

Administrative Office of the Courts
NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY
NOFA #: **N21-0016-26P**



Juvenile and Family Services

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**FY 2021 Short-Term Court Improvement Program
Grant Child Welfare Pandemic Response Project**

Funds have been appropriated by the U.S. DHHS, Administration for Children and Families to provide financial assistance to State and local units of government, non-profit organizations, and institutions of higher education within the State of Maryland to assist state courts in improving safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes **for abused and neglected children in the child welfare system**. The Maryland Judiciary, Administrative Office of the Courts, Juvenile and Family Services administers the grant.

Grant Purpose

These grants are being offered to provide critical support and emergency funding to respond to the COVID-19 health emergency. The Foster Care Court Improvement Program (FCCIP) continues to pursue efforts at improving how the courts handle child welfare cases, with attention to the guidelines of best practices outlined by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, state and federal guidelines, and practices implemented locally in jurisdictions throughout the state. These funds are to be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to, child welfare needs arising from the coronavirus pandemic. Projects could include the following:

- Conduct outreach to CINA families, using educational materials related to pandemic response
- Provide trauma responsive services and supports to parents, caregivers, and youth to alleviate the effects of social isolation
- Support provided to make alternative dispute resolution (ADR) processes more accessible

- Assist participation in virtual hearings
- Support Safe Babies Court program
- Offer virtual education, training, or professional development

Eligible Applicants

- State and Local Governments *within the state of Maryland*
- Non-Profit Organizations *within the state of Maryland*
- Institutions of Higher Education *within the state of Maryland*

Availability and Awards of Funds

The availability of funds is contingent upon the provision of funds in the Maryland Judiciary budget by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. Applicants who are awarded funding will receive notice in September 2020.

Funding Cycle: October 1, 2020 – January 31, 2021

Match Requirements

No match required.

Special Requirements

These are pandemic response grant awards issued directly to eligible applicants. Grant funded staff will consult and jointly collaborate with FCCIP.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Application Due: September 17, 2020 @5:00pm

Documents: Scanned PDF submitted by email only

Email - Subject Line: "NOFA, Applicant Name, Grant Program" (Please submit emails with the Subject Title as described.)

Delivery Address: DJFS.Childwelfare@mdcourts.gov

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Grant Submission Checklist

- Signed Grant Application
- Proposed Budget with Justification Workbook

Additional Terms & Requirements

- General Grant Conditions
- Special Conditions for Targeted Court Improvement Program Grant for the Child Welfare COVID-19 Project under the Court Improvement Program (CIP) Funds for Fiscal Years (FYs) 2017-2021

FUNDING CYCLE: October 1, 2020 –
January 31, 2021

Questions: Email

DJFS.Childwelfare@mdcourts.gov or call 410-260-1259

[Application Forms Here](#)