



# ADVOCACY FUNDING FACT\$

NLADA is pleased to re-introduce *Advocacy Funding Fact\$*, a monthly newsletter which identifies sources of federal funding and private foundation grants for legal services providers and equal justice advocates. We offer this service to our members in an effort to create a dynamic forum for sharing information and building on success in the process of researching and applying for grants. Please complete the enclosed survey to let us know what you would like to see in future issues of *Advocacy Funding Fact\$*.

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



### FEDERAL FUNDING

Now is the time to start planning and preparing for the Requests for Proposals (RFPs) and Notices of Funding Availability (NOFAs) that will be released by various federal agencies in January and February 2005. As these agencies generally don't change what they look for from year to year, you can get a head start on your FY 2005 applications by looking at the information from previous years.

Past RFPs and NOFAs for the two major sources of direct federal funding (other than LSC funds) most popular with legal services programs – the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Department of Justice's Office of Violence Against Women – are readily available online. HUD's archive of its SuperNOFAs for FY 2000 to FY 2004 can be found at <http://www.hud.gov/library/bookshelf18/supernofa/index.cfm>; the archive of application kits from the Office of Violence Against Women for FY 2000 to FY 2004 is located at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/vawo/application-kits.htm#Archive>.

Another way to start preparing is to study your state's consolidated plans. Only about 10% of the funds distributed by federal agencies are given out through "discretionary" grants, for which organizations apply to the agency directly, and compete with other eligible organizations nationwide for limited resources. These competitions typically stress innovation and collaboration as criteria for successful grant proposals.

By contrast, almost 90% of federal funding is distributed through "formula" grants or "block" grants, whereby states apply for and receive funds from the federal government. Eligible organizations then apply to the state agency administering the grant program rather than to the federal office where the program originates. This means that many

of the "state and local" level grants that legal services programs receive are indeed federal grants. The planning and competition for how the money will be disbursed however takes place at the state and local level.

You can view your state consolidated plan on housing through the HUD website at <http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/about/conplan/local/index.cfm>. For more information on how your state intends to distribute formula grant funds to serve victims of domestic violence, find the contact person at your state's Office of Violence Against Women at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/state.htm>.

### HUD, Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity

<http://www.hud.gov/offices/fheo/index.cfm>

In October, HUD awarded grants totaling \$17.6 million to 106 organizations in their work to promote fair housing. Of the 106 organizations awarded these grants, 16 are civil legal aid programs.

The grants, funded under HUD's Fair Housing Initiatives Program, will go to public and private fair housing groups

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# FEDERAL FUNDING *continued*

and state and local agencies across the country. These groups will use the funds to investigate allegations of housing discrimination, educate the housing industry and public about housing discrimination laws, and work to promote fair housing.

Under the program's Private Enforcement Initiative, about \$11.8 million was awarded for 12 to 18 month grants of up to \$220,000 to assist private, tax-exempt fair housing enforcement organizations in the investigation and enforcement of alleged violations of the Fair Housing Act and state and local fair housing laws. Civil legal aid programs receiving grants under this initiative include:

- Bay Area Legal Aid (CA)
- California Rural Legal Assistance
- Jacksonville Area Legal Aid
- Bay Area Legal Services (FL)
- Legal Aid Society of Hawaii
- Pine Tree Legal Assistance
- Legal Services of Eastern Michigan
- Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis
- New Hampshire Legal Assistance
- New Mexico Legal Aid
- South Brooklyn Legal Services
- West Tennessee Legal Services

Under the Education and Outreach Initiative, about \$3.7 million was allocated for one-year grants of up to \$100,000 to inform and educate the public about the rights and obligations under federal, state and local fair housing laws. Civil legal aid programs receiving grants under this initiative include:

- Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (Homeownership Component)
- Idaho Legal Aid Services
- Prairie State Legal Services
- Legal Aid Society of Oregon

You can find more information about all of the projects from the 106 organizations that were awarded grants at: <http://www.hud.gov/news/fhipblurbs.cfm>.

## USDA, Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI)

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/rcdi/index.htm>

**Deadline: January 25, 2005**

The RCDI grant, which has a dollar-for-dollar matching funds requirement, is made to organizations that provide technical assistance to housing providers. Such technical assistance might include building housing providers' capacity and ability to undertake projects related to housing, community facilities, and community and economic development in rural areas.

Congress has appropriated approximately \$6 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2005 for RCDI, the same amount as in recent years. Grants will range from \$50,000 to \$400,000. USDA officials have indicated that they expect to receive at least 140 applications, with 30-45 grants awarded.

Grants don't help support specific economic development projects. Instead, they improve the capacity of the grantee to provide technical assistance and other aid to local activities. Agency reviewers will deny applications that seek to use grant funds to continue existing economic development projects. Preference is given to projects serving the smallest communities (fewer than 5,000 in population).

Since 2001, the Georgia Legal Services Program has been the only civil legal aid program to receive RCDI funding (<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rd/newsroom/2002/RCDI.htm>).

## USDA, Rural Housing Service

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rd/nofas/2004/flh102804.pdf>

**Deadline: December 27, 2004**

The Rural Housing Service has announced the availability of funds for grants to construct or repair Section 516 off-farm farm labor housing (FLH). In addition, this RFP also announces the availability of funds for grants to provide emergency services to assist low-income migrant and seasonal farmworkers in communities that were affected by hurricanes and tropical storms in calendar years 2003 or 2004.

The Military Construction Appropriations and Emergency Hurricane Supplemental Appropriations, 2005, Public Law 108-324 (October 13, 2004), made available \$5,000,000 for the provision of low-rent housing and related facilities for farm laborers, as authorized by Section 516 of the Housing Act of 1949. Of this amount, up to \$3,000,000 may be used for emergency services to assist low-income migrant and seasonal farmworkers.

Eligibility for grants for emergency services is limited to public agencies or private organizations with tax exempt status under section 501(c)(3), that have experience in providing emergency services to low-income migrant and seasonal farmworkers, where the Secretary of Agriculture determines that a local, state, or national emergency or disaster has caused low-income migrant or seasonal farmworkers to lose income, be unable to work, or to stay at home or return home in anticipation of work shortages. Grants to provide emergency services may not exceed \$500,000 and may be limited by geographic area so that multiple grant recipients are not providing similar services to the same service areas. The types of emergency services could include, but are not



**FEDERAL FUNDING** *continued*

limited to, assistance in meeting rent or mortgage payments, utility bills, child care, transportation, school supplies, food, medical services at a child care facility, and construction, repair or rehabilitation of farmworker housing (not restricted to units financed by the Agency).

**DOJ, National Institute of Justice**

<http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/nij/sl000682.pdf>

**Deadline: January 12, 2005**

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) is seeking proposals to establish a research center devoted to civil justice issues, to be called the NIJ Research Center for Excellence in Civil Justice. NIJ plans to build a base of knowledge about civil justice issues. Such issues may include, but are not limited to, trends in settlements and the use of alternative dispute resolution, changes in class action proceedings (e.g., certification rates, filing patterns, settlement patterns, attorney fee awards, and benefits received by class members), mass tort litigation (e.g., filing patterns, mass joinders and settlement patterns), trends in non-monetary damage awards, the effects of procedural and substantive reforms on litigation and settlement trends, trends in the resolution of medical malpractice disputes, trends in the treatment of expert testimony in civil actions, and other topics deemed appropriate



**PRIVATE FOUNDATION FUNDING**

**Public Welfare Foundation**

[http://www.publicwelfare.org/news/news/fund\\_2005.asp](http://www.publicwelfare.org/news/news/fund_2005.asp)

**Deadline: Requests for new funding may be submitted at any time during the year**

The Public Welfare Foundation has made its Funding Priorities for 2005 available on its website. The Public Welfare Foundation supports organizations that address human needs in disadvantaged communities, with strong emphasis on organizations that include service, advocacy and empowerment in their approach. In the past, civil legal aid programs have received grants through the foundation's Community Development, Health, Youth, and Welfare Reform Funds. The foundation is not setting aside separate funds, as it has in the past, to support projects addressing the needs of the disadvantaged elderly. Instead, such projects will be funded under the Health category, which has received a \$500,000 increase.

**Brookdale Foundation, Relatives as Parents Program**

<http://www.brookdalefoundation.org>

**Deadline: January 13, 2005**

Brookdale's Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) is designed to encourage and promote the creation or expansion of services for grandparents and other relatives who have taken on the responsibility of surrogate parenting, due to the unwillingness or inability of parents to care for their own children. The program awards seed grants of \$10,000 over a two-year period. Up to fifteen local, three regional, and five statewide programs will be selected through this RFP process.

Civil legal aid programs which have received these funds in the past include Connecticut Legal Services, Legal Aid Bureau of Maryland, Legal Assistance of the Finger Lakes, New York Legal Assistance Group, and Texas Legal Services Center in collaboration with the Texas Department on Aging.

**Vanguard Public Foundation, Social Justice Sabbatical Awards**

<http://www.vanguardsf.org>

**Deadline: December 15, 2004**

The Social Justice Sabbatical Fund acknowledges the important contributions of community leaders and activists in Northern California, and enables them to take a two to three month respite from their daily activities. The fund provides \$12,000 awards to individuals who have committed significant amounts of their lives to working for social change.

**Ford Foundation, Leadership for a Changing World**

<http://leadershipforchange.org>

**Deadline: January 7, 2005**

Leadership for a Changing World (LCW), a program of the Ford Foundation, seeks to recognize, strengthen, and support leaders, and to highlight the importance of community leadership in improving people's lives. LCW will give awards to 17 leaders or leadership groups not broadly known beyond their immediate community or field, who are working on social justice issues. Awardees receive \$100,000 over two years to support their programs or new work that is related to the initiatives for which they are being recognized, as well as a \$15,000 Independent Learning Account to explore new learning opportunities that will support their work.



## PRIVATE FOUNDATION FUNDING

continued

### New Voices

<http://newvoices.aed.org/home.html>

**Deadline: January 10, 2005**

New Voices is a national leadership development program that helps nonprofit organizations recruit innovative, new talent. It awards salary-support grants to small nonprofits demonstrating a commitment to cultivating and strengthening the leadership potential of creative and diverse "new voices" in the field.

Eligible organizations are US-based, and address key issues in fields related to justice and peace. Organizations that conduct policy research/analysis, litigation, advocacy, or community organizing are eligible. Preference will be given to organizations with annual budgets around \$2 million or less.



## COLLABORATION CORNER

Many funders look for evidence of solid partnerships with other organizations. These relationships can be key in your efforts to secure funding. One example of a successful working relationship is the one built by South Brooklyn Legal Services (SBLS) and the Neighborhood Economic Development Advocacy Project (NEDAP). NEDAP is a resource and advocacy center that works with community groups to promote financial justice in low-income neighborhoods and communities of color in New York City.

SBLS and NEDAP have collaborated closely since 1998 on numerous efforts. As part of its FY 2004 application to HUD for a grant under the Private Enforcement Initiative of the Fair Housing Initiatives Program, SBLS proposed subcontracting with NEDAP to conduct computerized mapping of patterns of housing and lending discrimination. By subcontracting in this way, SBLS is able to draw on NEDAP's expertise in creating detailed, informative maps that help them to identify and analyze patterns of redlining, predatory lending and other financial barriers to affordable homeownership, and this strengthened SBLS's application to HUD.

These roles have also been reversed. SBLS was a subcontractor in 2000 and 2001 when NEDAP was awarded an Education and Outreach Initiative Grant under HUD's Fair Housing Initiatives Program. In this capacity, SBLS served as

NEDAP's Fair Housing Attorney on the grant, screening and investigating housing discrimination complaints from homeowners or potential homeowners who were referred by participating community organizations; analyzing the legal merit of the claims under the Fair Housing Act; and referring meritorious discrimination claims to HUD.



## SUCCESSFUL PROPOSALS

NLADA maintains for its members a resource list of successful grant applications. We would like to bring our list up to date. A recent addition to the resource list is South Brooklyn Legal Services' Fair Housing Initiatives Program application to HUD. Visit NLADA's website, at [http://www.nlada.org/Civil/Civil\\_IOLTA/IOLTA\\_Federal/Federal\\_GrantApps](http://www.nlada.org/Civil/Civil_IOLTA/IOLTA_Federal/Federal_GrantApps), to view their application.

We also invite and encourage you to share your successful grant applications with the legal aid community. If you have a grant application you would like to share, contact Kate Lang at [k.lang@nlada.org](mailto:k.lang@nlada.org).



## FUNDING TIP

A resource for leads on all federal funding programs published by the General Services Administration is called the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance. This manual of more than 1,000 pages provides the most comprehensive information on federal funds, cross-indexed by agency, program type, applicant eligibility, and subject. It can be searched on-line at <http://12.46.245.173/cfda/cfda.html>.

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**We would like to thank Steve Xanthopoulos of West Tennessee Legal Services and Josh Zinner of South Brooklyn Legal Services for sharing information and expertise.**

# ADVOCACY FUNDING FACT\$ Survey

NLADA is re-introducing its publication, **Advocacy Funding Fact\$**, which identifies sources of federal funding and private foundation grants for legal services providers and equal justice advocates. If you are a member of NLADA and would like to receive this monthly newsletter electronically, please complete the following survey and let us know what information would be most useful for you. Please send any questions or comments regarding Advocacy Funding Fact\$ to Kate Lang at [k.lang@nlada.org](mailto:k.lang@nlada.org).

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

What types of federal grants (other than LSC) does your program receive? What other types of federal grants would you like to learn more about?

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What grants from private or community foundations does your program receive? Are there particular foundations you are interested in learning more about?

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Does your program have innovative collaborations or projects that you think other legal services providers would benefit from learning about?

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Are you willing to share your program's successful grant proposals? Which ones? Which types of successful grant proposals are you most interest in seeing from other programs?

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Has your program done a media campaign that was particularly effective in leading (either directly or indirectly) to increased funding? Would you be willing to share information about that campaign with other legal services providers?

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Any other comments or information you would like to share?

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Please return all survey forms to the  
2004 Annual Conference Registration Desk  
or fax/mail to

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