

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Maryland Foster Care Court Improvement Project at the Administrative Office of the Courts is now accepting applications for two openings for jurisdictions interested in participating in the National Council for Juvenile and Family Court Judges' Child Victims Act Model Courts Project. Jurisdictions that hear child abuse and neglect cases and that are interested in applying for one of the openings may do so by providing the following:

- Name and contact information for the primary contact person in the jurisdiction applying to be a Model Court;
- Name and contact information of proposed Lead Judge;
- A narrative of the application components outlined below (limited to five pages). Applications should be mailed to the Foster Care Court Improvement Project at 580 Taylor Avenue, Annapolis, Maryland by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 11, 2009.

The application narrative should be **limited to five (5) pages** and should include the following:

1. A description of the jurisdiction's plan for implementation of best practices as defined by the *Maryland CINA, related TPR and Adoptions Matters Best Practices Manual, the NCJFCJ Resource and Adoption and Permanency Guidelines*, demonstrating commitment to systems reform and modeling best practices;
2. The name of a dedicated judicial leader to serve as Lead Judge, as well as identification of stakeholder collaborative partners, including names and contact information of committed key decision-makers, and how they will participate and collaboratively promote systems reform implementation;
3. A description of what performance measures will be in place to track outcomes of systems reform implementation;
4. A description of the needs of the court that may be met by participation in the Model Courts project;
5. A description of the benefits of the Model Courts project to the jurisdiction;
6. A description of any matching funds that may be provided from any source to support the jurisdiction to become a Model Court;
7. A description of past and current collaborative work with the Foster Care Court Improvement Project (FCCIP), including how the court will collaborate with the FCCIP as part of the Model Courts project.

For information on the value and scope of participation in the Model Courts project, please see the attached documents:

- Additional information is available on the website of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges at www.ncjfcj.org.