



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Requests for New Funding  
**FROM:** Betty Balli Torres, Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** 2010-2011 Funding Requests from the Foundation  
**DATE:** February 24, 2010

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Thank you for your interest in applying for funds through the Texas Access to Justice Foundation (TAJF). TAJF administers three primary funds; Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA), Basic Civil Legal Services (BCLS) and Crime Victims Civil Legal Services (CVCLS). You can find information on each fund's criteria and restrictions on our website ([www.teajf.org](http://www.teajf.org)). The grant year for all three funds, IOLTA, BCLS, and CVCLS, begins September 1, 2010 and ends August 31, 2011.

At the TAJF Board of Directors' meeting held on Thursday, February 18, 2010, the Board decided on the overall amount of funds to be awarded for the 2010-2011 grant year. The available funds for 2010-2011 awards reflects an approximate 13-15% reduction in total projected available funds for awards from the previous grant year. The factors involved in the board decision are as follows:

- 1) The Federal Funds Target Rate had not been increased since its reduction in December 2008 to a range of zero to .25%. This has decimated IOLTA revenue which has been the primary funding source of the Foundation.
- 2) The state has requested agencies to come up with budget scenarios reflecting a 10% reduction in general revenue funds.
- 3) Anticipated revenue from the new filing fee and civil penalties bills has not generated the projected revenue.

Due to the above-referenced reductions and its impact on Foundation funds, the Board decided to take the following course of action for the 2010-2011 grant year:

- TAJF will entertain grants from current grantees for continued funding at reduced levels for the 2010-2011 grant year which includes awards for legal services, funding for the law school loan repayment program and funding for the Equal Justice Works Fellowship program.
- TAJF will not be able to accept new applications from new applicants for Foundation funds for the 2010 - 2011 grant year.

It is regretful that we are not able to accept and consider new applications for funding at this time but hopefully, in the near future, TAJF can look at new and exciting proposals to fund civil legal services to the poor in Texas. Please check on our website for future announcements or find us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/teajf). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jonathan Vickery, Director of Grants at 1-800-252-3401 ext. 110 or at [jvickery@teajf.org](mailto:jvickery@teajf.org).