



U.S. Congressional In-District/State Work Period August 2025

NCJFCJ MEMBER MEETINGS AT HOME WITH YOUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

Dear NCJFCJ Members,

Please join your fellow NCJFCJ members in engagement with Members of Congress and during the August congressional in-district work period. As the oldest judicial training organization in the country, the NCJFCJ has provided judicial officers, courts, and court-related agencies nationwide with the education, technical assistance, and research they need to improve the lives of those who seek fair, equal, effective, and timely justice with the support of federal program funds. Reaching out while Members of Congress are home for their in-district work period helps to deepen their knowledge about the work of the NCJFCJ and the critical role juvenile and family court judges are playing to improve the outcomes for children, families, and victims of domestic violence and domestic child sex trafficking. Showcasing the work of the NCJFCJ--which includes a focus on helping children and families that appear in your courtrooms heal from trauma--is necessary to help federal policymakers understand these issues and support judicial education programs.

The August in-district work period affords a unique opportunity to invite Members of Congress and their staff to observe your court. This first-hand experience helps them (many of whom have never been in court) understand the highly complex issues that come before you. If attending your court is not feasible, a meeting with the Member of Congress or District Director while they are home in August holds tremendous value in creating trusted relationships and establishing yourself as a valued expert on the range of issues that come before your court. The goal is to position yourself and the NCJFCJ as a resource.

Finally, outreach and engagement are never limited to Members of Congress - creating trusted relationships with your state and local elected officials is likewise valuable in securing support for judicial education and advancing the field. Likewise, engagement is not limited to August. If your Members of Congress will be in the district/state at a different, more convenient time to meet, that is always welcomed too.

The NCJFCJ appreciates all you do, and we look forward to hearing about your visits and conversations with your Members and elected officials. You can report your visits to NCJFCJ CEO, Joey Orduña Hastings at jhastings@ncjfcj.org.

How to contact your Members of Congress:

U.S. Senate – visit <https://www.senate.gov/> and select Contact under the Senators menu. You will find your Senators' local office contact information via their webpages. When you call, ask for the email address of the State Scheduler so you can email an invitation for the Senator to visit your court or meet with you while in the state.

House of Representatives – visit <https://www.house.gov/representatives> to look up your Representative's local office contact information. When you call, ask for the email address of the District Scheduler so you can email an invitation for the Member of Congress to visit your court or meet with you while in the district.

Timing of requests with Members of Congress

Please conduct your outreach to schedulers 3-4 weeks before the requested meeting date.

Information and sample talking points

The NCJFCJ's federal legislative requests and FY2026 funding requests can be found below and may serve as recommended talking points in conversation with your Members of Congress. To access and share the NCJFCJ's state profiles and overview of our subject area work, click [here](#). In addition, [NCJFCJ's Courting Judicial Excellence in Juvenile Justice](#): a 50-state study is a great resource for Congressional staff.

Current Requests of Congress

Department of Justice competitive grant programs; FY 2026 Commerce, Justice, and Science (CJS) Appropriations Requests

Please provide \$6 million for OJJDP Child Abuse Training for Judicial Personnel (President's proposed levels); there is no other existing federally supported grant program available that provides specialized training and needed resources to juvenile and family courts. This discretionary grant program supports training, technical assistance, and research for courts which help to improve outcomes for child abuse and neglect victims, dual-status youth, victims of domestic child sex trafficking, and dependency court system reform.

Please provide \$25 million for OVW Grants to Support Families in the Justice System (President's proposed levels); combines VAWA Court Training and Improvement and Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange programs and helps judges address the broad range of concerns family violence and child abuse may present while improving the court's response to all aspects of the civil and criminal justice system on behalf of families impacted by these crimes.

These grant programs serve as a critical backbone to our nation's response to family violence and child welfare matters. In 2024, the NCJFCJ fulfilled over 150 requests for technical assistance and trained over 15,000 judges, judicial officers, attorneys, and other juvenile and family court-related professionals across the nation, impacting over 4 million children and families. On-going judicial education is vital to accurate and appropriate interpretation of the law. Increased funding will support the ability of judges to prevent, identify, and address child

abuse and family violence and support the NCJFCJ's work to ensure a well-informed judiciary that protects at-risk children and families and implements laws the way Congress intended.

AUTHORIZATION REQUESTS:

Two bipartisan bills endorsed by the NCJFCJ are being considered in Congress. The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Reauthorization Act (JJDPRA) was introduced on July 10 by Judiciary Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and Senator Sheldon Whitehouse. It authorizes the federal juvenile justice law through 2030 and adds additional training of personnel and screening of youth at risk of trafficking. **Offer to be a resource to Hill offices on these issues given your first-hand knowledge of the cases that come before the bench.** For juvenile justice issues, you can highlight [NCJFCJ's 50-state study](#), especially the states identified as key models for scaling. And you can remind them that [NCJFCJ supports the elimination of the Valid Court Order](#).

Countering Threats and Attacks on Our Judges Act

This bipartisan legislation would establish a State Judicial Threat Intelligence and Resource Center to provide technical assistance, training, and threat monitoring for state and local judges and court personnel. Given the rise in threats and violence to judges and judicial personnel, this legislation is vitally important to protect the judiciary. Senators John Cornyn (R-TX) and Chris Coons (D-DE) alongside Reps. Michael McCaul (R-TX) and Lucy McBath (D-GA) are expected to introduce this bill imminently. The NCJFCJ's request is for additional Members of Congress to cosponsor this legislation.

Please be sure to thank your Members of Congress for their continued support and efforts on behalf of children, families, and victims of domestic violence and domestic child sex trafficking. For more information regarding the NCJFCJ Legislative Committee and its efforts, please contact Vanessa Stephens, Office Administrator, at (775) 507-4786 or vstephens@ncjfcj.org.