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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** AAA Directors **Notice#:** 072105-1-T-LA

**FROM:** Sarah Graham  
Director, Elder Rights Unit, and Legal Services Developer

**DATE:** July 21, 2005

**SUBJECT:** Notice of Transmittal: Request for Feedback on Statewide Senior Legal Helpline Proposal

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The Administration on Aging (AOA) recently released a program announcement and grant application for Legal Assistance Grants. AOA plans to fund six to eight statewide grants to states proposing a cost-effective way to increase the number of seniors who receive quality legal assistance, particularly the underserved.

The Department of Elder Affairs is pleased to announce that Bay Area Legal Services (BALS) is applying for this statewide grant in order to establish a Senior Legal Helpline in Florida. BALS is the Title IIIB provider for PSA six and currently operates a regional legal services hotline serving a five county area. Their experience in running a local hotline and their longstanding commitment to serving seniors ensures their proposal to establish a statewide legal helpline will be competitive.

However, a key component of the grant application is evidence of statewide planning and participation in the Helpline. As an important part of the aging network in the state, your consideration of the proposal concept from BALS (see attached) and provision of feedback is crucial to meeting grant requirements. Additionally, your ongoing commitment to the project through partnership with the Helpline will ensure the most vulnerable will be reached and delivery of legal services to seniors will be enhanced. Please review the attached proposal and provide your feedback through responding to the following questions:

1. Do you support the project as described in the proposal?
2. If you support the project, would you participate in developing the referral matrix described in the proposal?
3. If you support the project and your agency currently does not have sufficient resources to provide legal services to all applicants in your service region, would you refer legal clients to the Helpline?
4. If you support the project, would you help disseminate materials about the Helpline in your geographic area, including making special efforts to target isolated, rural, limited English-speaking and other hard to reach populations?

<http://elderaffairs.state.fl.us>

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The Florida Department of Elder supports the proposal by Bay Area Legal Services and is committed to working with BALS to prepare a winning grant application. Legal services are a priority service under the Older Americans Act and serve a vital role in the department's ability to meet its mission to provide choices and promote independence to older Floridians. We enlist your support in providing this proposal concept and request for feedback to your IIIB providers and other community providers. Please provide your feedback and support no later than **Monday, August 1, 2005**, in order that BALS may incorporate all feedback into their grant application, due to AOA by mid-August.

You may provide your comments to:  
Mary Haberland  
mhaberland@bals.org  
Bay Area Legal Services  
829 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Tampa, Florida 32603-3336

A sample support letter is also attached for you to use as a guide in preparing your response. Thank you for your consideration and involvement in this exciting opportunity for Florida's seniors.

Attachments