennsylvania recently completed an evaluation of their adult drug court program through the support of an SJI Technical Assistance grant (SJI-09-T-133). The Lycoming County Adult Treatment Court (LCATC) utilized technical assistance services provided by Maryland-based Glacier Consulting to conduct an evaluation of the program in accordance with both the *10 Key Components of Drug Courts*, and court-specific goals established for the LCATC.

Established in 1998, the LCATC was the first of the local diversion and problem solving court options explored and implemented by the bench. This evaluation is the first of its kind for the program. It examined factors for sustainability and based recommendations on maintaining or enhancing current services provided.

The National Drug Court Institute advises that programs utilize four key indicators (retention in treatment; sobriety; units of service delivery; and recidivism) when judging effectiveness. The evaluators concluded that the LCATC was exceeding all expectations. Specific to the *10 Key Components of Drug Courts*, the LCATC assessment questions addressed each component separately, and noted where the

model used in Lycoming County was consistent with the national research. In addition, they noted where modifications were implemented to better serve the composition of the court program.

The evaluation included the following recommendations:

Program Design – it was recommended that the Court review the Policy and Procedures Manual for continuity and utilization, then develop a Participant Handbook, establishing the criteria and requirements team members have unofficially identified as contributing to participant success;

Case Management System – the review suggests a possible integration of case management systems, currently separate, that are used for treatment and supervision of participants; and

Alumni - [LCATC's Alumni Association](#) involves current participants in activities with an ongoing group of successful productive graduates. The evaluators recommended that the Court develop a presentation and support materials for other courts and stakeholders regarding this critical element.

Glacier Consulting presented the findings of their evaluation on the Adult Treatment Court Program and a separate study on the Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Program to stake-

holders in late March.

With 266 graduates through October 2010, the Adult Treatment Court maintained a 62 percent retention rate, and the DUI Treatment Court, with 66 graduates since 2007, maintained a 93 percent retention rate.

The recidivism rate for the Adult Treatment Court was 28 percent, and the rate for the younger DUI Treatment court was 2.7 percent. In addition to lower rates of recidivism than the national average, the report noted that participants from both programs have performed more than 46,000 hours of community service.

The report highlighted the need to focus on younger participants ages 18-30, who have greater needs and higher rates of recidivism associated with their addiction. They also tend to be less successful in completing treatment programs.

The Department of Justice/Bureau of Justice Assistance encourages frequent evaluation of drug/specialty/problem solving court programs, through both self-evaluation and professional third-party services. In some cases, a recent evaluation may be required to apply for new grants or continued funding from a variety of local, state, and federal sources.

A copy of the final report from this grant is available on the [SJI website](#).

For more information on the availability of SJI grants to assist with evaluations, efficiency studies, and diversion/pre-trial program analysis, please review the available information on [Technical Assistance grants](#) located on the SJI website

Board Approves Grants for the Second Quarter

The SJI Board of Directors met on April 22, 2011, to approve new grants for the 2nd quarter of FY 2011. Nine (9) grants were approved totaling \$362,223.

Six (6) Technical Assistance (TA) Grants were approved, including: a security assessment of courthouse facilities and operations in four diverse judicial districts of the Alaska Court System; a case scheduling and assignment evaluation for the Maine AOC; support of a court reengineering plan for the

Michigan Courts; a staffing and needs analysis at the Des Moines Municipal Court in Washington; an assessment of the AOC in New Hampshire; and a third phase of professional development standardization for the National Association for State Judicial Educators (NASJE).

Three (3) Curriculum Adaptation & Training (CAT) Grants were approved, including: a program for judges focused on removing barriers to justice for immigrant women, as

requested by the National Association of Women Judges; statewide education on the operation of Arizona Probate Courts for the Arizona AOC; and Institute for Court Management (ICM) training for the San Bernardino County, California, Superior Court.

The FY 2011 3rd Quarter deadline for Grant and Scholarship Applications is May 1, 2011. The FY 2011 4th Quarter deadline for Grant and Scholarship Applications is August 1, 2011.

FY 2011 Appropriation Will Enable SJI to Continue Focusing on National Court Issues



On April 15, 2011, the President signed into law the FY 2011 Department of Defense and Full-Year Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 112-10), which provided \$5,120,738 for SJI. This is essentially the same funding level provided in FY 2010, except for a rescission of 0.2 percent. The Act also increased the available funding for SJI's Strategic Initiatives Grants program to

\$1,250,000. This will allow SJI to continue working on critical issues impacting the state courts, and the increased demand for grant funding. SJI greatly appreciates the continued support from both the President and Congress. This funding is critical to supporting worthwhile projects that improve the administration of justice in the state courts.

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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 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.

