

with drug-affected infants, and strategies for coping with increasing caseload pressures; development of a benchmark and other educational materials to assist judges in child abuse and neglect cases involving parental substance abuse and in developing appropriate sentences for pregnant substance abusers; tests of the use of a dual diagnostic treatment model for domestic violence cases in which substance abuse was a factor; and presentation of local and regional educational programs for judges and other court personnel on substance abuse and its treatment.

C. Technical Assistance Grants

1. *Description of the Program.* The Board will set aside up to \$400,000 of Fiscal Year 1996 funds to support the provision of technical assistance to State and local courts. The exact amount to be awarded for these grants will depend on the number and quality of the applications submitted in this category and other categories of the Guideline. It is anticipated, however, that at least \$100,000 will be available each quarter to support Technical Assistance grants. The program is designed to provide State and local courts with sufficient support to obtain technical assistance to diagnose a problem, develop a response to that problem, and initiate implementation of any needed changes.

Technical Assistance grants are limited to no more than \$30,000 each, and may cover the cost of obtaining the services of expert consultants, travel by a team of officials from one court to examine a practice, program, or facility in another jurisdiction that the applicant court is interested in replicating, or both. Technical assistance grant funds ordinarily may not be used to support production of a videotape. Normally, the technical assistance must be completed within 12 months after the start-date of the grant.

2. *Eligibility for Technical Assistance Grants.* Only a State or local court may apply for a Technical Assistance grant. As with other awards to State or local courts, cash or in-kind match must be provided equal to at least 50% of the grant amount.

3. *Review Criteria.* Technical Assistance grants will be awarded on the basis of criteria including: whether the assistance would address a critical need of the court; the soundness of the technical assistance approach to the problem; the qualifications of the consultant(s) to be hired, or the specific criteria that will be used to select the consultant(s); commitment on the part of the court to act on the consultant's recommendations; and the

reasonableness of the proposed budget. The Institute also will consider factors such as the level and nature of the match that would be provided, diversity of subject matter, geographic diversity, and the level of appropriations available to the Institute in the current year and the amount expected to be available in succeeding fiscal years.

The Board has delegated its authority to approve these grants to its Technical Assistance Committee.

4. *Application Procedures.* In lieu of formal applications, applicants for Technical Assistance grants may submit, at any time, an original and three copies of a detailed letter describing the proposed project and addressing the issues listed below. Letters from an individual trial or appellate court must be signed by the presiding judge or manager of that court. Letters from the State court system must be signed by the Chief Justice or State Court Administrator.

Although there is no prescribed form for the letter nor a minimum or maximum page limit, letters of application should include the following information to assure that each of the criteria is addressed:

a. *Need for Funding.* What is the critical need facing the court? How will the proposed technical assistance help the court to meet this critical need? Why cannot State or local resources fully support the costs of the required consultant services?

b. *Project Description.* What tasks would the consultant be expected to perform and how would they be accomplished? Who (organization or individual) would be hired to provide the assistance and how was this consultant selected? If a consultant has not yet been identified, what procedures and criteria would be used to select the consultant? (Applicants are expected to follow their jurisdiction's normal procedures for procuring consultant services.) What is the time frame for completion of the technical assistance? How would the court oversee the project and provide guidance to the consultant, and who at the court would be responsible for coordinating all project tasks and submitting quarterly progress and financial status reports?

If the consultant has been identified, a letter from that individual or organization documenting interest in and availability for the project, as well as the consultant's ability to complete the assignment within the proposed time period and for the proposed cost should accompany the applicant's letter. The consultant must agree to submit a detailed written report to the court and

the Institute upon completion of the technical assistance.

c. *Likelihood of Implementation.* What steps have been/will be taken to facilitate implementation of the consultant's recommendations upon completion of the technical assistance? For example, if the support or cooperation of specific court officials or committees, other agencies, funding bodies, organizations, or a court other than the applicant will be needed to adopt the changes recommended by the consultant and approved by the court, how will they be involved in the review of the recommendations and development of the implementation plan?

d. *Budget and Matching State Contribution.* A completed Form E, "Preliminary Budget" (see Appendix V to the Grant Guideline), must be included with the applicant's letter requesting technical assistance. Please note that the estimated cost of the technical assistance services should be broken down into the categories listed on the budget form rather than aggregated under the Consultant/Contractual category. The budget narrative should provide the basis for all project-related costs, including the basis for determining the estimated consultant costs (e.g., number of days per task times the requested daily consultant rate). In addition, the budget should provide for submission of two copies of the consultant's final report to the Institute.

e. *Support for the Project from the State Supreme Court or its Designated Agency or Council.* Written concurrence on the need for the technical assistance must be submitted. This concurrence may be a copy of SJI Form B (see Appendix VI) signed by the Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court or the Chief Justice's designee, or a letter from the State Chief Justice or designee. The concurrence may be submitted with the applicant's letter or under separate cover prior to consideration of the application. The concurrence also must specify whether the State Supreme Court would receive, administer, and account for the grant funds, if awarded, or would designate the local court or a specified agency or council to receive the funds directly.

Letters of application may be submitted at any time; however, all of the letters received during a calendar quarter will be considered at one time. Applicants submitting letters between September 30 and December 22, 1995 will be notified of the Board's decision by March 22, 1996; those submitting letters between December 23, 1995 and March 29, 1996 will be notified by July