



TO: Juvenile Welfare Board Members

FROM: James E. Mills, Executive Director   
Lisa A. Sahulka, Director, Programs & Finance 

### Requested Action

The Juvenile Welfare Board is requested to allocate up to \$28,000 to Religious Community Services – The Haven to continue the Domestic Violence Intervention Project during FY 99-00.

### Options

1. Approve the request.
2. Deny the request.
3. Any other action the Board may deem appropriate.

### Recommended Action

1. Allocate up to \$28,000 in Transitional Unallocated funds in FY 99-00 to Religious Community Services – The Haven to continue the Domestic Violence Intervention Project.

### Source of JWB Funds

FY 99-00 Transitional Unallocated Funds

### Fiscal Impact

FY 99-00 Transitional Unallocated funds will be reduced by \$28,000 from \$210,168 to \$182,168.

### Narrative

- The Domestic Violence Intervention Project is a collaborative effort between Gulfcoast Legal Services (GLS) and the two domestic violence centers in Pinellas County, Center Against Spouse Abuse (CASA) and Religious Community Services - The Haven. The identified population are victims of domestic violence in Pinellas County who are in temporary shelter at CASA or the Haven, or individuals who have been referred to GLS by those organizations. Most clients will have children with them and have an income below 150% of federal poverty guidelines.
- GLS provides victims of domestic violence with timely access to competent and responsive attorneys. Their goal is to enable clients to pursue all legal remedies available to correct the harm caused by their batterers and to prevent repeat violence. Service strategies include assistance with early legal intervention through the injunction process, outreach to victims at shelters, and legal consultation and

counsel. Program objectives include the following:

1. Collaboration with the two Domestic Violence Victims Advocacy Centers to strengthen the delivery system.
  2. Elimination of waiting periods for victims of domestic violence to obtain legal consultation and advice.
  3. Assistance to victims with children in the household.
  4. Delivery of law-related training to each Center's employees and volunteers.
  5. Render general legal advice and provide information to victims of domestic violence in a group setting at least bi-monthly at each Center.
- There is a full-time GLS staff attorney assigned to the Project. The attorney has a Supervising Attorney, and a .3 FTE secretary. JWB funding will help pay for the staff attorney and all related program expenses. GLS cannot effectively continue the Domestic Violence Intervention Project in 2000 without the funds requested from the JWB. These funds will allow the continuation of the program while GLS seeks new funding sources. GLS anticipates service to 87 clients during the 99-00 fiscal year. JWB reimbursement to Religious Community Services for GLS will be at the rate of \$40.00 per hour up to 700 hours.

Salary Portion	\$25.13 X 700 = \$17,591
Benefits Portion	\$ 6.40 X 700 = \$ 4,480
Other Expenses	\$ 8.47 X 700 = \$ 5,929, which includes library expenses, online legal resources, insurance and office supplies.

- The agency has experienced unanticipated reduction in funding as follows:

	<u>97-98</u>	<u>98-99</u>	<u>99-00</u>
VAWA*	\$55,056	\$26,097	\$23,520
IOTA **	0	\$25,423	0
TOTAL	<u>\$55,056</u>	<u>\$51,520</u>	<u>\$23,520</u>
JWB			<u>\$28,000</u>
TOTAL			\$51,520

\* Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) – Grant for Pinellas County from the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Tallahassee, Florida.

\*\* Florida Bar Foundation (IOTA)

- In 2000, GLS will apply to the Department of Justice and is also considering hiring a development director to pursue other funding.
- Gulfcoast Legal Services principal funders, the Legal Services Corporation and the Florida Bar Foundation, do not permit fees to be charged to clients.

Staff Resource Person: Patricia S. Davis