



MEMORANDUM

To: Interested Persons

From: Betty Balli Torres, Executive Director

Re: GY 2014-2015 Funding Opportunities

Date: February 5, 2014

We appreciate your interest in the Texas Access to Justice Foundation (TAJF) funding opportunities. TAJF administers three primary funds; Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA), Basic Civil Legal Services (BCLS), Crime Victims Civil Legal Services (CVCLS), and the Civil Legal Aid to Veterans Program.

Historically low interest rates have negatively impacted IOLTA funds over the past five years with no foreseeable end in sight. Each year for the past five (5) years, it has been a difficult question whether to open the regular grantmaking process to non-grantee organizations in light of static funding. The question is a difficult one because the Foundation has a longstanding practice of accepting all eligible applicants. This year, as in the past five years, the TAJF Board made the decision that no additional dollars will be added to the funding pool.

Whenever possible due to new funds availability, TAJF creates new funding opportunities and opens them up to new grantees when it makes sound fiduciary sense to do so. A new veterans funding program was created in the past few years and awarded veteran service grants to new applicants such as the Tarrant County Bar Foundation, El Paso Bar Foundation, Houston Bar Foundation, Community Justice Program of the San Antonio Bar Foundation, the Jefferson County Bar Foundation, and Baylor University Law School Clinic program. As in the past, this funding opportunity will be open to all applicants.

While the decision was difficult, the TAJF Board, staff and current grantees have worked tirelessly to retain funding for current award levels during the recession to help stabilize the boots on the ground and avoid diminishing the delivery system.

If new funds become available to the Foundation for new applicants, we will post them on our website. Please check back periodically for future announcements or find us on Facebook. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jonathan Vickery, Associate Director at 1-800-252-3401 ext. 110 or at jvickery@tajf.org