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June 28, 2005

Legal Services Corporation
Technology Initiative Grants Competition
Office of Program Performance
3333 K Street NW, 2nd Floor
Washington, DC 20007

Dear President Helaine Barnett:

Legal Aid of East Tennessee (LAET) is applying for a GIS National Mapping Server Grant in the Open Category. The GIS National Mapping Server Grant will enable legal aid programs, through the use of ESRI ArcIMS software, to generate ten relevant maps on clients served by simply submitting their case data to the mapping server. This grant will be a partnership with LAET, The University of Tennessee Department of Geography, and the National Technology Assistance Project (NTAP) to (1) develop an innovative online server where local legal aid programs can upload case management data into a system pre-designed to create maps and (2) develop a training and support plan to train programs on how to use this server and the maps it generates.

As experts in GIS mapping, the University of Tennessee can save legal aid programs valuable time and resources. By customizing GIS software and uploading census data to a national server, legal aid programs will be able to access the data in a central location, which has been tailored for their service area. Using this data, they will be able to add their own case management data and download maps of their service area. Dr. Bruce Ralston, Department Head and Primary Investigator on this project, has been a leading innovator in the field of web-based GIS and GIS software development. Geography students will also work on this project. Students in the Geography Department have experience in high quality production cartography through the Department's Cartographic Information Services Laboratory. While this mapping server vastly simplifies the process of GIS mapping for legal aid programs, training on how to use the system, enter the proper information and select the appropriate case data and mapping parameters is still required. NTAP will be responsible for implementing a training plan to train programs on how to use the system to create their maps and support the field through online resources using LStech.org.

Major Benefits: Currently, although many programs have received ArcView software from ESRI for their own program's use, NTAP estimates that fewer than five programs nationally actually have developed the capacity to use the software effectively or to download applicable Census data. The major benefit of this project will be to cost-effectively provide a central repository of legal services-tailored Census data and the mapping software that can enable programs to easily create ten common maps. Access to 10 pre-designed maps will help project directors understand trends in client communities and effective service delivery approaches to help them. Training and support through the National Technology Assistance Project will ensure long-term support and access to the Mapping Server, and will help develop the next generation of legal aid maps. **Estimated Costs:** The estimated amount sought from TIG for this project is \$80,000 for 24 months. The total cost of the project is \$112,000. Additional matching funds are

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provided by the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law (\$22,000), which include full website administration and posting costs for training materials attributed to 30% of their Web Manager; and by the University of Tennessee (\$10,000), which includes all oversight and supervision by Dr. Ralston. The anticipated costs of the project attributed from the TIG award include software acquisition costs, software development by the University of Tennessee and Kaivo, hosting and maintenance costs (24 months), training development and implementation, and communication and other contract costs.

Major Partners: Key partners in this effort are LAET, the University of Tennessee Department of Geography, Kaivo and the Shriver Center's NTAP. LAET and the University of Tennessee have a long history and have partnered on many projects and initiatives. Most recently LAET and the University of Tennessee College of Law partnered to create the Law Student Research Tool that is currently being used by legal aid offices across the state of Tennessee and soon across the nation. LAET and NTAP will also ensure that legal aid programs across the country are involved in the planning and implementation of this project. Additionally, the Shriver Center will play a critical role in administering the training project, and we will also continue to partner with the National Legal Aid and Defender Association, Management Information Exchange, ProBono.Net, and Legal Aid University project to offer and promote trainings. Kaivo, a leader in Zope and Open Source Technologies and the developer of the Open Source Template, host of the National HotDocs Server and Law Student Researcher Tool will host the national server.

Innovation / Replication / Sustainability: This project is innovative because it uses technology, an innovative partnership, and a centralized approach to provide maximum benefit to the national legal aid community and its clients. By providing tools and a forum for programs to learn and discuss how to support, sustain and implement technologies, this project helps programs replicate working models and learn from successful forerunners. In addition, the partnership between LAET and University of Tennessee can also serve as a model for replication across the country for programs that want to expand their use of GIS mapping and partner with a local university program to do so. Over this next year, NTAP will work with the Shriver Center to secure additional funding to support the training program across all legal aid programs via new grant proposals and subscription fees.

Sincerely,

David R. Yoder
Executive Director