

## Southern Poverty Law Center

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS/GRANT OPPORTUNITY

The Southern Poverty Law Center (“SPLC”) is a nonprofit civil rights organization dedicated to fighting hate and bigotry, and to seeking justice for the most vulnerable members of society.

SPLC is accepting proposals to fund innovative legal work designed to significantly improve the quality of educational services and supports for students with behavioral and emotional needs who have been or who are at risk of being pushed out of school and into the juvenile and criminal justice systems.

SPLC is offering several grants in the amount of \$75,000 per year, which are renewable for up to two additional years (three years total) based upon the status of the project at the end of each granting cycle.

Grants will be awarded to those applicants that most persuasively outline innovative legal strategies to require public school systems to replace exclusionary methods of discipline (suspension and expulsion) including “zero tolerance” policies with: (a) proven and promising school-based discipline frameworks to be implemented in a culturally relevant manner; and (b) additional school-based supports such as school social workers, school psychologists, school counselors, rather than reliance on the juvenile and criminal justice system.

All projects must be aimed at having as broad an impact as possible, with the goal of obtaining systemic impact on either the state or school district level. SPLC will offer technical assistance throughout the term of the project and will serve as co-counsel on any case filed under the grant.

Applicants for the grant must have the organizational capacity and institutional experience to bring systemic legal complaints and the capability to monitor any settlements or judgments on a multi-year basis.

An application form is attached. For more information or to submit an application, please contact: Jerri Katzerman, Southern Poverty Law Center, 400 Washington Avenue, Montgomery, Alabama 36104, 334.956.8320, or [jerri.katzerman@splcenter.org](mailto:jerri.katzerman@splcenter.org). The deadline for submission is **September 16, 2011**.

**Southern Poverty Law Center  
Grant Application & Instructions for Submission**

**I. Directory Information:**

Organization:

Address:

Phone:

Fax:

Email Address:

Individual to Contact Regarding this Application:

**II. Content of the Proposal:**

**a. Purpose/Mission of the Organization:**

Please include a brief statement that summarizes the purpose or the mission of your organization.

**b. Qualifications:**

The proposal should include a statement of the organization's experience, which specifies its qualifications to conduct the project, as well as the knowledge, and experience of the key personnel who will be working under the grant.

**c. Project Statement:**

The proposal must include a concise project statement, which indicates a clear understanding of the project objectives and anticipated outcomes. The proposal must include a description of the work to be performed, the strategies used to complete the project, and the objectives to be reached.

**c. Personnel:**

The proposal must identify a supervising attorney and key personnel. Each individual's resume or curriculum vitae must be attached to the grant proposal.

**d. Budget:**

Please attach a proposed project budget, listing all other sources of funding, if any, for the project.

**e. Reporting Requirements:**

Please indicate how your organization proposes to provide SPLC with periodic updates and reports regarding the progress of the project.

**III. Instructions for Submission:**

Applicants may use this form or may produce a document of their own (not to exceed 3 pages exclusive of attachments) which follows the same structure and includes all of the information set forth above. Proposals may be submitted either by email or U.S. mail to: Jerri Katzerman, Southern Poverty Law Center, 400 Washington Ave, Montgomery, Alabama 36104 or [jerri.katzerman@splcenter.org](mailto:jerri.katzerman@splcenter.org), no later than September 16, 2011. For questions or additional information, please call 334.956.8320.