

Justice for All Project

Fast Facts

Project Goals and Strategy

- The Justice for All project recognizes that *no one program or approach* alone can suffice to provide all of those in need of help for their civil legal problems with appropriate and meaningful assistance. An array of innovations have been developed by bench and bar but they usually have been offered piecemeal rather than in an integrated approach that combines services across sectors to make the best use of resources for each person.
- The project aims to encourage state efforts that include all relevant stakeholders in the civil justice community—courts, access to justice commissions, legal aid, the private bar—in a partnership to implement CCJ/COSCA Resolution 5 (Meaningful Access to Justice for All). The Resolution envisions state systems in which everyone has access to meaningful and effective assistance for their civil legal needs through a comprehensive approach that provides a continuum of meaningful and appropriate services.
- The project seeks to enhance states' commitment to reimagining how to work across organizational boundaries and optimizing all available resources to advance access to justice for all.

Project Components

- *Strategic Action Plan Guidance materials:* An expert working group will develop guidance materials outlining and providing information about the key components of services and capabilities that states should have in place to achieve access to justice for all. The materials will contemplate a mix of services, as highlighted in the Resolution, for states to consider in their particular contexts (e.g., self-help services to litigants, new or modified court rules and processes that facilitate access, discrete task representation by counsel, pro bono assistance, effective use of technology, increased availability of legal aid services, enhanced language access services, enhanced coordination with the human services sector, and triage models to match specific needs to the appropriate level of services).

The working group will provide a template for a strategic action plan, including the basic outline for the possible plan, along with the menu of options and service alternatives for states to consider to fill the identified gaps in services in their states. The expert group will also provide a template for a state assessment/inventory to help states identify the services and capability components they do and do not have, and consider how to address

gaps in services to better meet the legal aid needs of all. Related guidance materials will be provided. Templates and guidance materials will be available for all states.

- *Strategic Action Plan Grants:* Based on a Request For Proposal (RFP), the Justice for All Advisory Committee will award grants to states, based on a set of criteria, to help them conduct a state assessment inventory and also to design a strategic action plan to achieve access to justice for all. All core stakeholders—courts, access to justice commissions, the private bar, and legal aid providers—must be willing to work in full partnership to overcome fragmentation and create an integrated approach to accomplish the goal.

Consultant-based technical assistance may be included in strategic action plan grants. The Advisory Committee will develop, and release with the RFP solicitation, a list of technical assistance providers/experts who can serve as resources for states to assist states during the *strategic action plan process*. Consultant-based technical assistance costs should be included as part of the application budget.

- *Technical Assistance Grants:* In the second year of the Project, the Advisory Committee will provide strategic action plan grantees targeted technical assistance grants to assist with implementation. The Advisory Committee will determine, after consulting with grantees, additional technical assistance areas particularly relevant to each grantee's needs. The Committee will then determine the best use of and process for obtaining the technical assistance grants. These grants may address targeted pilot implementation efforts as well as other needs that states might require and the Advisory Committee determines appropriate.

At the conclusion of the project, the expert working group will revise the guidance materials to reflect observations from grantee efforts as well as updated thinking among scholars and practitioners. Project staff will compile a repository of information around grantee efforts (e.g., award focus, implementation, outcomes) and make it available to others interested in achieving full access to justice in their states.

Grant Awards and Timeline

- The Committee will award grants to up to 10 states based on selection criteria developed by the Committee.
- Grant award amount and duration will vary from state to state, but no grant shall be for a period longer than 12 months
- While all dates will be confirmed in March, the Committee anticipates the following *tentative* timelines:

- Late May: Justice for All RFP release
 - Early September: RFP return deadline
 - Mid-October: Grant awarded
 - Early-mid 2017: Technical assistance funding finalized and processed
- All awardees must demonstrate a commitment to working in full partnership with all core ATJ stakeholder groups in their states throughout the process, and must commit to evaluating and reporting on their efforts, and to share any materials developed.

Additional Project Information/Inquiries

- For additional project inquiries, contact Shelley Spacek Miller at sspacek@ncsc.org or 757.259.1538.