

VOMA Mini-grants 2005

The VOMA boards of directors directed 2005 Mini-grant funding toward two categories that had not been funded previously: VOMA Training and Technical Assistance (T & TA) Program and RJ Curriculum Development. The board received many proposals worthy of funding but due to limited resources it was able to fund only five proposals in the T & TA Program and one proposal in the curriculum development category. Proposals selected for funding follow.

Training and Technical Assistance Category

Community Justice and Mediation Center—Bloomington, Indiana

The Community Justice and Mediation Center (CJAM) is a volunteer organization that offers free mediation services, provides an educational diversion program for juveniles and adults who have been caught shoplifting, and a wide range of other educational services. CJAM will use its training grant as an opportunity to expand its successful program, to increase the diversity of its mediators, and to increase the number of volunteer mediators from schools and the justice system.

Project Contact: Amy Dowell at cjam@bloomington.in.us

Community Mediation Services—St. John's, Newfoundland

Community Mediation Services (CMS) is a membership organization that was founded 1995 to promote peace and restorative justice through education and mediation. It will use its training grant to support establishment of an Adult Victim Offender Mediation Program and to assist in the development of an on-going partnership between CMS and the Department of Justice of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Project Contact: Scott Morton Ninomiya at cms@nfld.net

PeaceWeb, (Southwest Region)—Tucson, Arizona

PeaceWeb teamed up with the Chief Judge Norris of the Tohono O'odham Justice Center to submit a joint proposal to bring circle sentencing training to their region. The short-term goal is to prepare court/justice systems connected with Native American tribes in Arizona to implement this type of restorative justice peacemaking practice. The long-term goals of the training includes: implementation of sentencing circles and other RJ and indigenous-based peacemaking practices in Arizona tribal court systems where currently none exist and the development of an "Indigenous Peacemakers Network" within Arizona tribal settings.

Project Contact: Ann Yellott at azyellot@aol.com

San Luis Valley Victim-Offender Reconciliation Program—Alamosa, Colorado

The San Luis Valley VORP (SLV-VORP) is the lead agency for a 5-site, bullying prevention initiative for after-school settings. SLV-VORP selected the Blue Print program, Olweus Bullying Prevention as their core model. They are adapting it to fit the needs of a rural region with areas of high poverty and a youth population that is 60% Hispanic. The training and technical assistance grant will enable SLV-VORP to bring advanced training to program participants and to conduct a mid-program assessment.

Project Contacts: Alice Price or Paula Medina at slvvorp@amigo.net

Shalom Ministries / Shalom VORP of Northwest Ohio—Archbold, Ohio

Shalom VORP, which was established in 1998, has embarked on a three-year initiative to expand its volunteer mediation program, to familiarize the criminal justice system of Northwest Ohio with the VORP alternative and VORP principles, and to engage more churches and organizations in support the Shalom VORP. The VOMA training grant will be used to offer a RJ training seminar with CEU credits for attorneys and other interested individuals.

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