

LEGAL SERVICES TRUST FUND COMMISSION

PARTNERSHIP GRANTS MEETING

Meeting Summary and Action Items

Thursday, November 4, 2021 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

State Bar of California (Conference Call via Zoom)

Roll Call

Members Present

Chair Eric Isken
Will Boschelli
Jason Galkin
Joseph Lee
Christina Vanarelli

Advisors

Judge Lisa Jaskol
Justice William Murray

Liaisons

Bonnie Hough (Judicial
Council)
Zach Newman (LAAC)

Public Members

None

Staff

Christal Bundang
Michael Cheng
Elizabeth Hom

Members Absent

Diana Kruze

OPEN SESSION

Chair Eric Isken called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

I. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken, and quorum was established.

II. CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Eric Isken invited members of the public to comment on any items on the agenda.
No public comment was made.

III. CONSENT

A. Approval of Meeting Summary and Action Items from July 29, 2021 Meeting

The Partnership Grants Committee approved the July 29, 2021 meeting summary and action items by majority roll call vote (Chair Isken moved, Vanarelli seconded).

The vote was as follows:

Yes (3): Isken, Boschelli, Vanarelli

No (0): None

Abstention(s) (1): Galkin

IV. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

A. Discuss and Approve 2021 Budget Revisions and Carryover Requests

Senior Program Analyst Christal Bundang reported that 11 budget revision and eight carryover requests were submitted for the 2021 Partnership Grants. There are nine

requests (three budget revision and six carryover) over 25 percent and require PG Committee review for Legal Services Trust Fund Commission approval. The remaining requests were either self-executing (under 10 percent) or approved by staff (10-25 percent).

In reviewing the carryover requests, the PG Committee considered 2020 approved carryover amounts and the upcoming 2022 Partnership Grant award amounts. The PG Committee agreed, with staff's recommendation, to approve Community Legal Aid SoCal's carryover request for its Orange County Consumer Debt Workshop Project and not approve the requests from Neighborhood Legal Services (Consumer Technology Project, and Stabilizing Families Project), Central California Legal Services (Tent/Landlord Housing Law Project, and Tulare County Unlawful Detainer Workshop Project), and Legal Assistance for Seniors (Partnership to Assist Limited Conservatorship Litigants Project). Bundang explained that all grantees were apprised of staff's recommendations and also invited to provide public comment at the PG Committee meeting. Grantees with approved carryover requests will have until June 30, 2022 to spenddown their 2021 Partnership Grant funds. Any unspent 2020 and 2021 Partnership Grant funds should be returned to the State Bar at the end of the grant year on December 31, 2021. Any returned funds will be redistributed in future funding cycles.

The PG Committee also reviewed the budget revisions requests over 25 percent from Central California Legal Services (Consumer Technology Project, and Stabilizing Families Project) and Neighborhood Legal Services (Stabilizing Families Project). Staff's recommendation was to approve all the budget revision requests.

The Partnership Grants Committee approved the staff's recommendation regarding the 2021 Partnership Grants carryover requests by unanimous roll call vote (Chair Isken moved, Boschelli seconded).

The Partnership Grants Committee also approved all 2021 Partnership Grant Budget Revision requests above 25 percent from Neighborhood Legal Services and Central California Legal Services by majority roll call (Boschelli moved, Chair Isken seconded).

The vote was as follows:

Yes (4): Isken, Boschelli, Galkin, Vanarelli

No (0): None

Abstention(s)(1): Lee

B. Update Regarding 2022 Partnership Grants

Bundang reported that at its September 30-October 1 meeting, the Judicial Council approved the 2022 Partnership Grants allocation of \$2,580,574 for 36 eligible

projects. Grantees are currently completing budget confirmations and any other application documents before grant agreements are released in December.

C. Review and Discuss PG 2.0 Review Process

The PG Committee also discussed and confirmed the PG 2.0 application review process, following the December 17 application deadline. For Option 1, staff will review all supplemental applications for already approved 2022 grantees in consultation with PG Committee member Vanarelli. An update regarding Option 1 application review will be discussed at the January PG Committee meeting. Following the processes of Homelessness Prevention Funds Committee, for Option 2, all PG Committee members will review and score 3-5 new applications for initial calibration at the January meeting. Staff will then review the remaining Option 2 applications in consultation with Chair Isken. All tentative funding recommendations will be discussed and finalized at the February PG Committee meeting.

D. Review and Approve Proposed Rubric for 2023 Partnership Grants

The PG Committee discussed the proposed scoring rubric for the 2023 Partnership Grants. In consideration of the 2022 rubric feedback from grantees and the Rules Committee's recommendations regarding the State Bar's competitive discretionary grants, staff recommended adopting the Rules Committee's streamlined category definitions for Project Impact, Administration, Continuity Planning, and Evaluation.

The PG Committee also discussed if there should be a greater weight or a separate rubric category regarding evaluation for returning applicants and project impact. While the discussion did not result in any additional changes to the 2023 scoring rubric, the PG Committee agreed that the Request for Proposals and application should be revised to include reference to past performance for returning applicants.

The Partnership Grants Committee approved the 2023 Partnership Grants scoring rubric, as referenced in the memo, by unanimous roll call vote (Chair Isken moved, Vanarelli seconded).

E. Update Regarding Partnership Grants Evaluations

Bundang noted that in light of the updates to the State Budget Act which now require specific EAF reporting, the 2022 Partnership Grants will now be subject to a mid-year and final year reporting requirement.

V. ADJOURN

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.