



AOC
2021 PEMF & VORP
Webinar

April 5, 2021

Webinar Agenda

- Welcome
- Introduction of AOC Staff
- General Information
- Parent Education & Mediation Fund Info and App
- Victim Offender Reconciliation Program Info and App
- Application Tips
- Reminder of Important Deadlines
- Q&A



Contact Information

AOC Grants Team:

- Anne-Louise Wirthlin
 - anne.louise.wirthlin@tncourts.gov
 - PEMF programmatic questions
- John Jefferson
 - john.jefferson@tncourts.gov
 - VORP programmatic questions
- Zachary Polen
 - zachary.polen@tncourts.gov
 - Invoicing and reporting questions for BOTH grants

Applicants and Grantees must submit application materials and monthly/quarterly invoices and reports to Grants@tncourts.gov. We encourage everyone to direct all grant-related questions to Grants@tncourts.gov, as all Team members monitor this account.



General Information

AOC Grants Web Page

- <http://www.tncourts.gov/programs/rfpsgrants>

Application Deadline:

- Friday, April 16, 2021
- By 4:30 PM Central

How to submit application:

- **Email only** to Grants@tncourts.gov
- Both applications require demonstration of support by local judges
- Letters of support are required
- If applicant is incorporated, application must include:
 - Copy of corporation charter, and
 - Copy of IRS exemption letter



Parent Education and Mediation Fund (PEMF)

TCA 36-6-413

- \$7.00 from fee collected when every marriage license is issued in TN goes to AOC for administration of divorcing parent education and mediation fund
- Funding includes costs of:
 - Court ordered mediation
 - Parenting education programs
 - AND any related services to resolve family in conflict in divorce and post-divorce matters and other child custody matters
- Funds shall be used to fund parenting plan requirements, including creating a grants process to serve local courts using any part of the parenting plan process



What types of initiatives have been approved in the past?

- Pro bono lawyers for limited or full scope representation of parents;
- Conducting legal clinics for self-represented parents;
- Providing interpreters for no cost or reduced fee mediations;
- Community education on the parenting plan process;
- Training costs of Rule 31 bilingual mediators;
- Related services to resolve family conflict in divorce, post-divorce, and other custody matters,
- Seed money to establish a program described above.

List of Current grantees:

- https://www.tncourts.gov/sites/default/files/docs/pemf_fy_2020-2021_grantee_list.pdf



What types of applicants are eligible to receive funding?

- Individuals, groups, non-profits, government agencies, or corporations
- Must use funds to support divorcing parents and their children or other custody matters
- Sustaining on-going initiatives OR establishing new initiative
- Must serve communities within Tennessee



PEMF-Application



Application for Grant Funding by State Appropriation Parent Education and Mediation Fund T.C.A. §36-6-413

Summary of Grant

The Tennessee legislation provides funding to be distributed by the administrative office of the courts "for the specific purpose of funding the parenting plan requirements pursuant to this part, through the divorcing parent education and mediation fund, which funding includes the costs of court-ordered mediation, parenting education programs and any related services to resolve family conflict in divorce, post-divorce, and other child custody matters." T.C.A. §36-6-413.

Types of Approved Initiatives for Grant Funding

The AOC has grant funds available for the development or continuation of initiatives that will provide these services to low income individuals. These initiatives may include but are not limited to:

- ♦ Recruitment of pro bono attorneys for limited or full scope representation of parents involved in



Victim Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP)

- Provide victim-offender mediation in felony, misdemeanor and juvenile delinquent cases without cost to the participants
- Provide dispute resolution services to the community on a voluntary basis
- Current Grantees:
 - https://www.tncourts.gov/sites/default/files/docs/vorp_fy_2020-2021_grantee_list.pdf



VORP's Purpose

- (1) Stimulate the establishment and use of victim-offender mediation centers to help meet the need for alternatives to the courts for the resolution of certain disputes;
- (2) Encourage continuing community participation in the development, administration and oversight of local programs designed to facilitate the informal resolution of disputes between and among members of the community;
- (3) Offer structures for dispute resolution that may serve as models for centers in other communities; and
- (4) Serve a specific community or locale and resolve disputes that arise within that community or locale.



What types of applicants are eligible to receive funding?

Center may be created and operated by a corporation organized to resolve disputes, but **cannot be organized for profit**

- (1) Comply with Chapter 20 and the rules adopted by the supreme court of Tennessee;
- (2) Provide neutral mediators who have received training in conflict resolution techniques in accordance with rules of the supreme court;
- (3) Provide victim-offender mediation in felony, misdemeanor and juvenile delinquent cases without cost to the participants;
- (4) Provide dispute resolution services to the community on a voluntary basis; and
- (5) At the conclusion of the mediation process, provide a written agreement or decision to the referral source setting forth the settlement of the issues and future responsibilities of each participant.



Raising and Dispersing of Funds (§ 16-20-106.)

- A victim-offender mediation center may raise and disburse funds from any public or private source for the purposes of this chapter.
- A center's share of funding from the state **shall not exceed fifty percent (50%)** of the approved estimated cost of the program, **unless the program is in first 3 years**

Statute outlines four ways a county or municipality is authorized to levy an additional \$1-5 litigation tax per case

- The clauses vary by size of county and types of cases.
- Example: By a two-thirds (2/3) vote of its legislative body, each county and municipality, as provided in this subdivision (c)(1), is authorized to levy an additional one dollar (\$1.00) litigation tax per case , to be denominated as a part of the court costs, in matters before the local general sessions courts and juvenile courts



VORP-Application



Application for Grant Funding by State Appropriation Victim Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP) T.C.A. §16-20-101

Summary of Grant

The Victim Offender Reconciliation Program of Tennessee (VORP) was sanctioned by the legislature in 1993. State funding is distributed by the Administrative Office of the Courts to VORP centers pursuant to T.C.A. §16-20-101 et seq. To receive funding, centers must provide their services to the judiciary and the community in a way that executes the goals of the legislation as a whole.

Goals of the legislation include helping to meet the need for alternatives to the courts for resolution of felony, misdemeanor and juvenile delinquent disputes and encouraging community participation in the development, administration, and oversight of local programs designed to facilitate informal resolution of disputes. T.C.A. §16-20-101(b)(1-4)

Requirements for Funding

- ◆ Completed application submitted as PDF file via email to grants@tncourts.gov by April 16th, 2021;



Application Tips

- Use Adobe Acrobat Reader, or Adobe Acrobat DC to fill out the application form;
- If you are unsure about what a certain field is asking for, please reach out to our team. If a certain field is not applicable to your organization, please use N/A;
- For fields that you put more information than the space allows, the fields should scroll to allow more space than initially seen. If submitted correctly, we will still be able to collect that information;
- Due to COVID-19 restrictions, it is acceptable to submit digital signatures for 1) signature of the presiding judge and 2) letters of support from the judge(s).



Time for Questions

Don't hear your question?

Email grants@tncourts.gov



Reminder and Links

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