



# The State Bar *of California*

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**DATE:** July 19, 2019

**TO:** Members, Legal Services Trust Fund Commission

**FROM:** Members, Partnership Grant Committee

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Recommendations for Criteria to Review Partnership Grant Proposals for Grant Year 2020

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## **BACKGROUND**

The Legal Services Trust Fund Commission Partnership Grant Committee (Committee) reviewed 39 applications for Partnership Grant Funding for grant year 2020. During the course of review two issues required the Committee to discuss and recommend specific criteria to use during the application review. The Committee acknowledges that any recommendations for grant year 2020 are subject to review by the Rule Committee's overall review of grant processes and procedures.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Legal Services Trust Fund Commission Partnership Grant Committee (Committee) reviewed and discussed projects requesting funding beyond an initial 5-year period, and funding of mediation services.

The Committee approved prioritization of Partnership Grant funding beyond the initial 5-year period for projects sustaining services in rural areas.

The Committee clarified that mediation services is defined as supervised settlement services to assist litigants in settling their litigation as a permissible activity to be funded by Partnership Grant, so long as the settlement services are a component of court-based litigation and are overseen by an attorney.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission approve the recommendations of the Partnership Grant Committee as follows:

The Legal Services Trust Fund Commission approves the Partnership Grant Committee's recommendation to prioritize Partnership Grant funding beyond the initial 5-year period for projects sustaining services in rural areas, and to allow supervised settlement services to assist litigants in settling their litigation as a permissible activity to be funded by a Partnership Grant, so long as the settlement services are a component of court-based litigation and are overseen by an attorney.

## **ATTACHMENT**

### **A. Partnership Grant Eligibility and Review Issues for Grant Year 2020**