

# Court Improvement Program

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In 1995, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families began awarding states the original Court Improvement Program (CIP) grant. The South Dakota Unified Judicial System, State Court Administrator's Office was awarded the grant funds and established the Court Improvement Grant Committee, chaired by Max Gors, to assess and improve handling of court proceedings related to child abuse and neglect in South Dakota.

In 2006, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families announced funding for two additional Court Improvement Programs, Training and Data Collection and Analysis.

In 2007, the South Dakota Unified Judicial System, State Court Administrator's Office applied for and was awarded grant funds for all three Court Improvement Programs.

The Basic Court Improvement Grant continues to support CASA programs make the necessary revisions to the SD Guidelines for Child Abuse and Neglect Cases, support the CIP contract, and support the development of a new CIP Committee.

The Training Grant assists in providing training opportunities to judges, attorneys, legal personnel, and child welfare agency staff on issues related to child welfare. These funds assure appropriate training relevant to child welfare issues is offered to the targeted audience.

The Data Collection and Analysis Grant funds the reformatting of the Juvenile Tracking System (JTS). The revised JTS will track permanency, safety, and well-being of children in the child welfare system.