

E-SJI News

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FY 2010 APPROPRIATION WILL ENABLE SJI TO CONTINUE FOCUSING ON NATIONAL COURT ISSUES



On December 16, 2009, the President signed into law the FY 2010 Consolidated Appropriations Act (H.R. 3288), which provided \$5,131,000 for SJI. This is an increase of \$1,031,000 over FY 2009, and marks the third consecutive year that SJI has received an increased budget from Congress. The Act also increased the available funding for SJI's Strategic Initiatives Grants program to \$850,000. This will allow SJI to continue working on critical issues facing the state courts. In addition, SJI received over \$1 million in grant applications for the 1st quarter of FY 2010. Therefore, this funding will enable SJI to address this 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.

BOARD AWARDS GRANTS FOR THE 1st QUARTER

The SJI Board of Directors met on December 11, 2009, to award grants for the 1st quarter of FY 2010. Twenty (20) new grants were awarded, totaling \$967,543. Three (3) Project Grants were awarded, including: support to the National Association for Court Management (NACM) for a national curriculum development project to provide education for court managers and leadership judges; funding for the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) to assist the state courts with the use of videoconferencing technology; (continued on page 2)

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and, a grant awarded to the Wisconsin Director of State Courts Office for an evidenced-based sentencing project to enhance public safety, hold offenders accountable, and reduce court and correctional costs.

Ten (10) Technical Assistance (TA) Projects were awarded, including: an assessment of alternative dispute resolution services in New Mexico; an organizational review of the Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts; a rural justice re-engineering project in Minnesota; support to the Vermont Supreme Court for implementation of an action plan for the court interpreter program; a review of the administrative infrastructure of the South Dakota Unified Judicial System; support to the Kentucky AOC to develop a formula for reimbursement of Title IV-D child support services; and a courthouse security assessment for the 4th Judicial District in Nebraska. Seven (7) Curriculum Adaptation & Training (CAT) Grants were awarded, including: faculty training and certification for the Arizona AOC; judicial training for the Florida Office of the State Courts Administrator; updating an appellate judges course for the National Judicial College (NJC); and support for training programs provided by the National Association of State Judicial Educators (NASJE).

U.S. MARSHALS SERVICE/SJI PARTNER GRANT PROVIDES TRAINING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AND THE COURTS



The USMS/SJI Partner Grant directly supports a component of the USMS Judicial Security Fellows (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 also achieve an understanding of court security needs from a state court perspective.

In November 2009, NCSC conducted its third training on court security for a new class of JSFs and their state court counterparts. The trainees noted the depth and wide-reaching capacity of NCSC's court security resources and educational courses. The focus on interactivity throughout the program was praised as having the additional effect of showing the trainees real-life applications of their training, as they received it. **(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 one aspect of the course that proved especially advantageous was the teambuilding that occurred between the JSF and his/her court staff counterpart. This teambuilding was critical given that the trainees entered the program with little to no understanding of each other's roles and organizations within the framework of court and judicial security in their jurisdictions. A common theme that emerged from the training is that court security is a shared responsibility among law enforcement and court staff. The next training is scheduled for the spring of 2010.

GUIDANCE ON SUPPLANTATION OF STATE AND LOCAL FUNDS

The new SJI Grant Guideline for FY 2010 provides guidance on the justification of personnel compensation for state courts and other governmental agencies. Specifically, Section IV. A.4(a) of the Grant Guideline (describing the Budget Narrative) states: "No grant funds or cash match may be used to pay the salary and related costs for a current employee or new employee of a court or other unit of government because such funds would constitute a supplantation of state or local funds in violation of 42 U.S.C.10706, Sec.(d)(1); this includes new employees hired specifically for the project. The salary and any related costs for a current or new employee of a court or other unit of government may only be accepted as in-kind match."

In addition, Section IV.A.4(k) of the Grant Guideline (describing Indirect Costs) states: "Indirect costs are only applicable to organizations that are not state courts or governmental agencies." Recently, SJI has received grant applications where either the state court or another governmental entity was applying an indirect cost rate to all grants, regardless of source. This practice is being employed with more regularity because of the reduced budgets in many states and jurisdictions. Regardless, SJI is not permitted to allow these indirect costs per 42 U.S.C. 10706, Sec.207(d)(1), and will not accept applications from state courts and other governmental agencies that include them.

If there are questions about the Grant Guideline, potential grant applicants are strongly encouraged to contact SJI prior to submitting applications.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

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