

Montana Justice Foundation Grant Program Policy

I. **Purpose.** The purpose of the Montana Justice Foundation (MJF) Grant Program is to provide funding to qualified non-profit organizations committed to one or more of the charitable objectives of the MJF including:

- (a) supporting and encouraging the availability of legal services, especially services to the vulnerable and underserved;
- (b) increasing public understanding of the law and the legal system through education;
- (c) promoting the effective administration of justice; and
- (d) increasing public understanding of and access to alternative dispute resolution.

II. **Eligibility for Assistance.** The MJF may make grants to any organization or entity that is qualified to carry out the charitable objectives of the MJF.

III. **Application Process.**

- (a) At least 60 days prior to the spring meeting of the MJF Board, a notice must be placed in *The Montana Lawyer* advising prospective grantees that grant applications must be received by the MJF at a specified date, no later than 30 days prior to the spring meeting of the MJF Board.
- (b) The notice must indicate the purpose for which a grant may be awarded.
- (c) An application must include:
 - (i) a reasonably detailed description of the project;
 - (ii) a reasonably detailed budget for the project;
 - (iii) a timetable for the implementation of the project;
 - (iv) identification of the source or sources of funds to be used in addition to the funds granted by the MJF; and
 - (v) such other information as the MJF may request in the notice.

IV. **Evaluation of Projects and Applications.** All grants are discretionary. Any grants award by the MJF must be in furtherance of the MJF's charitable objectives. The award of grants is subject to availability of funds and any restrictions created by the reserve fund provision of the MJF by-laws or policies.

V. **Law-Related Education Informal Applications.** The MJF Board may allocate no more than \$5,000 per fiscal year for small grants not to exceed \$1,000 per grant outside of the formal application process for Law Related Education (LRE) grants. The Grants Advisory Committee comprised of at least three members of the MJF Board may award LRE grants. An application under this section may be filed at any time during the year with the MJF and must contain the information required in an application submitted under Section 5.

Approved by the Board of Directors on 5/14/04.

Revised: 5/08/09.