

# E-SJI NEWS

## SJI Receives 2nd Quarter Grant Applications

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SJI received 20 grant applications requesting a total of \$1,147,684 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of FY 2012. In addition, SJI received 45 Concept Papers totaling \$4,695,208 for the recent Strategic Initiatives Grants solicitation for self-represented litigation in the state courts. The Board will meet in April to finalize decisions on both grant awards for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, and on the Concept Papers submitted to address self-represented litigation in the state courts.

Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to:

1) reach out to SJI with any questions before applying; 2) thoroughly review the requirements contained in the [Grant Guideline](#); and 3) use the [National Center for State Courts \(NCSC\) Digital Library and Archive](#) to research past SJI grant reports and products that are similar to their proposed project, and inform SJI on how their project builds on that work. SJI is

always available to help interpret the [Grant Guideline](#) and answer questions during the grant proposal development process. All applicants will be required to detail their level of research before and during the proposal preparation phase. Additionally, all applicants will be asked to describe how their proposed project addresses one or more of SJI's new [Priority Investment Areas](#). Applicants will also be asked to specify performance outcomes and define how success will be measured.

SJI Grant funding remains available on a **first-come, first-served, basis for grant applications that merit funding**.

SJI Grant Application deadlines for the remainder of FY 2012 are as follows: 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter – May 1, 2012; and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter – August 1, 2012.

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## MACRO Releases ADDRESS Evaluation Report for Phase I

Maryland's Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office (MACRO) has completed the first phase of its multi-year evaluation of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) through its statewide ADR Evaluation Support System (ADDRESS) (SJI-08-N-073). A new [report](#) is available that can assist other jurisdictions across the U.S. with implementing similar ADR evaluations.

The [report](#) contains descriptive information about the statewide evaluation project, as well as the new evaluation system, and is now available at the [NCSC Digital Library and Archive](#). [Appendix A](#) of the

report, which is indexed separately, contains the questionnaires that MACRO distributed to key stakeholders across the state.

With continued SJI support, in Phase II MACRO will assess the efficiency and effectiveness of Maryland's ADR programs (SJI-10-N-146), and perform a cost/benefit analysis during Phase III (SJI-12-N-002). State courts are encouraged to contact Julie Linkins, [MACRO](#) Project Lead, with questions on how to obtain the software utilized during the analysis.

## Maricopa County, AZ Examines Evidence-Based Practices to Strengthen Juvenile Probation

With grant funding from SJI (SJI-10-T-155), Maricopa County's Juvenile Probation Department (MCJPD), operating within the County's Juvenile Court, released an in-depth analysis of evidence-based practices (EBP) designed to help advance the capacity building process. The report discusses eight key principles of EBP in community corrections, and addresses how the MCJPD is positioned in relation to each of these principles.

Maricopa County has been identified by internal and external stakeholders as being impacted by the "perfect storm" of changes to its criminal justice system. Some of the challenges experienced in Maricopa County follow the national trends, including reduced funding. Uniquely, the MCJPD is situated in one of the largest jurisdictions in the country, and the bench relies heavily on the expertise of its juvenile probation officers for placement recommendations and community-based supervision.

This project was built on a climate and leadership team primed for change. Using the consulting services of the National Center for State Courts (NCSC), MCJPD engaged in a 12-month review of current operations that in-



cluded interviews with the leadership team, case information data collection, observation, and the surveying of staff. The NCSC team then provided an analysis of current operations, governance, and supervision outcomes in comparison to EBP.

With the primary goal of building long-term capacity, the NCSC advised that MCJPD engage in a two-phase approach, which evolves from their initial analysis and recommendations. A second phase, to include strategic planning, was proposed based on the "Eight

Evidence Based Principles for Effective Interventions," from the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform's recently-published document titled, *Improving the Effectiveness of Juvenile Justice Programs: A New Perspective on Evidence-Based Practice*.

The eight practices included and addressed in the report include:

1. Assess Actuarial Risk/Needs
2. Enhance Intrinsic Motivation
3. Target Interventions
4. Skill Train with ongoing and directed practice (stress the use of cognitive-behavioral treatment methods)
5. Increase use of Positive Reinforcement
6. Engage Ongoing Support in Natural Communities
7. Measure Relevant Processes/Practices
8. Provide Measurement Feedback to staff

The 24-page Phase I working [report](#) is available online through [NCSC's Digital Library and Archive](#), and provides recommendations specific to the challenges faced by the MCJPD.

## FY 2013 President's Budget and SJI Budget Request to Congress

The White House released the FY 2013 President's Budget on February 13<sup>th</sup>, which includes \$5,121,000 for SJI.

The President and the Office of Management and Budget continue to support SJI's mission. The funding requested will enable SJI to continue addressing issues impacting the state courts, foster innovative solutions, and share information on successful approaches nationwide.



The FY 2013 President's Budget in its entirety can be viewed [online](#). The [President's Budget for SJI](#) is available on the SJI website.

In conjunction with the President's Budget, SJI also submitted its detailed [budget request to Congress](#). SJI's budget request is available on the SJI website.

## York County, PA Court of Common Pleas Conducts Administrative Office Review

The 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, Court of Common Pleas, in York County, Pennsylvania recently completed an administrative office review with SJI support (SJI-11-T-155) and technical assistance from the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). This assessment was an integral component of the Court's overall succession planning strategy.

This first step in succession planning, acquiring assistance from the NCSC, was initiated by the Court's judicial and administrative leadership, with the primary goal centering on providing the jurisdiction's presiding judge with an informed assessment of court management, and an analysis of the execution of operational responsibilities by the administrative office. As one of the largest jurisdictions in Pennsylvania, York County's District Court Administrator is responsible for the supervi-



sion of four offices, several divisions, and a variety of programs that accomplish the essential operations of the Court. This pivotal administrative leadership position and others will experience turnover in 2012.

NCSC used a three-part review process to assist the Court, which addressed the management component, operational considerations, and provided a comparison with other administrative offices.

The review determined which essential operations of the Court relied exclusively on management positions, and after recommendations were implemented, how the Court could make leadership decisions that would address future trends.

A copy of the [report](#) and its [appendices](#), which discuss migration towards the High Performance Court model, including sample job descriptions for court leadership positions, downloaded through [NCSC's Digital Library and Archive](#).

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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.

