

**LEGAL SERVICES TRUST FUND COMMISSION
PARTNERSHIP GRANTS COMMITTEE MEETING**

Meeting Summary and Action Items

Friday, June 26, 2020, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
State Bar of California (Conference Call via Zoom)

Roll Call

Committee Members

Chair Christina Vanarelli
Kim Bartleson
William Boschelli

Advisors

Hon. Lisa R. Jaskol
Hon. William J. Murray

Liaisons

Bonnie Hough
Lorin Kline

Staff

Catherine Borgeson
Christine Holmes
Elizabeth Hom
Dan Passamaneck
Brady Dewar (Office of General
Counsel)

OPEN SESSION

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

I. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken and quorum was established.

II. CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were offered by members of the public.

III. CONSENT

A. Approval of Action Summary from July 19, 2019 Meeting

The Partnership Grants Committee (Committee) made a motion to approve the May 22, 2020 meeting summary and action items. The motion was approved by roll call vote (Boschelli moved, Vanarelli seconded).

IV. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

A. Review and Discuss Administration of Partnership Grant Application

Assistant General Counsel Brady Dewar reported on research following a question raised at the May 22 Committee meeting: whether services related to expungement could be funded with Partnership Grants. This analysis determined that the State Budget Act and existing approved policy require Partnership Grants to be used for assistance with civil litigation, and that expungement was considered to be a criminal proceeding. His recommendation was therefore that Partnership Grant funds not be used to support expungement services, pending further instruction or other changes. Staff reported that four organizations had requested 2021 Partnership Grant funding for projects referencing expungement services; all four projects have been or will be advised to revise their proposals to clarify that Partnership Grant funds will not be used to support those services.

Senior Program Analyst Dan Passamaneck reported on the status of application review. This Committee had identified tentative allocation recommendations for thirteen projects on May 22; for the remaining

twenty-two projects, a funding range had been identified with a lower and upper bound. Staff had completed follow-up with questions about the proposals, but an April, 2020 survey of current grantees had indicated that many projects had changed due to COVID-19. These changes would not appear in their proposals. Staff therefore recommended that the Committee continue to refine tentative allocation recommendations during this June 26 meeting, but not to finalize the recommendations until projects were given an opportunity to revise their proposals to reflect any adjustments needed due to court closures and shelter-in-place orders. Staff would report back on any such changes before the Committee would approve their final list of recommended allocations, at a meeting to be scheduled in July. The Committee approved moving forward with staff's recommendation.

B. Discuss and Approve Recommendation to Legal Services Trust Fund Commission Regarding Carryover of Unspent 2020 Grant Funds

Staff reviewed the current carryover policy for Partnership Grants, which limits carryovers to projects that are not seeking renewed funding and requires spend-down during the first six months following the grant year. Staff also noted findings from the April, 2020 survey indicating that a majority of projects expect some amount of funds to remain unspent at the end of the 2020 grant year – an unusual circumstance, attributed to the impact of COVID-19. Staff recommended that the Commission administer carryover requests for 2020 Partnership Grant funds generously, considering requests from any project and for any amount of funding, for expenditure over the following year. Requests would be considered on a case-by-case basis, and carried-over funds must be used to provide the same services at the same location. The motion was approved by roll call vote (Vanarelli moved, Bartleson seconded).

C. Review and Discuss Outstanding Partnership Grant Application Issues and Recommended Allocations

Judicial Council liaison Bonnie Hough reported that the total amount available for 2021 distribution is now estimated to be \$2,550,000 because the Equal Access Fund was excluded from the Governor's May Budget Revision. Staff provided an overview of eligibility, review, and priority criteria for Partnership Grant funding, and of the tentative allocation recommendations and ranges as they stood after the May 22 meeting. The Committee then discussed how to allocate the available funding among the eligible proposals, developed a tentative allocation recommendation for each project, and directed staff to contact all applicant projects to ensure that their proposals were accurate and current, in light of the tentative allocation and the impact of COVID-19 on these court-based projects. Staff will report back on any such revisions at this Committee's next meeting, which staff will schedule promptly in time to provide recommendations to the Commission at its August 14 meeting.

V. ADJOURN

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:57 p.m.