

2015 ACJF Grants

Total Grants: \$105,330

A+ Education Partnership/Support for Alabama GRIT Campaign: \$25,000

Goal: To provide support for the work of Alabama GRIT – Graduate Ready. Impact Tomorrow – a 44 member organization supporting the state’s strategic plan for ensuring that all students graduate and that all graduates are prepared – Plan 2020, which was developed and approved by the State Board of Education. GRIT will shine a light on the potential of Alabama students, hold factual discussions of education issues, share the early results of Plan 2020 and undertake other means to assure that Alabama continues toward reaching the high standards that are a part of Plan 2020.

Alabama Appleseed Center for Law & Justice, Inc.: \$15,000

Goal: To expose and reduce the devastation caused by (1) triple digit interest and due process violations of unchecked third-party debt collection and (2) advocate for change in Alabama law that allows payday and automobile title lenders to charge up to 456% APR on loans that require lump sum payments in 14 days or 30 days, respectively. In a continuation of work funded over the past year through an ACJF grant focused on the first goal, Appleseed will continue to provide trainings for judges and lawyers, highlighting the issues and barriers in debt collection litigation, and supply resource materials to practicing attorneys.

Alabama Network of Family Resource Centers: \$15,000

Goal: To continue to build the capacity of ANFRC, the state coordinating entity for all local Family Resource Centers that meet the high quality standards necessary to become a member. The Network provides training and technical assistance to help communities develop FRCs, training and technical assistance to help existing FRCs strengthen their work, collaboration with state level agencies on behalf of local FRCs, grant writing and grants management for services provided by FRCs, statewide education about the impact of FRCs, and the evaluation of and reporting on collective impact of FRCs. This grant follows a more significant ACJF grant awarded ANFRC to initiate a major capacity building effort in 2011.

Arise Citizens’ Policy Project: \$20,000

Goal: To create a strategy and structure for consumer advocacy and community engagement at this critical time in Alabama Medicaid’s transformation from a statewide fee-for-service system to provider-based, community-led, non-profit managed care in five regions spanning the state. The work will focus on vulnerable older adults and related populations and will include training and mutual learning, along with legal and policy analysis to identify and evaluate statutory, regulatory and political obstacles to long-term care reform in Alabama. This grant will help to meet the 100% in-state match required by a \$95,000 national foundation grant and it will serve as "seed money" for building support among other Alabama funders.

IMPACT Alabama/SaveFirst: \$15,330

Goal: Implement a Volunteer Management & Training Software system to enable SaveFirst to reach more low-income families in rural communities across the state with their free, certified volunteer tax preparation initiative. The SaveFirst initiative exists to ensure that low-income individuals receive the full Earned Income Tax Credit and other credits to which they are entitled, to counteract predatory lending practices, and to encourage long-term financial planning and asset building.

United Way of Central Alabama, Inc. (B’ham): \$15,000

Goal: To support the newly created Foreclosure Prevention Partnership, a group of 20 trusted community organizations across the state. The Partnership utilizes the resources of the 2-1-1 Call Center to serve as the Central Point of Contact where individuals with foreclosure concerns are triaged and referred to the partnering service provider best suited to address their individual situations. The grant will provide professional development training for program staff in the partnering organizations and initiate important public awareness efforts to increase the number seeking assistance.