



Grants Matrix: State-Administered Federal Funds that can Support Court Access to Justice and Technology Innovations

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This Grants Matrix features high-level summaries of federal block/formula/open-end reimbursement funds (AKA pass-through funds) administered by state (and sometimes local) agency decisionmakers that can include court recipients. These state-administered federal funds can support a range of court-based services, including supported self-help (e.g., court navigators, online legal information, and plain language fillable forms), as well as court partnerships with civil legal aid organizations to develop technology tools, and to provide brief counsel and advice, limited, and/or full representation. Most of the funds can also be used for technology that improves remote access to the courts and the delivery of civil legal assistance or legal information.

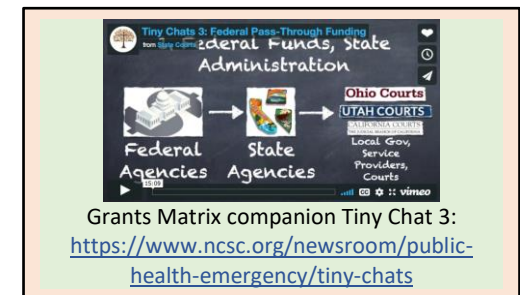
Avoiding here the technical differences among the [different funding mechanisms](#), this Matrix focuses on those [block](#), [formula](#), and [open-end reimbursement grants](#) where the federally-established amounts and spending parameters give states flexibility to tailor spending to local priorities and consider including the courts. Each of the federal funding sources in the Matrix have their own authorizing statute, regulations, formulas, sub-regulatory guidance, and degrees of flexibility.

NOTE: The Helpful tips column includes tips in **orange font** about **COVID-19**-related law (including the CARES Act and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021), agency guidance, or federal financial assistance flexibilities relevant to the funding source. Given the pandemic-related imperative for courts to develop technology tools for remote functions, the Helpful tips column also highlights in **green font** the potential to use funds for **technology**.

This Matrix provides an overview of the following state-administered federal funds that can advance civil justice in the courts:

- AmeriCorps [State and National, VISTA](#) (CNCS)
- [Byrne Justice Assistance Grant](#) (DOJ BJA)
- [Coronavirus Relief Fund](#) (Treasury)
- [Emergency Rental Assistance Program \(ERAP\)](#) (Treasury)
- [Emergency Solutions Grants \(ESG\) program](#) (HUD)
- [Family Violence Prevention and Services Act \(FVPSA\) Formula Grants](#) (HHS FYSB)
- [Homelessness Assistance and Supportive Services Program \(HASSP\)](#) (HUD)
- [Housing Counseling](#) (HUD)
- [State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund \(FRF\)](#) (Treasury)
- [STOP](#) (Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors) Violence Against Women Formula Grant (DOJ OVW)
- [Title IV-B](#) – State Court Improvement Program (HHS CB)
- [Title IV-D](#) – Child Support and Establishment of Paternity, and Parenting Time (Access and Visitation) (HHS OCSE)
- [Title IV-E](#) – Federal Payments for Foster Care and Adoption Assistance (HHS CB)
- [Victims of Crime Act \(VOCA\) Victim Assistance Formula Grants](#) (DOJ OVC)

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Excellent resource for state courts pursuing federal and philanthropic funding opportunities. Technical assistance also available to courts for support and feedback during grant writing and development process. <https://fundingtoolkit.sji.gov>

Funding source	Description	Language regarding legal aid, courts, tech	Examples	Helpful tips
<p>AmeriCorps State and National Grants</p> <p>CFDA# 94.006</p> <p><i>Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)</i></p>	<p>AmeriCorps State and National (AmeriCorps) is a national service program of CNCS, which engages tens of thousands of men and women in intensive community service each year. AmeriCorps provides grants to a broad range of local and national organizations and agencies committed to using service to address compelling community issues. Participating organizations, including nonprofits, courts, public agencies, institutions of higher education, Indian Tribes, and faith-based organizations, enroll AmeriCorps members in an approved national service position and engage them in intensive service.</p> <p>Match requirement: CNCS does not provide all the funds needed to operate the program. There are different requirements for cost sharing or matching depending on different factors. See the FY 2021 AmeriCorps State and National Grants Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for details.</p>	<p>Although the NOFO does not expressly mention courts or legal services, AmeriCorps has a long history of court and legal aid grantees both at the national and state commission levels.</p> <p>Grantees can utilize AmeriCorps grants and members to expand their reach and provide more direct legal help to a greater segment of the community. Some grantees have used AmeriCorps members to provide direct services in a variety of different settings including courthouses, legal aid offices, and law libraries.</p> <p>The 2021 AmeriCorps NOFO identifies the following priority areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efforts to help local communities recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Applicants may propose programming in any CNCS focus area to aid communities as they recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. • Programs that actively engage in removing structural racial inequities, advancing racial equality, and increasing opportunity in order to achieve sustainable change in communities. • Economic Opportunity – a program model that increases economic opportunities for communities by preparing people for the workforce. • Education – see sixth bullet. 	<p>Courts and legal aid providers can use AmeriCorps to provide legal and information services; capacity building, such as recruiting and managing volunteers; completing community assessments; and developing new technology tools, systems, and business processes. Some AmeriCorps members are court-based non-lawyer advocates and navigators, though some programs also include full-time lawyer members.</p> <p>Examples include:</p> <p>California: California JusticeCorps members provide legal information in court-based self-help centers. See The Justice in Government Project’s case study on California’s JusticeCorps program, published with support from The Pew Charitable Trusts.</p> <p>Illinois: Illinois JusticeCorps members help self-represented litigants navigate the courthouse, provide information about legal aid services, and answer general questions about the legal process. See The Justice in Government Project’s case study on Illinois JusticeCorps program, published</p>	<p>Any COVID-19 related spending or administrative flexibilities can be found here.</p> <p>The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 provided an additional \$640 M to AmeriCorps State and National. For additional information, read the announcement from CNCS and see JGP’s ARP Funding Chart.</p> <p>AmeriCorps members can be tasked with supporting/developing technology tools.</p> <p>How do you apply? Courts seeking funding for a single-state program apply through their state commission that then forwards it to CNCS. Each state has its own selection process and decides whether to award a subgrant from its formula grant or to put the application forward to CNCS for competitive funding. Organizations should contact their state commissions to receive the appropriate application materials and to learn about state specific deadlines.</p> <p>How do you find your state administrator? CNCS provides contact information for this</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Futures – a program model that reduces and/or prevents prescription drug and opioid abuse. • Evidence-based interventions on the AmeriCorps Evidence Exchange that are assessed as having Moderate or Strong evidence. • Veterans and Military Families – a program model that positively impacts the quality of life of veterans and improves military family strength. • Rural intermediaries - organizations that demonstrate measurable impact and primarily serve rural communities with limited resources and organizational infrastructure. • Faith-based organizations. • Programs that reduce child poverty. • Environmental stewardship. • Economic Mobility Corps – a joint initiative with the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund to place national service members at Certified Community Development Financial Institutions to enhance their capacity to provide financial literacy, financial planning, budgeting, saving, and other financial counseling activities in distressed and underserved areas. 	<p>with support from The Pew Charitable Trusts.</p> <p>Montana: The AmeriCorps State Justice for Montanans project hosts AmeriCorps members who serve at the Montana Legal Services Association, court-sponsored Self-Help Centers, the Montana Attorney General’s Office of Consumer Protection and Victim Services, and the State Bar Modest Means Program. The members help low- to moderate-income individuals apply for assistance, locate resources, and use available resources to resolve their legal issues.</p> <p>Arizona: Members serve in the Providing Access to Court Services (PACS) program, interacting with court customers in the Maricopa County Superior Court. They provide information at the entry to the court building to people needing help finding something in the court or navigating a court process. PACS members assist court users who are completing and filing petitions for protective orders and paperwork involving child custody and support.</p>	<p>commission and state-specific grant deadlines here.</p> <p>How much funding is available? Find budget information here.</p> <p>Other useful resources: The DOJ FY 2016 Guide to the AmeriCorps State and National Program for Legal Aid Organizations highlights key components of the AmeriCorps program for legal aid organizations.</p> <p>In a January 2020 SRLN webinar on "Funding Sources for Court-based Navigator Programs," Nicole Claro-Quinn (California), Stacey Weiler (Illinois) and Meghan Scott (Montana) discussed the ins and outs of using AmeriCorps funding and provided helpful tips for others considering tapping this resource.</p>

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<p>AmeriCorps VISTA CFDA# 94.013</p> <p><i>Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)</i></p>	<p>AmeriCorps VISTA is the national service program designed to fight poverty. Established as Volunteers in Service to America in 1965, VISTA was incorporated into the AmeriCorps network of programs in 1993. Any public, private, or faith-based nonprofit organization, educational institution, or public agency may sponsor a VISTA. The VISTA program is guided by four core principles: anti-poverty, community engagement, capacity building, and sustainable solutions.</p> <p>VISTAs do not provide direct services, and VISTAs’ duties should not replace or supplant those of paid staff, contractors or existing volunteers. However, VISTAs can perform a wide range of activities that amplify the sponsor’s organizational capacity, such as expanded volunteer recruiting activities, developing new volunteer programs, enhancing website content and functions, drafting and disseminating information for court users, and more.</p> <p>Note: Although applications to sponsor VISTA members are</p>	<p>Legal aid providers, sometimes with a court partner, have used VISTAs to launch, strengthen, or expand programs that increase civil access to justice.</p> <p>VISTAs can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruit volunteer attorneys, law students, and/or non-legal volunteers • Develop and enhance technology resources, including informational materials or websites • Conduct studies and/or surveys • Network and/or develop partnerships with hospitals, schools, public agencies, or other service providers 	<p>Examples of AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers creating new technology resources that benefit court users include:</p> <p>Council on Crime and Justice: VISTAs worked with the courts and other legal services organizations to create an automated document program for expungements; seminars about HotDocs forms at various district court locations; and other online information.</p> <p>Legal Aid Chicago: VISTAs staff the Juvenile Desk, a free walk-in help desk that provides expungement assistance and assistance filing paperwork. The Juvenile Desk assists in 2,000-2,500 expungements per year and partners with the courts, other legal aid programs, universities, and alternative high schools. See NLADA’s Project to Advance Civil Legal Aid Collaborations (PACC) case study on the Juvenile Desk.</p> <p>Minnesota Legal Services: VISTAs updated and enhanced the legal help website LawHelpMN.org, adding hundreds of additional resources to the site, including a “LiveHelp” chat navigational assistance tool, and created</p>	<p>Any COVID-19 related spending or administrative flexibilities can be found here.</p> <p>The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 provided an additional \$80 M to AmeriCorps VISTA. For additional information, see JGP’s ARP Funding Chart.</p> <p>VISTAs can be tasked with supporting/developing technology tools.</p> <p>How do you apply? Applicants submit a brief Concept Paper through eGrants, the CNCS online application and reporting system. Concept papers are reviewed four times throughout the year. Organizations submitting accepted concept papers will be invited to submit a full application. A timeline and general information can be found here. CNCS staff can answer questions and provide technical assistance throughout the project development process.</p> <p>How do you find your state administrator? CNCS provides contact information for state-specific staff here.</p>

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	<p>made through CNCS, it is included in this Grants Matrix of <i>state-administered</i> federal funds because of the technical assistance state-level CNCS staff can provide and because courts and legal aid programs can partner with local or state government agencies to become a sponsoring organization.</p>		<p>versions of the site in Somali and Spanish; and created document assembly court form interviews for pro se litigants.</p> <p>Montana Legal Services State Support: VISTAs helped develop the informational website MontanaLawHelp.org; another website with free tax information; and self-help law kiosks in remote or rural areas with “LiveHelp” chat navigational assistance.</p> <p>Prairie State Legal Services: VISTAs created a mortgage foreclosure helpdesk at an Illinois county courthouse to provide legal information to court users.</p>	<p>Other useful resources: There are extensive resources to assist with the application process located here. It is highly recommended that applicants contact the state CNCS office for guidance before completing the concept paper. DOJ's Guide to the AmeriCorps VISTA Program for Legal Aid Organizations highlights key components of the AmeriCorps VISTA program for legal aid organizations.</p> <p>In a January 2020 SRLN webinar on "Funding Sources for Court-based Navigator Programs," Nicole Claro-Quinn (California), Stacey Weiler (Illinois) and Meghan Scott (Montana) discussed the ins and outs of using AmeriCorps funding and provided helpful tips for others considering tapping this resource.</p>
<p>Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant</p> <p>CFDA# 16.738</p> <p><i>U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)</i></p>	<p>The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program is the primary provider of federal criminal justice funding to states and units of local government. JAG funds awarded to a state under this FY 2020 solicitation may be used to provide additional personnel, equipment, supplies, contractual support, training, technical</p>	<p>In the 2020 Byrne JAG state formula solicitation BJA describes permissible uses of JAG funds: “In general, JAG funds awarded to a state under the FY 2020 program may be used to hire additional personnel and/or purchase equipment, supplies, contractual support, training, technical assistance, and information systems for criminal justice, including for any one or more of the following program areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law enforcement programs 	<p>States have used Bryne JAG funding to support victims’ services and assist with reentry.</p> <p>Courts use Byrne JAG funds for a wide array of activities including problem solving and specialty courts</p> <p>Texas: The Dallas One-Stop Optimized Reentry System (DOORS) coordinates the reentry</p>	<p>CARES Act: Appropriated \$850 million for a Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program (CESF). CESF assists states, local governments, and tribes in preventing, preparing for, and responding to the coronavirus. Byrne JAG administrators apply for and administer the state allocation of CESF funding, following the Byrne JAG formula allocation</p>

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	<p>assistance, and information systems for criminal justice.</p> <p>Match requirement: None</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosecution and court programs • Prevention and education programs • Corrections and community corrections programs • Drug treatment and enforcement programs • Planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs • Crime victim and witness programs (other than compensation) • Mental health programs and related law enforcement and corrections programs, including behavioral programs and crisis intervention teams.” <p>The description provides for additional uses including to "assist victims of crime."</p> <p>Although the 2020 solicitation emphasizes criminal justice, Byrne JAG is included in this Grants Matrix because it allows for the civil needs of crime victims as well as the courts' needs for technology. It historically has been used for reentry programs, including those that address civil legal issues.</p>	<p>of offenders with mental illness released from the jail into the community. They partner with local agencies to link those re-entering with local service providers, such as legal aid.</p> <p>Ohio: A domestic violence shelter in Lucas County. Ohio provides services to survivors of domestic violence. Services include assisting with the application process for benefits, children’s assessments and programming, education, community awareness, court advocacy and assistance with protection orders, transportation, support groups, and a safe space for endangered pets.</p> <p>Kansas Judicial Branch used \$1.6 M CESE funds for a new email system, mobile friendly statewide web portal, new computer terminals in courthouses and other public spaces for self-represented litigants without internet access.</p> <p>Ohio: Ohio State Legal Services Association received nearly \$60,000 in CESE funds to add protective plexi-glass windows in their reception areas, hand-sanitizing stations in all 8 offices,</p>	<p>mechanism. See allocations by state here.</p> <p>The solicitation describes permissible uses of funds: "Funds awarded under the CESE Program must be utilized to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus. Allowable projects and purchases include, but are not limited to, overtime, equipment (including law enforcement and medical personal protective equipment), hiring, supplies (such as gloves, masks, sanitizer), training, travel expenses (particularly related to the distribution of resources to the most impacted areas), and addressing the medical needs of inmates in state, local, and tribal prisons, jails, and detention centers."</p> <p>How do you find your state administrator? National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) has a directory of state administrators here.</p> <p>Other useful resources: NCJA has background information about Byrne JAG funds here, including problem solving and specialty courts here.</p>

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<p>Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF)</p> <p><i>U.S. Department of the Treasury</i></p>	<p>The Coronavirus Relief Fund, made available under section 601(a) of the Social Security Act as added by section 5001 of the CARES Act, provides for payments to State, Local, and Tribal governments navigating the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak. The CRF was established with \$150 billion. Treasury will make payments from the CRF to States and eligible units of local government; the District of Columbia and U.S. Territories (the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands); and Tribal governments (collectively “governments”).</p> <p>The \$150 billion includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$139 billion to 50 states based on their population (no state receives less than \$1.25 billion) • \$8 billion for governments in tribal areas • \$3 billion to territories, including D.C. 	<p>Coronavirus Relief Fund recipients have broad discretion to make payments for programs that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19; (2) were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020 for the State or government; and (3) were incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020 and ends on December 30, 2020. <p>Government recipients could potentially use these funds for courts-related expenditures that meet the three criteria.</p>	<p>additional webcams for remote work, PPEs and cleaning supplies and equipment for all offices.</p> <p>Kansas: Kansas Judicial Branch received \$3.52 million in CRF funds to help district courts secure personal protective equipment (PPE) and remote technology, as well as to create projects launching December 2020, including an online marriage license application system, a text notification system for parties and jurors, and access to virtual hearings statewide through the Kansas Judicial Branch website.</p> <p>See The Justice in Government Project’s case studies on the Kansas Judicial Branch and New Hampshire Supreme Court use of CARES Act authorized funds, including CRF, published with support from The Pew Charitable Trusts.</p> <p>New Hampshire: In May 2020, the New Hampshire Supreme Court received \$1.5 million in CRF to adopt technology innovations and pivot NH courts’ day-to-day operations online. The successful CRF proposal covered costs to handle in-person proceedings, as well as hardware and software</p>	<p>U.S. Department of the Treasury description of the program is here.</p> <p>The Consolidated Appropriations Act signed into law December 27, 2020 extended the date by which state and local governments must spend CRF funding from December 30, 2020 to December 31, 2021.</p> <p>How much funding is available? Some jurisdictions have spent their full allocations, however it is worth confirming. Find original funding allocations to states and local governments here. See also the National Conference of State Legislatures’ Map of State Actions on CRF funds.</p> <p>How do you apply? States develop their own process so start with your Governor's office.</p> <p>Other useful resources: The National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel (NCCRC) has collected examples of CRF funds (as well as other CARES Act authorized funding streams, e.g., CDBG, ESG) and Emergency Rental Assistance</p>

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	<p>Match requirement: None</p>		<p>that enabled staff to work remotely, remote testing, transportation, and related services for drug court clients. The CRF funds also enabled a “virtual courthouse” for non-emergency matters, including Webex for remote oral arguments and hearings, livestreaming to ensure public access to proceedings, and equipment for staff to work from home and provide assistance to self-represented litigants.</p> <p>Nevada: Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada received \$400,000 in Coronavirus Relief Funds from Clark County to run a Small Business Legal Advice Project and to provide advice and counsel to any independent contractor or business facing evictions, garnishments, and other civil legal needs in their court-based Civil Law Self Help Center.</p>	<p>Program funds used for legal aid here.</p>
<p>Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)</p> <p><i>U.S. Department of the Treasury</i></p>	<p>The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA Act), signed December 27, 2020, created the ERAP with \$25 B (now referred to as ERAP 1). The ARP builds upon this critical relief to reduce evictions by providing an <i>additional</i> \$21.6 B in emergency rental assistance for</p>	<p>SEC. 3201. EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE.</p> <p>(a) Funding.—</p> <p>(1) APPROPRIATION. In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary of the Treasury for fiscal year 2021, ... \$21,550,000,000, to remain available until <u>September 30, 2027</u> [but see Helpful tips column], for making</p>	<p>See the National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel’s (NCCRC) list of legal aid organizations that have secured ERAP funding for tenant representation.</p> <p>For examples of legal aid programs tapping CARES Act funds to help tenants facing eviction see this article.</p>	<p>Treasury guidance and FAQs for ERAP 1 and 2 can be found here.</p> <p>National Association of Counties’ (NACo) webinar, “Emergency Rental Assistance Programs: Understanding ERAP I and ERAP II”, explains the differences and similarities between the two ERAPs, including spend deadlines, use of</p>

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	<p>low-income renters who have lost income or are experiencing other hardship and risk losing their housing (now referred to as ERAP 2).</p> <p>Guidance published by the former administration’s Treasury Department regarding ERAP 1 and 2, was updated on June 24, 2021 clarifying that both allow for up to 10% of any state or local grant to be used for “housing stability services” including “legal services or attorney’s fees related to eviction proceedings and maintaining housing stability.”</p>	<p>payments to eligible grantees under this section—</p> <p>...</p> <p>(d) Use of funds.—</p> <p>(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible grantee shall only use the funds provided from payments made under this section as follows:</p> <p>(A) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—</p> <p>(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii) of this subparagraph, funds received by an eligible grantee from payments made under this section shall be used to provide financial assistance to eligible households, not to exceed 18 months, including the payment of—</p> <p>(I) rent;</p> <p>(II) rental arrears;</p> <p>(III) utilities and home energy costs;</p> <p>(IV) utilities and home energy costs arrears; and</p> <p>(V) other expenses related to housing, as defined by the Secretary.</p> <p>...</p> <p>(B) HOUSING STABILITY SERVICES.—</p> <p>Not more than 10 percent of funds received by an eligible grantee from payments made under this section may be used to provide case management and other services intended to help keep households stably housed.</p> <p>(C) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Not more than 15 percent of the total amount paid to an eligible grantee under this section may be used for</p>		<p>funds, and best practices and avoiding pitfalls in administration.</p> <p>National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel (NCCRC) held a webinar highlighting ERAP legal aid work underway in Michigan, Rhode Island, Cleveland, and Long Beach and Santa Ana California - a recording can be found here.</p> <p>The National Council of State Housing Agencies (NCSHA) prepared Administration of the Federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program: Considerations for State Agencies, that mentions "potential expenses states may want to consider counting toward significant costs, and that may contribute to financial hardship" including "...legal costs associated with rental or utility arrears", and examples of partners for outreach as local court systems and legal aid.</p> <p>NCSHA frequently updates its map of state agency ERAP administrators.</p> <p>Section 3201(a)(1) of the Act states that funds are available to the Treasury through September 30, 2027. However, § 3201(g) of the Act</p>

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		<p>administrative costs attributable to providing financial assistance, housing stability services, and other affordable rental housing and eviction prevention activities, including for data collection and reporting requirements related to such funds.</p> <p>(D) OTHER AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING AND EVICTION PREVENTION ACTIVITIES.—An eligible grantee may use any funds from payments made under this section that are unobligated on October 1, 2022, for purposes in addition to those specified in this paragraph, provided that—</p> <p>(i) such other purposes are affordable rental housing and eviction prevention purposes, as defined by the Secretary, serving very low-income families (as such term is defined in section 3(b) of the United States Housing Act of 1937...)</p> <p>GUIDANCE LANGUAGE:</p> <p>FAQ 23 expressly allows legal services:</p> <p>"23. ERA1 and ERA2 both allow for up to 10 percent of the funds received by a grantee to be used for certain housing stability services. What are some examples of these services?</p> <p>ERA1 and ERA2 have different requirements for housing stability services.</p> <p>Under ERA1, these funds may be used to provide eligible households with case</p>		<p>provides that funds shall remain available through September 30, 2025. According to the Congressional Research Service, "Funding provided through P.L.117-2 is available until September 30, 2025."</p> <p>To help make the evidence-based case for why pandemic relief funds should include legal aid to keep people housed, see this curated collection of key research findings and this February 2021 issue of the JGP-NLADA newsletter <i>Just Research</i>.</p>

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		<p>management and other services related to the COVID-19 outbreak, as defined by the Secretary, intended to help keep households stably housed.</p> <p><i>Under ERA2, these services do not have to be related to the COVID-19 outbreak. For purposes of ERA1 and ERA2, housing stability services include those that enable eligible households to maintain or obtain housing. Such services may include, among other things, eviction prevention and eviction diversion programs; mediation between landlords and tenants; housing counseling; fair housing counseling; housing navigators or promotoras that help households access ERA programs or find housing; case management related to housing stability; housing-related services for survivors of domestic abuse or human trafficking; legal services or attorney's fees related to eviction proceedings and maintaining housing stability; and specialized services for individuals with disabilities or seniors that support their ability to access or maintain housing. Grantees using ERA funds for housing stability services must maintain records regarding such services and the amount of funds provided to them."</i></p> <p>FAQ 36 speaks directly to courts: "36. What steps can ERA grantees take to prevent evictions for nonpayment of rent?"</p>		

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		<p>Treasury strongly encourages grantees to develop <i>partnerships with courts</i> in their jurisdiction that adjudicate evictions for nonpayment of rent to help prevent evictions and develop eviction diversion programs. For example, grantees should consider: (1) providing information to judges, magistrates, court clerks, and other relevant court officials about the availability of assistance under ERA programs and housing stability services; (2) working with eviction courts to provide information about assistance under ERA programs to tenants and landlords as early in the adjudication process as possible; and (3) engaging providers of legal services and other housing stability services to assist households against which an eviction action for nonpayment of rent has been filed."</p>		
<p>Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program CFDA# 14.231 <i>U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development, Office of Special</i></p>	<p>The ESG program provides funding to (1) engage homeless individuals and families living on the street; (2) improve the number and quality of emergency shelters for homeless individuals and families; (3) help operate these shelters; (4) provide essential services to shelter residents; (5) rapidly rehouse homeless individuals and families; and (6) prevent families/individuals from becoming homeless.</p>	<p>ESG funds may be used for five program components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Street outreach, including engagement, case management, emergency health and mental health services, transportation, and services for special populations 2. Emergency shelter, including case management, child care, education services, employment assistance and job training, outpatient health services, legal services, and others 3. Homelessness prevention, including rental assistance, financial 	<p>Michigan: Legal Services of South Central Michigan (LSSCM) received \$212,410 of Washtenaw County's CARES Act ESG allocation to cover Year 1 staffing and up to 4.6 percent of administrative costs to develop and implement an Eviction Prevention Project to reduce evictions in the county during and after the COVID-19 crisis. The Project will, among other things, convene virtual legal clinics for county residents at risk of eviction, enhance access to</p>	<p>CARES Act: Appropriated an additional \$1 billion to the ESG program in April to build and operate additional emergency shelters, provide motel/hotel vouchers for homeless individuals and families, prevent individuals from becoming homeless, and provide services to people experiencing homelessness, including legal services. State and grantee allocations can be found here.</p>

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Needs Assistance Programs	<p>ESG is a formula grant program and eligible recipients generally consist of metropolitan cities, urban counties, territories, and states, as defined in 24 CFR 576.2. The ESG funding formula is based on geographic size, population, and poverty rates. All recipients must consult with the Continuum(s) of Care operating in the jurisdiction to determine how to subgrant ESG funds.</p> <p>Match requirements: Metropolitan cities and urban county recipients must match grant funds with an equal amount of contributions, which may include cash, donated buildings or materials, and volunteer services. States must match all but \$100,000 of their awards, but must pass on the benefits of that \$100,000 exemption to their subrecipients that are at least capable of providing match amounts. Territories are exempt from the match requirement. See 24 CFR 576.201.</p>	<p>assistance, and services such as landlord-tenant mediation and tenant legal services</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Rapid re-housing assistance, including rental assistance, financial assistance, and services including tenant legal services and credit repair, and 5. Data collection through the Homeless Management Information System <p>Allowable legal services are defined in 24 CFR 576.102(a)(1)(vi) under "Essential services." See pg. 16 of HUD's Notice CPD-20-08.</p>	<p>legal services through online intake, and engage with local courts to promote eviction diversion.</p>	<p>ESG received an additional allocation of \$2.96 billion from HUD in June 2020.</p> <p>All HUD guidance including funding and award information, program notices and waivers, FAQs, and webinars related to ESG and COVID-19 can be found here.</p> <p>NOTE: HUD's Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs invites homeless assistance providers and their partners to participate in weekly Office Hours to discuss COVID-19 planning and response on Fridays from 2:30-4:00 PM EDT. Information is here.</p> <p>How do you find your state administrator and available funding? To find contact information, report awards, jurisdiction, and other data for organizations that receive HUD funding, go here.</p> <p>Other useful resources: To find previous ESG awards, go here.</p> <p>HUD has compiled ESG FAQs here.</p>
Family Violence Prevention and	<p>The Family Violence Prevention and Services (FVPSA) formula grants to states and territories</p>	<p>FVSPA provides by statute for "legal advocacy to assist victims and their dependents." Legal advocacy is listed as a</p>	<p>Several states have funded court advocate programs, direct legal</p>	<p>Funds could potentially be used for technology tools that improve</p>

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<p>Services Formula Grants (FVPSA)</p> <p>CFDA# 93.671</p> <p><i>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children & Families (ACF), Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB)</i></p>	<p>fund more than 1,600 local public, private, nonprofit and faith-based organizations and programs demonstrating effectiveness in the field of domestic violence services and prevention.</p> <p>The funds can be used for shelter, safety planning, crisis counseling, information and referrals, legal advocacy, and additional support services. Court-based advocacy and court-accompaniment services are also reported uses of FVPSA funds.</p> <p>Match requirement: Subgrantees that receive funding must provide a nonfederal match—of not less than \$1 for every \$5 of federal funding—directly from the state or through donations from public or private entities. The matching funds can be in cash or in kind.</p> <p>CARES Act supplemental FVPSA funds do not require a match, see Helpful tips column.</p>	<p>funding area on the FYSB website and legal assistance, legal advocacy, legal responses, as well as court accompaniment and court advocacy are reported uses of FVPSA in the HHS Guide for State and Territorial Administrators.</p> <p>The Guide explains that "FVPSA is the primary funding stream for local domestic violence programs to provide core services, including crisis response, safe housing, advocacy, counseling, legal assistance, safety planning and comprehensive support."</p> <p>Legal assistance and advocacy are also listed in the definitions section of the guide under Supportive Services: "Supportive services include ... Legal advocacy to provide victims with information and assistance through the civil and criminal courts, and legal assistance."</p>	<p>services, and legal service referral systems with FVPSA, including:</p> <p>Minnesota: The Battered Women's Justice Project provides trainings to community members to better refer survivors of domestic violence to civil justice options and quality legal representation.</p> <p>Idaho: FVPSA funds the Women and Children's Alliance, which offers a 24-hour crisis line, legal advocacy, child care, and a court advocate program that assists survivors with protective orders, attending court proceedings, and support.</p>	<p>domestic violence services and prevention.</p> <p>CARES Act: provided \$45 million for Family Violence and Prevention Services formula grants <i>without a matching requirement for funds</i>.</p> <p>The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 provided an additional \$180 M for emergency shelter, housing, and other emergency supports, \$18 M for tribes, and \$49.5 M for culturally-specific survivor services. For more information, see press releases from the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) and the National Domestic Violence Hotline. For more information, see JGP's ARP Funding Chart.</p> <p>ACF collects pandemic-related flexibilities and guidance here.</p> <p>FYSB has guidance regarding COVID-19 FVPSA funds and flexibilities here.</p> <p>How do you find your state administrator? FYSB lists the state administration offices and their respective websites here.</p> <p>How much funding is available?</p>

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				<p>Find FVPSA background and funding information here (pre-COVID-19).</p> <p>Note: The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges operates the FVPSA-funded Child Protection and Custody Resource Center.</p> <p>Report: Congressional Research Service published a report on the <i>Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA): Background and Funding April 4, 2019</i> here.</p>
<p>Homelessness Assistance and Supportive Services Program (HASSP)</p> <p><i>U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development</i></p>	<p>ARP allocated \$5 B to help create housing and services for people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Funding to be distributed using the HOME Investment Partnerships Act Program formula:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 60% to metropolitan cities, urban counties, and consortia that receive more than the minimum funding (minimum allocation \$500,000) - 40% to states, including D.C. and Puerto Rico (minimum allocation (\$750,000) 	<p>SEC. 3205. HOMELESSNESS ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES PROGRAM.</p> <p>(a) Appropriation.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (in this section referred to as the “Secretary”) for fiscal year 2021, ... \$5,000,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, except that amounts authorized under subsection (d)(3) shall remain available until September 30, 2029, for assistance under title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12721 et seq.) for the following activities to primarily benefit qualifying individuals or families:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Tenant-based rental assistance. (2) The development and support of affordable housing pursuant to section 212(a) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National 		<p>For the National Council of State Housing Agencies (NCSHA) analysis of HASSP go here.</p> <p>For National Low-Income Housing Coalition's (NLHC) state/territory breakdown on allocations go here.</p> <p>See also JGP’s ARP Funding Chart.</p>

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		<p>Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12742(a)) (“the Act” herein).</p> <p>(3) Supportive services to qualifying individuals or families not already receiving such supportive services, including—</p> <p>(A) activities listed in section 401(29) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360);</p> <p>(B) housing counseling; and</p> <p>(C) homeless prevention services.</p>		
<p>Housing Counseling</p> <p><i>U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)</i></p>	<p>ARP allocated \$100 M to HUD’s housing counseling program. See HUD’s overview of the housing counseling program here.</p>	<p>SEC. 3204. HOUSING COUNSELING.</p> <p>(a) Appropriation.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation (in this section referred to as the “Corporation”) for fiscal year 2021, ... \$100,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, for grants to housing counseling intermediaries approved by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, State housing finance agencies, and NeighborWorks organizations for providing housing counseling services, as authorized under the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation Act (42 U.S.C. 8101–8107) and consistent with the discretion set forth in section 606(a)(5) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 8105(a)(5)) to design and administer grant programs. Of the grant funds made available under this subsection, not less than 40 percent shall</p>		<p>Courts can collaborate with housing counseling programs. Some legal aid organizations also provide housing counseling services.</p> <p>See also JGP’s ARP Funding Chart.</p>

Funding source	Description	Language regarding legal aid, courts, tech	Examples	Helpful tips
		<p>be provided to counseling organizations that—</p> <p>(1) target housing counseling services to minority and low-income populations facing housing instability; or</p> <p>(2) provide housing counseling services in neighborhoods having high concentrations of minority and low-income populations.</p> <p>(b) Limitation.—The aggregate amount provided to NeighborWorks organizations under this section shall not exceed 15 percent of the total of grant funds made available by subsection (a).</p> <p>...</p> <p>(d) Housing Counseling Services Defined.— For the purposes of this section, the term “housing counseling services” means—</p> <p>(1) housing counseling provided directly to households facing housing instability, such as eviction, default, foreclosure, loss of income, or homelessness;</p> <p>(2) education, outreach, training, technology upgrades, and other program related support; and</p> <p>(3) operational oversight funding for grantees and subgrantees that receive funds under this section.</p>		
State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (FRF)	FRF is the largest and most flexible source of ARP funds to help states, counties, cities and tribal governments cover increased expenditures, replenish	Sec. 602. CORONAVIRUS STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND. ... (c) Requirements.—	Many legal aid programs and courts received CARES Act-authorized Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) for a wide array of pandemic-related needs including	Although FRF's criteria is somewhat different from the CARES Act's Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF), like CRF it is the largest allocation of stimulus funds for state and local

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<p><i>U.S. Department of the Treasury</i></p>	<p>lost revenue and mitigate economic harm from the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>State and local government recipients can use funds to cover costs incurred by <u>December 31, 2024</u>. 50% will be delivered no later than 60 days from the date of enactment, and the remainder delivered no earlier than one year later. States will distribute funds to smaller towns within 30 days of receiving their payments from Treasury.</p> <p>Estimated breakdown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State FRF: \$219.8 B • Local FRF: \$130.2 B • Territories: \$4.5 B • Tribes: \$20 B • Metropolitan cities: \$45.57 B • Non-entitlement local governments (allocated by states): \$19.53 B • Counties: \$65.1 B (some could be allocated by states) 	<p>(1) USE OF FUNDS.—...a State, territory, or Tribal government shall only use the funds provided under a payment made under this section,..., to cover costs incurred by the State, territory, or Tribal government, by December 31, 2024—</p> <p>(A) to respond to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19) or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality;</p> <p>(B) to respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID–19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers of the State, territory, or Tribal government that are performing such essential work, or by providing grants to eligible employers that have eligible workers who perform essential work;</p> <p>(C) for the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue of such State, territory, or Tribal government due to the COVID–19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year of the State, territory, or Tribal government prior to the emergency; or</p> <p>(D) to make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.</p>	<p>technology tools to provide remote services (see New Hampshire and Kansas courts), eviction defense and diversion programs, foreclosure prevention, domestic violence, and other legal needs. For examples, see this article.</p>	<p>governments, and use of FRF \$ is even <i>more</i> flexible.</p> <p>Legal aid providers and courts will be best positioned to secure more significant FRF funds by proposing big ideas to solve pandemic-related problems. This is the time to be bold, get out of silos, and collaborate to ensure services are widely available to solve people's civil justice problems.</p> <p>Proposals should be related to governmental and related mitigation efforts in the areas identified in (c)(1)(A) – (C).</p> <p>State, county, and (many) city governments will receive a share of FRF so there are multiple potential funders for civil justice partners.</p> <p>See the House Committee on Oversight and Reform’s spreadsheet of estimated funding allocations for states, counties, metropolitan cities, and other non-counties. The Center for Community Progress has also created a live, interactive funding map using these allocation estimates, available here.</p>

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		<p>SEC. 603. CORONAVIRUS LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUND. [Use of funds language] mirrors Sec. 602 for states.]</p>		<p>See National Conference of State Legislatures overview of FRF here.</p> <p>The offices/decisionmakers administering CRF \$ will likely also oversee FRF. Start there.</p>
<p>STOP (Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors) Violence Against Women Formula Grant</p> <p>CFDA# 16.588</p> <p><i>U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)</i></p>	<p>STOP (Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors) Violence Against Women Formula Grants are awarded to states to develop and strengthen the criminal justice system’s response to violence against women and to support and enhance services for victims. Each state and territory must allocate 25 percent of the grant funds for law enforcement, 25 percent for prosecution, 5 percent to courts, and 30 percent for victim services. The remaining 15 percent is discretionary within the parameters of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).</p> <p>STOP grants are authorized by VAWA and subsequent legislation to support communities, including American Indian tribes and Alaska Native villages, in their efforts to develop and strengthen effective responses to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking. VAWA also funds three other formula grant programs—Sexual</p>	<p>In 2016, OVW published a rule that included clarification about legal services and specifically mentions courts in § 90.17(a): “Funds granted to qualified States are to be further subgranted by the State to agencies, offices, and programs including, but not limited to, State agencies and offices; State and local courts; units of local government; public agencies; Indian tribal governments; victim service providers; community-based organizations; and legal services programs to carry out programs and projects to develop and strengthen effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies to combat violent crimes against women, and to develop and strengthen victim services in cases involving violent crimes against women, and specifically for the purposes listed in 42 U.S.C. 3796gg(b) and according to the allocations specified in 42 U.S.C. 3796gg–1(c)(4) for law enforcement, prosecution, victim services, and courts.”</p> <p>Technology would be allowed under "other resources" referenced in 34 U.S.C. 10441(b) which governs the purpose</p>	<p>In addition to the five percent for courts, states have funded legal aid organizations that support victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. STOP rules also allow courts to use their funds to partner with legal aid programs.</p> <p>Legal aid examples include:</p> <p>Maine: Pine Tree Legal Assistance used STOP funding to support victims of domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking in the Bridgeton and West Bath District Courts, which are in rural areas, on a regular basis.</p> <p>Kentucky: KY regularly awards STOP funding to regional legal aid providers. Kentucky’s state implementation plan for 2019-2020, notes that "typical agencies funded through VAWA STOP dollars include legal aid offices, shelters for victims of intimate partner violence, sexual assault programs, Sexual Assault Nurse</p>	<p>STOP funds can be used for technology tools to improve victim services.</p> <p>All OVW COVID-19 guidance is here.</p> <p>How do you find your state administrator? OVW has a STOP Administrator contact list, for each state’s primary and secondary contact.</p> <p>How much funding is available? Find each state’s FY2019 STOP Formula Grant amount here.</p> <p>Other useful resources: The National Center for Juvenile and Family Court Judges has information to help OVW grantees strategize about support and advocacy to survivors during the COVID-19 crisis at its OVW- funded TA Providers Resource Center here.</p> <p>Violence Against Women Act Measuring Effectiveness Initiative, funded by OVW, maintains a</p>

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	<p>Assault Services Program, Grants to state sexual assault and Domestic Violence Coalitions, and Grants to Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Tribal Coalitions Program.</p> <p>The FY 2021 STOP Formula Grant Program solicitation is here.</p> <p>Match requirement: STOP Formula Funds generally require a 25 percent match. Victim service providers and tribes are always exempt from the match.</p>	<p>areas and specifies that “grants...shall provide personnel, training, technical assistance, data collection and other resources for the more widespread apprehension, prosecution, and adjudication of persons committing violent crimes against women [and] for the protection and safety of victims.”</p> <p>The U.S. DOJ's frequently asked questions regarding STOP Formula Grants references legal aid and courts, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “[S]tates can now provide a full range of legal services, such as housing, family law, public benefits, and other similar matters.” • Courts can receive funds but then subcontract some or all of them to another entity such as a victim service provider for all or part of a project. This could potentially include court-related technology needs. • States must consult and coordinate with various stakeholders including courts to develop the state implementation plan. <p>The 2020 STOP Formula Grant Program solicitation identifies 20 purpose areas, several of which specifically reference courts: training court personnel; developing and implementing more effective court policies, protocols, orders,</p>	<p>Examiner (SANE) organizations, prosecutor’s offices, law enforcement agencies, and administrative offices with missions to end violence.”</p> <p>The Justice in Government Project, supported by The Pew Charitable Trusts, published a case study about how six state courts have used STOP funding to enhance remote services through innovations including e-filing, online hubs of resources for petitioners and self-represented litigants, and informational videos on the court process for obtaining orders for protection.</p>	<p>website with information about all OVW grants, relevant webinars and reports, and other tools and resources regarding VAWA-authorized funds. Find STOP Formula Grant Program information here.</p>

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		and services; developing, installing, or expanding data collection and communication systems, including computerized systems for courts; domestic violence court advocates; formal and informal statewide, multidisciplinary efforts that include courts; and developing, enlarging, or strengthening programs to assist courts addressing the needs of older and disabled women.		
<p>Title IV-B – State Court Improvement Program (CIP)</p> <p>CFDA# 93.586</p> <p><i>U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children & Families (ACF), Children’s Bureau (CB)</i></p>	<p>Title IV-B Part 2 of the Social Security Act (Title IV-B) includes a set-aside program that provides three grant opportunities to state courts to improve court efficiency and the quality of legal representation: 1) a basic grant for assessment work; 2) a grant for data collection and analysis; and 3) a grant to increase training of court personnel, including cross training with agency staff. The program provides state courts flexibility to design assessments which identify barriers to timely and effective decision-making, highlight practices which are not fully successful, examine areas they find to be in need of correction or added attention, and then implement reforms which address the state courts specific needs. State courts are required</p>	<p>CIP funds are expressly for courts.</p>		<p>The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 signed into law December 27, 2020 reserved \$10 million from the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program for the Court Improvement Project, with \$500,000 reserved for Tribal court improvements. These funds can be used for technology investments, trainings to facilitate remote hearings, and other court programs to help families avoid delays in legal proceedings as a result of COVID-19.</p> <p>CB has communicated through several COVID-19-related letters numerous flexibilities including for technology that can be found here.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See also NCSC Tiny Chat 4: Digital Divide at 12:30. <p>ACF COVID-19 Guidance is here.</p>

Funding source	Description	Language regarding legal aid, courts, tech	Examples	Helpful tips
	<p>to collaborate with the state child welfare agency and tribes in this work. The program also provides funds annually for a Tribal Court Improvement Program.</p> <p>The Family First Prevention Services Act extended all three CIP grants (basic, data, and training) through FY 2021.</p> <p>Match requirement: A non-federal share is required for each CIP grant at the rate of 25 percent of the total budget. For example, a project totaling \$100,000 would require a state court contribution of \$25,000 to receive federal funds totaling \$75,000. There is no match requirement for the Tribal Court Improvement Program.</p>			<p><i>ACF Program Flexibilities on IT and PPE to support State, Local and Tribal Human Services Workforce during COVID-19 Response</i> document summarizes "virtual workforce" specific flexibilities for Title IV-B and Title IV-E here.</p> <p>How do you find your state administrator? The highest state court of appeal applies to the CB for these funds. Consider contacting the Regional Liaison for the Capacity Building Center for the Courts to find your CIP.</p> <p>Other useful resources: An overview of CIP is at pages 26-30 of Congressional Research Service (CRS) report, Child Welfare: Funding for Child and Family Services Authorized Under Title IV-B of the Social Security Act. CRS provided updated information in this April 29, 2019 memorandum.</p>
<p>Title IV-D – Child Support and Establishment of Paternity</p> <p>CFDA# 93.563</p> <p><i>U.S. Department of Health & Human Services,</i></p>	<p>Title IV-D of the Social Security Act (Title IV-D) establishes a state-federal partnership to provide child support services. States must have a single statewide agency that receives the federal funding and administers the program. States are permitted to fund local jurisdictions, enter cooperative</p>	<p>In December 2016, OCSE published the Final Rule: Flexibility, Efficiency, and Modernization in Child Support Enforcement Programs. This final rule made changes to strengthen the child support enforcement program and update practices to increase regular, on-time payments to families, to increase the number of noncustodial parents</p>	<p>Several states including Maryland, Michigan, California, Alaska, Minnesota, and Oregon have experience using Title IV-D funds for self-help services.</p> <p>Michigan: Ottawa County, Michigan utilized Title IV-D funding to launch a set of online dispute resolution (ODR) tools</p>	<p>Title IV-D funds can be used for technology tools.</p> <p>ACF and OCSE COVID-19 Guidance is here.</p> <p>Find flexibilities for supporting a virtual workforce during COVID-19 here.</p>

Funding source	Description	Language regarding legal aid, courts, tech	Examples	Helpful tips
<p><i>Administration for Children & Families (ACF), Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE)</i></p>	<p>agreements with others like law enforcement or state courts to provide IV-D child support services. A Title IV-D case is one in which a parent is either now or may eventually receive services under Title IV-D, such as a parent who receives TANF, Medicaid, or foster care payments.</p> <p>Match requirement: Under Title IV-D, the federal government reimburses states \$2 for every \$3 the state spends on eligible program costs for providing child support services.</p>	<p>supporting their children, and to improve program operations.</p> <p>One of those changes clarifies that states can use Title IV-D funding for self-help services. Background for the rule’s language regarding pro se services can be found in this OCSE factsheet about Access to Justice Innovations: “Providing information to pro se parents helps ensure that parents understand the child support process, know what to expect in the child support process, and provide accurate financial information.”</p> <p>In final rule, 45 C.F.R. 304.20 (b) (3) (vi), HHS clarifies that funds can be used for “services to increase pro se access to adjudicative and alternative dispute resolution processes in IV–D cases related to providing child support services.”</p> <p>The rule makes clear in 45 C.F.R. 304.21(a), that these pro se services are eligible for Federal financial participation (FFP), or in other words, federal reimbursement. Self-help services can also include educational and outreach activities.</p> <p>To be eligible for Title IV-D reimbursement, self-help services—with the exception of allowable education and outreach costs—must be for paternity</p>	<p>including texts to noncustodial parents regarding case status updates, texts about upcoming hearings, and a hearing check-in system to improve prehearing conferences. By 2018, these ODR tools contributed to favorable outcomes for parents and courts in Ottawa County, including a 24 percent reduction in the number of show-cause hearings, a 29 percent reduction in the number of monthly child support-related arrest warrants, and a 28 percent increase in child support collections, increasing the financial resources available to custodial parents and their children while also unlocking additional federal incentive payments to the county.</p> <p>See The Justice in Government case study on Michigan's ODR program, published with support from The Pew Charitable Trusts.</p> <p>California: Collaboration between the state Department of Child Support Services and the Judicial Council of California made it possible to place family law facilitators in the superior courts in every county in the state. These court-based facilitators assist parents by providing a full range of</p>	<p><i>ACF Program Flexibilities on IT and PPE to support State, Local and Tribal Human Services Workforce during COVID-19 Response</i> document summarizes "virtual workforce" specific flexibilities for Title IV-D here.</p> <p>See the Justice in Government case study examining the effectiveness of virtual mediation in parenting disputes, published with support from The Pew Charitable Trusts.</p> <p>How do you find your state administrator? To find the agency in your state that handles child support and paternity establishment, this National Conference of State Legislatures resource lists all the entities that oversee child support in states as well as which committees in the state legislature pass new policies. Once that entity is identified, each website should list an executive director and staff. HHS OCSE also has a map with state contacts.</p> <p>How much funding is available? Title IV-D is a federal-state matching grant program under which states must spend money in order to receive federal funding. The federal reimbursement is</p>

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		<p>establishment and child support. This can include assistance with paternity acknowledgement forms, providing information to litigants about relevant court procedures, help with child support order establishment and modifications when circumstances change affecting amounts that should be paid, enforcement processes, or assisting with domestic violence protection orders if the order is necessary to safely obtain child support.</p>	<p>Title IV-D self-help related services, including helping parents to respond to the initial request for parentage/support, assisting parents in completing requests for court modification of support, and assisting with legal forms to get court resolution of arrears disputes, among other services.</p> <p>Also noteworthy is that the separate OCSE Grants to States for Access and Visitation Programs have included legal aid and court partners, including technology tools, for example:</p> <p>Texas: The Office of the Attorney General – the Texas Access and Visitation (AV) fund administrator – passes through its AV allocation to the Supreme Court of Texas that in turn subcontracts with Texas Legal Services Center (TLSC) to provide two Shared Parenting Programs. TLSC’s Access & Visitation Hotline (AV Hotline) is a statewide toll-free hotline staffed by non-attorney staff who provide information and referrals to callers about child custody and visitation, and limited information concerning paternity and child support. TLSC also runs the statewide Parenting Order Legal</p>	<p>“open ended,” in that there is no ceiling on the federal government’s match of those expenditures. In addition to matching funds, states receive child support enforcement incentive payments from the federal government.</p> <p>Other useful resources: The Self-Represented Litigation Network’s Resource Guide, Use of Title IV-D Child Support Program Resources for Court Based Self-Help Services offers a comprehensive nuts and bolts overview to facilitate cooperation between state Title IV-D child support agencies and partners to provide self-help services to parents and others engaged in paternity establishment and child support establishment, modification, and enforcement processes.</p>

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			Line (POLL). POLL takes AV Hotline referrals and is staffed by attorneys who offer low-income and non-custodial parents, limited legal representation that can include legal advice, offer settlement negotiation, draft documents to enforce or modify visitation, and help locating a missing custodial parent.	
<p>Title IV-E – Federal Payments for Foster Care and Adoption Assistance</p> <p>CFDA# 93.658 and 93.659</p> <p><i>U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children & Families (ACF), Children’s Bureau (CB)</i></p>	<p>Title IV-E of the Social Security Act supports the Federal Foster Care Program, which helps provide out-of-home care for children until the children are safely returned home, placed permanently, or placed in other planned arrangements; and the Adoption Assistance Program, which provides funds to states to facilitate the timely placement of children.</p> <p>The Foster Care Program’s funding is awarded by formula as an open-end entitlement grant. To be eligible for Title IV-E Foster Care Program, children must be in out-of-home placements, be removed from families considered “needy” (based on measures from AFDC program), have entered care through judicial determination or voluntary placement, and be</p>	<p>In December 2018, the Children's Bureau revised the policy regarding independent legal representation. States can now claim federal matching funds through Title IV-E to help pay for costs of independent legal representation by an attorney for a child who is a candidate of IV-E foster care and the parent to prepare for and participate in foster care legal proceedings.</p> <p>The Child Welfare Policy Manual (CWPM) added language clarifying this change at Question 30:</p> <p>“The statute at section 474(a)(3) of the Act and regulations at 45 CFR 1356.60(c) specify that Federal financial participation (FFP) is available at the rate of 50% for administrative expenditures necessary for the proper and efficient administration of the title IV-E plan. The title IV-E agency’s representation in judicial determinations continues to be an allowable administrative cost. ... This</p>	<p>Until the recent policy change, Title IV-E agencies were prevented from claiming title IV-E administrative costs related to legal services provided by an attorney representing a child or parent. In many states, courts will be essential partners. For example, MOUs regarding funding legal representation often involve the courts as a party and/or the contractor.</p>	<p>ACF COVID-19 Guidance and CB letters are here. See The Children’s Bureau published a letter to the field encouraging agencies and courts to continue working together to provide critical judicial oversight in child welfare proceedings during the COVID-19 pandemic (December 4) and a letter to child welfare leaders on flexibility allowing title IV-E prevention program services to be adapted to a virtual environment (November 20).</p> <p>Find flexibilities for supporting a virtual workforce during COVID-19 here.</p> <p><i>ACF Program Flexibilities on IT and PPE to support State, Local and Tribal Human Services Workforce during COVID-19 Response</i> document summarizes "virtual</p>

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	<p>licenses or approved foster care placements.</p> <p>Match requirement: The Foster Care Program enables states to be generally reimbursed up to 50 percent for every qualifying dollar they spend and up to 75% for trainings.</p> <p>The Adoption Assistance Program provides federal matching funds of 50 to 83 percent, depending on the state’s per capita income.</p>	<p>policy is revised to allow the title IV-E agency to claim title IV-E administrative costs of independent legal representation by an attorney for a child who is a candidate for title IV-E foster care or in foster care and his/her parent to prepare for and participate in all stages of foster care legal proceedings, such as court hearings related to a child’s removal from the home.”</p> <p>In a July 2020 Technical Bulletin, the Children’s Bureau clarified cost-sharing requirements for the non-federal share of program expenditures and the agencies with which states may form contracts to fulfill legal representation functions. Clarifications of special note include that private donations as well as state or local (non-federal) funds can be used as match, IV-E state agencies can contract directly with a legal aid program without the need for a public agency/court intermediary, and reimbursable administrative costs can include costs of paralegals, office support staff, social workers, and overhead. Specifically, FAQs 4 and 5, and the Appendix say:</p> <p>4. “The required state share of costs claimed for the title IV-E foster care program must be sourced from state or local appropriated funds <i>or donated funds</i>, but may not be sourced from</p>		<p>workforce” specific flexibilities for Title IV-B and Title IV-E here.</p> <p>See also above, Title IV-B Helpful tips about technology.</p> <p>How do you find your state administrator? See the CB directory of foster care contacts, the state agency that oversees child welfare, and links to state-specific foster care information for each state.</p> <p>How much funding is available? Title IV-E is a federal-state matching grant program under which states must spend money in order to receive federal funding. States are generally reimbursed up to 50 percent for every dollar they spend. This reimbursement requirement is “open ended,” in that there is no upper limit or ceiling on the federal government’s match of those expenditures. States will sometimes publish their budget requests online, but if it not available or is outdated, you can contact your state administrator.</p> <p>Other useful resources: Sample MOUs (including MOUs with courts) can be found on the Family Justice Institute website here.</p>

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		<p>federal funds provided through another program. State title IV-E agencies may not use third party in-kind expenditures (or contributions) as a source of the state share of funds for the foster care programs under title IV-E of the Act... For example, attorney volunteer hours may not be used as a source of state match.” (Emphasis added)</p> <p>5. "Title IV-E agencies often contract out title IV-E administrative functions such as legal representation to other <i>private or public agencies</i> through a contract or other type of agreement.” (Emphasis added)</p> <p>Appendix: CWPM 8.1B Question #32 allows a Title IV-E agency to claim "administrative costs of paralegals, investigators, peer partners or social workers that support an attorney providing independent legal representation to a child who is a candidate for title IV-E foster care or is in title IV-E foster care, and his/her parent, to prepare for and participate in all stages of foster care legal proceedings, and for office support staff and overhead expenses." The costs must be "necessary to support an attorney in providing independent legal representation to prepare for and participate in all stages of foster care legal proceedings for</p>		<p>The American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law has a technical overview of Title IV-E, including information on eligibility, criteria, requirements, and a primer on how states can leverage Title IV-E to fund legal representation.</p> <p>The National Association of Counsel for Children has a hub of helpful Title IV-E background materials about the policy clarification, including research, resources and best practices, and sample state agreements and RFPs.</p>

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<p>Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Assistance Formula Grants</p> <p>CFDA# 16.575</p> <p><i>U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Justice Programs (OJP), Office for Victims of Crime (OVC)</i></p>	<p>The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) of 1984 established the Crime Victims Fund (CVF), the nation’s primary funding source to help victims of all types of crimes. CVF is a repository of federal criminal fines, forfeitures and special assessments. It does not include tax dollars.</p> <p>Among the VOCA-authorized grant programs is the state administered <i>victim assistance</i> formula grants. It provides funding to groups and direct services for victims, such as domestic violence shelters, legal support, faith-based organizations, and child abuse organizations.</p> <p>OVC – the federal CVF administrator – awards the VOCA Victim Assistance Formula Grant Program in accordance with VOCA and the Victim Assistance Rule and related guidance. The states, in turn, provide subgrants to local public agencies and community service providers (referred to as “subgrantee” or “subrecipient”) that help individuals, families and</p>	<p>candidates for title IV-E foster care, youth in foster care and his/her parents.</p> <p>The OVC VOCA Assistance Rule, effective August 8, 2016, included clarification that state VOCA administrators have the freedom and flexibility to use their funds for a broad array of legal needs beyond the immediate aftermath of the crime.</p> <p>In this document comparing the 1997 guidance to the new rule, OVC identified a non-exhaustive list of legal services state VOCA victim assistance administrators could fund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proceedings for protective/restraining orders or campus administrative protection/stay-away orders; - Family, custody, housing, and dependency matters, particularly for victims of intimate partner violence, child abuse, sexual assault, elder abuse, and human trafficking; - Divorce; - Immigration assistance for victims of human trafficking, sexual assault, and domestic violence; - 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 other circumstances where legal advice or intervention 	<p>Most states now use VOCA funds for legal aid for crime victims. Several states have launched statewide VOCA-funded crime victims civil legal services programs and resources that incorporate technology and court partners.</p> <p>New York: The New York Crime Victims Legal Help website and Network is a partnership of organizations working to address the civil legal needs of crime victims. The technology-centered strategy includes a user-friendly triage screening tool, searchable legal service help directory, know your rights library, real time LiveHelp chat function, warm referrals to legal aid partners, and a secure portal for legal aid partners serving crime victims.</p> <p>Massachusetts: In 2017, the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation received a VOCA grant to increase access to legal services for victims of violent and economic crimes in the state. The Civil Legal Aid for Victims of Crime (CLAVC) initiative helps victims of crime throughout Massachusetts</p>	<p>VOCA funds can be used to develop/expand technology tools to improve crime victim services.</p> <p>OJP COVID-19 guidance including allowability of certain costs and possible alternatives or changes to the scope of projects can be found here. This could potentially include budget modifications for technology costs to improve victim services.</p> <p>How do you find your state administrator? Generally, the governor decides which office or department administers VOCA. Consequently, where VOCA sits in the state executive branch varies state-to-state. Go to the OVC US Resource Map of Crime Victim Services & Information webpage and click on your state.</p> <p>How much funding is available? Find OVC formula grant allocations by year here (look for "assistance" allocations).</p> <p>How do you find what's spent and what is leftover (if any)? The US</p>

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	<p>communities recover from both the initial trauma and the long-term effects of victimization. Courts and legal aid organizations are eligible subgrantees.</p> <p>Because of fluctuations in annual CVF deposits of federal criminal fines and penalties, in 2000, Congress began “capping” annual CVF obligations. In 2015, Congress raised this cap and the amount of VOCA funds available to states nearly quadrupled. Although the amount has fluctuated, Congress has so far continued at elevated levels since the 2015 increase.</p> <p>Match requirement: State VOCA subgrantees must contribute 20 percent of the total project cost of each VOCA-funded project, with some exceptions, e.g., federally recognized American Indian or Alaska Native tribes and projects on tribal lands. Match may be cash and/or in-kind.</p> <p>In a March 2020 update to the OVC Match Waiver Approval Process, states now have the discretion to waive or partially waive the match requirement on behalf of subrecipients provided</p>	<p>would assist in addressing the consequences of a person’s victimization; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 a victim. <p>The rule also makes clear that states may fund direct services regardless of a victim’s participation in the criminal justice process and that victim eligibility under this program for direct services is not dependent on the victim’s immigration status.</p> <p>Court navigators and technology relevant to crime victims’ services are allowable uses of these funds. Use of the comparison chart is encouraged to explore other key services or aspects of collaboration that may be relevant and allowable under the Rule, e.g., multi-disciplinary partnerships and coordination activities.</p>	<p>with their related civil legal problems — including family law, housing, immigration, disability rights, child welfare, education, consumer, identity theft, employment rights and public benefits. The CLAVC website includes guided interviews to generate more tailored responses, legal information, and connects eligible users to their local legal aid office.</p> <p>Washington: In 2016, the Washington State Office of Civil Legal Aid (OCLA), an independent judicial branch agency, established the Integrated Civil Legal Aid to Crime Victims Program. OCLA is the grantee intermediary that coordinates the statewide effort and subcontracts, supports, and oversees the delivery of civil legal aid services.</p> <p>South Carolina: South Carolina Legal Services in collaboration with South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, and the courts prepared online guided interviews to develop orders of protection ready for court filing in English and Spanish.</p>	<p>Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime Resource Map enables you to click on your state to find the administering agency, latest available statistics, compensation and assistance information, and VOCA performance reports. The state’s annual assistance report shows data by year of the federal awards amount, the number of sub awards, and the balance remaining over the last few years.</p> <p>Other useful resources: In November 2019, OVC released VOCApedia, a frequently updated VOCA Victim Assistance allowability resource tool for VOCA Victims Assistance state administrators. It is the best source for questions about what VOCA and its corresponding rule allows subgrantees (e.g., legal aid programs and courts) to do.</p> <p>Several states have had their VOCA programs audited by the DOJ Office of Inspector General. To see if your state has been audited, go to this link, select your state in the location filter, and see if there’s a “Victim Assistance Formula Grants” audit report.</p>

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	that the state has adopted an OVC-approved waiver policy.		JGP prepared narratives about how California, Michigan, New York , Massachusetts, and Washington state expanded civil legal aid for crime victims that can be found in the JGP Toolkit Module 3 .	<p>In some states, like California, the VOCA administrator submits reports the state legislature. If your state prepares this kind of report, you may find additional information about how VOCA victim assistance grants work in your state.</p> <p>The American University Justice in Government Project (JGP) prepared FAQs about Legal Aid & VOCA. Much of the information is relevant to courts.</p>