

# Advocacy Funding Fact\$ Alert

December 21, 2000

## Research Grants to Improve Food Stamp Program (FSP) Access Through Partnerships and New Technology.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), announces the availability of funds to support projects that will explore various strategies for reaching persons who are potentially eligible for, but not currently receiving, food stamps.

**Amount Available:** A total of \$3 million will be distributed under this program, with a maximum award of \$300,000 per project.

**Eligible Applicants:** Non-food stamp governmental authority (e.g., State/local school district, public health clinic, etc.) and/or non-profit organizations (e.g., advocacy organizations, faith-based organizations, community groups, etc.).

**Application Deadline:** January 5, 2001, 3:00 P.M. Eastern Standard Time.

**Agency:** U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)

FNS is soliciting proposals to fund research projects that will educate food stamp eligible persons not currently participating in FSP about the benefits, eligibility rules and application procedures for the Program. The target groups for research are underserved eligible persons, particularly:

- low-income (unemployed and working) families with children;
- former or current recipient of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF);
- Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDS);
- elderly individuals or families; and/or,
- immigrants and non-English speaking minorities.

For further information contact:

USDA, Food and Nutrition Service  
Contract Management Branch  
Attention: Bernice Cockrell or Jorge Bernardo  
3101 Park Center Drive, Room 220  
Alexandria, Virginia 22302  
Telephone; (703) 305-2250

To download the Request for Applications please visit: [www.fns.usda.gov/FSP/Grants/ProgramAccess.HTM](http://www.fns.usda.gov/FSP/Grants/ProgramAccess.HTM).



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For more information contact Marc Holladay, Senior Attorney or Aissa Hill, Production Assistant, NLADA's Civil Department.  
National Legal Aid & Defender Association, 1625 K Street NW, Suite 800•Washington DC 20006  
(202)452-0620•Fax (202)872-1031•E-mail: [info@nlada.org](mailto:info@nlada.org)•Web Site Address: [www.nlada.org](http://www.nlada.org)

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UPDATE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT (VAWA), CIVIL LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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As most of you are aware, the Violence Against Women Office (VAWO) has encountered quite a few obstacles this past year with respect to civil legal assistance grants. The FY 2000 grantees were not announced until October, long after funding for projects begun in FY 1998 had expired. In addition, the VAWA reauthorization bill remained stalled in Congress for many months, which will impact the FY 2001 grant competition. We hoped that by the time we released this issue of the Funding Fact\$ we would know when VAWO would solicit requests for proposals (RFPs) for FY 2001; unfortunately, that is not the case. The VAWO staff have informed us that they still do not know the exact date when they will be able to release the RFP, although they have tentatively set January 23, 2001 as the release date. The delay has been attributed to three factors : 1) the late passage of the reauthorization bill; 2) the failure of Congress to forward an appropriations bill to the President; and 3) the dispute over the election results, which slowed the process of setting a transition team in place.

With respect to the appropriation delay, on December 15, 2000, Congress sent the Commerce-Justice-State (CJS) appropriation bill (HR 4942), which includes funding for VAWA programs, to the President for his signature. The President will sign the bill before the end of this week. Although this will remove the delay caused by the lack of an appropriation, VAWO staff have informed us that they will not be able to release the FY 2001 RFP until after the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) consults with the Bush administration transition team.

In the meantime, VAWO staff are consulting with all FY 1999 grantees to identify programs whose funding will end within the next few months. It is our understanding that VAWO staff have identified 20 such programs and that they currently are consulting with OJP to discuss what assistance VAWO can offer these programs between now and when FY 2001 grant decisions are made.

Although VAWA experienced many set backs this year, there also have been some victories. The reauthorization bill expands the services VAWA funds can be used to support, including services to assist battered immigrants who would otherwise be excluded from assistance under the 1996 immigration legislation. Moreover, the reauthorization bill earmarks \$3.3 billion in funding for the next five years, with \$40 million of that amount designated for civil legal assistance. Finally, all FY 1998 projects were renewed, most at higher funding levels, and VAWO awarded 30 new civil legal assistance grants. For a list of the FY 2000 grantees, see the following pages.

We will be in touch soon after the first of the year to provide you with the latest information concerning the FY 2001 RFP process.



*WISHING YOU SEASON'S GREETINGS*

*AND A*

*HAPPY NEW YEAR!*

*FROM*

*NLADA*