

2007 LSC Technology Initiative Grants

California: \$355,327

The *Legal Aid Society of Orange County* is receiving \$130,000 to update I-CAN! templates (the master documents used to generate the forms completed by individual users) and \$142,000 to conduct I-CAN! outreach activities in Texas and on the national level. (I-CAN! is a user-friendly Web-based program used to file federal income tax returns and secure federal earned-income tax credits, and to file state income tax returns in California, Michigan, Montana, and New York.) *Legal Services of Northern California* is receiving \$83,327 to develop a national model for a sophisticated search engine based on the Google model, known as “enterprise-level technology.”

Ohio: \$302,850

Ohio State Legal Services is receiving \$272,850 to continue the National Document Assembly Project, started in 2002, through which the program has pioneered the use of HotDocs, a Web-based program developed by LexisNexis, to support the work of judges, court personnel and self-help center staff.* *Legal Aid of Western Ohio* is receiving \$30,000 to implement a statewide, Web-based intake system based on a system developed in Iowa that uses A2J technology. (A2J—short for access to justice—is a user-friendly Web-based program that collects information, asks questions in plain English, compiles the answers, and enters them in forms that are customized to meet state requirements using another program called HotDocs.) *

Idaho: \$187,865

Idaho Legal Aid Services is receiving \$118,870 to enhance A2J self-help products and provide training in their use. (A2J—short for access to justice—is a user-friendly Web-based program that collects information, asks questions in plain English, compiles the answers, and enters them in forms that are customized to meet state requirements using another program called HotDocs.) The program is also receiving \$68,995 to evaluate this approach to completing court forms.

Tennessee: \$182,176

Legal Aid of East Tennessee is receiving \$100,000 for a circuit rider (a person to travel to different offices) and provide support for statewide legal services Web sites built on an open source template (computer software that encourages collaboration because it is not subject to intellectual property restrictions). The program is also receiving \$82,176 to enhance GIS maps and analyze ongoing support needs.

Missouri: \$124,383

Legal Services of Southern Missouri is receiving \$124,383 to install new hardware and software that will save staff time and ultimately money.

New York: \$100,000

Legal Assistance of Western New York is receiving \$100,000 to develop a kit of family law forms that can be completed on computers and used by other legal aid providers, then tailor these and other forms to New York requirements using A2J and HotDocs. (A2J—

*Joint project with the State Justice Institute

short for access to justice—is a user-friendly Web-based program that collects information, asks questions in plain English, compiles the answers, and enters them in forms that are customized to meet state requirements using another program called HotDocs.) *

Washington: \$162,000

The *Northwest Justice Project* is receiving \$62,000 to tailor HotDocs templates for the A2J user interface to state requirements.* (A2J—short for access to justice—is a user-friendly Web-based program that collects information, asks questions in plain English, compiles the answers, and enters them in forms that are customized to meet state requirements using another program called HotDocs.) The program is also receiving \$100,000 for a circuit rider (a person to travel to different offices) to support statewide legal services Web sites.

Montana: \$95,000

The *Montana Legal Services Association* is receiving \$60,000 for the National Technology Assistance Project, a nonprofit organization that provides technical assistance to more than 150 legal aid programs across the country. The *Montana Legal Services Association* is also receiving \$35,000 to train, support, and evaluate the effectiveness of having people available to answer questions—the LiveHelp approach.

Wyoming: \$91,000

Wyoming Legal Services is receiving \$25,000 to enhance its Web site and \$66,000 to tailor the A2J user interface and HotDocs templates to Wyoming requirements so they can be used by the state’s first court-based, self-help center.* (A2J—short for access to justice—is a user-friendly Web-based program that collects information, asks questions in plain English, compiles the answers, and enters them in forms that are customized to meet state requirements using another program called HotDocs.)

Kentucky: \$88,307

Legal Aid of the Bluegrass is receiving \$28,000 to develop a streamlined and enhanced telephone intake system—for answering and routing calls—based on technology tested and used in Alabama. The *Legal Aid Society* is receiving \$60,307 for a pilot project to automate production of forms with A2J and HotDocs and provide a model for Kentucky’s 57 judicial districts.* (A2J—short for access to justice—is a user-friendly Web-based program that collects information, asks questions in plain English, compiles the answers, and enters them in forms that are customized to meet state requirements using another program called HotDocs.)

Arkansas: \$80,000

The *Center for Arkansas Legal Services* is receiving \$70,000 to support LegalMeetings, a Web-conferencing tool for LSC-funded programs and the courts, and \$10,000 to enhance client service with LiveHelp.

Maine: \$80,000

Pine Tree Legal Assistance is receiving \$80,000 to convert existing, interactive court forms to the HotDocs format, compile packets of frequently used forms, and create information/advice systems tailored to individual client needs using A2J and HotDocs.* (A2J—short for access to justice—is a user-friendly Web-based program that collects information, asks questions in plain English, compiles the answers, and enters them in forms that are customized to meet state requirements using another program called HotDocs.)

Pennsylvania: \$72,231

Southwestern Pennsylvania Legal Services is receiving \$72,371 to tailor the I-CAN! earned-income tax credit module to state requirements, and to conduct marketing and outreach activities. (I-CAN! is a user-friendly Web-based program used to file federal income tax returns and secure federal earned-income tax credits, and to file state income tax returns in California, Michigan, Montana, and New York.)

Micronesia: \$65,000

Micronesian Legal Services is receiving \$25,000 to enhance its Web site and \$40,000 to upgrade and integrate data and voice networks.

Georgia: \$61,000

The *Atlanta Legal Aid Society* is receiving \$61,000 to develop and disseminate family law forms in Spanish for the A2J user interface and HotDocs assembly system, a collaborative effort with the Superior Courts of Gwinnett and Cobb Counties. (A2J—short for access to justice—is a user-friendly Web-based program that collects information, asks questions in plain English, compiles the answers, and enters them in forms that are customized to meet state requirements using another program called HotDocs.)

Iowa: \$60,000

Iowa Legal Aid is receiving \$60,000 to develop a diagnostic tool, using A2J and HotDocs, to categorize and match family law problems with sources of help within the state—the first of its kind and a potential model for the rest of the country.* (A2J—short for access to justice—is a user-friendly Web-based program that collects information, asks questions in plain English, compiles the answers, and enters them in forms that are customized to meet state requirements using another program called HotDocs.)

Virginia: \$60,000

The *Virginia Legal Aid Society* is receiving \$60,000 to continue the work of Legal Services XML consortium, which supports the National Subject Matter Index (the key to cataloging information on statewide Web sites), to ensure that the index remains usable and help institutionalize technology tools that support information-sharing.

Louisiana: \$51,178

Capital Area Legal Services Corporation is receiving \$51,178 to use technology proven in Alabama to reconfigure the hotline/intake system developed as part of the response to

*Joint project with the State Justice Institute

Hurricane Katrina—now called the Louisiana Civil Justice Center—to address a broader range of legal issues, a collaborative effort involving all LSC-funded programs in the state.

Colorado: \$35,250

Colorado Legal Services is receiving \$13,500 to enhance its Web site and \$21,750 for a pilot videoconferencing program to improve service in rural areas.

West Virginia: \$35,000

Legal Aid of West Virginia is receiving \$35,000 to install a centralized telephone system based on Alabama's system. (The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation is providing an additional \$19,000 for this project. Other partners include the West Virginia State Bar and West Virginia Senior Legal Aid.)

Utah: \$27,500

Utah Legal Services is receiving \$27,500 to create a “wiki”—collaborative Web site—for the 1,600-page Domestic Law Manual to make it easier to update and access, a potential means of increasing private attorney involvement.

Michigan: \$27,000

Legal Services of Northern Michigan is receiving \$27,000 to add functions to its “legal advice” Web site, which is staffed by *pro bono* attorneys, and to develop “how to” materials.

Florida: \$25,000

Legal Services of North Florida is receiving \$25,000 to conduct and evaluate activities to increase private attorney involvement, including Web-based tools for volunteers—gathering information and gaining insights that may help other LSC-funded programs increase private attorney involvement as well.

Illinois: \$21,950

The *Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation* is receiving \$21,950 to enhance and promote a poverty law survey tool and online legal services “techie” directory as part of the National Technology Assistance Project.

New Hampshire: \$25,000

The *Legal Advice & Referral Center* is receiving \$25,000 to continue work on its Web site.

New Mexico: \$25,000

New Mexico Legal Aid is receiving \$25,000 to continue work on its Web site.