

JUSTICE FOR ALL PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AWARDS ANNOUNCED

The Justice for All Project, housed at the National Center for State Courts, with key partner SRLN, is pleased to announce grant awards to implement civil justice reforms in seven states where leaders are re-imagining how state courts can be more fair and accessible by ensuring that everyone gets effective assistance for their essential civil legal needs.

Justice for All Strategic Action Planning Leads to Targeted Implementation Efforts

Throughout 2017, the seven Justice for All awardee states (Alaska, Colorado, Georgia, Hawai'i, Massachusetts, Minnesota, and New York) worked with a variety of traditional *and* non-traditional civil justice stakeholders to develop a strategic action plan for state civil justice systems where everyone can get the legal information and help they need, when they need it, and in a form they can use to protect their families, homes and livelihood. Each state inventory assessment and strategic action plan identified targeted areas of action with the potential to significantly improve the accessibility and fairness of state justice systems. The targeted areas and implementation pilots derived from the planning effort were presented to the Justice for All Advisory Committee for funding decisions.

Justice for All Project Goals Reflected in Implementation Awards

The Justice for All Advisory Committee awarded implementation efforts reflective of a sustainable commitment to CCJ/COSCA [Resolution 5](#) and the goals of the Justice for All Project. Justice Laurie Zelon, Associate Justice of the California Court of Appeal and Co-Chair of the Justice for All Advisory Committee, notes "The Advisory Committee was moved by the deep commitment of the awardee states to innovative projects designed to move towards the goals of Justice for All, and to cement that progress with sustainable efforts to provide a foundation for the future." Awarded efforts will embrace new partners with a stake in civil justice reforms and will explore a continuum of meaningful and appropriate services to help people obtain effective assistance. They include:

- Creating a housing pilot in a gateway city to achieve housing stability for households facing eviction before eviction complaints are filed in court (Massachusetts);
- Integrating libraries as legal resource centers (New York and Georgia);
- Developing robust web portal content, design, and supports (Minnesota);
- Instituting targeted litigant supports (plain language forms, simplified procedures, etc.) in debt collection cases (Alaska);
- Creating a consumer debt pilot in a large city to help consumers avert financial crisis or navigate successfully through such a crisis before or after debt collection cases are brought (Massachusetts);
- Convening and training non-traditional civil justice stakeholders to expand and strengthen justice-related capacity and partnerships (Alaska and Hawaii);
- Creating an inter-agency roundtable to better identify, align, and leverage existing resources (Hawaii);
- Using business process and user design concepts to strengthen referrals and triage, resource integration/alignment, and improved community outreach (Colorado).

Awardee states will pursue their implementation pilots throughout 2018 and evaluate how their efforts significantly improved the fairness and accessibility of state civil justice systems. Updates on implementation progress and resources will be made available on the Justice for All website, <http://www.ncsc.org/jifap>. Additional information and resources on Justice for All Project, planning, and the newly-passed CCJ/COSCA Resolution 3, [Expanding Meaningful Access to Justice for All](#), are also posted on the website.