

# 24 Grants Program

Using funds generated through the Fellows Program, the Board of Trustees established the Grants Program in 2000. The foundation seeks to fund organizations and/or projects that directly provide pro bono counsel to low-income residents in Allegheny County and/or promote the public understanding, interest, and support of legal-related issues. Since 2000, the foundation has awarded \$210,000 in grants in support of educational and pro bono initiatives in the community.

## 2007 GRANT RECIPIENTS

Funds distributed in early 2008

**Jewish Family & Children's Service of Pittsburgh** to provide the professional supervision and oversight necessary to enable 10-12 non-immigration pro bono attorneys to represent indigent immigrants in removal proceedings through the Pittsburgh Refugee & Immigrant Assistance Center (PRIAC).

**KidsVoice** to complete the funding of the Independent Living Advocacy Program which advocates for the rights of teens aging out of the foster care system to receive independent living resources and services needed to transition to independent functioning as adults, including the right to education; vocation and career services; physical and mental health care; housing; relationships with caring adults; knowledge of community resources; and public benefits/services.

**Mental Health Legal Services** to ensure people with mental illness receive legal assistance in a timely and understanding manner thereby ensuring them the best opportunity to achieve positive resolutions to their legal problems.

**Neighborhood Legal Services Association** to develop an outreach project at area homeless shelters to ensure that all homeless individuals have access to legal advice on-site; to coordinate with other area legal services providers, pro bono attorneys, and law students regarding coverage of the various shelters within Allegheny County; and to recruit/train pro bono attorneys and law students to assist in providing outreach, advice, and representation to the homeless regarding their legal issues.

**Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force** to support the cost of the Legal Coordinator who oversees the PATF Legal Program and works with PATF's Pro Bono Legal Network in order to provide support and help resolve clients' legal issues and provide assistance for legal issues particularly related to PATF clients that are not addressed elsewhere in the legal services community.

**SNAP - Pittsburgh** to help implement a two-year pilot juvenile crime prevention strategy program, SNAP-Pittsburgh at Auberle, which will treat 63 at-risk boys (ages 6-12) per year who have engaged in the first signs of delinquency to improve their behavior and decrease the number of juvenile offenders who continue in a path of crime. If successful, SNAP may be built into the Juvenile Court's ongoing treatment budget for up to 300 boys per year.

## ALL-TIME GRANT RECIPIENTS

Including 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 & 2008

Christian Legal Aid Of Pittsburgh  
Disabilities Law Project  
Eastern Area Adult Services  
Education Law Center  
Jewish Family & Children's Service Of Pittsburgh  
KidsVoice  
Lydia's Place

## 2008 GRANT RECIPIENTS

Funds distributed in early 2009

**Christian Legal Aid of Pittsburgh** to expand provision of essential civil legal services to those who cannot otherwise afford representation through (1) an increase in the number of volunteer attorneys, (2) an increase in the number of volunteer attorneys providing full representation to clients, (3) the development of an externship program for law students, and (4) the representation of clients by law students under the supervision of the executive director.

**Jewish Family & Children's Service of Pittsburgh** to continue funding for Pro Bono Immigration Law Project which provides professional supervision and oversight to 10-12 non-immigration pro bono attorneys who, having been trained by JF&CS/PRIAC in 2008-2009, will represent 10-12 indigent immigrants on deportation cases.

**Mental Health America Legal Services** to continue supporting pro bono legal services to indigent mental health clients, ensuring that they receive legal assistance in a timely and understanding manner thereby ensuring them the best opportunity to achieve positive resolutions to their legal problems.

**Neighborhood Legal Services Association** to support costs associated with the implementation of the "Domestic Violence Consumer Education Project" which would ensure that domestic violence victims obtain the legal information necessary to facilitate their efforts at economic self-sufficiency through educational presentations to victims on prioritizing debt, basics of financial planning, repairing credit, student loans, bankruptcy basics, utility access, predatory lending, credit discrimination, joint debt and bank account issues, etc.

**SNAP-Pittsburgh** to continue funding for second year of Stop Now and Plan (SNAP), a two-year pilot juvenile crime prevention strategy program which helps boys, ages six to twelve, who have displayed the first signs of delinquency.

**Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh** to support the organization's Civil Legal Project which would provide representation and advice on civil legal matters to ten (10) victims of domestic violence regarding divorce actions and raising appropriate alimony and/or property claims.

Mental Health America Legal Services  
Neighborhood Legal Services Association  
North Hills Community Outreach, Inc.  
Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force  
Senior Action Coalition  
SNAP – Pittsburgh  
Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh  
YWCA's Legal Resources For Women

## TO APPLY TO THE ACBF GRANTS PROGRAM

Eligible organizations and/or programs must submit a *Common Grant Application Format* by Thursday, August 20, 2009. Applications and guidelines are available at [www.acbf.org](http://www.acbf.org). For more information, please contact Lorrie Albert at (412) 402-6640 or [lalbert@acba.org](mailto:lalbert@acba.org).