

**OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL
MARRIED FAMILIES DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FUND**

Before applying for funding from the Married Families Domestic Violence Fund (30 ILCS 105/5.675), please read the following material carefully to ascertain eligibility.

Effective June 1, 2008, the Married Families Domestic Violence Fund was established to provide legal advocacy, legal assistance, and legal services to married and formerly married victims of domestic violence. This fund was designated as a special fund in the State Treasury to provide monies for grants to be awarded from a portion of marriage license fees collected after June 1, 2008.

The Illinois Attorney General has been charged with the responsibility of administering the program, including selecting applicants who are qualified under this Act to receive funds to provide legal advocacy, legal assistance, or legal services.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Any public or private not-for-profit agency may apply to the Illinois Attorney General for funding from the Married Families Domestic Violence Fund. “Agency” or “agencies” means any federal, state, local, or private entity that provides services to victims of domestic violence.

To be eligible for funding, each applicant agency shall provide legal advocacy, legal assistance, or legal services relating to one or more of the following proceedings for married or formerly married victims of domestic violence perpetrated by a spouse or ex-spouse.

1. Order of protection proceedings;
2. Dissolution of marriage proceedings;
3. Declaration of invalidity of marriage proceedings;
4. Legal separation proceedings;
5. Child custody proceedings;
6. Visitation proceedings; and
7. Proceedings for civil remedies for domestic violence including but not limited to:
 - Remedies under the Safe Homes Act (765 ILCS 750/);
 - Remedies under the Gender Violence Act (740 ILCS 82/);
 - Child support enforcement remedies;

Remedies under any federal law for violence against women; and

Remedies under the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101).

ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL'S GUIDELINES

Each application is evaluated independently. The Office of the Illinois Attorney General shall consider the following factors in selecting agencies to receive funds:

1. Stated goals of applicant;
2. Commitment and ability to provide services described in the eligibility criteria. Evidence of commitment and ability includes experience of agency staff in providing legal services relating to domestic violence, level of resources available to the agency, past services provided, and past grant compliance;
3. Number of people served, types of services provided, and the needs of the community;
4. Evidence of support by local domestic violence services agencies;
5. Organizational structure of the agency;
6. Overall statewide geographic service distribution;
7. Service to underserved victims; and
8. Existing programs and the development of new services.

ALLOWABLE EXPENSES

The following expenditures are the only allowable expenses for which grant funds may be used:

1. Salaries and fringe benefits for Grantee employees who are attorneys licensed to practice law in Illinois and advocates and paralegals;
2. Contractual services from attorneys licensed to practice law in Illinois and advocates and paralegals;
3. Equipment that is rented or leased for program use;
4. General office expenses;
5. Travel expenses and transportation costs for staff and clients;

6. Court fees, evidence-related costs, and research and documentation costs; and
7. Printed or promotional materials used for informational purposes or to publicize the program.

GRANT AWARDS

The number of grants awarded will depend upon the amount of funds available in the Married Families Domestic Violence Fund. The Office of the Illinois Attorney General shall select applicants to maximize the number of married or formerly married domestic violence victims served statewide. A grant to a single agency will not exceed \$100,000.

Grant agreements shall be entered into by the Illinois Attorney General with each grant recipient on an annual basis. Disbursement of grant funds shall be made on a quarterly basis. The Illinois Attorney General will evaluate each recipient prior to each fund disbursement and may cancel the remaining term of any contract in which the recipient has failed to meet the contract requirements or for any good cause.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Application packages must be completed in their entirety. An application will not be accepted or considered if the application:

1. is missing required documentation,
2. is not submitted in the correct font size, or
3. does not comply with the page limitations or spacing and margin requirements.

NOTIFICATION PROCESS

All applicants will be notified regarding funding decisions by letter.