



**NLADA**  
National Legal Aid &  
Defender Association

## NLADA Legal Aid Training Series

# ADVANCING YOUR WORK THROUGH FEDERAL FUNDING



Generously supported by the Kresge Foundation  
and the Public Welfare Foundation

May 11, 2016  
Chicago, IL



## WELCOME

Thank you for joining the National Legal Aid & Defender Association for our Legal Aid Training Series, *Advancing Your Work Through Federal Funding*.

This series of regionally based trainings is part of NLADA's Civil Legal Aid Initiative. Supported by the Kresge Foundation and Public Welfare Foundation, NLADA's Civil Legal Aid Initiative works to increase civil legal aid's capacity to apply for, partner on, and implement federal grant programs.

The goal of our *Advancing Your Work Through Federal Funding* training series is to present a nuts & bolts approach to success: identifying opportunities, building strong sustainable partnerships, and embedding legal aid into a wide range of federal programs.

Today's training will feature representatives from legal aid providers and organizations with which they have collaborated to find success in non-LSC programs, as well as important national organizations like the National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership. They will talk about learning lessons, overcoming challenges and developing best practices along the way to sustainability and success.

Representatives of federal agencies that support legal aid as part of their grant programs, the U.S. Department of Justice Office for Access to Justice, and the White House Legal Aid Interagency Roundtable will discuss recent successes and current priorities.

Voices for Civil Justice will highlight communications strategies for demonstrating the impact of legal aid and show how effective messaging can help grow support and resources for legal aid.

**A full agenda for the day with session descriptions and speakers is included on pages 4-6 of this program.** Session-specific materials also are available as handouts. Electronic versions of all materials will be available following the training as part of a follow-up survey to attendees.

We are grateful to all of our speakers and partners, and to NLADA's federal funding and regional planning committees for their support and the work they have done to help develop the program and make this day a success.

We also would like to thank the Kresge Foundation and the Public Welfare Foundation for their generous support for this training and NLADA's Civil Legal Aid Initiative.

## RESOURCES FROM NLADA'S CIVIL LEGAL AID INITIATIVE

In addition to trainings, NLADA's Civil Legal Aid Initiative provides information, technical support, and resources for legal aid providers pursuing and implementing non-LSC federal programs.

Look for grant announcements and resources on [LegalAidResources.org](http://LegalAidResources.org) and useful studies and advocacy pieces on [LegalAidResearch.org](http://LegalAidResearch.org). For tailored technical assistance, email us at [ResourceDesk@nlada.org](mailto:ResourceDesk@nlada.org).

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## CIVIL LEGAL AID INITIATIVE

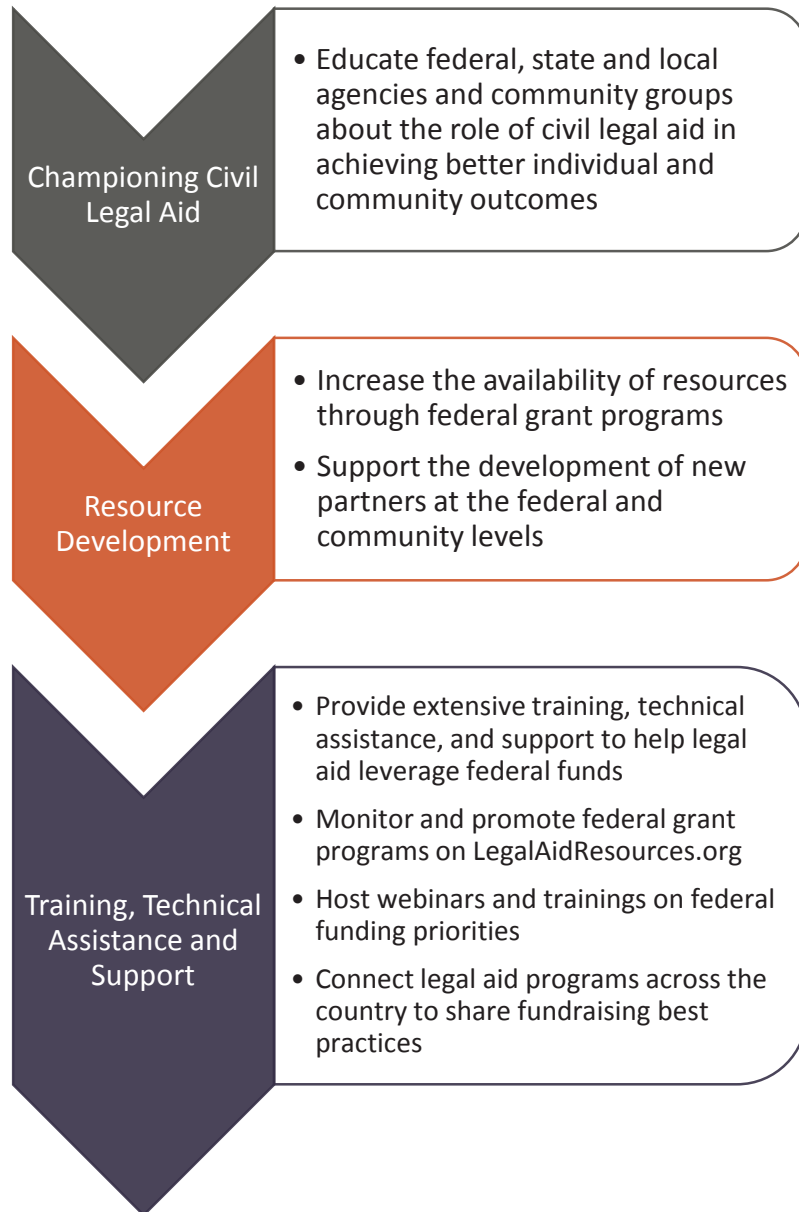
### EXPANDING NON-LSC FEDERAL RESOURCES

NLADA's Civil Legal Aid Initiative works to increase civil legal aid programs' capacity to apply for, partner on, and implement federal grant programs.

*Our goals are to improve the capacity of legal aid programs to meet client need and to contribute to long-term financial sustainability by embedding the effective use of legal strategies into a host of federal programs and agencies.*

This work is supported by the Kresge and Public Welfare Foundations.

### A Multi-Pronged Approach



This work complements efforts of the U.S. Department of Justice Office for Access to Justice and White House Legal Aid Interagency Roundtable to raise federal agencies' awareness of how civil legal aid can help advance federal objectives.

## ADVANCING YOUR WORK THROUGH FEDERAL FUNDING

### FEDERAL FUNDING WORKSHOPS

NLADA is convening regional trainings across the country on how legal aid providers can successfully apply for and implement non-LSC federal funds.

The trainings highlight critical pieces for success, offer tips for fundraising and implementing federal programs, and feature representatives from:

- The U.S. Department of Justice Office for Access to Justice
- The White House Legal Aid Interagency Roundtable
- Voices for Civil Justice
- Federal Agencies
- Community organizations that partner with legal aid and federal grant programs

**Successful strategies for securing federal grants, and incorporating a legal aid component into federal programs serving low-income people.**

Workshops include:

Nuts & Bolts and Best Practices for Federal Grant Programs

- Identifying opportunities
- Forging partnerships
- Developing the project
- Overcoming challenges

Building Strong Partnerships

- Strategies for developing strong and sustainable partnerships to collaborate on federal grant programs

Informing Advocacy

- Highlighting opportunities and strategizing to overcome challenges

Communicating legal aid's critical services for vulnerable and underseved populations

- Demonstrating value to partners, policymakers, and the public
- Effectively communicating legal aid's role in advancing the mission of federal agencies



## NLADA LEGAL AID TRAINING SERIES: ADVANCING YOUR WORK THROUGH FEDERAL FUNDING

May 11, 2016, Chicago, IL

### Agenda

08:00-09:00 a.m.	Breakfast
09:00-09:10 a.m.	Welcome
Room: Salon 7	<i>Radhika Singh Miller, National Legal Aid &amp; Defender Association</i>
09:10-10:45 a.m.	Opening Plenary
Room: Salon 7	<p><b>Working Together: Supporting Legal Aid's Role in Federal Grant Programs</b></p> <p>Civil Legal Aid advances the objectives of federal programs to serve vulnerable and underserved populations. The opening plenary will feature representatives from the U.S. Department of Justice Office for Access to Justice (DOJ ATJ) and the White House Legal Aid Interagency Roundtable (WH-LAIR) to discuss efforts to incorporate legal aid into federal programs, and concrete examples of current opportunities for legal aid to collaborate and participate on federal grants. Representatives from federal agencies will provide their agency's perspective on why legal aid is a critical partner to advance their objectives, and how they are supporting the integration of legal aid into their programs.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i>  <i>Jennifer Bentley, Michigan Advocacy Program</i>  <i>Bob Bullock, U.S. Department of Justice Office for Access to Justice</i>  <i>Tricia Donelan, Supportive Services for Veterans Families Program</i>  <i>Karen Lash, U.S. Department of Justice Office for Access to Justice and the White House Legal Aid Interagency Roundtable</i>  <i>Kathrina Peterson, U.S. Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime</i></p>
10:45-11:15 a.m.	Morning Break
11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions (choose one)
Room: Salon 7	<p><b>Medical-Legal Partnership: Legal Aid Advances Health and Stability</b></p> <p>Medical-legal partnership (MLP) embeds lawyers and paralegals alongside health care teams to detect, address and prevent health-harming social conditions for people and communities. In 2014, the Health Resources &amp; Services Administration (HRSA) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services explicitly clarified that Community Health Centers could utilize HRSA funds to support legal services for their patients, stimulating the growth of the MLP approach in health centers across the country.</p> <p>Led by the National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership and featuring experts in the MLP approach, this session will discuss critical factors to implementing successful and sustainable medical-legal partnerships and potential sources of funding for medical-legal partnership.</p> <p>Major goals of this session include identifying how to position your legal aid office to align with current priorities of the federal health community, and concrete examples of how to overcome challenges to nurturing and sustaining partnerships with HRSA-funded Community Health Centers.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i>  <i>Dr. Michal Dynda, Southern Illinois University Center for Family Medicine</i>  <i>Ellen Lawton, National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership</i>  <i>Valerie Zolezzi-Wyndham, Community Legal Aid (Worcester, MA)</i></p>



Room: Salon 6

### Informing an Advocacy Agenda: Legal Aid Advances Programs from HUD and OVW, and on Reentry

Legal aid advances the objectives of various programs administered by the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Legal aid also broadly supports the successful reentry of formerly incarcerated individuals and individuals with criminal records. Join this roundtable discussion on select OVW, HUD and reentry programs that are a good fit for legal aid, and how legal aid providers are successfully implementing these programs.

This session will feature peer-led breakout groups. Participants will brainstorm the types of work they are doing, common challenges and success stories. During a report-back period, the group will come together for additional discussion and brainstorming.

Major goals of this discussion include identifying the types of work funded by various programs, workable solutions to challenges in implementation of programs, and issues for further advocacy that NLADA and DOJ ATJ may undertake at the federal level to help facilitate the integration of legal aid.

*Facilitated by:*

*Arielle Altman, National Legal Aid & Defender Association*

*Silvia Argueta, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles*

*Jennifer Bentley, Michigan Advocacy Program*

*Deedee Peterson, Legal Action of Wisconsin*

*Radhika Singh Miller, National Legal Aid & Defender Association*

12:45-01:45 p.m.

Networking Lunch

Room: Salon 7

02:00-04:00 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions (choose one)

Room: Salon 7

### Making It Work: Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Assistance Formula Funding

In 2015, states received three times more funding through the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) than the previous year, and 2016 funding will see another significant increase (an estimated \$2.26 billion). An upcoming rule will clarify the various types of civil legal services VOCA may fund and expand allowable services beyond the emergency context. These two developments create a unique opportunity for legal aid providers to advocate with their state VOCA administrator to use the additional VOCA funds to begin or expand funding for legal aid.

This workshop features a representative from the U.S. Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), a state VOCA administrator, and legal aid programs receiving VOCA funding. Join the discussion to learn how OVC is emphasizing and supporting resources for holistic legal services for victims of crime, an agency priority emphasized in its "Vision 21: Transforming Victim Services Final Report," considerations of state administrators in funding legal aid, and legal aid's experience utilizing VOCA funds.

Major goals of the session include identifying the varied and innovative work legal aid programs are undertaking with VOCA funds and learning how to pursue advocacy efforts on a statewide basis that can influence decisions to increase funding for legal aid.

*Speakers:*

*Ronnie Reichgelt, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority*

*Kathrina Peterson, U.S. Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime*

*Gloria Pruzan, LAF*

*Gail Tilkin Walsh, Prairie State Legal Services*



Room: Salon 6

### Making It Work: Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF)

In 2016, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs awarded more than \$500,000,000 to providers through the Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF) program. Legal services is an important supportive service to veterans and their families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Many legal aid providers have partnerships with organizations receiving SSVF funds, and many are pursuing new partnerships.

This workshop features representatives from legal aid and the primary grantee organization with which they partner to discuss the nuts and bolts of creating and sustaining a partnership to provide legal services through the SSVF program.

Major goals of the session include identifying how to get started with an SSVF partner, how to structure a partnership, and how to overcome challenges for an enduring partnership. The session will also include samples of agreements and tools used to provide services through SSVF.

*Speakers:*

*Colleen Cotter, The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland*  
*Tricia Donelan, Supportive Services for Veterans Families Program*  
*Steven McGarrity, Community Legal Aid Services (Akron, OH)*  
*Matthew Slater, Family & Community Services, Inc.*

04:00-04:30 p.m.

Afternoon Break

04:30-05:45 p.m.

Afternoon Plenary

Room: Salon 7

### Effectively Communicating Civil Legal Aid's Partnerships to Advance Federal Programs

Led by Voices for Civil Justice, the closing plenary will highlight strategies and tactics to communicate how legal aid providers advance federal objectives to serve individuals and communities, and how effective communications can grow support and resources for legal aid.

*Speakers:*

*Voices for Civil Justice*

05:45-6:00 p.m.

Closing

Room: Salon 7

*Radhika Singh Miller, National Legal Aid & Defender Association*





## ABOUT US

The **National Legal Aid & Defender Association (NLADA)** is America’s oldest and largest nonprofit association devoted to excellence in the delivery of legal services to those who cannot afford counsel.

For more than a century, we have pioneered access to justice at the national, state, and local levels in multiple ways: helping create many of the first public defense systems in the country; supporting the Legal Services Corporation (LSC); developing nationally applicable standards for legal representation; and advocating for groundbreaking legislation. Today, we serve as the collective voice for our country’s civil legal aid and public defense providers and offer high-quality advocacy, training, and technical assistance.

### Civil Resources

NLADA’s Civil Legal Services Division (CLS) supports a wide array of advocates who deliver civil legal aid to low-income clients: legal aid programs, pro bono attorneys, law schools, bar associations, and other organizations and individuals. To advance justice and expand opportunity for all, CLS promotes excellence in civil legal aid by advocating on behalf of legal aid programs, and delivers analyses, information, training, tools, and technical assistance.

### Our Legal Services & Advocacy

Advocating with Congress on the need to increase funding for LSC and other federal and state programs providing legal assistance to low-income people.

Advocating for inclusion of civil legal services in federal grant programs that target low-income people, and growing the capacity for legal aid to apply for and manage these programs.

Offering tailored legal advice, guidance, and technical assistance to our civil membership.

Advocating with LSC and the LSC Board of Directors on behalf of LSC-funded members and their partners for LSC regulations, policies, procedures, and oversight that maximize the legal aid programs’ ability to effectively provide high-quality legal services.

Working with a broad range of state, community, and national civil legal aid, civil rights, and community-based organizations to advance racial justice and leadership development as core values in the civil justice community and to help low-income people have meaningful access to a full range of legal services.

Hosting an extensive Legal Aid Research database that provides free access to advocacy pieces, surveys, studies about evidence-based practices, and other research on civil legal aid.

Organizing in-depth training and networking opportunities through two annual conferences, one biannual conference, and regular remote learning programs, such as webinars and teleconferences.

Publishing the NLADA Update, a subscription-only publication that provides in-depth reporting and analyses of developments in Congress and LSC, grant opportunities, NLADA advocacy, and other news affecting the delivery of civil legal services.

Developing NLADA memos and guides that provide in-depth analysis to legal aid programs regarding compliance with complex federal requirements.

*To learn more about the benefits of NLADA membership, or to become a member, please contact [membership@nlada.org](mailto:membership@nlada.org).*





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