

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 8, 2010**  
**Contact: Leslie Corbett, 312-938-2381**

**ILLINOIS EQUAL JUSTICE FOUNDATION GRANT CRITERIA AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**  
*Deadline for comments is May 21*

(Chicago) . . . The Board of Directors of the Illinois Equal Justice Foundation (IEJF) has released a draft of its fiscal year 2011 grant criteria for public comment. The IEJF distributes funds allocated by the Illinois General Assembly to non-profit organizations that provide civil legal aid to low-income families, seniors and veterans throughout the state.

According to the guidelines set by the Illinois Equal Justice Act (30 ILCS 765/) passed in 1999, the IEJF makes grants in five categories: legal information for the public; self-help legal assistance projects; mediation; telephone advice and referral services; and civil legal assistance. The Board has not recommended any substantive changes to the guidelines this year, but welcomes written comments and suggestions from the public. The grant year will be September 1, 2010 – August 31, 2011.

The draft guidelines are available online at [www.iejf.org](http://www.iejf.org). Comments are due by May 21, 2010. Guidelines will be finalized and posted by June 21 in advance of the August 13, 2010 application deadline. Grant decisions will be made in December 2010.

Comments must be submitted in writing to Leslie Corbett, Executive Director, Illinois Equal Justice Foundation, 180 N. Stetson, Suite 820, Chicago, IL 60601 or to [lcorbett@iejf.org](mailto:lcorbett@iejf.org) by May 21, 2010.

The state appropriation for these vital legal aid services stands at \$1.75 million, a 50% reduction from the 2009 fiscal year funding level. Prospective grant candidates should take note that the Illinois Equal Justice Foundation is still awaiting payment from the state for this fiscal year's appropriation. Grant awards are dependent on receiving timely payment from the state.

For a list of past grant awards or for more information on the Illinois Equal Justice Foundation, please see [www.iejf.org](http://www.iejf.org). For information on efforts to maintain the state appropriation for civil legal aid, please see [www.equaljusticeillinois.org](http://www.equaljusticeillinois.org).

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