



Memorandum

TO: Requests for New Assistance

FROM: Betty Balli Torres, Executive Director

SUBJECT: 2009 Funding Requests

DATE: January 5, 2009

Thank you for expressing an interest in applying for funds through the Texas Access to Justice Foundation. The Foundation administers three funding sources; Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (IOLTA), Basic Civil Legal Services (BCLS) and Crime Victims Civil Legal Services (CVCLS). You can find information on each source's criteria and restrictions on the website. The grant year for all three funding categories, IOLTA, BCLS and CVCLS, begins September 1, 2009 and ends August 31, 2010.

The recent economic downturn and its impact on Foundation funds prompted the Foundation's Board of Directors at its meeting on December 10, 2008 to decide on a strategy of funding for grant awards for the next several years and specifically for the 2009 - 2010 and 2010 & 2011 grant years.

The Foundation's Board decided to take the following course of action:

- Provide level funding at current grant amounts for the grant year 2009 - 2010 to give existing grantees additional time to plan and implement changes needed to absorb significant reductions that will take place in 2010 resulting in the likely reduction in grant amounts by 75% or more or even discontinuation of grants.
- **Not accept new applications for Foundation funds for the 2009 - 2010 grant year.**

The Federal Funds Target Rate (FFTR) was decreased in 2008 to a range of zero to .25%. This range is unprecedented and will further decimate IOLTA revenue which is the primary funding source of the Foundation. We are in uncharted territory making it challenging to project revenue, but this new FFTR range would lead us to conclude that the revenue will be significantly less than 3 million dollars in 2009.

It is regretful that we are not able to accept and consider new applications for funding at this time but hopefully, in the near future, the economy will improve and charitable giving helps offset reduced funding so once again, the Foundation can look at new and exciting proposals to fund civil legal services to the poor in Texas.