

ADVOCACY FUNDING FACT\$™

Federal Funding for Advocacy Activities

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Legal Assistance for Victims Grant Program

The Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs (OJP), which administers the Violence Against Women Office (VAWO), has issued its request for proposals (RFP) for the FY 2001 Legal Assistance for Victims Grant Program, formerly known as the Civil Legal Assistance Grant Program.

Background: Since 1998, OJP has awarded Civil Legal Assistance (CLA) grants to various organizations that provide civil legal services to victims of domestic violence. Prior to passage of the Violence Against Women Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-386), the CLA program existed as an appropriations program but had not been statutorily mandated. With the enactment of VAWA 2000, Congress statutorily created the Legal Assistance for Victims Grant Program, which is intended to strengthen existing relationships between victim advocates and legal assistance providers and forge new ones to address violence against women. The new program also expands the types of services available to victims by, among other things, allowing grantees to assist victims in immigration matters and by extending services to victims of sexual assault and stalking.

Amount Available: For FY 2001, Congress appropriated approximately \$31 million for the Legal Assistance for Victims Grant Program. Of

that amount, 25% must be used to support programs providing services to sexual assault victims, and an additional 5% must be used to fund tribal programs that assist domestic violence and sexual assault victims. The remaining amount will fund programs assisting domestic violence victims. According to the VAWO office, an applicant with the requisite expertise may, but is not required to, propose a project that will serve all three target groups —

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domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking victims. Alternatively, applicants can propose a project that will just serve one of the target groups; i.e. domestic violence victims.

The RFP does not place a cap on the amount of funding that an applicant may request to support its project. However, VAWO encourages applicants to carefully consider the resources needed to successfully implement the proposed project and to present a realistic budget that accurately reflects project costs. According to the RFP, continuation budgets should be based on FY 1999 budget amounts.

Award Period: 18 months. Budgets must reflect 18 months of project activity.

Eligible Applicants: Grants will be awarded to private, nonprofit entities, Indian tribal governments and publicly funded organizations not acting in a governmental capacity. Eligible applicants include legal aid or legal services programs, law school legal clinics, bar associations, domestic violence victim's shelters and sexual assault programs.

Please Note: Only FY 1999 grantees and new applicants are eligible to apply for FY 2001 funding. Recipients of FY 1998 supplemental funding or FY 2000 funding and their project partners are not eligible to apply regardless of whether they propose services for a different geographical area. Additionally, an applicant or project partner may submit only one Legal Assistance for Victims Grant application per fiscal year.

Collaboration: To be eligible for a grant, applicants are required to enter into a collaborative working relationship with a nonprofit, nongovernmental domestic violence and/or sexual assault program from the community to be served. Moreover, legal services providers seeking funding under this program are required to enter into formal memoranda of understanding with nonprofit, nongovernmental domestic violence and/or sexual assault victim services programs. The role of the sexual assault or domestic violence program in this collaboration should be meaningful and ongoing throughout the grant period and include provisions for continuing education and training to all lawyers who will be handling cases. Additionally, non-lawyers must be fully supervised by attorneys in accordance with local bar rules.

Eligible Activities: The grants are for providing direct legal services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking in matters arising from the abuse or violence and for providing enhanced training for lawyers representing these victims. The goal of the program is to develop innovative, collaborative projects that provide quality representation to victims. In this regard, the program provides an opportunity for communities to examine how the legal needs of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking are met. The program also seeks to increase the availability and quality of legal assistance available to victims in matters arising as a consequence of abuse or violence. Funds may be used to:

- (1) implement, expand, and establish cooperative efforts and projects between domestic violence and sexual assault victim services organizations and legal assistance providers to provide legal assistance for victims of domestic violence, stalking and sexual assault;
- (2) implement, expand, and establish efforts and projects to provide legal assistance for victims of domestic violence, stalking and sexual assault by organizations with a demonstrated history of providing direct legal or advocacy services on behalf of these victims; and
- (3) provide training, technical assistance, and data collection to improve the capacity of grantees and other entities to offer legal assistance to victims of domestic violence, stalking and sexual assault.

[See "VAWA" p3]

[From "VAWA" p2]

Special Interest Categories: For FY 2001, VAWO is interested in funding projects that respond to the unmet legal needs of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking within the special interest categories listed below:

- Establish or strengthen direct legal services programs to make a broad range of legal assistance readily available to domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking victims.
- Establish or strengthen law school clinical programs that provide direct legal representation to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and/or stalking.
- Establish or strengthen legal advocacy programs operated out of or under the direct auspices of domestic violence or sexual assault victim services organizations or shelters.
- Establish collaborative efforts among victim services programs and local agencies or local businesses to provide on-site legal advocacy and/or legal assistance information in places where sexual assault, stalking, and domestic violence victims are likely to go.
- Establish or strengthen programs to recruit, train and coordinate attorneys who will provide pro bono legal assistance to sexual assault, stalking and domestic violence victims.

While applicants are not required to address special interest categories, those who do will receive priority consideration. In addition, VAWO encourages all applicants to develop programs to reach diverse and traditionally underserved populations, including racial, cultural, or ethnic minorities; persons with disabilities; language minorities; or victims of sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking in rural or inner-city areas. The above list does not imply any ordering of priorities among categories.

Minimum Requirements: To be eligible for an award, applicants must certify in writing that:

- (1) any person providing legal assistance funded by the grant has completed or will complete training in connection with domestic violence or sexual assault and related legal issues;
- (2) any training program conducted in satisfaction of the requirement of paragraph (1) has been or will be developed with input from and in collaboration with a state, local, or tribal domestic violence or sexual assault program or coalition, as well as appropriate state and local law enforcement officials;
- (3) any person or organization providing legal assistance under the grant has informed and will continue to inform State, local, or tribal domestic violence or sexual assault programs and coalitions, as well as appropriate State and local law enforcement officials of their work; and
- (4) the grantee's organizational policies do not require mediation or counseling involving offenders and victims physically together, in cases where sexual assault, domestic violence, or child sexual abuse is an issue.

In addition grantees must:

- Provide holistic legal services to sexual assault, stalking and domestic violence victims.

Services should include referral and/or representation for emergency and non-emergency protective order hearings and other legal matters arising as a consequence of the abuse or violence,

[See "VAWA" p4]

[From "VAWA" p3]

including family, immigration, administrative agency, or housing matters, protection or stay away order proceedings and other similar matters.

- Coordinate with local nonprofit, nongovernmental sexual assault and/or domestic violence programs.
- Implement guidelines outlined in The Legal Assistance for Victims Grant Recipients' Policy Manual.

Successful applicants will receive and are encouraged to implement, to the extent possible, protocols directed at enhancing victim safety. These include, at a minimum, conflict of interest, confidentiality, screening for domestic violence, and providing services to enhance the safety of victims.

Program Guidelines: The application kit also lists a number of program guidelines with which grantees must comply, including:

- Exclusive Provision of Services to Sexual Assault, Stalking, and Domestic Violence Victims.

VAWO recognizes that the client base of most direct legal services providers includes more than sexual assault, stalking and domestic violence victims. Any organization that has this broader client base must implement a conflict of interest screening process that will ensure that no civil or criminal legal matter is handled for the abuser of a client.

- Coordination with STOP Formula Grants Program and Other Federal Efforts.
- Violence Against Women Office Technical Assistance Program.

Grant recipients must agree to work closely with VAWO staff and technical assistance providers. VAWO strongly encourages successful applicants to participate in training and technical assistance events sponsored by VAWO.

- Coordination with Nonprofit, Nongovernmental Domestic Violence or Sexual Assault Programs.
- Information Collection.

Grantees must collect and maintain data that measure the impact of services provided to victims, including the number of victims served and the number of victims seeking services who could not be served.

- Legal Assistance for Victims Grant Program Evaluation.

Grantees and their project partners are required to conduct local evaluations or assessments of their projects and to cooperate with national evaluation efforts, including allowing evaluators to visit grantee sites.

Ineligible Activities: Grants funds may not be used for certain activities. Prohibited activities include but are not limited to civil legal assistance for the following:

- Alleged batterers or, in the case of mutual arrest, the predominant aggressor.

[See "VAWA" p5]

[From "VAWA" p4]

- Law reform initiatives, including but not limited to litigation.

Application Procedure:

Obtaining an Application Kit: You can obtain the application kit immediately from VAWO's Web site at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/vawo/applicationkits.htm>. The complete application kit plus appendices is a PDF file. In order to obtain the complete application kit from the Web site, you will need Adobe Acrobat Reader software. You can download this software for free from Adobe by visiting <http://www.adobe.com>. This software will allow you to view, navigate, and print this PDF file. VAWO also is printing hard copies of the application kit but it is encouraging everyone to obtain the kit electronically.

Letter of Intent: Applicants are encouraged to submit nonbinding letters of intent to VAWO by **February 27, 2001**. (A Letter of Intent form is included as Appendix A to the FY 2001 application guidelines.) This will help VAWO determine the appropriate number of peer review panels needed to review applications, and to screen for potential conflicts of interest. Letters of intent should be sent by fax to (202) 354-4119.

Submitting Your Application: Applications and all supporting materials must be received by **5:30 p.m. (EST) on March 20, 2001**. OJP is requiring applicants to submit their applications for funding through the OJP Grants Management System (GMS). (Applications will not be accepted by fax.) To learn how to begin the online application process, please see the Quick-Start Guide to Using GMS in the Legal Assistance for Victims Grant Program Application Kit. If you need technical assistance as you work through the online application process, you may call 1-888-549-9901 (toll free).

Please note:

Applicants who have never registered with GMS must register online at least two-weeks prior to the application deadline. It may take up to one week for you to receive confirmation that you are eligible to apply.

Applicants who have previously registered with GMS and have a GMS password should log on to GMS at least two weeks prior to the application deadline to determine whether the password is still valid. If your password has expired follow the on-screen instructions or call the GMS helpdesk at 1-888-549-9901.

For more information, you may contact the program administrators for the Legal Assistance for Victims Program, Corrin Ferber at (202) 307-6015 or Virginia Coto at (202) 305-2971.

MESSAGE TO FY 1999 CLA GRANTEES

As you know, for several months NLADA has been discussing with VAWO officials the need to issue an RFP for FY 2001 as soon as possible in order to avoid a gap in funding for those of you who first began receiving a CLA grant in 1999 ("FY 1999 grantees"). While we are pleased VAWO has issued the FY 2001 RFP, we know that this does not alleviate the fact that most of you already have exhausted or, within the next couple of months, will exhaust the funds provided under your 1999 grant and, thus, are facing a gap in funding. Although we have not been able to resolve the problem at this point, NLADA continues to work on this issue and will keep you apprised of the latest developments.

Technology Opportunities Program

The Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), announces the availability of funds under the **Technology Opportunities Program (TOP)**. TOP grants promote the widespread availability and use of advanced telecommunications technologies in the public and non-profit sectors. TOP evaluates and actively shares the lessons learned from these projects to ensure the benefits are distributed broadly across the country, especially in rural and underserved communities. Grants have gone to state, local and tribal governments, health care providers, schools, libraries, police departments, and community-based non-profit organizations. TOP also has awarded grants to two legal services programs — Florida Rural Legal Services and Pine Tree Legal Assistance in Maine — for innovative projects using videoconferencing and Web technologies to reach rural clients.

A successful TOP grant will be highly innovative in both the programmatic and technical sense. TOP grants are not an opportunity to replicate an idea that you have seen in other places in the community. Your proposal will need to demonstrate that what you are planning has not been done elsewhere. The actual technology involved also must be innovative, not just a new use of simple Web technology, for example. Finally, the proposal must involve a direct service to clients, as TOP will not fund projects that build infrastructure for the service delivery community itself.

Amount Available: Approximately \$42.5 million in federal funding is available, which is a considerable increase over last year. Nevertheless NTIA expects this year's grant round to be very competitive (It expects more than 600 applications, with up to 60 proposals expected to be funded). Average grants are \$500,000, with maximum awards of \$900,000. Grant recipients under this program will be required to provide matching funds toward the total project cost. Matching funds may be in the form of cash or in-kind contributions. NTIA will provide up to 50% of the total project cost unless the applicant can document extraordinary circumstances warranting a grant of up to 75%.

Award Period: Successful applicants will have between 12 and 36 months to complete their projects. NTIA has found that most grant recipients require at least two years to complete and fully evaluate their projects. Accordingly, NTIA encourages applicants to propose projects that last two to three years.

Eligible Applicants: All nonprofit entities, colleges, universities and state, local, and tribal governments.

Application Deadline: March 22, 2001.

Agency: Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

For more information: Contact Stephen Downs, NTIA, at (202) 482-2048 or visit <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/otiahome/top/index.html>. The Web site contains a large amount of information on both this year's program and previous grantees. *Federal Register*, 1/11p2744-9.

American Bar Association

The American Bar Association (ABA), Immigration Pro Bono Development and Bar Activation Project, is inviting bar association-sponsored pro-bono programs to apply for mini-grants to provide legal assistance to immigrants, refugees and newcomers to the United States. Applicants must demonstrate a concrete plan to involve the private bar in pro bono representation of the foreign-born and show collaboration with local community-based organizations currently providing direct legal services to newcomers.

Amount Available: Mini-grants of up to \$5,000.

Eligible Applicants: Bar association-sponsored pro bono programs.

[See "ABA" p7]

[From "ABA" p6]

Application Deadline: Proposals must be postmarked by March 15, 2001.

Agency: ABA, Immigration Pro Bono Development and Bar Activation Project.

For more information: Please contact Christopher Nugent at (202) 662-1008 or Laura Dawking at (202) 662-1698. For a copy of the Request for Proposals and Application Forms, please e-mail Bob Lang at langr@staff.abanet.org.

Social Security Administration

The Social Security Administration (SSA) announces its intention to award cooperative agreements to establish community-based benefits planning, assistance, and outreach projects in AL, NV, ND, OR, SC, TN and VA and in certain counties in FL, GA, LA and MN. The awards are being made under SSA's Benefits Planning, Assistance, and Outreach Program (BPAO).

The purpose of SSA's BPAO program is to provide Statewide benefits planning and assistance, including information on the availability of protection and advocacy services, to all SSDI and SSI beneficiaries with disabilities, and to conduct ongoing outreach to those beneficiaries with disabilities (and to their families) who are potentially eligible to participate in state or federal work incentives programs. The BPAO program aims to improve beneficiaries' understanding of their work options and to disseminate accurate information to beneficiaries (including transition-to-work-aged youth) about work incentives programs.

In May 2000, SSA made an initial request for cooperative agreement applications under this program. According to SSA, it did not receive applications for the following locations or received applications that did not score high enough to qualify for an award: Alabama, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia; and certain counties in the states of Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, and Minnesota. As a result, SSA is requesting new proposals for these targeted areas.

Amount Available: SSA will award a cooperative agreement to a qualified entity based in part on the number of beneficiaries with disabilities in the State where the project is located; however, no entity shall receive a cooperative agreement for a fiscal year that is less than \$50,000 or more than \$300,000. Applicants must demonstrate in sufficient detail that the number of beneficiaries with disabilities within the targeted area is sufficient to support a minimum award (\$50,000). In addition, awardees must contribute a non-federal match of at least 5% toward the cost of their project.

Please note: The RFP states that, because SSA is awarding cooperative agreements, as opposed to grants, awardees should anticipate "substantial involvement with SSA during the performance of the project. Involvement will include collaboration or participation by SSA in the management of activity as determined at the time of the award. For example, SSA will be involved in decisions involving strategy, hiring of personnel, development of resources, release of public information materials, quality assurance, and coordination of activities with other offices."

Eligible Applicants: State and local governments, and public, private, nonprofit and for-profit organizations.

Application Deadline: April 5, 2001.

Agency: Social Security Administration (SSA).

For further information: According to the RFP, the Internet is the preferred method of communication (<http://www.ssa.gov/work>); however, applicants may also contact: Cindy Barcelles, Program Analyst, (410) 966-2668; or Natalie Funk, Team Leader, (410) 965-0078. Questions can also be e-mail to the following address: TTWWIIA@ssa.gov . *Federal Register* 1/5 p1168-1179

AFF Resources

NLADA maintains a resource list of successful grant applications. For a copy of these applications please contact a.hill@nlada.org with a written request (Name, Organization, Address, Fax , Phone and e-mail address).

We also encourage you to share successful grant applications. To do so, please contact Marc Holladay (202) 452-0620 ext. 226, m.holladay@nlada.org or Aissa Hill (202) 452-0620 ext. 219, a.hill@nlada.org.

Successful Grant Applications Resources List

Elderly (hotlines)

- Maryland-1999 Title IV AOA grant proposal, to create a Maryland Senior Legal Hotline **(Hard copy)**
- Michigan-1999 Title IV AOA grant proposal, for the Legal Hotline for Older Michigianians Collaborative Legal Services Intake Project **(Hard copy)**
- Access to Justices Foundation, Kentucky **(Hard copy & electronic)**
- Legal Services of Northern California **(Hard copy)**
- Southeast Tennessee Legal Services **(Hard copy)**
- Maine Legal Services for the Elderly **(Hard copy)**
- New Hampshire Legal Assistance **(Hard copy)**

Health and Human Services

Ryan White
Bay Area Legal Services, Florida-1998. **(Hard copy only)**

Housing

CDBG
Bay Area Legal Services, Florida-1998. **(Hard copy only)**

Violence Against Women Grants

VAWA (Civil Legal Assistance Grant)
Bay Area Legal Services, Florida
(Hard copy only)

STOP Bay Area Legal Services, Florida
(Hard copy only)

Welfare to Work

W-T-W grant
West Tenn. Legal Services-Letter of inquiry
(Hard and electronic copy)
Sonoma County Legal Aid **(Hard copy only)**

Technology

TOP (formerly know as TIIAP)
Florida Rural Legal Services.
(Hard and electronic copy)

OSI
Florida Rural Legal Services
(Hard and electronic copy)