

FY 2009 Wrongful Prosecution Review Program Funding Results

Scope of Program:

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) is pleased to announce the release of funding results for the FY2009 Wrongful Prosecution Review Program solicitation. The purpose of this program is to provide high quality and efficient representation for defendants with post-conviction claims of innocence.

The solicitations had two categories: 1) Representation of Wrongfully Convicted Defendants in Post-conviction Claims of Innocence and 2) Training and Technical Assistance. For category 1, applicants were limited to public and nonprofit organizations and for-profit entities that agreed to waive all profits and fees, and who have experience and expertise in providing representation to wrongfully convicted defendants in post-conviction claims of innocence cases. For category 2, applicants were limited to public and non-profit entities that work to exonerate people who have been wrongfully convicted. The solicitation for funding was released on June 4, 2009 and closed on June 25, 2009.

Review Process:

BJA is committed to ensuring a fair and consistent process for awarding grants. BJA reviews applications to make sure that the information presented is reasonable, understandable, measurable, and achievable, as well as consistent with program and legislative requirements as stated in the solicitation. Applications are initially screened to determine whether the applicants meet all eligibility requirements. Only applications submitted by eligible applicants that meet all other requirements (such as timeliness, proper format, and responsiveness to the scope of the solicitation) will be evaluated, scored, and rated by a peer review panel. A peer reviewer is an expert in the field of the subject matter of a given solicitation. Peer reviewers' ratings and any resulting recommendations are advisory only. In addition to peer review ratings, considerations may include, but are not limited to, underserved populations, geographic and topical diversity, strategic priorities, past performance, fiscal integrity and financial capability of applicants, and available funding. Absent explicit statutory authorization or written delegation of authority to the contrary, all final grant award decisions will be made by the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs.

Funding Sought and Awarded:

BJA received two applications for the T&TA category, seeking a total of \$391,827 in funding. BJA made one Training and Technical Assistance awarded of \$98,371 to the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers to provide support and assistance to the funded public and non-profit entities to support their ability to competently and efficiently litigating post-conviction claims of innocence. This will include providing up to two trainings on such topics as evaluation/screening of cases during intake, forensic re-analysis, expert consultation and testimony, and general litigation issues.

BJA received 32 applications for the site based category, seeking a total of \$6,970,889 in funding. BJA made 11 site-based awards for a total of \$2,475,285 in funding.

Based upon the level of funding available, BJA made awards to approximately 34 percent of the applications.

Feedback and Technical Assistance for Unfunded Applicants:

Applicants who did not get funding under the solicitation will receive written notification. The email will include written comments from the peer reviewers about the applicant's submission, if the applicant was eligible and submitted a responsive application. These comments will be sent to the Authorized Representative on the application. If your organization does not receive the comments, contact BJA at AskBJA@usdoj.gov.

Solicitation	Grantee	State	Award Amount
Wrongful Prosecution Review Program (Category I: Representation of Wrongfully Convicted Defendants)	Boise State University	ID	\$195,705.00
	Innocence Project of Minnesota	MN	\$147,135.00
	Kentucky Department of Public Advocacy	KY	\$182,906.00
	Midwestern Innocence Project, Inc.	MO	\$287,500.00
	Santa Clara University	CA	\$236,673.00
	Thomas M. Cooley Law School	MI	\$149,600.00
	Alaska Innocence Project	AK	\$145,000.00
	Committee for Public Counsel Services	MA	\$561,304.00
	Innocence Project of Florida, Inc	FL	\$195,025.00
	MI State Appellate Defender Office	MI	\$223,797.00
	The Arizona Justice Project, Inc	AZ	\$150,640.00
Wrongful Prosecution Review Program (Category II: Training and Technical Assistance)	National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers	DC	\$98,371.00
Awards: 12	Total Funding:		\$2,573,656.00