

# STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE

## Grant Programs and Resources

### Mission

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The State Justice Institute (SJI) was established by federal law in 1984 to award grants to improve the quality of justice in state courts, and foster innovative, efficient solutions to common issues faced by all courts.

### Priority Investment Areas

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Each fiscal year, SJI allocates significant financial resources to support its Priority Investment Areas. The Priority Investment Areas below are applicable to all grant types.

- Opioids and Other Dangerous Drugs, and Behavioral Health Responses
- Promoting Access to Justice and Procedural Fairness
- Protecting Victims, Underserved, and Vulnerable Populations
- Advancing Justice Reform
- Transforming Courts

Visit the SJI [website](#) to learn about recently funded projects related to the [Priority Investment Areas](#).

### Funding Opportunities

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[Project Grants](#) support innovative education and training, demonstration, and technical assistance projects that can improve the administration of justice in local and state courts, or nationwide. State court and national non-profit organization applicants may request up to \$300,000 for 36 months. Local court applicants may request up to \$200,000 for 24 months. All applicants are required to contribute a cash match greater than or equal to the SJI award amount.

[Technical Assistance \(TA\) Grants](#) are designed to provide local and state courts with funding to obtain expert assistance to diagnose a problem, develop a response to that problem, and initiate implementation of any needed changes. TA Grants may not exceed \$75,000 and 12 months in duration. Applicants are required to contribute a total match (cash and in-kind) of not less than 50 percent of the SJI award amount, of which 20 percent must be cash.

[Curriculum Adaptation & Training \(CAT\) Grants](#) are intended to enable local and state courts, or national court associations to modify and adapt model curricula, course modules, or conference programs to meet states' or local jurisdictions' educational needs; train instructors to present portions or all of the curricula; and pilot-test them to determine their appropriateness, quality, and effectiveness; or to conduct judicial branch education and training programs, led by either expert or in-house personnel, designed to prepare judges and court personnel for innovations, reforms, and/or new technologies recently adopted by grantee courts. CAT Grants may not exceed \$40,000 and 12 months in duration. Applicants are required to contribute a total match (cash and in-kind) of not less than 50 percent of the SJI award amount, of which 20 percent must be cash.

[Strategic Initiatives \(SIG\) Grants](#) address contemporary issues that impact all courts and allow for the development of solutions to those problems. SIG projects are national in scope and impact and are generally initiated by the SJI Board of Directors or national court entities. Potential applicants must be invited to submit a concept paper. Only applicants that submit an approved concept paper will be able to submit a full application for funding. Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to [contact SJI](#) for guidance on the process.

Potential applicants for SJI funding should refer to the current [Grant Guideline](#) to obtain additional information about each type of grant along with prohibited uses of funds, such as hiring of personnel; purchase and/or maintenance of equipment; purchase of software and/or licenses; purchase of internet access or service; and supplies to support the day-to-day operations of courts. Applicants are encouraged to [contact SJI](#) to discuss any questions prior to or during the application process.

## Applying for Grants

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### Eligibility

Pursuant to the State Justice Institute Act of 1984 ([42 U.S.C. 10701](#), et seq.), SJI is authorized to award grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts to state and local courts, nonprofit organizations, and others for the purpose of improving the quality of justice in the state courts of the United States. Refer the current [Grant Guideline](#) for additional details regarding eligible applicants.

### Grant Management System

All grant application submissions must be made via the [online Grant Management System](#) (GMS). Refer to the [Grant Application Guide](#) for details about the process and what an application must include.

## Educational Scholarships

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The [Education Support Program \(ESP\)](#) supports full-time state court judges and court managers to attend courses that enhance their knowledge, skills, and abilities which they could not otherwise attend because of limited state, local, and personal budgets. The ESP is administered by the [National Judicial College](#) (NJC) and the [National Center for State Courts/Institute for Court Management](#) (ICM), in partnership with SJI. Follow the online instructions to request tuition assistance during the respective registration processes.

## Additional Resources

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### SJI Newsletter

[Subscribe](#) to our newsletter to receive the latest information about SJI funding opportunities, SJI funded projects and other court related news.

### Funding Toolkit

Visit SJI's [Funding Toolkit for State Courts and Justice System Partners](#) to learn about additional grant opportunities and access grant resources.

Join the Funding Toolkit [Mailing List](#) to receive regular updates and notifications.