This workshop was held at the 2017 Equal Justice Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Title:

News You Can Use: Updates on Non-LSC Federal Funding for Civil Legal Aid

Presenters:

Arielle Altman, National Legal Aid and Defender Association, Washington, DC
Silvia Argueta, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA
Bob Bullock, U.S. Department of Justice Office for Access to Justice, Washington, DC
Kathrina Peterson, U.S. Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime, Washington, DC
Rhodia Thomas, MidPenn Legal Services, Harrisburg, PA
Allie Yang-Green, U.S. Department of Justice Office for Access to Justice, Washington, DC

This session will provide an opportunity for advocates to share information, ideas and experiences on obtaining and/or maintaining non-Legal Services Corporation federal funding. Discussion will focus on existing federal funding programs and their likely future. Participants will also have the opportunity to discuss their successes, raise issues of mutual concern and learn from one another about traditional and any potentially new sources of these funds.
News You Can Use: Updates on Non-LSC Federal Funding for Civil Legal Aid

EQUAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE

PITTSBURGH, PA
MAY 4, 2017
Speakers

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Civil Legal Aid as a Partner in Federal Programs

Improving Capacity: Providing information about federal grant programs

- LegalAidResources.org
- Dedicated listservs
- Technical assistance, training and support
  - Regional trainings, webinars, resource hub
  - Reach us at ResourceDesk@NLADA.org

Increasing Availability and Developing Partnerships

- Advocating with government agencies to increase availability and eliminate barriers
- Assisting legal aid programs in developing partnerships with key community stakeholders through “matchmaking” services
- Advocating with Congress to expand opportunities for civil legal aid
What is LAIR?
Legal Aid Interagency Roundtable

• With support from DOJ’s Office for Access to Justice (ATJ), which staffs LAIR, participating agencies have worked with civil legal aid partners, to

  (1) leverage resources to strengthen Federal programs by incorporating legal aid,

  (2) develop policy recommendations that improve access to justice,

  (3) facilitate strategic partnerships to achieve enforcement and outreach objectives, and

  (4) advance evidence-based research, data collection, and analysis.

• Report released November 2016: https://www.justice.gov/lair/annualreport
LAIR Toolkit Case Studies
“How Civil Legal Aid Supports Federal Efforts to . . . ”

www.justice.gov/laire/wh-laire-case-studies
Revenue Sources

MIDPENN LEGAL SERVICES

Funding Sources
- LSC: 32%
- PLAN: 7%
- United Way: 5%
- Bar Assoc.: 7%
- Local: 1%

LEGAL AID FOUNDATION OF LOS ANGELES

2016 Year End Operating Revenues: $13.9M
- Federal Grants: 60%
- Total State & Local Grants: 7%
- Private Grants: 7%
- Charitable Contributions: 23%
- Other Misc Revenues: 3%
SSVF purpose is to provide grants to nonprofits that will coordinate or provide supportive services to very low-income Veteran families to prevent Veteran homelessness or to rapidly re-house Veterans who become homeless.

FY2018 NOFA states: “Grantees are encouraged to provide, or assist participants in obtaining, legal services relevant to issues that interfere with the participants' ability to obtain or retain permanent housing.”

SSVF funds legal assistance to: prevent eviction and foreclosure, to help restore drivers license, for child support issues, for outstanding warrants and fines, family reconciliation assistance, credit counseling, access Veterans and public benefits.

FY2017 SSVF provider list is available online: www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf/
Veterans
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Supportive Services for Veterans Families program (SSVF)

LAFLA:

• Building blocks to partnership:
  – Veterans assistance: Bill Smith Project
  – Assistance to Beyond Shelter
  – Homeless Prevention Rapid Re-housing connection

• Creating opportunities:
  – Connection and reaching out to US Vets
  – EJW AmeriCorps Fellows
  – Veterans Justice Center
    o Staffing from 1 dedicated attorney to a staff of 8 with a directing attorney
Veterans
Corporation for National and Community Service
Equal Justice Works/ AmeriCorps Fellows

LAFLA:

• Four EJW/AmeriCorps Fellows focused on Veterans issues
• Relationship building at EJC in 2012
• OneJustice is lead agency
• Serve as host site:
  – Not the employer; $25k commitment per fellow
  – Provide veterans benefits
  – Supportive services
  – Results driven
• Partnership with Veterans groups
Veterans

VA study finds legal problems are among the top ten unmet needs of homeless veterans: www.va.gov/homeless/chaleng.asp

LAIR TOOLKIT CASE STUDY –
Civil Legal Aid Supports Federal Efforts To Help Veterans and Service members:

LAIR resources for AmeriCorps and VISTA:
• Guide to AmeriCorps VISTA Program for Legal Services Organizations: blogs.justice.gov/main/archives/2357
• Guide to AmeriCorps Program for Legal Aid organizations: www.justice.gov/atj/file/903451/download
• Link to CNCS State Offices and Directors: www.nationalservice.gov/about/contact-us/state-offices
• LSC guidance allowing LSC funds as Matching Funds for CNCS grants: www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/atj/pages/attachments/2014/12/04/programletter14-4.pdf
Office for Victims of Crime
Funding Authorities

• **Victims of Crime Act**
  – VOCA Victims Assistance and Compensation Formula Funding
  – “Capacity Building” Funding

• **Trafficking Victims Protection Act & Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act**
Crime Victims
U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime
VOCA Victim Assistance Funding

LAFLA:

• 2016 first year funding over 2 year period
• Funding for full time intake screener and part time attorney
• Build on wrap around relationships and capacity
Crime Victims
U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime
VOCA Victim Assistance Funding

• MidPenn received funding for 7 counties in our 18 county service area (we only applied for 7)

• Five additional staff attorneys (1.25 million dollars over 3 years)

• Activities include: Work on behalf of victims of abuse, sexual assault and intimidation: including children, the elderly, those with emergency custody issues, landlord/tenant denials as well as protections in utility services.

• Other PA Legal Aid programs funded for services similar to MidPenn including work on behalf of seniors, farmworkers, immigrants and other types of work.
Crime Victims
U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime
Wraparound Victim Legal Assistance Network

LAFLA:

• Phase 1 – Needs assessment, 6 community and legal services organizations and 1 research partner
• Phase 2 – Hiring of project coordinator/navigator – social worker
• One of six jurisdictions to receive funding: why?
  • Emphasize your strengths: language access/lep outreach
  • Partners:
    • Domestic violence shelter;
    • Research group;
    • Community activists (boots on the ground)
    • LGBT advocates
    • Disability rights advocates
• Focus on 5 neighborhoods
• Partnerships set stage for VOCA funding
Crime Victims: Torture and Human Trafficking
U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime
Legal Assistance to Victims of Trafficking

LAFLA:

• Take small steps to build a robust immigration practice
• Work locally and train nationally
• Staffing expansion in immigration unit from 3 to 9
• Introduce social workers and international human rights analyst
• Client board member involvement
Crime Victims: Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault
LAIR Toolkit

CIVIL LEGAL AID SUPPORTS FEDERAL EFFORTS TO HELP PREVENT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

THE NEED

Crime victims are less likely to report domestic violence if they perceive that the legal system will not respond. This is particularly true in cases where victims have reported abuse to the police but the perpetrator is not arrested or convicted. The number of victims who report domestic violence to law enforcement agencies and whose cases are not resolved is estimated to be between 20% and 50%.

The need for legal assistance is acute and urgent. Many victims are in situations where they have no choice but to remain in abusive relationships. They may fear for their safety or the safety of their children. Some are unable to afford the legal services they need. Others may not know where to turn for help.

The legal system can provide a means of redress for victims of domestic violence. It can help victims obtain restraining orders, seek financial assistance, and protect their children from abuse. Legal services can also help victims understand their rights and options, and assist them in navigating the complexities of the legal system.

EXAMPLES OF THE FEDERAL RESPONSE

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) provide funding for programs that support victims of domestic violence. The Domestic Violence Victims Assistance Program (DV-VAP) provides funding to states for programs that assist victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

CIVIL LEGAL AID SUPPORTS FEDERAL EFFORTS TO HELP HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

THE NEED

Human trafficking is a form of modern slavery. It involves the use of force, coercion, or fraud to exploit individuals for commercial purposes. The United States is a major source, destination, and transit country for human trafficking.

The number of victims of human trafficking is estimated to be between 600,000 and 1.5 million. Most of these victims are women and girls. Many are forced into prostitution, forced labor, or domestic servitude.

The legal system can provide a means of redress for victims of human trafficking. It can help victims obtain protection orders, seek financial assistance, and provide other legal services.

EXAMPLES OF THE FEDERAL RESPONSE

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) provides funding for programs that support victims of human trafficking. The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) provides funding for programs that support victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

For more information, please visit the National Immigration and Human Rights Academy (NIHRAD) website at www.nlada.org.
Crime Victims: Human Trafficking
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – Office on Trafficking in Persons

• **Victim Assistance Grants**
  - Separate programs for domestic victims and foreign nationals and includes legal service
  - Example grantee: Tapastri

• **Rescue and Restore Regional Program**
  - Training and outreach
  - Example grantee: Colorado Legal Services

• **Funding info**: [https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/grants](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/grants)
Crime Victims: Human Trafficking
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – Office on Trafficking in Persons

• FY15 Attorney General’s Trafficking in Persons Report
  • www.justice.gov/humantrafficking/attorney-generals-trafficking-persons-report
  • Includes recommendations for legal aid for victims

• Post-Conviction Advocacy for Survivors of Human Trafficking: A Guide for Attorneys
  • www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/human_rights/SRP/Practice%20Guide-%20Post-Conviction%20Advocacy%20for%20Survivors%20of%20Human%20Trafficking.authcheckdam.pdf
Crime Victims: Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault
U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women
VAWA Formula Grants

- STOP (Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors) VAWA Formula Grant
- Grants to Tribal Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalitions
- Sexual Assault Service Formula Grant
- State and Territorial Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Coalitions
The STOP Grants are awarded to states to develop and strengthen the criminal justice system's response to violence against women and to support and enhance services for victims. Each state and territory must allocate 25 percent of the grant funds to law enforcement, 25 percent to prosecution, 5 percent to courts, and 30 percent to victim services. The remaining 15 percent is discretionary within the parameters of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Grant awards are made to state governments, and interested tribes and organizations should contact their respective State Administrative Agency for information about obtaining funding from this program.

• Background on STOP: www.muskie.usm.maine.edu/vawamei/stopformulamain.htm
• FAQs on STOP: www.justice.gov/ovw/file/827531/download
Crime Victims: Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault

DOJ Office on Violence Against Women

• OVW Legal Assistance for Victims
• OVW Rural
• OVW – Improving the Criminal Justice Response

HHS Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) Funding

• Provide immediate shelter and supportive services for victims of domestic violence and their dependents
• Provide for a National Domestic Violence Hotline
• Provide for technical assistance and training

www.acf.hhs.gov/fvpsa
www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb
STOP Formula Grant

MidPenn Legal Services:

- MidPenn receives various amounts of STOP funding as subcontractors with domestic violence agencies in several counties to do work on behalf of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and intimidation.
- There are also STOP Committees established in various counties to discuss the various systems in place in each county to ensure that the systems are seamless for victims.
- Committee members include victim services agencies, police, DA’s, legal aid, county commissioners and others.
HHS HRSA-Funded Health Centers can partner with legal aid

- Title 330 Enabling Services definition now includes legal aid
- Health centers can use HRSA funds to pay sub-grants for legal aid services -- if they want to
- National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership provides training and technical assistance: www.medical-legalpartnership.org
Housing
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

• About CDBG: http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/comm_planning/communitydevelopment/programs

The CDBG program works to ensure decent affordable housing, to provide services to the most vulnerable in our communities, and to create jobs through the expansion and retention of businesses. CDBG is an important tool for helping local governments tackle serious challenges facing their communities.


Legal services (including walk-in legal counseling, foreclosure mitigation and prevention, landlord/tenant matters, veterans and public benefit appeals, child support orders, reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, and consumer protection).
MidPenn has had CDBG for many years in several counties.

Work is to provide for landlord tenant, public benefits, and in some instances domestic violence.

In one county we worked as collaborative partners with a number of other human services organizations to secure this funding.

In another area, we were approached by city council members in Harrisburg City and asked to apply for CDBG funding to hire an attorney because members saw a great need for more advocacy in landlord/tenant area.
Housing

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

• This funding was approved in the full amount that we requested and each year when we present our funding request, we are told that what our advocates are doing in the city is important for residents who face eviction because of warranty of habitability or other problems with their rental housing.

• When city and county budgets have become more stretched and more funding goes towards “bricks and mortar” the governmental entities that fund us often advocate for our continued funding for legal services realizing the importance to the low-income community.
Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG): https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/esg/

Continuum of Care Funds (CoC):
www.hudexchange.info/programs/e-snaps/fy-2017-coc-program-nofa-coc-program-competition

Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP):

LAIR resources for AmeriCorps and VISTA:


Guide to AmeriCorps Program for Legal Aid Organizations available at: www.justice.gov/atj/file/903451/download

Link to CNCS State Offices and Directors available at: www.nationalservice.gov/about/contact-us/state-offices

LSC guidance allowing LSC funds as Matching Funds for CNCS grants available at: www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/atj/pages/attachments/2014/12/04/programletter14-4.pdf
Low-Income People Corporation for National and Community Service

LAFLA - AmeriCorps Vista:

Capacity Building: Vista Affordable Housing Preservation Project (“VAHPP”):

- VAHPP is hosted at 12 different legal aid host sites around the country in major metropolitan cities where low-income households are facing serious affordable housing shortages.
- Los Angeles has proven to be the most successful site in the nation, with a significantly higher number of residents engaged and units preserved than other major cities.
- Served over 580 tenants in Section 8.
- Preserved over 219 units of expiring Section 8 housing preserved for 5+ years.
- 56 community partnerships.
- 30 know your rights trainings & meeting with tenants.
- 14 owners or property management companies engaged.
Low-Income People
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Social Services Block Grants (Title XX)


• States get large block grant and distribute to social service providers pursuant to a plan provided to ACF

• State welfare departments control and use for a wide range of social services

• Defining of Services:  www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/resource/uniform-definition-of-services

Legal services are those services or activities provided by a lawyer or other person(s) under the supervision of a lawyer to assist individuals in seeking or obtaining legal help in civil matters such as housing, divorce, child support, guardianship, paternity, and legal separation. Component services or activities may include receiving and preparing cases for trial, provision of legal advice, representation at hearings, and counseling.
SSBG funding received across Pennsylvania for legal services programs to provide general legal services including:

- Domestic Violence
- Sexual Assault
- Landlord/tenant
- Consumer
- Benefits
- Custody
- Expungements
People with Criminal Records / Reentry

RESOURCES

1. LAIR Toolkit – Case Study
https://www.justice.gov/lair/wh-lair-case-studies#reentry

2. National Clean Slate Clearing House

- Creating a community of practice that supports legal service providers currently engaged in record clearance work and gives the tools and resources needed to support new legal service providers
- Funding from DOJ and DOL
- Contact: cleanslate@csgjusticecenter.org.
People with Criminal Records / Reentry

RESOURCES

3. National Inventory of Collateral Consequences of Conviction
   https://niccc.csgjusticecenter.org/map/
   - Funding from DOJ


Infographic: Children of Incarcerated Parents - The Impact of Incarceration
People with Criminal Records / Reentry
Second Chance Act grants

**Department of Justice**
- Smart Reentry: Focus on Evidence-Based Strategies for Successful Reentry from Incarceration to Community (Closed in March)
- Second Chance Act Reentry Program for Adults with Co-Occurring Substance Abuse and Mental Disorders (Closed in March)
- Smart on Juvenile Justice: Enhancing Youth Access to Justice Initiative (Incl. Smart on Juvenile Justice: Enhancing Youth Access to Justice Initiative) (Closed in March)
- Second Chance Act Smart on Juvenile Justice: Community Supervision Reform (Closing date - 05/08/2017)

**Department of Labor – Reentry Project:**
(also supported by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act)
- Approximately $66 million to serve either adults or young adults (ages 18-24) who have been involved in the justice system make successful transitions back to the community.
- DOL anticipates awarding up to $4.5M each to approximately 8 intermediary organizations; awarding up to $1.5M each to approximately twenty 20 organizations. (Closed on April 27)
- Open and upcoming opportunities: [www.doleta.gov/grants/pdf/ETA_Funding_Opportunities.pdf](http://www.doleta.gov/grants/pdf/ETA_Funding_Opportunities.pdf)
Reentry – Finding Local Grantees

National Criminal Justice Initiatives Map

The National Criminal Justice Initiatives (NCJI) map identifies recipients of federal funding related to reentry and recidivism reduction across the United States. As a joint project of the National Reentry Resource Center and the Federal Interagency Reentry Council, this is a map of programs and federal investments for communities around the country.

By Council of State Governments

https://csgjusticecenter.org/reentry/national-criminal-justice-initiatives-map/
Block/Formula Grants

Federal Funds Granted to and Administered by State and Local Governments

Federal Agencies ➔ State and Local Governments ➔ Community Groups, Social Service Providers, and Civil Legal Aid
Legal Aid Block/Formula Grants

- Community Services Block Grant (HHS ACJ OCS): www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/programs/csbg
- Social Services Block Grant (HHS ACF OCS): www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/programs/ssbg
- Title II Formula Grants Program (DOJ OJJDP): www.ojjdp.gov/programs/ProgSummary.asp?pi=16
- STOP Formula Grant Program (DOJ OVW): www.justice.gov/ovw/file/839466/download
- Community Development Block Grant Program (HUD CDBG): www.portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/comm_planning/communitydevelopment/programs
- VOCA Victim Assistance Formula Grant Program (DOJ OVC): http://ojp.gov/ovc/voca/vaguide.htm
Bonus Tips for Outreach to Governments

• Describe low-level of understanding about civil justice problems. Many low-income people – and the social service providers they work with – do not identify a wide-range of problems as having a possible legal solution, but they often do. Legal Aid can make overall program more effective and improve outcomes.

  • See details in Rebecca Sandefur’s *Civil Legal Needs and Public Legal Understanding* handout: [www.americanbarfoundation.org/research/project/106](www.americanbarfoundation.org/research/project/106)

• Describe economic benefits of investing in legal services. Build on data that shows Legal Aid improves program effectiveness and outcomes.

  • See details in Laura Abel’s Economic Benefits of Legal Aid handout [ncforaj.org/2012/09/05/economic-other-benefits-of-civil-legal-aid-are-summarized-in-new-fact-sheet](ncforaj.org/2012/09/05/economic-other-benefits-of-civil-legal-aid-are-summarized-in-new-fact-sheet)

• For more evidence-based studies on the benefits of legal aid, visit NLADA’s [legalaidresearch.org](legalaidresearch.org)
For More Information:

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