



Michigan State Bar Foundation
306 Townsend Street
Lansing, Michigan 48933
800-968-6723
www.msbf.org

- NOTICE -

Applications are invited
for 2004 grants from the
ACCESS TO JUSTICE FUND.

Total estimated funds available are up to \$35,000.
It is anticipated that several grants will be awarded from this total
amount for **one-time, innovative** projects.

See www.msbf.org/grants/atj for:

ATJ Grant Instructions and Criteria
AOJ/ATJ Application Form

**Submit applications electronically by
August 20, 2004 to msbf@msbf.org.**

The Access to Justice Fund supports civil legal services for low-income persons in Michigan. See separate list for ATJ Fund grants awarded previously.

Access to Justice Fund Grants

2001, 2002, & 2003



The generosity of lawyers, judges and others committed to access to justice is helping to build the Access to Justice Fund in Michigan. To date, a total of \$130,000 in ATJ Fund grants have supported 13 innovative civil legal aid projects. The Fund uses earnings from a permanent endowment and undesignated donations for these grants. This support helps nonprofit agencies which assist low-income families who often have no where else to turn for problems such as protection from family violence, recourse from unscrupulous contractors, access to medical care, support for children and other critical civil legal needs. More than 1 million persons in our State live below the poverty level (e.g. \$18,392 for a family of four), and it is estimated only one of five legal needs of the poor can be met with the current level of available resources. The State Bar of Michigan is leading the Access to Justice Campaign to coordinate and support private giving for this important purpose.

Donations are received and managed by the Michigan State Bar Foundation, which also awards ATJ Fund grants, including those listed below.

Legal Aid of Central Michigan (LACM) of Lansing received \$18,794 to assist with start up costs of the Access to Justice Center in the new Ingham County Courthouse.

Legal Services of Northern Michigan (LSNM) will use a \$10,000 Access to Justice Fund grant to design a computer system for communication between clients and attorneys.

The Immigration Assistance Project (IAP) of Kalamazoo received an award to help expand and enhance the panel of pro bono attorneys who assist poor immigrants living in southwest Michigan.

The Legal Aid and Defender Association in Detroit will use an ATJ grant of \$12,795 to fund the translation of legal education materials into Arabic and Spanish designed to better serve non-English speaking clients in Wayne County.

First Step, Western Wayne County's Project on Domestic and Sexual Violence received \$5,000 for the purchase of computer equipment and software to enhance its pro bono program.

Elder Law of Michigan received \$6,000 to enhance a pilot project designed to assist needy elderly in accessing food assistance and other critical benefits.

The Student Advocacy Center received \$20,000 to work with the University of Michigan Law School to develop, train and support a network of attorneys throughout the State who will provide no-or-low-cost representation to low-

income families on education matters affecting school age children.

HAVEN, an Oakland County agency that serves families affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse, received \$10,000 for the translation of program and legal education materials into other languages to help the increased number of non-English speaking clients in that area.

Michigan State University-Detroit College of Law received \$4,000 to help with a web site, which is part of the state's legal aid community LawHelp web template.

Michigan Indian Legal Services was awarded \$6,000 to produce and distribute an Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) manual to assist legal aid programs, courts, libraries, and others and to distribute an ICWA brochure for parents.

Legal Services of Northern Michigan received \$3,000 to purchase a telephone upgrade to give greater access to clients through a voice mail module that meets state technology guidelines and allows more seamless integration with other providers for cooperative services and referrals.

Women's Survival Center (WCS) was awarded a \$20,000 ATJ grant to implement its pro se and family law project. WCS operates in cooperation with other Oakland County providers and courts and for expenses toward implementing PIKA case management systems for which WCS will serve as a pilot site for using/replicating this software in other domestic violence agencies.

Lakeshore Legal Aid (LLA) and its Counsel and Advocacy Law Line (CALL) received \$6,000 for a web access and resource project to expedite services for clients with multiple legal and social needs.

In addition to the undesignated donations which support the grants described above, more than \$1.3 million in contributions designated by Access to Justice donors for a particular legal aid program's operations needs has been distributed to that agency or applied the ATJ Fund endowment. Programs eligible for designated contributions are listed at www.atjfund.org.

The Access to Justice website also includes information on how to make ATJ contributions, an outline of possible tax advantages that may be available and the many options for making lifetime gifts or bequests. For additional information contact Candace Crowley or Lesa Smith at the State Bar of Michigan at 1-800-968-1442.