



Alabama
**CIVIL
JUSTICE
FOUNDATION**



2025 ACJF GRANT AWARDS

OASIS COUNSELING FOR WOMEN – \$25,000

REGION 3A (MENTAL HEALTH)

Oasis Counseling is using this funding to launch a Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) program for adolescents. The grant underwrites staff training (\$17,000), individual counseling, group therapy twice weekly, crisis calls with clinicians, and telehealth updates. **Why this matters for attorneys:** Adolescents in mental-health crisis often generate family law, juvenile justice, or dependency caseloads. By supporting therapeutic interventions early, attorneys can help reduce later legal issues (e.g., guardianship, juvenile court hearings, delinquency).

HARVESTERS OF HOPE – \$25,000

REGION 6 (MENTORING)

Harvesters of Hope is recruiting, placing, and mentoring attorneys in 40+ counties across Alabama -- bridging geographic gaps in access. **Why it matters:** Many rural regions suffer from limited access to legal counsel, leaving residents vulnerable to housing, family law, and benefits issues. Placing attorneys in these communities will extend access and help de-escalate matters that might otherwise spawn full-blown litigation.

EVELYN MOON CHILDREN'S SERVICES – \$25,000

REGION 3A (FAMILY STABILITY)

Funding will continue their “2Gap” program – which improves family stability by offering basic-needs support, mentoring for parents and children, in-school counseling, and math tutoring. **Why it matters:** Legal risks to families often arise when parents lack resources or stability. By working with/through family resource centers, attorneys can help identify legal barriers (e.g., custody, child support, financial challenges) early and align with the centers’ wrap-around services.

HOPE INSPIRED MINISTRIES – \$25,000

REGION 3B (FAMILY STABILITY)

HIM supports unemployed individuals in obtaining, maintaining, and excelling at employment. Their training program eliminates barriers and builds clients’ self-sufficiency. **Why it matters:** Economic stress is a primary cause of family

instability and legal entanglement (eviction, debt, custody). Attorneys who support employment-linked stability indirectly reduce future legal demand.

TUSCALOOSA CHILDREN'S CENTER – \$25,000

REGION 2 (ABUSE & NEGLECT)

TCC is a child advocacy center that works with local law enforcement, serving children who have suffered sexual or severe physical abuse and their non-offending family members. **Why it matters:** These are high-stakes cases. Attorneys can serve with/through CACs as pro bono counsel or provide training in forensic interviewing, evidence preservation, and legal rights for non-offending parents.

EMBRACE ALABAMA KIDS – \$20,000

REGION 6 (FAMILY STABILITY)

In an effort to improve family functioning and stability, EAK is providing in-home intensive services to at least 10 families in crisis under their Family Preservation Program. **Why it matters:** Preventing entry into the child-welfare or juvenile systems has cost-saving and social value.

THE COOKERY PROJECT – \$25,000

REGION 5 (AFTERSCHOOL/SUMMER LEARNING)

Funding afterschool and summer cooking programs for area youth that combine culinary and STEM instruction with nutrition and fitness guidance. **Why it matters:** Healthy youth development reduces delinquency, improves academic outcomes, cuts health costs, and lowers legal risks.

BELL CENTER FOR EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMS – \$20,000

REGION 3A (EARLY CHILDHOOD)

Providing vital early intervention (physical, occupational, speech/language therapies; special education services; nutritional counseling) in a 12-county footprint prior to any official diagnosis. **Why it matters:** Early-childhood interventions stabilize families, support special-needs children, empower parents, and often reduce future special-education legal cases.

DUMAS WESLEY COMMUNITY CENTER – \$25,000

REGION 5 (FAMILY STABILITY)

The Center supports 24 months of housing for up to 150 single women and children annually. **Why it matters:** Stable housing is foundational to reducing legal risks (eviction, custody, domestic violence), and the job and financial literacy training offered to clients during their stay further mitigate these risks.

UA SCHOOL OF LAW SUMMER SCHOLARS PROGRAM – \$25,000

REGION 6 (MENTORING)

Supporting a four-week program for first-generation undergraduates to consider and explore careers in the legal field, take the LSAT, and navigate the law-school application process. **Why it matters:** Cultivating the next generation of attorneys -- particularly from under-represented backgrounds -- strengthens Alabama's pipeline of legal talent and expands access to justice for years to come.

RAPE COUNSELORS OF EAST ALABAMA – \$15,000

REGION 4 (MENTAL HEALTH)

Supporting victim services, outreach, and awareness for sexual-assault survivors in a six-county area. **Why it matters:** Survivors who receive comprehensive care are better equipped to make informed decisions, participate in investigations, and rebuild their lives. This leads to higher reporting rates, stronger cases, and more just outcomes.

VICTIM SERVICES OF CULLMAN – \$20,000

REGION 1 (ABUSE & NEGLECT)

Funding for school-based programming in all Cullman County middle and high schools addressing teen dating violence, digital teen violence; training health-care and school professionals in early identification; and equipping foster parents to address related issues. **Why it matters:** Digital abuse is a growing source of legal

conflict (cyber-harassment, teen relationships, foster-care issues). Increased awareness and improved response will reduce the occurrences.

SAIL (SUMMER ADVENTURES IN LEARNING) – \$15,000

REGION 6 (AFTERSCHOOL/SUMMER LEARNING)

Providing funding for four summer reading/math programs in Clarke County, Bibb County, and two sites in Hale County. **Why it matters:** Educational attainment is a protective factor against future justice involvement. Higher academic achievement improves opportunities and increases youth resilience.

RALEIGH'S PLACE – \$10,000

REGION 6 (MENTORING)

Supporting a transitional program offering life skills and job training opportunities to males (up to age 24) aging out of foster care. **Why it matters:** Youth aging out of foster care are at increased risk for homelessness, employment instability, and justice system involvement.

BRANTWOOD CHILDREN'S HOME – \$15,000

REGION 3B (ABUSE & NEGLECT)

Funding to cover operating costs for a group home serving up to 36 teens, ages 13 - 18. **Why it matters:** Group homes often deal with youth facing complex legal issues: guardianship, dependency, delinquency, and educational rights.

SMALL MAGIC (FORMERLY BIRMINGHAM TALKS) – \$7,500

REGION 3A (EARLY CHILDHOOD)

Expanding services by supporting relocation to a new, larger facility with better accessibility and parking to serve more families. **Why it matters:** Investing in early education opportunities helps children enter school ready to learn — reducing the long-term risks of school failure, absenteeism, dropout, and justice system involvement.

ELMORE COUNTY FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER – \$5,000

REGION 3B (MENTORING)

Piloting a new summer mentoring and career exploration program for at-risk teens and college students. **Why it matters:** Structured summer engagement keeps youth connected to positive adult influences and constructive activities, lowering the likelihood of delinquency, academic disengagement, or substance use during out-of-school months.

TUSCALOOSA ONE PLACE – \$7,500

REGION 2 (MENTORING)

Offering Empowering Youth for Success, a program that equips justice-involved youth ages 16-18 with the skills and support to become job ready and self sufficient.

Why it matters: Through 1:1 mentoring, educational supports to complete their high school diploma or GED, and workforce training and career exploration, EYS transforms what could be a cycle of recidivism into a pathway to independence.

BREAKTHROUGH BIRMINGHAM – \$100,000

REGION 6 (AFTERSCHOOL/SUMMER LEARNING)

Working with Birmingham- and Talladega-area middle school students to increase academic achievement, strengthen interpersonal and leadership skills of students and teaching fellows, and addressing our state's teacher shortage by recruiting teaching fellows from higher ed programs. **Why it matters:** Summer learning loss disproportionately affects low-income students, widening academic disparities that persist into adulthood. Reading and math programs offered during the summer help close that gap — keeping students on track for grade-level achievement, improving their odds for timely graduation, and increasing available opportunities.



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