



NLADA

National Legal Aid &
Defender Association

nlada.org

Advancing Your Work Through Lesser Known Federal Funding Streams

5TH NATIONAL PARENT ATTORNEY CONFERENCE:
VALUING DIGNITY & RESPECT FOR ALL FAMILIES

APRIL 25, 2017

Speakers

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Civil Legal Aid Initiative

Supported by the Public Welfare and Kresge Foundations

Civil Legal Aid as a Partner in Federal Programs

- Complements the work of the Legal Aid Interagency Roundtable and U.S. Department of Justice Office of Access to Justice

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

Expanding Access to Justice, Strengthening Federal Programs: First Annual Report of the White House Legal Aid Interagency Roundtable

- Released November 2016:
www.justice.gov/atj/page/file/913981/download
- www.justice.gov/lair



THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary



For Immediate Release

September 24, 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Establishment of the White House Legal Aid Interagency Roundtable

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to increase the availability of meaningful access to justice for individuals and families and thereby improve the outcomes of an array of Federal programs, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy. This Nation was founded in part on the promise of justice for all. Equal access to justice helps individuals and families receive health services, housing, education, and employment; enhances family stability and public safety; and secures the public's faith in the American justice system. Equal access to justice also advances the missions of an array of Federal programs, particularly those designed to lift Americans out of poverty or to keep them securely in the middle class. But gaps in the availability of legal aid -- including legal representation, advice, community education, and self-help and technology tools -- for America's poor and middle class threaten to undermine the promise of justice for all and constitute a crisis worthy of action by the Federal Government.

The majority of Americans who come to court do so without legal aid. They may be left by their economic circumstances to face life-altering events -- such as losing a home or custody of children, or escaping domestic violence or elder abuse -- on their own. More than 50 million Americans qualify for federally funded civil legal aid, but over half of those who seek assistance are turned away from legal aid organizations, which lack the funds and staff to meet the demand.

LAIR Toolkit Case Studies

“How Civil Legal Aid Supports Federal Efforts to ...”




The screenshot shows the LAIR Toolkit website. At the top is the U.S. Department of Justice logo and navigation links: HOME, ABOUT, AGENCIES, BUSINESS, RESOURCES. Below this is a sidebar with links: White House Legal Aid Interagency Roundtable Home, Welcome Message, Presidential Memorandum, Toolkit (selected), Civil Legal Aid 101, Case Studies, Federal Agency Resources, Select Publications and Research, and Contact Us. The main content area is titled 'CASE STUDIES' and lists 12 case studies under the heading 'The WH-LAIR Case Studies are two-page documents that illustrate how civil legal aid support other vulnerable populations in various areas. They contain descriptions of common challenges of federal responses to these challenges, and concrete examples of the ways in which civil legal aid efforts. The WH-LAIR continues to issue new case studies on selected topics.'

- WH-LAIR Case Study: Protect Consumers
- WH-LAIR Case Study: Keep America Working
- WH-LAIR Case Study: Prevent Elder Abuse
- WH-LAIR Case Study: On Behalf Of Tribes & Tribal Members
- WH-LAIR Case Study: Prevent Domestic Violence
- WH-LAIR Case Study: Successful Reentry
- WH-LAIR Case Study: Help Veterans and Servicemembers
- WH-LAIR Case Study: Keep Children in Schools
- WH-LAIR Case Study: Help People Exit Homelessness & Stay Housed
- WH-LAIR Case Study: Access Health Care
- WH-LAIR Case Study: Assist Law Enforcement & Promote Public Safety
- WH-LAIR Case Study: Help Americans with Disabilities
- WH-LAIR Case Study: Help Human Trafficking Victims
- WH-LAIR Case Study: Strengthen Families

www.justice.gov/lair/wh-lair-case-studies

CIVIL LEGAL AID SUPPORTS FEDERAL EFFORTS TO HELP KEEP AMERICA WORKING

THE NEED

Every American who wants a job should be able to work. People with jobs should be able to advance in their career, and those who lose their jobs should be supported at work again. While our economy is growing, too many Americans still face challenges employment or addressing job-related issues while employed.

People seeking work are vulnerable to fraudsters peddling “work at home schemes” vocational schools that collect federal student aid dollars, but then fail to provide grants they need to find a job. Victims can be left with substantial debt and no job prospect the work force after a period of incarceration face significant barriers to employment or continuing their education. Many people with steady employment also face hardships employers misclassify workers, calling them independent contractors instead of employees to a denial of critical protections including family and medical leave, overtime, minimum unemployment insurance. Additionally, many people – looking for employment or for themselves victims of illegal discrimination based on race, gender, national origin, age, or disability.

EXAMPLES OF THE FEDERAL RESPONSE

Since the Great Recession, the Federal Government has taken decisive action to boost growth by promoting jobs and job security.

The Department of Labor (DOL), in coordination with the U.S. Departments of Education and Human Services (HHS), administers the recently enacted Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). WIOA helps job seekers access employment, education, training, and support in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need for the global economy. It also ensures continuation of the network of American Job Center training, education and employment services for unemployed and underemployed workers looking for work.

DOL’s Misclassification Initiative works to combat misclassification of employment status benefits to those wrongly denied them as a result. To combat discrimination, the DOL Employment Policy (ODEP) works to enhance the capacity of the workforce system employment services to people with disabilities.

The HHS Office of Family Assistance administers the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), helping needy families achieve self-sufficiency, including support for job preparation and employment.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is on the front lines of the fight against fraudulent schemes. The FTC also educates the public about fraudulent business opportunities and other scams to help job-seekers avoid fraud.

The Department of Justice and DOL fund reentry initiatives, such as Second Chance Reintegration of Ex-Offenders, in communities around the country. These grants support and other important strategies and services – designed to reduce recidivism by helping people returning from prisons, jails, and juvenile facilities.

Evidence suggests that legal interventions such as expungement reducing a felony to a misdemeanor, stem the decline in earnings may even boost earnings. Halting the decline in earnings suggests the interventions make a meaningful difference in people’s lives and are key components of an effective employment reentry strategy.

~Jeffrey Selbin and Justin McCrary, University of California, Berkeley Law School
Got Clean Slate? New Study Suggests that Criminal Record Clearing May Increase Earnings



KEEP AMERICA WORKING

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ACCESS TO JUSTICE INITIATIVE • <http://www.justice.gov/atllegalaid> • APRIL 2015

“”

Legal aid is essential to closing persistent opportunity gaps and to creating shared prosperity in an economy that works for everyone.

~ Secretary Thomas Perez, U.S. Department of Labor

Legal Aid Helps

- Represent workers to secure the wages and benefits they are entitled to, including unpaid wages and unemployment benefits.
- Expunge or seal criminal records, reinstate a revoked or suspended driver’s license, untangle outstanding court debt issues, modify child support orders, and secure certificates of rehabilitation for people previously incarcerated, dramatically increasing their ability to obtain and keep a job.
- Represent employees who are misclassified on the job before state and Federal agencies, ensuring that workers receive appropriate benefits.
- Educate consumers about fraudulent employment and education schemes and report cases to the FTC for possible enforcement.
- Advise job seekers or employees who are discriminated against in the work place.
- Stabilize lives by preventing illegal evictions or foreclosures, resolving credit report problems, obtaining child support and custody orders or securing domestic violence restraining orders, improving people’s chances for steady employment.

Legal Aid gets Dad Back on Road to Work

After five years working as a delivery driver for a home improvement chain, Joe lost his job when his driver’s license was suspended because medical expenses for his prematurely-born daughter left him unable to pay outstanding traffic fines. SonomaWORKS, Sonoma County’s HHS-funded welfare-to-work program, referred Joe to what seemed like a perfect job as a delivery driver for a parts store. When the employer offered him a position contingent on securing a driver’s license, he sought help from Legal Aid of Sonoma County. With funding from California’s TANF program, Joe’s legal aid lawyer successfully arranged an affordable payment plan for a reduced bail amount so Joe could pay off his fines and get his driver’s license reinstated. Thanks to the legal and employment services provided through SonomaWORKS, Joe once again became self-sufficient.

Lawyer’s Help Clears Barriers for Working Mom

Francesca, a 21 year-old single mother of two children, received a job offer to work at a major bank’s call center. But when a background check revealed a 3-year old municipal ticket for retail theft, she lost the offer. When she was 18, she got the ticket for taking \$20 worth of clothing from a former retail employer. At the time, she paid the fine understanding the municipal ticket was not a crime. DOL Face Forward grantee WestCare Wisconsin, referred Francesca to their partner, Legal Action of Wisconsin, for help. Within one month, her attorney got the municipal ticket case reopened and dismissed. After the attorney submitted proof of the dismissal to the state criminal investigation bureau clearing Francesca’s criminal background report, the bank hired Francesca. After less than 8 months on the job, Francesca even got a raise.



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LAIR Toolkit Case Studies



Select Federal Agency Resources

The screenshot shows the Department of Justice website. The header includes the DOJ seal, the text 'THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE', a link to 'en ESPAÑOL', social media icons, and a search bar. The navigation menu has links for HOME, ABOUT, AGENCIES, BUSINESS, RESOURCES, NEWS, CAREERS, and CONTACT. The breadcrumb trail reads: Home » Access to Justice » Legal Aid Interagency Roundtable Toolkit.

SELECT FEDERAL AGENCY RESOURCES

This resource page identifies examples of grants, training and technical assistance, and other Federal resources of particular interest to non-profit organizations and government agencies working to enhance civil legal aid for underserved populations. Please contact the issuing entity for more information about all resources. This page includes grants that legal aid programs can apply for directly, or indirectly as a sub-grantee partner to local and State governments or other social services providers and universities. The list is not intended to be comprehensive of all Federal resources that can be used to support or engage civil legal aid. Suggestions for additions can be sent to: LAIR@usdoj.gov

To read about currently open Department of Justice grants, and training and technical assistance, of particular interest to entities working to enhance both civil legal aid and indigent defense, please visit the Access to Justice Initiative's [Grant Information page](#). This page occasionally also features relevant grants from other federal agencies. For a comprehensive listing of all federal grants, please visit www.grants.gov.

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau	Department of Homeland Security
Corporation for National and Community Service	Department of Housing & Urban Development
Federal Trade Commission	Department of the Interior – Bureau of Indian Affairs
Social Security Administration	Department of Justice
National Science Foundation	Department of Labor
Department of Agriculture	Department of the Treasury
Department of Education	Department of Veterans Affairs
Department of Health & Human Services	

Tips on Finding and Applying for Federal Grants

- = Federal Agency information/resource relevant to civil legal aid providers
- = Federal grant that expressly includes or allows for civil legal aid

CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU

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Session Goals

- Identifying federal grants relevant to your work
 - Funding the work you do to address everyday issues parents face that impact their status in proceedings
- Highlighting successful partnership models
 - Implementing federal programs to provide wraparound services that help stabilize lives and families:
 - Access to stable housing
 - Access to stable employment
 - Access to veterans and public benefits
 - Safety from domestic violence

**Community Development Block Grants (CDBG),
Community Services Block Grants (CSBG), and
Social Services Block Grants (SSBG)**



CDBG, CSBG and SSBG

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

- Works to ensure decent affordable housing and provide services to the most vulnerable individuals to address a wide range of community development needs
- https://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/comm_planning/communitydevelopment/programs

Community Services Block Grant Program (CSBG): From the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office on the Administration for Children and Families (ACF)

- Provides funds to alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty in communities
- www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/programs/csbg/about

Social Services Block Grant Program (SSBG): From HHS, ACF

- Used to support a wide range of social services directed towards achieving economic self-sufficiency, and preventing or remedying neglect, abuse, or the exploitation of children and adults
- www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/programs/ssbg

CDBG, CSBG and SSBG

Types of legal aid CDBG, CSBG, SSBG funds:

- **CDBG:**

- 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

- **CSBG:**

- Services and activities addressing employment, education, better use of available income, housing, nutrition, emergency services and/or health

- **SSBG:**

- Wide range of social services, including legal services 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

Accessing CDBG, CSBG and SSBG

Who gets it

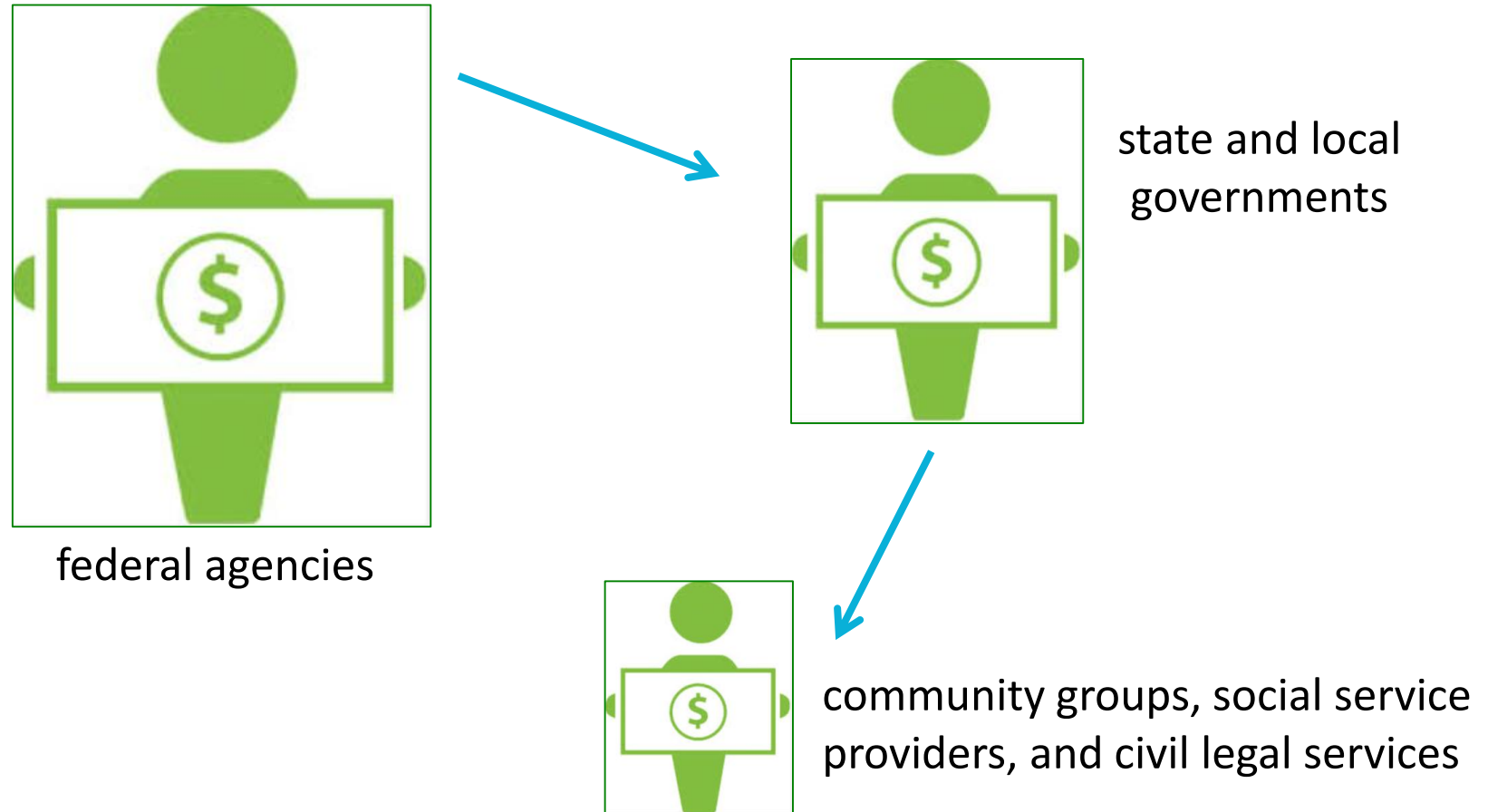
- CDBG, CSBG and SSBG are distributed to states as block grants

How you would get it

- As a direct grantee of the state
- In partnership with other human services providers

Block or Formula Grants

Federal Funds Granted to and Administered by
State and Local Governments



CDBG, CSBG and SSBG Examples

CDBG:

- Southeast Louisiana Legal Services uses CDBG to help homeless families in shelters obtain public benefits and to conduct local outreach aimed at ending chronic and veteran homelessness through disability work. Others use it for general legal services, foreclosure mitigation and prevention, landlord tenant issues, reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities, veterans and public benefits. Some use it for homelessness prevention through: fighting evictions, accessing public benefits, addressing domestic violence.

CSBG:

- LAF is a sub-grantee of CSBG funding awarded through the City of Chicago. The grant funds an outreach and enrollment project for public benefits. Others receive CSBG for broad legal safety net purposes.

SSBG:

- Pennsylvania legal aid has received SSBG since the 1970s to provide general legal services including: domestic violence, sexual assault, landlord/tenant, consumer, benefits, custody, expungements.

Second Chance Act (SCA)

Second Chance Act (SCA)

Helping Reentering Citizens Overcome Barriers

- From the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP):
www.bja.gov/funding.aspx
- SCA supports state, local, and tribal governments and nonprofit organizations in their work to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes for people returning from state and federal prisons, local jails, and juvenile facilities.

Second Chance Act (SCA)

Types of legal aid SCA funds:

- reinstating a revoked or suspended driver's license;
- expunging or sealing criminal records;
- appealing denials of housing or employment
- litigating violations of the Fair Credit Reporting Act; and
- creating and/or modifying child support orders
- other family law services that help stabilize individuals and families, including obtaining or regaining child custody.

Accessing SCA

Who gets it

- Varies: Some SCA grants are limited to states and local government, while some also fund human service providers, including civil legal services.

How you would get it

- As a direct grantee (many SCA grants have express language for legal services)
- In partnership with other human services providers (i.e., Goodwill) or government recipients
- Find SCA grantees near you: <https://csgjusticecenter.org/reentry/national-criminal-justice-initiatives-map/>

SCA Example

Lawyer steers Ruben through obstacles to steady finances, family and job

After release from jail and completion of a 90-day substance abuse treatment program, “Ruben” sought help from Bay Area Legal Aid, CA. Ruben’s attorney helped him stabilize several key areas of his life, including advising him on driver’s license reinstatement, his Section 8 housing status, family law matters and consumer/credit issues. These services helped him reunite with his family, secure employment, and be evaluated “low risk” on the Probation Department’s assessment tool. Bay Area Legal Aid’s reentry work is supported by HHS’s Community Centered Responsible Fatherhood ExPrisoner Reentry Pilot Project, and **DOJ’s Second Chance Act** Adult Reentry Program for Planning and Demonstration Project.

Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program(SSVF) and Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS)



SSVF and VETS

Helping Veterans Gain Stability

Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program (SSVF): From the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

- To provide supportive services to very low-income Veteran families to prevent Veteran homelessness or rapidly re-house Veterans who become homeless.
- www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp

From the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), **Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS):**

- To provide services to assist in reintegrating homeless veterans into meaningful employment within the labor force
- www.dol.gov/vets

SSVF and VETS

Types of legal aid SSVF and VETS funds:

- **SSVF:**
 - 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.
- **VETS:**
 - Legal assistance in the areas of: family law, domestic violence, child support enforcement, credit repair counseling, to support eligible homeless female veterans and veterans with families.

Accessing SSVF and VETS grants

Who gets it

- Legal services organizations are eligible to apply, but SSVF and VETS grants primarily fund human service organizations providing wraparound services (i.e., Volunteers of America).

How would you get it

- In partnership with other human services providers

SSVF Example

Hospital's legal triage keeps roof over veteran's head

When “Clyde” sought medical help from the Philadelphia VA Medical Center, a social worker learned he had fallen behind on his rent and faced eviction from his apartment. The social worker and the SSVF caseworker recognized Clyde’s need for legal help and connected Clyde with an attorney at the SSVF program’s legal aid partner, Homeless Advocacy Project. With the SSVF program providing some of Clyde’s back rent, the attorney negotiated an agreement to stop the eviction in exchange for a lump sum payment for most of the unpaid rent, plus a payment plan to cover the remainder. With his housing stabilized, Clyde was able to focus on his health needs.

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Assistance Formula Funding and Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Grant Programs



VOCA and VAWA

Expansion of Services to Victims of Crime, Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking

Victims of Crime Act (**VOCA**) Victim Assistance Formula Funding: From the DOJ, Office for Victims of Crime (OVC)

- Direct legal assistance to crime victims to address issues direct resulting from victimization
- <https://ojp.gov/ovc/grants/types.html>

Violence Against Women Act (**VAWA**) grant programs: From the DOJ, Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)

- Programs to reduce domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking by strengthening services to victims and holding offenders accountable
- www.justice.gov/ovw/grant-programs

VOCA and VAWA

Types of legal aid VOCA and VAWA funds:

VOCA:

- Comprehensive legal assistance to address the consequences of a person's victimization, including: protective and restraining orders against a stalker or abuser; campus administrative protection or stay away order proceedings; family, custody, contract, housing, and dependency matters for victims of intimate partner violence, child abuse, sexual assault, and elder abuse; immigration assistance for victims of human trafficking and domestic abuse victims; intervention with creditors, law enforcement (e.g., to obtain police reports), and other entities on behalf of victims of identity theft and financial fraud; intervention with administrative agencies, schools/colleges, tribal entities, and divorces.
- OVW also provides discretionary funding for grants to support victims of human trafficking

VAWA Grants:

- Range of supportive legal services to enhance safety for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking including orders of protection, transitional housing assistance, limited immigration matters that may affect a victim's ability to obtain housing, etc.

Accessing VOCA and VAWA grants

Who gets it

- VOCA is distributed to states as a block grant
- VAWA grants fund legal services, state and local entities, and other human service providers

How would you get it

- VOCA: As a direct grantee of the state
- VAWA: As a direct grantee (many VAWA grants have express language for legal services)
- VOCA and VAWA: In partnership with other human services providers

VOCA Example

- Northeast New Jersey Legal Services uses VOCA funds for emergency legal assistance to victims of crime, including: protective orders; child custody and visitation rights as part of the DV protective order; and child and spousal support as part of the DV protective order.
- VOCA funds may also be used to allow victims to file a motion to vacate and/or expunge certain convictions based on their status of being victims, including survivors of human trafficking or sex trafficking who may need their record cleared to gain stability after their victimization.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)



Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

- From the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance
- **The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program is designed to help needy families achieve self-sufficiency**
- Some of your clients may be receiving TANF, but you also can receive some funding from your State's TANF block grants to design and operate programs that accomplish one of the purposes of the TANF program

More information about TANF: acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/programs/tanf/about

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

The four purposes of the TANF program are to:

- Provide assistance to needy families so that children can be cared for in their own homes
- Reduce the dependency of needy parents by promoting job preparation, work and marriage
- Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies
- Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

Types of legal aid TANF funds

- Resolving personal legal problems where they are consistent with one of TANF's purposes (ex. Something that is a threat to family stability or undermines employment)
- Pursuing SSI/SSDI
- Resolve debt and credit
- Housing
- Family law (divorce, adoption, custody, guardianship)
- Driver's license revocation
- Expungement
- Fines/fees
- IEPs

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

Who gets it

- TANF is distributed to states as a block grant

How you would get it

- As a direct grantee of the state
- In partnership with other human services providers

Grants from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)



SAMHSA Grants

- From the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
 - Centers for Substance Abuse Prevention, for Substance Abuse Treatment, and for Mental Health Services
- Funding opportunities vary each year to support programs for substance use disorders and mental illness and reflect SAMHSA priorities
- Recent grants have focused on individuals and families experiencing homelessness

More information about SAMHSA grants: [samhsa.gov/grants](https://www.samhsa.gov/grants)

SAMHSA Grants

Example: Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals

- The purpose of GBHI is to support the development and/or expansion of local implementation of a community infrastructure that integrates:
 - Behavioral health treatment and services for substance use disorders (SUD) and co-occurring mental and substance use disorders (COD)
 - Permanent housing, and
 - Other critical services for individuals (including youth) and families experiencing homelessness

SAMHSA Grants

Example: Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals

- SAMHSA funds will support three primary types of activities:
 1. Behavioral health and other recovery-oriented services;
 2. Coordination of housing and services that support the implementation and/or enhance the long-term sustainability of integrated community systems that provide permanent housing and supportive services to the target population; and
 3. **Efforts to engage and connect clients who experience SUDs or CODs to enrollment resources for:**
 - health insurance
 - Medicaid
 - Mainstream benefits programs (e.g. Supplemental Security Income (SSI)/Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), etc.)

SAMHSA Grants

Who gets it

- Local governments, tribes, tribal organizations, consortia of tribes and tribal organizations, universities and colleges, community-based organizations and faith-based organizations

How you would get it

- As a sub grant from a government entity or other human services organization to provide training or direct services

SAMHSA Grants

Partnership example

- Legal aid contracts with local Alcohol, Drugs and Mental Health (ADAMH) Board
 - Provides training on identifying legal issues and barriers to employment, and related reentry services

American Job Centers and Medical-Legal Partnership



American Job Centers and MLP

AMERICAN JOB CENTERS

- From the Department of Labor, Employment Training Agency (through WIOA)
- Supportive services to help people get good jobs and stay employed
 - Removing barriers to employment - securing driver's licenses; expunging criminal records;
 - creating/modifying child support orders;
 - helping parents obtain or retain custody;
 - helping victims of DV with Pos;
 - Access to/appeals of denials of benefits such as SNAP, financial assistance, Medicaid, unemployment compensation, etc.

MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP

From the Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration

Enabling services for primary care – to address Social Determinants of Health

- Neighborhood and Built Environment;
- Health and Health Care;
- Social and Community Context;
- Education;
- Economic Stability

American Job Centers and MLP

AMERICAN JOB CENTERS

- American Job Centers
- You get it as a subcontract with a Job Center
- Can be broad or narrow – relates to employment

MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP

Community Health Centers

You get it as a subcontract with a CHC

Can be broad or narrow – relates to health (including public health)

American Job Centers and MLP

Partnership example

- Maryland Legal Aid hosts expungement clinics at their Job Center to remove barriers to employment and train staff on spotting issues
- A similar model may support some of your records mitigation work for clients, in order to support obtaining/retaining stable employment

Tips for Funding Partnerships

- 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 services can make overall program more effective and improve outcomes.
- See details in Rebecca Sandefur's *Civil Legal Needs and Public Legal Understanding* research brief: 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 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



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