



SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON PRO SE LITIGATION



February 1-3, 2007, Houston Texas

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

State: National

Name of Program & Brief Description:

Legal Services Corporation, Technology Initiative Grant Program (TIG)

The Legal Services Corporation (LSC) is a private, non-profit corporation established by Congress to seek to ensure equal access to justice under the law for all Americans by providing civil legal assistance to those who otherwise would be unable to afford it. The Technology Initiative Grant program (TIG) emerged from the combination of a longstanding need to provide some assistance to the large percentage of persons who LSC funded programs can't fully represent and a new resource- the communication and information capacities produced by the technological revolution. Most legal needs surveys in the United States indicate that no more than 20% of low-income people with civil legal problems are able to get help. The unprecedented powers of the personal computer and of the World Wide Web can broaden the reach of the valuable work conducted by legal services practitioners.

Seeing this potential, Congress authorized funding for the Technology Initiative Grant (TIG) program beginning in 2000. TIG funding has provided LSC with a remarkable opportunity to explore new ways to serve eligible persons and to help build legal aid programs' capacities. It has supported projects to develop, test and replicate technologies that improve client access to high quality legal information and pro se assistance. It has also helped programs develop their technological infrastructure generally.

Date Program Was Established: TIG was established in 2000.

Cost/Funding Source(s): TIG is funded through congressional appropriation. The funding amount each year varies; in 2006 TIG was funded at \$1.2 million.

Program Sponsor(s): the Legal Services Corporation and the US Congress

Partnerships:

TIG partners with a number of other institutions and organizations, Probono.net, Kaivo Software, the National Legal Aid and Defender Association, the State Justice Institute and many others.

Target Group(s)/No. Clients Served per Year:

LSC funded programs are dedicated to serving low-income person throughout the United States and its protectorates.

Staffing (FTE, Part-Time, Titles):

The TIG program has three full-time staff located in LSC Washington DC office, two program officers and one grants coordinator.

Contact Person and Contact Information:

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