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Statewide Technical Assistance Initiative: Frequently Asked Questions

1. *What does the Statewide Technical Assistance Initiative consist of?*

This announcement is for technical services only. Technical assistance services vary by state depending upon the request and need, but they fall into two categories (1) on-site technical assistance and (2) off-site technical assistance (i.e., facilitating peer-to-peer consultation via e-mail and conference calls). For on-site TA, NCSC consultant(s) travel to the requesting state to work with the state on the specific issue and request. Generally, on-site TA ranges from 5-15 days of consultant(s) time. Off-site TA is a much shorter duration. Please be advised that requests for training are generally not approved by BJA under this grant.

2. *What are the limitations of the Statewide Technical Assistance Initiative?*

The primary purpose of the statewide technical assistance initiative is to provide direct aid and information to the state-level agencies that (1) enhances the leadership of the statewide drug court effort (2) improves coordination and collaboration among the drug court agencies and (3) increases the likelihood for the institutionalization of drug courts into the mainstream of court operations. These are the criteria upon which the request is judged. There is, naturally, a wide range of opportunities in this regard and, generally, the requesting state has the responsibility to make the argument that their request falls into one of the three categories.

3. *If we request the Statewide Technical Assistance services, what is the cost to us?*

There is no cost to the requester for the technical assistance services provided by NCSC/BJA. There may be some ancillary costs depending upon the type technical assistance services. For example, one state held a statewide meeting to discuss strategic planning and funding for statewide drug courts. The Administrative Office of the Courts paid for the lodging of the state participants to travel to the state capitol for the meeting.

4. *Would Statewide Technical Assistance be available by region, statewide?*

The focus of the technical assistance is statewide impact. In some instances, this could be interpreted as regional sessions. For example, one state held regional meetings to discuss and implement performance measure systems in three state regions.

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