

## Duration of Partnership Grant Funding

### Partnership Grant Five-Year Funding Policy (As Adopted by the Commission July 2017)

#### Partnership Grant Policy

Historically, Partnership Grants have been awarded as “seed funding,” with ~~the an initial~~ expectation of ~~reduced~~ funding ~~reductions~~ after the first three years and ~~a final year~~ ~~termination~~ of funding ~~in~~ ~~after~~ the fifth year.

~~In recent years, it~~ ~~has become apparent~~ ~~come to the Commission’s attention~~ that this model, ~~at times,~~ ~~forces can sometimes lead to valuable,~~ high functioning projects ~~to either re-invent the work to receive continued~~ making major changes to their substantive focus or operational model just to retain eligibility for Partnership Grant funding, ~~or to shift the work to another organization which can then apply as a new project.~~

While the Commission ~~seeks~~ ~~continues~~ to ~~support~~ ~~prioritize~~ innovative programs ~~and fresh thinking,~~ it also seeks to support ~~strong~~ ~~existing~~ projects ~~providing that provide~~ valuable services, ~~particularly in to~~ underserved communities. The following considerations are intended to assist applicants in setting reasonable expectations regarding the expected timeframe for the ~~face of nationwide funding~~ ~~threats~~ ~~duration of Partnership Grant support.~~

This updated policy:

This Partnership Grant Five-Year Funding Policy:

- Confirms that Partnership Grants will continue to be awarded ~~on a discretionary basis~~ with the ~~principal~~ intention of providing seed funding ~~for new projects, which may be renewed annually over the course of an initial five-year period.~~
- Clarifies that ~~Partnership Grant~~ funding may or may not be reduced ~~from year to year~~ during that time, taking into account project strength, demonstrated success, and funding availability.
- ~~Reiterates that as~~ ~~Reiterate the discretionary nature of~~ Partnership Grants ~~are discretionary,~~ ~~under which the Commission’s decisions on~~ continued funding ~~is~~ ~~may be~~ contingent upon ~~projects~~ meeting programmatic, administrative, and financial expectations. The Commission retains discretion not to renew funding within the ~~standard~~ ~~initial~~ five-year timeframe should projects be unable to meet basic expectations.
- ~~Expounds~~ ~~Recommends~~ that funding beyond a five-year cycle ~~will~~ be considered on a case by case basis ~~(e.g., Particular consideration should be given to~~ projects supporting unmet rural needs, ~~programs that have evolved to respond to a recent emergency or disaster, and~~ high-functioning ~~and heavily-utilized~~ projects that have been unable to secure alternate funding, ~~etc.). despite documented efforts. The foregoing examples are illustrative, not exclusive.~~
  - ~~Projects~~ ~~Applicants~~ seeking funding beyond a fifth year into a second cycle (of 3 to 5 years) must demonstrate the effectiveness of the ~~program~~ ~~project~~ and provide additional justification such as documentation of ~~the~~ ~~their~~ pursuit of alternate funding sources, ~~narrative information~~ ~~narratives and quantitative data~~ on ~~the context of~~ ~~the local~~ needs ~~or circumstances,~~ and ~~or~~ additional project evaluation ~~(which would~~

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Recommended Changes to Current Text of Partnership Grant Five-Year Funding Policy, 11/08/18

~~includes such as~~ court feedback, case file review ~~when possible, and/or~~ other such evaluative ~~measures), processes.~~

- Projects seeking funding beyond a fifth year will be reviewed based on with respect to the justifications factors cited above, ~~and taking into consideration competing as well as~~ in comparison to new and other renewing applicants, ~~project in the areas of program~~ strength, demonstrated success, and funding availability.

~~This policy intends to support valuable services to indigent self-represented litigants, who would not otherwise have access to legal services, by providing an expected timeframe for Partnership Grants that meet expectations and the flexibility to continue funding beyond a fifth year in appropriate circumstances.~~