



The State Bar of California

OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEM 4.4 AUGUST 2023 LEGAL SERVICES TRUST FUND COMMISSION

DATE: August 10, 2023

TO: Members, Legal Services Trust Fund Commission

FROM: LSTFC Partnership Grants Committee

SUBJECT: 2024 Partnership Grants Funding Recommendations

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For the 2024 Partnership Grants application cycle, 37 proposals were received from 23 Qualified Legal Services Projects (QLSPs) requesting a total of \$5,062,000 in funding. The Partnership Grants Committee (PG Committee) delegated authority to review teams comprised of committee members and staff to review and score all proposals using the 2024 Partnership Grants scoring rubric. The PG Committee finalized funding recommendations at its on July 19, 2023, meeting.

The total funding amount available to allocate for the 2024 grant year is \$4,694,497.

BACKGROUND

The State Budget Act establishes the Equal Access Fund “to improve equal access and the fair administration of justice.” The Equal Access Fund is allocated to the Judicial Council and administered by the State Bar of California, through its Legal Services Trust Fund Commission (LSTFC). Ten percent of the Equal Access Fund is reserved for “joint projects of courts and legal services programs to make legal assistance available to pro per litigants.”

Partnership Grants are awarded through a competitive process. The LSTFC oversees the administration of these grants, delegating primary responsibility for review and recommendations to the PG Committee. The LSTFC makes funding recommendations to the Judicial Council. Decisions of the LSTFC, as approved by the Judicial Council, are final; there is no appeals process. Due to the limited availability of funding, grant award allocations vary, and all proposals may not be funded. Consideration will also be given to ensure that this funding

supports projects serving a diverse range of geographic areas, substantive issues, and client constituencies. Grants are awarded for a one-year period commencing January 1.

This funding opportunity is only available to Qualified Legal Services Projects (QLSPs). To be considered for funding for the 2024 Partnership Grants, QLSPs and their proposed projects must meet eligibility requirements as outlined in the 2024 Partnership Grants Request For Proposal (RFP). The RFP was released on January 27, 2023, with a deadline for submission of proposals of March 17, 2023.

DISCUSSION

On May 17, 2023, the PG Committee reviewed rubric scores and developed tentative funding recommendations based on an estimated \$3.5 million distribution amount.

On July 19, 2023, the PG Committee finalized its funding recommendation amounts based on the confirmed 2024 distribution amount of \$4,694,497. Because the 2024 distribution amount was significantly higher than estimated, the PG Committee updated its approach to funding recommendations:

- Funding cap increased from \$175,000 to \$250,000.
- For projects who scored at least 70 points, fully fund up to their original requested amount or the funding cap.
- For projects who scored below 70 points, fund 90 percent of the requested amount or the funding cap. Because the PG Committee was anticipating a lower distribution amount, these projects were not initially recommended for funding. While the PG Committee did not have major concerns regarding the projects, it felt that a decreased award amount would encourage applicants to submit stronger proposals in the future.
- Distribute remaining monies to the highest scoring projects who were not already fully funded. This resulted in awarding two projects more than \$250,000.

Attachment A includes the memos and attachments from the May 17 and July 19 PG Committee meetings.

RECOMMENDATION

Should the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission concur in the proposed action, passage of the following resolution is recommended:

RESOLVED, that the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission approve 2024 Partnership Grant funding recommendations, as finalized by the Partnership Grants Committee at its July 19, 2023, meeting.

ATTACHMENT(S) LIST

- A. Memo and Attachments from July 19, 2023, and May 17, 2023 Partnership Grants Committee Meeting

B. 2024 Partnership Grant Rubric Scores and Final Funding Recommendations (as of July 19, 2023)



The State Bar of California

OPEN SESSION

AGENDA ITEM 4.1

JULY 2023

LEGAL SERVICES TRUST FUND COMMISSION

PARTNERSHIP GRANTS COMMITTEE

DATE: July 19, 2023

TO: Members, Partnership Grants Committee

FROM: Christal Bundang, Lead Program Analyst, Office of Access & Inclusion

SUBJECT: 2024 Partnership Grants Proposals and Final Funding Recommendations

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For the 2024 Partnership Grants application cycle, 37 proposals were received from 23 Qualified Legal Services Projects (QLSPs) requesting a total of \$5,062,000 in funding. The Partnership Grants Committee (PG Committee) delegated authority to review teams comprised of committee members and staff to review and score all proposals using the 2024 Partnership Grants scoring rubric. The PG Committee reviewed rubric scores and developed tentative funding recommendations at its May 17, 2023, meeting. The purpose of the July 19, 2023, meeting is to provide updates and to finalize the 2024 Partnership Grant funding recommendations.

The total funding amount available to allocate for the 2024 grant year is \$4,694,497.

BACKGROUND

The State Budget Act establishes the Equal Access Fund “to improve equal access and the fair administration of justice.” The Equal Access Fund is allocated to the Judicial Council and administered by the State Bar of California, through its Legal Services Trust Fund Commission (LSTFC). Ten percent of the Equal Access Fund is reserved for “joint projects of courts and legal services programs to make legal assistance available to pro per litigants.”

Partnership Grants are awarded through a competitive process. The LSTFC oversees the administration of these grants, delegating primary responsibility for review and

recommendations to the PG Committee. The LSTFC makes funding recommendations to the Judicial Council. Decisions of the LSTFC, as approved by the Judicial Council, are final; there is no appeals process. Due to the limited availability of funding, grant award allocations vary, and all proposals may not be funded. Consideration will also be given to ensure that this funding supports projects serving a diverse range of geographic areas, substantive issues, and client constituencies. Grants are awarded for a one-year period commencing January 1.

This funding opportunity is only available to Qualified Legal Services Projects (QLSPs). To be considered for funding for the 2024 Partnership Grants, QLSPs and their proposed projects must meet eligibility requirements as outlined in the 2024 Partnership Grants Request For Proposal (RFP) Requirements, Priorities, and Policies (Attachment A). The RFP was released on January 27, 2023, with a deadline for submission of proposals of March 17, 2023.

DISCUSSION

TENTATIVE FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

On May 17, 2023, the PG Committee reviewed all final rubric scores and developed tentative funding recommendations, anticipating that the amount allocated for 2024 funding awards in the State Budget Act would be similar to 2023 (approximately \$3.5 million). Because the total amount requested (\$5,062,000) far exceeded the estimated amount, the PG Committee developed an approach in determining funding recommendation amounts.

First, the PG Committee decided to establish a funding cap of \$175,000. This amount was slightly higher than the \$150,000 funding cap that was used for the 2023 grant year.

The PG Committee also decided to use the total rubric scores and average score of 79.5 points to determine funding amounts.

- Projects that scored at least 80 points would be fully funded up to \$175,000
- Projects that scored 70-79 points would be funded at 90 percent of their original requested amount or of the funding cap
- Projects that scored lower than 70 points would not be recommended for funding

Finally, the PG Committee also discussed equity concerns regarding organizations who submitted multiple applications proposals and decided to limit funding up to three projects for the same organization.

Following the meeting, staff followed up with applicants with tentative funding recommendation amounts that were less than requested to share final rubric scores and specific questions from the PG Committee. These applicants were provided an opportunity to provide feedback about the potential impact of the tentative funding amount on their proposed project. Applicants indicated that they would still be able to administer their projects as proposed. While some applicants anticipated a proportionate reduction in deliverables, others indicated that deliverables would not be impacted since they would utilize other sources of funding for the project(s).

NEXT STEPS

The PG Committee will update and finalize its funding recommendation amounts based on the final 2024 distribution amount on July 19, 2023. Following this meeting, the LSTFC will approve the 2024 recommendations on August 10, 2023.

RECOMMENDATION

Should the Partnership Grants Committee concur in the proposed action, passage of the following resolution is recommended:

RESOLVED, that the Partnership Grants Committee approve the list of 2024 Partnership Grant allocation recommendations, as finalized during the Committee's July 19, 2023, meeting.

ATTACHMENT(S) LIST

- A. Memo and Attachments from May 17, 2023, Partnership Grants Committee Meeting
- B. 2024 Partnership Grant Rubric Scores and Final Funding Recommendations (to be completed on July 19, 2023)



The State Bar of California

OPEN SESSION

AGENDA ITEM

4.2 MAY 2023

LEGAL SERVICES TRUST FUND COMMISSION

PARTNERSHIP GRANTS COMMITTEE

DATE: May 17, 2023

TO: Members, Partnership Grants Committee

FROM: Christal Bundang, Lead Program Analyst, Office of Access & Inclusion

SUBJECT: 2024 Partnership Grants Proposals and Tentative Funding Recommendations

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For the 2024 Partnership Grants application cycle, 37 proposals were received from 23 Qualified Legal Services Projects (QLSPs) requesting a total of \$5,062,000 in funding. The Partnership Grants Committee (PG Committee) delegated authority to review teams comprised of committee members and staff to review and score all proposals using the 2024 Partnership Grants scoring rubric. The purpose of the May 17, 2023, meeting is to review all proposals and rubric scores and to develop tentative funding recommendations. For the 2023 grant year, a total of \$2,786,034 was awarded. The funding amount available for 2024 distribution is still pending.

The purpose of this memo is to provide background information on the proposals received and overview of the 2024 application review process to aid the PG Committee's discussion in determining tentative funding recommendations.

BACKGROUND

The Partnership Grants program is established by the State Budget Act, which annually provides that "[t]en percent of the [Equal Access Fund] ... shall be for joint projects of courts and legal services programs to make legal assistance available to pro per litigants." Funding is allocated through the Budget Act to the Judicial Council, and the Judicial Council has authority for final approval of grants. The State Bar administers the grant selection and distribution process

through a contract with the Judicial Council. The Legal Services Trust Fund Commission (LSTFC) oversees the administration of these grants, delegating primary responsibility for review and recommendations to the PG Committee.

To be considered for funding for the 2024 Partnership Grants, all applicants and proposed projects must meet eligibility requirements as outlined in the 2024 Partnership Grants Request For Proposal (RFP) Requirements, Priorities, and Policies (Attachment A). The RFP was released on January 27, 2023, with a deadline for submission of proposals of March 17, 2023.

DISCUSSION

2024 PARTNERSHIP GRANTS REVIEW AND SCORING RUBRIC PROCESS

The LSTFC approved the 2024 Partnership Grants RFP and scoring rubric November 16, 2022, which had revised rubric category descriptions and an updated funding priorities section.

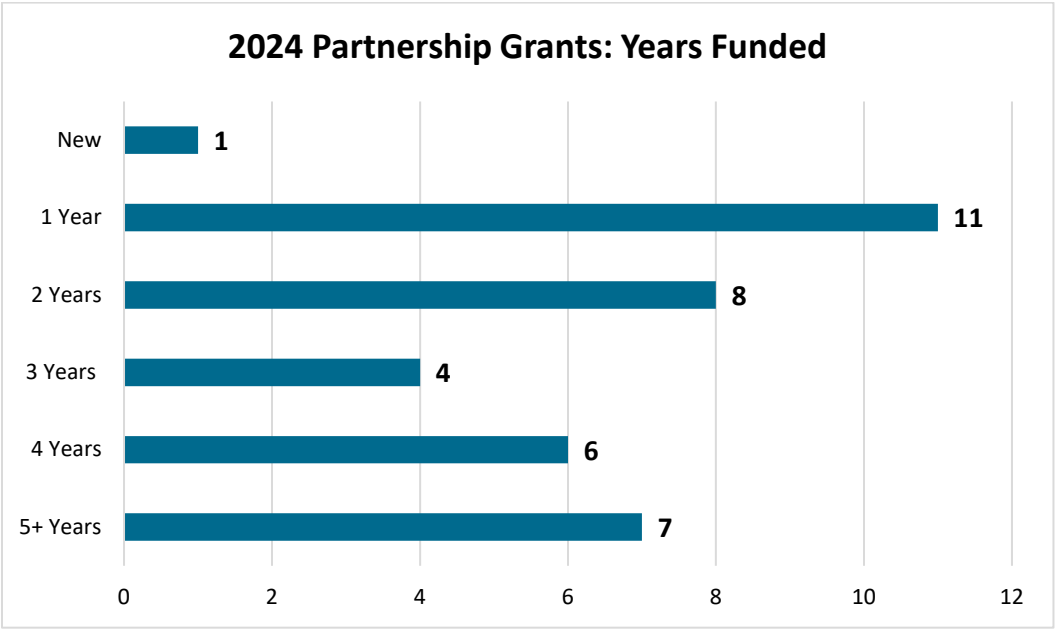
The PG Committee and staff engaged in an initial calibration process to ensure consistency in applying the scoring rubric. This entailed each committee member and staff independently reviewing and scoring three selected proposals for discussion at the PG Committee's April 6, 2023, meeting. The PG Committee discussed outlier scores, reasons for their own scores, and provided general guidance to the review team on how to apply the scoring rubric. Following initial calibration, the review team, comprised of staff and a rotating committee member(s), reviewed and scored the remaining 34 proposals, applying the guidance from the PG Committee.

2024 PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROPOSALS OVERVIEW

Thirty-seven proposals were submitted requesting a total of \$5,062,000. Attachment B contains Profile Sheets for all submitted proposals. In addition to the scoring rubric, which has specific criteria to evaluate the 2024 proposals, the PG Committee maintains its discretion when determining tentative funding recommendations and may consider other factors such as years funded, requested funding amounts, substantive areas, and counties served, as it has done in prior grant years.

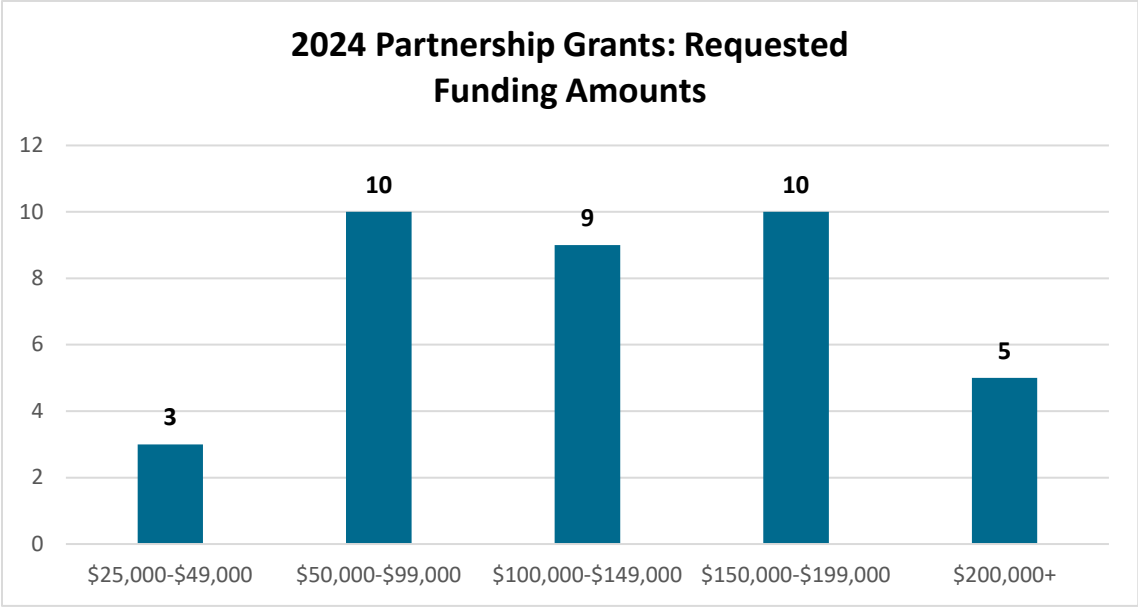
Years Funded

All but one of the 2024 proposed projects are currently funded. Years funded range from 1 year to 13 years. Due to the change in the funding priorities category, prior years funded did not impact rubric scores as much as it did in previous grant cycles.



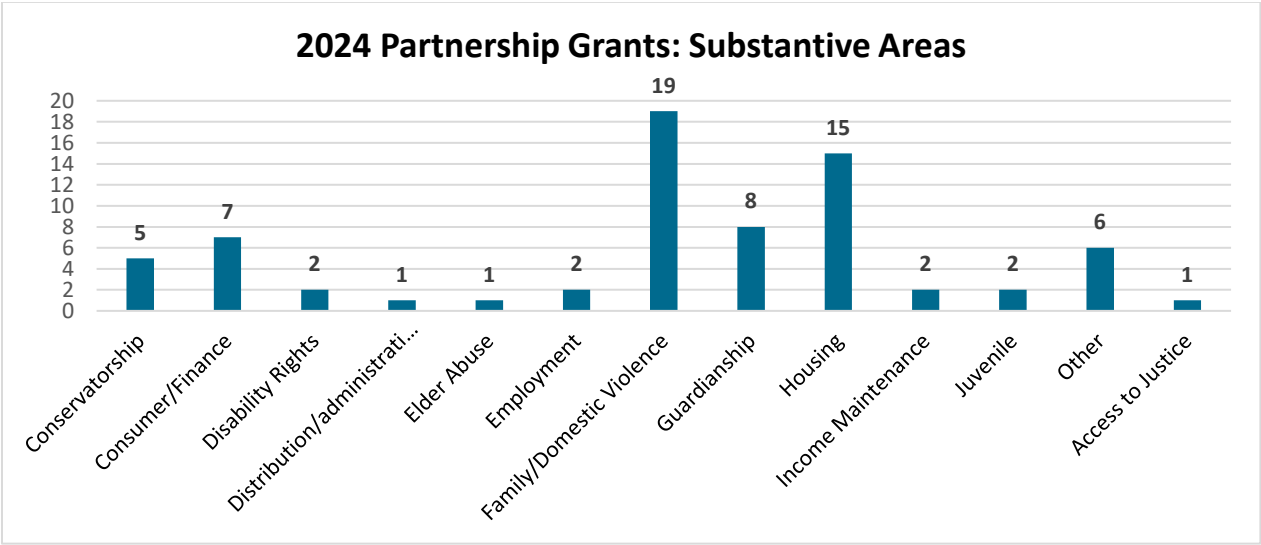
Requested Funding Amounts

For the 2024 Partnership Grants year, applicants requested funding amounts ranging from \$25,000 to \$439,000. Majority of applicants requested amounts between \$50,000 to \$199,000.



Substantive Areas

The proposed projects would address 13 substantive areas, with most projects providing services in family/domestic violence (19), housing (15), and guardianship (8).



Counties Served

The 37 proposed projects span 16 counties in California, with the majority of projects serving Los Angeles County (17), followed by Alameda County (5).

The scoring rubric and calibrated scores serve as a tool in the application review process, and the committee maintains discretion in determining all funding recommendations. The PG Committee will meet on May 17, 2023, to determine tentative funding recommendations and identify any follow up needed from applicants (Attachment C). Final recommendations will be discussed and approved at the June 15, 2023, PG Committee meeting.

ATTACHMENT(S) LIST

- A. 2024 Partnership Grant RFP Requirements, Priorities, and Policies
- B. 2024 Partnership Grant Project Profile Sheets
- C. 2024 Partnership Grant Rubric Scores and Tentative Funding Recommendations (to be completed on May 17, 2023)



The State Bar *of California*

OFFICE OF ACCESS & INCLUSION

2024 PARTNERSHIP GRANTS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

This document provides information for organizations interested in submitting proposals for Partnership Grants. Organizations should review this document to ensure that the proposed projects are eligible for this funding, and that their proposals describe those activities in a manner that best addresses the principal concerns of the funding authorities.

Partnership Grants are competitive and discretionary. Project proposals must be submitted on SmartSimple by **5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 17, 2023**.

If you have any questions, please contact Christal Bundang at christal.bundang@calbar.ca.gov.

BACKGROUND

The State Budget Act establishes the Equal Access Fund “to improve equal access and the fair administration of justice.” The Equal Access Fund is allocated to the Judicial Council and administered by the State Bar of California, through its Legal Services Trust Fund Commission (Commission). Ten percent of the Equal Access Fund is reserved for “joint projects of courts and legal services programs to make legal assistance available to pro per litigants.”

Partnership Grants are awarded through a competitive process. The Commission reviews and compares all eligible proposals and makes funding recommendations to the Judicial Council. Grants are awarded for a one-year period commencing January 1. Decisions of the Commission, as approved by the Judicial Council, are final; there is no appeals process. Due to the limited availability of funding, grant award allocations vary, and all proposals may not be funded. For the 2023 grant year, 30 eligible projects were funded in a range from \$25,000 to \$159,000 for a total of \$2.79 million.

Consideration will also be given to ensure that this funding supports projects serving a diverse range of geographic areas, substantive issues, and client constituencies. Projects seeking funding beyond five consecutive years will be more closely reviewed by the Commission in terms of overall project strength and other selection criteria.

At the conclusion of each grant year, grantees must submit a comprehensive report and evaluation on the use and impact of these funds, and continuing projects must describe their plans for obtaining funding from other sources to support these projects after the termination of Partnership Grant support.

2024 PARTNERSHIP GRANTS SCORING RUBRIC

In an effort to provide transparency and equity in the review process, the Partnership Grants Committee will use a scoring rubric as a tool to help guide review of all eligible proposals.

The rubric is comprised of four sections - Eligibility Requirements, Selection Criteria, Funding Priorities, and Innovation. Initial rubric scores will be shared with applicants, who will have an opportunity to improve their scores, by providing additional information or addressing initial concerns. For projects applying for continued funding, the Commission may also consider an applicant's past performance when scoring relevant rubric sections such as Project Impact and Evaluation. The Commission maintains discretion when determining funding recommendations.

Eligibility Requirements

This section is not weighted. Applicants must meet the following criteria to be eligible to submit a proposal:

- **Qualified Legal Services Projects (QLSPs):** Pursuant to Business & Professions Code 6210 et seq., only QLSPs are eligible to apply for Partnership Grants.
- **Joint Court/Qualified Legal Services Projects:** Proposals must be for projects jointly developed and implemented by California State courts and QLSPs.
- **Indigent Persons:** Use of Partnership Grant funds is restricted to the provision of services to indigent persons as defined under Business and Professions Code §6213(d).
- **Self-Represented Civil Litigants:** Partnership Grant funding is restricted to providing assistance to individuals who are or expect to be engaged in civil litigation without representation by counsel. These funds cannot be used to make court appearances on behalf of litigants.

If the proposed project will be serving non-indigent persons or if individuals will be engaged in civil litigation, the project must identify non-Partnership Grant funds that will be used to cover this work.

Selection Criteria (85 points)

Based on responses provided in the proposal, the Committee will score each sub-section as "Exceeds Expectations," "Meets Expectations," or "Below Expectations" with corresponding multipliers for a maximum of 80 points.

Generally, responses that provide relevant and detailed information, such as metrics or specific examples would be scored favorably. Responses that do not appear responsive to the selection criteria's description may be considered "below requirements."

Funding Priorities (15 points)

The Commission will exercise its discretion and score the project 1-3 based on funding priorities. That number will be multiplied by 5 for a maximum section score of 15 points.

In making decisions regarding funding priorities, the Commission will consider factors that include, but are not limited to:

- Whether the project is new. A goal of Partnership Grant funding is to provide support for effect projects, which may be renewed for an initial five-year period. The Commission maintains discretion to determine what is considered a new project, and may consider factors, that include, but are not limited to, whether the project was previously or currently funded or proposes a substantial change to an existing service delivery model.
- Whether the project supports unmet rural needs, even if operating beyond a fifth year.

Optional – Innovation (up to 5 points)

The Commission encourages innovative projects and may award up to 5 bonus points for innovation.

Examples of innovation may include:

- Projects that involve courts that have not had projects in a long time
- Projects with models that were tried/successful in other jurisdictions, but are new to the court
- Initial projects in a case type (first consumer program, first conservatorship program, etc.)
- Projects testing new ways of providing services.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS			
Please select “yes” or “no” for each requirement.			
Applicant is a Qualified Legal Services Project	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	
Proposal is jointly developed and implemented by a California State court.	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	
Proposed services will be provided only to indigent persons, as defined under Business and Profession Code §6213(d).	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	
If NO, has the project identified non-Partnership Grant funds that will cover this work?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Proposed services will be provided only to self-represented litigants (individuals who are or expect to be engaged in civil litigation without representation by counsel).	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	
If NO, has the project identified non-Partnership Grant funds that will cover this work?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A

DEFINITIONS	
Exceeds Expectations	Response is very high quality, addressing all questions in the request for proposal and all elements of the selection criteria. The identified strengths in the category are substantial with no or minimal weaknesses or additional questions identified. Any identified weakness has minimal effect on the overall quality of the response.
Meets Expectations	Response is good, effectively addressing most questions in the request for proposal and the selection criteria. Strengths and weaknesses are identified that may balance each other in significance. Overall quality of response is satisfactory
Below Expectations	Response is weak, neglecting to address questions in the request for proposal and the elements of the criteria. The responses Identified weaknesses hold significant weight, overshadowing the identified strengths. Overall quality of response is inadequate, with significant flaws in key elements.

SELECTION CRITERIA (85 PTS)			
Checkmark the appropriate ranking for each category, and then multiply by the number below. Add sub-scores from A and B to get the total points for this section.			
CATEGORY & DESCRIPTION	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Below Expectations
<u>Court Involvement</u> A successful proposal will indicate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> significant cooperation between the partner court and legal services organization, integration with other court-based services and if the project's services are to be reserved for only one litigant role, such as petitioners but not respondents, that this has been thoroughly explored with the court, and alternate legal resources that can provide meaningful if not equivalent levels of assistance to the opposing parties have been identified. 			
<u>Project Impact</u> A successful proposal will clearly describe the needs of the targeted population and how anticipated outcomes and related budget of the proposed activity(ies) will have a meaningful impact on this population. Outcomes may include the number of people served, nature of the impact, and other project deliverables that will be achieved with this grant funding during the grant period.			
A. Number of Check Marks	X20=	X15=	X10=
Subtotal (A)			
<u>Administration</u> A successful proposal will demonstrate the ability and capacity to implement and manage the			

proposed activity(ies). Strong administration includes adequate staffing, leadership, and oversight of project monitoring, outreach, and resource development. An applicant's historical demonstration of its ability to meet goals from prior grants and timely reporting of results/outcomes will also be considered under this category.			
<u>Continuity Planning</u> A successful proposal will address whether its proposed services can continue with funds other than those provided by Partnership Grants and provide details of past efforts and future plans to secure such alternate funding.			
<u>Evaluation</u> A successful proposal will incorporate meaningful evaluation plans and metrics that effectively demonstrate whether and how the project's planned goals are being achieved. This may include a clear statement of the project goals, strategies to be used to achieve those goals, evaluation methods to be used to make any mid-course adjustments to the delivery model, and evaluation methods to gauge the success of the project. Returning organizations applying for the same funding opportunity will also need to address prior evaluation outcomes and metrics.			
B. Number of Check Marks	X15=	X10=	X5=
Subtotal (B)			
Selection Criteria Total (A+B)			

FUNDING PRIORITIES (15 PTS)

Keeping the funding priorities in mind, determine the number points you wish to score this project and then multiply by the number below.

<p>In making decisions regarding funding priorities, the commission will consider factors that include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether the project is new. A goal of Partnership Grant funding is to provide support for effective projects, which may be renewed for an initial five-year period. The commission maintains discretion to determine what is considered a new project, and may consider factors, that include, but are not limited to, whether the project was previously or currently funded or proposes a substantial change to an existing service delivery model. • Whether the project supports unmet rural needs, even if operating beyond a fifth year of funding. 	3 2 1
Funding Priority Total Score	X5 =

OPTIONAL - INNOVATION (up to 5 PTS)

The Committee may exercise discretion in awarding points for innovation. Based on your review of the proposal, determine if wish to score additional points for innovation and provide your reason(s) below.

Additional points will be awarded to successful proposals that demonstrate innovation.	YES	NO
Bonus Points Awarded (1-5 pts)		
Reason(s) for awarding bonus points for innovation:		

OTHER POLICIES REGARDING ADMINISTRATION OF PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

The Commission has made policy determinations with regard to certain substantive issues that have arisen repeatedly, as guidance for applicants seeking to strengthen their proposals, and to help ensure the consistency of its own deliberations and recommendations regarding Partnership Grants. The following statements of Partnership Grants policies were each approved by the Commission, on the dates indicated in parentheses after their titles:

Self-Representation and Attorney-Client Relationships (July 2017)

Self-represented litigants receiving services under a Partnership Grant are not prohibited from forming a confidential relationship with a lawyer, so long as they remain unrepresented when they appear in court. While we [the Commission] will ultimately defer to the court's own determination as to whether the litigant is self-represented, factors impacting this determination include where any attorney's participation takes place, and whether the attorney's name appears on pleadings or in the records of proceedings in court. So long as no appearance is made on the record and no representational activity occurs in court, formation of an attorney-client relationship in and of itself is not inconsistent with the "self-represented" status of a litigant.

Overhead, Administration, and Audit (August 2018)

Partnership Grant funds should pay for actual project expenses or directly related costs – to fund the project, but not the organization. Some programs have used individual line items to identify administrative costs. Others use an Allocated Cost Ratio, which is often based on a standardized formula; however, it is sometimes unclear how a formula-based allocation relates to the proposed activities.

- Some non-personnel costs which may be appropriately tied to the project include malpractice insurance and attorney licensing fees.
- As Partnership Grant-funded services should typically be performed primarily at or near the courthouse, which reduces the need for program space and equipment, costs allocated to these lines should be clearly justified in the budget narrative.
- Programs using formula-based allocated cost ratios must clearly explain what these comprise and how they are calculated, for purposes of Partnership grant budgeting.

Use of Partnership Funding as a Sub-grant Covering Wages of Court Staff (August 2018)

An organization receiving Partnership Grant funding is expected to be the primary service provider under that grant. However, greater efficiencies can sometimes be attained by sub-granting some of that funding to a court partner. The following considerations have been identified as relevant in determining whether to approve discretionary funding for such a request:

- The contract governing the relationship between the grant recipient organization and the court must clearly specify that grant-funded court staff will only work on project activities, not on other duties that might be assigned by the court.
- The contracted staff must follow the Guidelines for the Operation of Self-Help Centers, with particular regard to ensuring the court's neutrality as to the fact that services are being provided, the manner in which they are provided, and the persons to whom they are provided.
- The services funded would not otherwise be provided by the court, but for the Partnership Grant. The Partnership Grant shall not supplant existing funding or services.
- The project budget must include additional funding sufficient to assist litigants who do not qualify to be served with Partnership Grant funding.
- In these and all cases, the court must participate in providing feedback and in developing evaluative data. Where funding is sub-granted to the court partner for payment of court staff, this evaluative data will include information on the number of litigants using the service who do not meet the definition of "indigent" found at Business & Professions Code §6213.

Funding of Supervised Settlement Services through Partnership Grants (July 2019)

Partnership Grants may be used to support supervised settlement services to assist litigants in settling their litigation, so long as the settlement services are a component of court-based litigation and are overseen by an attorney.

PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Alliance for Children's Rights			
Project Name	Permanency Benefits Clinic Court Partnership			
Grant Year	Total Budget	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded	
2024	\$208,000.00	\$163,000		
Currently Funded Partnership Grant	Court Letter(s) on File	Memorandum of Understanding(s) Reviewed	All Services at Courthouse	
No	Yes	Pending	Pending	
Project Abstract	<p>Public benefits for families impacted by foster care is a critical part of the stability and even viability of foster placements, especially those with relative and non-related extended family member (NREFM) caregivers. Yet, funding eligibility and rates are complex, opaque, and easily misunderstood.</p> <p>To address this need, and in partnership with the Edmund D. Edelman Children's Courthouse in Monterey Park, the Alliance proposes to create a Permanency Benefits Clinic to provide access to critical information for self-represented caregivers seeking adoption or legal guardianship of the children in their care. The goals of the Clinic would be to: 1) Provide information to self-represented caregivers regarding their rights and opportunities to access public benefits; 2) Help caregivers self advocate to obtain public benefits to which the children are entitled based on their specific needs; and 3) Reduce delays for caregivers and children seeking to exit the foster care system, by identifying and resolving benefits agreements, which are prerequisites to completing adoptions and legal guardianships. The Clinic would be located at the Courthouse, where Alliance attorneys would provide consultation for self-represented caregivers. The Clinic will be open once a week and alternate between in-person and virtual clinic days. The days and times will be arranged with the court. Clinic staffers will provide caregivers with self-help materials in English and Spanish and refer cases to the Alliance Benefits Program for further advocacy. The Clinic's primary client population would be caregivers, however, Clinic staff could provide consultation as needed to counsel and the court.</p>			
Court Name	Branch (If Applicable)	Address	On-Site Days/Hours	Total Hours/Month
Edmund Edelman Children's Court		201 Centre Plaza Dr, Monterey Park, CA 91754	2 hr/week	8

Personnel Categories	Project Staff	Total Project FTEs	PG Share of FTEs
Lawyers	Vice President, Legal & Program Services	0.1	0.05
	Benefits Manager	0.3	0.15
	Staff Attorney	1	0.65
	Lawyers Total	1.4	0.85

Paralegals	Paralegals	0.8	0.65
		0	0
	Paralegals Total	0.8	0.65
Other	President & CEO	0.1	0.05
		0	0
	Other Total	0.1	0.05

	# Held	# Individuals Served	Services
Individual Services	N/A	0	
Workshops	0	0	
Self-Help Clinics	30	200	Information on Legal Options; Information on Court Procedures and Hearing; Document Preparation and Review; Filing or Services Assistance; Post-Hearing Assistance

Project Goals	<p>Alliance proposes to create a Permanency Benefits Clinic to provide access to critical information for self-represented caregivers seeking adoption or legal guardianship of the children in their care. The goals of the Clinic would be to: 1) Provide information to self-represented caregivers regarding their rights and opportunities to access public benefits; 2) Help caregivers self advocate to obtain public benefits to which the children are entitled based on their specific needs; and 3) Reduce delays for caregivers and children seeking to exit the foster care system, by identifying and resolving benefits agreements, which are prerequisites to completing adoptions and legal guardianships. The Clinic would be located at the Courthouse, where Alliance attorneys would provide consultation for self-represented caregivers. The Clinic will be open once a week and alternate between in-person and virtual clinic days. The days and times will be arranged with the court. Clinic staffers will provide caregivers with self-help materials in English and Spanish and refer cases to the Alliance Benefits Program for further advocacy. The Clinic's primary client population would be caregivers, however, Clinic staff could provide consultation as needed to counsel and the court.</p>
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Outreach & Community Engagement	The Alliance will work with Court and the children's attorneys at CLC will help provide referrals and publication of this new clinic. Additionally, as noted earlier the monthly clinic held for minor's counsel is another opportunity to publicize this new resource. The Alliance also works closely with a number of stakeholder groups which will allow us to publicize this clinic. The Alliance will provide an informational flyer (electronically and/or hard copy) to stakeholder groups, including: the Dependency Court, CLC, Community Coalition, Kinship Council, County Counsel, DCFS, and others. The Alliance holds monthly webinars and sends out electronic newsletter updates which can include the flyer. The information will be posted on the Alliance's website and provided to caregiver's through our Intake Department.
Attorney-Client Relationship	No

Conflict of Interest Protocols	N/A
Income Eligibility Guidelines	The majority of children in foster care meet the criteria for low-income assistance under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 670 et seq.). Title IV-E requires that the foster child and parent(s) meet specific qualifications based on the family's qualifications for financial assistance at the time the child was removed from the parent(s) home. All our clients are at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. All caregivers will be direct referrals for children in the foster care system seeking permanency of those children, from the court, minor's counsel or DCFS.
Alternative Services	As noted above, as the referrals will be coming directly from the court, minor's counsel and DCFS for caregivers in the foster care system seeking permanency for children in their care; it is unlikely that caregivers would not qualify for our self help services being offered. Caregivers seeking direct representation would be provided referrals, or caregivers who seek assistance too early in the process to address permanency benefits will be asked to return when the case is at the right phase so they can be assisted with those benefits and provided appropriate referrals for other benefits issues.
Court's Role	Edmund D. Edelman Children's Courthouse will be providing the Alliance space to hold our clinics. Clinics will also be held remotely. The Court will support both in-person and remote clinics by advertising the clinic and referring caregivers seeking adoption and legal guardianship directly to the clinics for assistance. The court already refers caregivers to the Alliance for a variety of resources for assistance. This would just be a new resource available for caregivers at the court and remotely.

PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name		Bet Tzedek Legal Services		
Project Name		Decedent Estate Self-Help Clinic		
Grant Year	Total Budget	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded	
2024	\$266,369.00	\$165,000		
Currently Funded Partnership Grant	Court Letter(s) on File	Memorandum of Understanding(s) Reviewed	All Services at Courthouse	
No	Yes	Pending	Pending	
Project Abstract		Grief can be especially complicated for heirs of decedents who were unable to complete an estate plan to probate the estate before their death. Probate is a time-consuming and expensive process, but one that lends itself to a self-help model. In 2022, Bet Tzedek and the Los Angeles Superior Court established the County’s only court-based clinic that provides free self-help services to pro per litigants in decedent estate matters. The project continues to operate remotely from Stanley Mosk Courthouse (hours of operation TBD), with the potential to expand to the Antelope Valley Courthouse in the future.		
		Having trained judges on Decedent Estate Clinic opportunities and collaborated with Probate Bench to determine priority of services in 2023, Bet Tzedek will create additional updated resources for litigants in 2024 based on lessons learned. We will continue to develop clinic procedures, improve court processes, and expand services in line with community need. Bet Tzedek staff attorneys and pro bono volunteers will triage decedent’s estate cases for pro per litigants and provide either legal information, self-help assistance, or referrals; help litigants determine if they need a full probate, summary probate procedure, or can use a probate alternative; and provide self-help assistance with out-of-court procedures for small estates and summary court procedures for transferring property. Litigants who need to probate a decedent’s estate will be referred to the private bar. Bet Tzedek will also begin developing processes for clearing probate notes for litigants who have filed pro per probate petitions.		
Court Name	Branch (If Applicable)	Address	On-Site Days/Hours	Total Hours/Month
Los Angeles Superior Court	Stanley Mosk Courthouse	111 North Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012	Remote, Days/Hours TBD	Remote, Days/Hours TBD

Personnel Categories	Project Staff	Total Project FTEs	PG Share of FTEs
Lawyers	Directing Attorney	0.15	0.05
	Attorney	0.25	0.1
	Attorney	0.25	0.1
	Lawyers Total	0.65	0.25
Paralegals		0	0

		0	0
	Paralegals Total	0	0
Other	Clinic Coordinator	1	1
		0	0
	Other Total	1	1

	# Held	# Individuals Served	Services
Individual Services	N/A	0	
Workshops	0	0	
Self-Help Clinics	85	200	Information on Legal Options; Information on Court Procedures and Hearing; Document Preparation and Review; Filing or Services Assistance

Project Goals	<p>The overarching goals of this project are to increase access to self-help services for pro per litigants in decedent estate matters and to improve the court's operations in such matters. In 2024, our additional goals are as follows: 1) Develop and refine educational materials based on common issues faced by litigants. Since the project's start in 2022 we have developed several educational materials; as we continue to work with litigants and become familiar with their most common questions, misconceptions, and concerns, we will work to refine these resources and develop new resources as needed; with sufficient funding, we will also translate resources into additional languages. 2) Increase collaboration with the probate bench. Clinic staff conduct regular meetings with the court, which are beneficial to the project. In 2023, we look forward to growing a more robust relationship with the Probate Attorney's office. The probate attorney's office reviews all filings from litigants. They provide a critical lens regarding what pro per litigants fail to handle correctly and a great resource for creating best practices with pro pers.</p>
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Outreach & Community Engagement	<p>Bet Tzedek will conduct extensive outreach to communicate the availability of Clinic services to litigants and the community. We will continue to share informational flyers about the Clinic with the courthouse; long-time Bet Tzedek partner organizations (including senior centers and APS); and other legal service providers and courthouses in Southern California. We will also post flyers/information on Bet Tzedek's website, which was recently revamped to be more comprehensive, user-friendly, and accessible, and on social media, where Bet Tzedek's communications team frequently posts about our programs. We will also provide the Clinic's information on our general intake phone line. In addition, Bet Tzedek will train pro bono attorneys and other Clinic volunteers on issues related to probating a decedent's estate, the services offered by the Clinic, and how to refer clients.</p>
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Attorney-Client Relationship	No
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Conflict of Interest Protocols	N/A
Income Eligibility Guidelines	<p>As a self-help clinic operating within the courthouse, Bet Tzedek has made a</p> <p>commitment to the court to serve all litigants who request assistance so long as the services requested are within its scope of services. Clinic staff will use a subject matter screening tool to determine whether litigants need assistance with a full probate, summary probate procedure, or a probate alternative. Staff will also collect standard intake information, such as demographics and monthly income, which will be used to determine an appropriate funding source, but this data will not impact eligibility for services. The Clinic's primary beneficiaries will be individuals who are seeking self-help assistance to probate small estates because their financial situation or the size of their estate precludes hiring a private attorney, therefore litigants are likely to be indigent.</p>
Alternative Services	<p>For those litigants whose cases are more legally complicated or who are deemed ineligible, meaningful referrals will be made to the Los Angeles County Bar's Legal Referral and Information Service. Referrals will be made by Clinic staff or volunteers at the time of service.</p>
Court's Role	<p>Per the MOU between Bet Tzedek and the Los Angeles Superior Court, the court will make rooms and computers available for self-help litigants at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse. Clinic staff will also solicit court data, if available, to support the project's improvement and efficacy.</p>

PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Bet Tzedek Legal Services			
Project Name	Remote Pro Se Technology Initiative			
Grant Year	Total Budget	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded	
2024	\$179,643.00	\$150,000		
Currently Funded Partnership Grant	Court Letter(s) on File	Memorandum of Understanding(s) Reviewed	All Services at Courthouse	
No	Yes	Yes	Pending	
Project Abstract	<p>Bet Tzedek has been implementing the Self-Help Conservatorship Clinic (SHCC) and Elder Abuse Restraining (EARO) clinics virtually since the start of the pandemic. As the remote pro se assistance model has significantly expanded access for everyone, Bet Tzedek is committed to continuing this successful model post-pandemic and to expand its reach and capacity in 2024.</p> <p>With support from a State Bar Partnership grant, in 2022 Bet Tzedek and the Los Angeles Superior Court (LASC) joined forces to develop the Remote Pro Se Technology Initiative, which refined and expanded the reach of our successful SHCC and EARO clinics through technological innovations. Through a 2023 Partnership grant, we launched new technologies to expand our reach and hired the Pro Se Clinic Coordinator (Coordinator). The Coordinator has provided valuable administrative and technical support to the project. She is also tasked with closely evaluating the new technologies and assessing opportunities for improvement in use and service delivery based on evaluation results from 2023. In 2024, the Coordinator and Clinic team will utilize evaluation results to inform program changes and maximize the tools available through enhanced technology. Program components currently include remote SHCC and EARO Clinic services, online video tutorials and modules to complement remote aid, improvement of court technologies that support remote assistance, outreach to publicize remote services, and remote EARO Kiosk intake. In 2024, based on evaluation results from 2023, the Coordinator and Clinic teams will work to expand our reach by improving the piloted technologies. This initiative will increase access to justice and provide a model for effective remote services throughout California.</p> <p>The Remote Pro Se Technology Initiative will be staffed by SHCC and EARO Clinic staff. The Coordinator hired in 2022 will continue to bridge both clinics, providing intake and follow-up services as well as in-depth evaluation. Remote SHCC assistance will be available Monday-Friday from 9:00am-5:00pm. Remote EARO Clinic assistance will be available Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:00am-5:00pm.</p>			
Court Name	Branch (If Applicable)	Address	On-Site Days/Hours	Total Hours/Month
Los Angeles Superior Court	Stanley Mosk Courthouse	111 North Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012	Remote	Remote

Personnel Categories	Project Staff	Total Project FTEs	PG Share of FTEs
Lawyers	Directing Attorney	0.15	0.1
		0	0
		0	0
	Lawyers Total	0.15	0.1
Paralegals	Paralegal	0.25	0.2
		0	0
	Paralegals Total	0.25	0.2
Other	Clinic Coordinator	1	1
		0	0
	Other Total	1	1

	# Held	# Individuals Served	Services
Individual Services	N/A	0	
Workshops	12	60	Document Preparation and Review; Filing or Services Assistance
Self-Help Clinics	188	300	Information on Court Procedures and Hearing; Document Preparation and Review; Filing or Services Assistance

Project Goals	<p>The long-term goal of the Remote Pro Se Initiative is to create a best practices remote pro se service model that can be replicated throughout California. In 2024, the project goal is to improve and expand the remote model to bridge the digital divide and increase access to justice for litigants seeking elder abuse restraining orders and limited conservatorships in Los Angeles County. We will achieve this goal through the following objectives:</p> <p>Building Remote Clinic Capacity:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Providing remote assistance to 150 litigants seeking elder abuse restraining orders. 2) Providing remote assistance to 150 litigants seeking limited conservatorships using Guide and File exclusively. 3) Providing workshops to 60 litigants seeking information about EARO or SHCC processes. 4) Improving upon the remote EARO Kiosk Intake at Stanley Mosk. 5) Strengthening partnerships with other courts. 6) Modifying current and creating new video tutorials and online modules on conservatorship and remote hearings for pro se litigants to cover more topics and address needs expressed by litigants. 7) Working with Court Technology Staff on Guide and File improvements.
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	<p>8) Creating responsive education campaigns and trainings based on new legislation like AB16 63 technical assistance for supported decision making, care court - a lot of potential</p> <p>9) Continue improving remote court infrastructure and technology.</p> <p>Evaluating Remote Clinic Effectiveness:</p> <p>1) Evaluating and assessing the quality and quantity of limited conservatorship and elder abuse restraining orders filed remotely.</p> <p>2) Using survey data, evaluate and assess litigants' remote service experience.</p> <p>3) Using usage data from Court Technology Services, evaluate and assess Guide and File user improvements.</p> <p>4) Using litigant feedback and usage data, evaluate and assess video tutorials.</p>
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Outreach & Community Engagement	The initiative will expand the outreach campaign to publicize the Remote Pro Se Technology Initiative in 2024. Information on remote clinics will continue to be included in the more than 50 presentations members of Bet Tzedek's Elder Law team provide to law enforcement, social service agencies, and community partners annually. Content will continue to be edited for improvements. In addition, information on our remote clinics is posted on our website at www.bettzedek.org and on the California Courts website at www.courts.ca.gov .
Attorney-Client Relationship	No

Conflict of Interest Protocols	N/A
Income Eligibility Guidelines	As a self-help clinic operating in partnership with the court, Bet Tzedek has made a commitment to the court to serve all litigants who request assistance as long as the request is within its scope of services. Clinic staff screen all litigants to determine eligibility for services at the time of intake.
Alternative Services	For those litigants whose cases are more legally complicated, who are deemed ineligible, or who cannot self-represent due to disability, meaningful referrals will be made to Bet Tzedek's in-house Elder Law or Caregiver Program or the Los Angeles County Bar's Legal Referral and Information Service. Referrals will be made by clinic staff or volunteers at the time of service.

Court's Role	<p>The Judicial Council and LASC developed several web-based platforms that facilitate remote access, including Guide and File document preparation software that allows litigants to remotely fill out and file forms, Justice Partner Portal for partner agencies to remotely access court documents, and LACourtConnect for remote hearings. The pandemic created an opportunity to test the capacity of these technologies and even prompted LASC to develop new technologies in response to unmet needs. LACourtConnect, for example, was developed in direct response to the pandemic and fills a tremendous accessibility gap for those unable to travel to court for hearings.</p> <p>The 2024 Remote Pro Se Technology Initiative will refine existing court technologies to continue expanding remote access. Bet Tzedek will work with the court to identify user improvements to Guide and File so litigants can more easily file limited conservatorships. Through this funding, the team will make adjustments to online video tutorials on LACourtConnect based on feedback from pro se litigants to ensure ease of access to remote hearings.</p> <p>In addition, LASC provides kiosks equipped with computer terminals and phones for walk-in litigants to remotely connect with Bet Tzedek attorneys. LASC also provides Justice Corps volunteers to staff kiosks at Stanley Mosk, answer questions, help litigants remotely connect, and print paperwork. This option fills a critical accessibility gap for litigants without computer access or needing space away from an abuser to safely file paperwork. In 2024, Bet Tzedek will strengthen partnerships with additional courts to potentially implement a similar model.</p>
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PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.		
Project Name	San Joaquin County Housing Helpline Court Clinic Partnership		
Grant Year	Total Budget	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
2024	\$176,913.00	\$132,000	
Currently Funded Partnership Grant	Court Letter(s) on File	Memorandum of Understanding(s) Reviewed	All Services at Courthouse
No	Yes	Pending	Pending

Project Abstract

California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc. (CRLA's) San Joaquin County Housing Helpline provides one-on-one legal advice and/or information to San Joaquin tenants with housing concerns, focusing on housing retention and prevention of homelessness. In addition to individual phone consultations with tenants, Helpline staff offer weekly answer and trial preparation clinics, available to all San Joaquin tenants and landlords. Although most services are delivered virtually via phone and over Zoom, we offer weekly in-person clinics at CRLA's Stockton office located across the street from the court. Beginning in the second quarter of 2023, CRLA plans to begin offering in-person clinics at the court itself and if this service offering is successful will continue to do so throughout 2024. Participants can elect to attend the group answer clinics in-person or via Zoom link.

San Joaquin County tenants not eligible for CRLA services are given legal information, know your rights (KYR) print and video resources in multiple languages, referrals, and access to weekly clinics. Landlords are offered information, KYR resources, access to our clinics, and referrals back to the Court Self-Help Center and the San Joaquin Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service for additional assistance. The Helpline will be open Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm to 4:00 p.m. Answer and trial preparation clinics will be held once or twice a week.

Court Name	Branch (If Applicable)	Address	On-Site Days/Hours	Total Hours/Month
San Joaquin County Superior Court		Housing Helpline: Remote via Zoom or over the phone	MWF, 9:00 – 12:00 and 1:00 – 4:00	72
San Joaquin County Superior Court		180 E. Weber Ave., Stockton	To be determined	To be determined

Personnel Categories	Project Staff	Total Project FTEs	PG Share of FTEs
Lawyers	Tenant Justice Project Legal Director	0.05	0.05
	Tenant Justice Project Senior Counsel	0.05	0.05
	Tenant Justice Project Supervising Litigation Attorneys	0.3	0
	Lawyers Total	0.4	0.1

Paralegals	Community Workers	1.2	1.2
		0	0
	Paralegals Total	1.2	1.2
Other	Legal Secretary	0.15	0.05
		0	0
	Other Total	0.15	0.05

	# Held	# Individuals Served	Services
Individual Services	N/A	500	Information on Legal Options; Information on Court Procedures and Hearing; Document Preparation and Review; Filing or Services Assistance; Post-Hearing Assistance
Workshops	0	0	
Self-Help Clinics	40	120	Information on Legal Options; Information on Court Procedures and Hearing

Project Goals	The Housing Helpline will increase San Joaquin County tenants' knowledge of landlord-tenant laws, allowing self-represented litigants to more easily navigate housing matters. By the end of the grant period, 90% of project participants who choose to respond to the Housing Helpline satisfaction survey will report that they received the information they needed after speaking to a CRLA advocate. Further, we anticipate that 65% of project participants who choose to respond to the Housing Helpline survey will report that CRLA's assistance allowed them to prevent the loss of their housing; negotiate or help with a move out to prevent an eviction or negotiate settlement; prevent, end or obtain relief from unfair or illegal behavior, or otherwise enforce rights or obtain remedies related to housing.
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Outreach & Community Engagement	Court staff distribute fliers to self-represented litigants advertising CRLA's Housing Helpline and the weekly self-help clinics. CRLA has found that this outreach method directs a high-volume of litigants to the Housing Helpline.
Attorney-Client Relationship	Yes

Conflict of Interest Protocols	<p>All San Joaquin County Housing Helpline callers will complete an intake over the telephone. CRLA uses a web-based case management system to screen for indigency and residency to determine eligibility for legal services to be provided on a one-on-one basis through the Helpline (or in-person to address disability or technology barriers). As part of that intake process, demographic, income, asset, and immigration status information are entered into the case management system. That process also requires intake staff to obtain information about the adverse party and will determine whether there is a conflict prior to providing legal assistance.</p> <p>CRLA staff working on the Helpline will only provide legal advice to tenants who meet Legal Services Corporation eligibility criteria of indigency and residency. Tenants who do not meet eligibility criteria and landlords will be advised that CRLA will provide legal information, referrals to community partners, and invitation to attend our group clinics. Any tenants who have been identified in our case management system as having a conflict with current or past CRLA clients, as well as landlords who need more assistance than general legal information and referrals, will be referred back to the San Joaquin County Superior Court Self-Help Center with direction to notify Self-Help Center staff that CRLA was unable to provide one-on-one assistance. All callers will be invited to the appropriate live answer and trial preparation clinics and be provided with links to CRLA's library of KYR videos and printed materials.</p>
Income Eligibility Guidelines	<p>CRLA uses its existing eligibility criteria to determine eligibility for one-on-one legal services. All callers are eligible for legal information, referrals, and able to attend our answer and trial preparation clinics and access our self-help KYR videos and printed materials.</p> <p>CRLA uses its existing case management system to screen for eligibility and track the demographics of callers to the San Joaquin County Housing Helpline. In order to be eligible for one-on-one legal advice, the caller's household income must be below 200% of the federal poverty level, the household's assets total (excluding their home, vehicles, work equipment, and retirement accounts) must fall below a maximum threshold, and the caller must generally be a U.S. Citizen, legal permanent resident, or have other specific immigration status allowed by the Legal Services Corporation.</p> <p>As described in more detail below, the caller must also be a tenant. Landlords and tenants who do not meet the above eligibility factors will be advised that CRLA can provide legal information, referrals, and access to the clinics and KYR materials and will be referred back to the Self-Help Center.</p>
Alternative Services	<p>Individuals who do not meet the definition of indigent individuals will still have access to legal information through CRLA's KYR materials and clinics. KYR materials will be available to any self-represented individual seeking services.</p>

Court's Role	<p>The San Joaquin County Housing Helpline provides a majority of services virtually; however, Court Self-Help staff have identified that some individuals may prefer in-person assistance. We plan to add a once-a-week in-person clinic at the Court Self-Help Center to the project during the 2023 grant period and expect this change will remain in place throughout 2024. Printed materials on the availability of the San Joaquin Housing Helpline are distributed by Court staff to self-represented litigants with housing issues.</p>
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PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Central California Legal Services		
Project Name	Guardianship Project		
Grant Year	Total Budget	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
2024	\$171,019.00	\$90,000	
Currently Funded Partnership Grant	Court Letter(s) on File	Memorandum of Understanding(s) Reviewed	All Services at Courthouse
No	Yes	Pending	Pending
Project Abstract	<p>This project enjoys a successful record of assisting eligible self-represented litigants obtain guardianships for minor children, many of whom are already living with family or referred by Child Protective Services. Post-COVID, both parties are hopeful that the project will be fully operational by mid-2023. Staff members from the Fresno Superior Court Probate Division, the Fresno County Law Library, and CCLS will participate in twice-monthly clinics presented on first and third Friday mornings; however, the format of the clinics remains fluid with in-person clinics being the goal.</p> <p>During the clinics, the forms are explained to participants as they follow along on their own forms, filling in the required information and/or taking notes to complete the forms at a later time. This allows the presentations to proceed within the clinic's timeframe, leaving sufficient time to respond to questions litigants may have. Once the forms are completed, litigants may contact CCLS and/or Probate Court staff for final review prior to submitting the forms to the Court for filing. This further ensures the forms are properly completed. The project serves all parties; however, those opposing a guardianship rarely attend or inquire about services.</p> <p>The Court supports the partnership and values the direct benefit provided for those navigating the guardianship process. Participants accurately complete and timely file their documents, saving money and frustration.</p>		

Court Name	Branch (If Applicable)	Address	On-Site Days/Hours	Total Hours/Month
Fresno Superior Court	B.F. Sisk Courthouse	1130 "O" Street, Fresno, CA 93721	1st/3rd Fridays, 8:30am-12:30pm	8hrs clinics

Personnel Categories	Project Staff	Total Project FTEs	PG Share of FTEs
Lawyers	Supervising Attorney	0.06	0.03
		0	0
		0	0
	Lawyers Total	0.06	0.03
Paralegals	Paralegal	1.5	0.75
		0	0
	Paralegals Total	1.5	0.75

Other	Legal Secretary	0.3	0.15
		0	0
	Other Total	0.3	0.15

	# Held	# Individuals Served	Services
Individual Services	N/A	65	Information on Legal Options; Information on Court Procedures and Hearing; Document Preparation and Review; Filing or Services Assistance; Post-Hearing Assistance
Workshops	0	0	
Self-Help Clinics	22	220	Information on Legal Options; Information on Court Procedures and Hearing; Document Preparation and Review; Filing or Services Assistance; Post-Hearing Assistance

Project Goals	The overall goal of the project is for self-represented litigants to gain an understanding of the process, receive assistance with the forms, and successfully obtain the guardianship for the minor children in their care. This is accomplished through the individual assistance provided to those with difficulty in accessing and forms completion, language barriers, and computer literacy. With the reinstatement of clinics via Zoom, many more individuals will benefit from the project. The end result is that children will prosper in a loving home, enhancing their future success.
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Outreach & Community Engagement	<p>Staff distributes informational flyers promoting the virtual clinics services throughout the community and posts the information at the CCLS website. Information on services is also posted to CCLS Facebook page and through digital newsletters sent to over 800 individuals.</p> <p>The support from Fresno County Law Library and the Court is important in directing petitioners and opponents. Fresno County residents who contact the CCLS Legal Advice Line (LAL), are referred to the guardianship project. Other referrals come from law enforcement, Child Protective Services (CPS), Fresno Unified School District, Fresno County Juvenile Court, Fresno County Victims' Services, Central Valley Regional Center (CVRC), foster family agencies, and foster parents' support groups.</p> <p>Other CCLS staff members conduct year-round outreach activities and distribute informational materials on the Guardianship project at various sites such as health fairs, cultural events, and community forums.</p>
Attorney-Client Relationship	No
Conflict of Interest Protocols	N/A
Income Eligibility Guidelines	<p>Each self-represented litigant is required to complete the eligibility screening form used to determine income eligibility (200 percent FPL) for the project's services. Litigants must list all sources of monthly income for each household member. Everyone who qualifies for services is also eligible to obtain a fee waiver, which is signed under penalty of perjury. Additionally, each matter is reviewed for subject matter eligibility, and only those whose income and subject matter fall within the project's scope can receive assistance from the staff members. Eligibility also includes acknowledgement of the limitation of the services provided by signing the disclosure statement.</p>

Alternative Services	<p>Those determined not eligible for the project's services are referred to the Fresno County Law Library, the Court's Probate Division staff, and the Fresno County Bar Association's Attorney Referral Service. They are provided information regarding the available online resources including the Court's website.</p> <p>The Probate Examiners are available to assist those have who attended the clinics but who do not qualify for the project services. Other community providers include the United Way's 211 Referral Line, which provides information regarding relevant community resources, including cash assistance, public benefits, etc.</p> <p>The reasons for those determined to be ineligible are due to their need for assistance in an area of substantive law that is beyond the scope of the project or the minor in their care is under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court.</p>
Court's Role	<p>The Court is functioning under a new normal, providing both in-person and virtual services. The reopening of the courthouses is taking place in a "staggered" fashion, and we anticipate that services will continue to be offered remotely and virtually. Court staff members are working onsite, and our collaborative relationships are being conducted both in person and virtually.</p> <p>The Court is willing to continue to work collaboratively with CCLS on the Guardianship program in providing services to unrepresented members of the public. In addition, the Court is willing to continue to share the same types of data that have been shared in the past, as long as the Court continues to track the specific data types in question.</p> <p>At this time, the Court is not in a position to expand our collaborative relationship with CCLS; however, if CCLS has ideas or proposals they would like to make to the Court, we are open to reviewing and considering the information.</p>

PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Community Legal Aid SoCal			
Project Name	Compton Self-Help Economic Expansion Project Year 3			
Grant Year	Total Budget	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded	
2024	\$131,714.00	\$91,000		
Currently Funded Partnership Grant	Court Letter(s) on File	Memorandum of Understanding(s) Reviewed	All Services at Courthouse	
No	Yes	Pending	Pending	
Project Abstract	<p>Over the past two years, the Compton Self-Help Center Economic Expansion Project (EEP) has expanded capacity for consumer debt issues and COVID-19 back rent small claims issues at the Compton Superior Courthouse Self-Help Center (SHC). Additionally, during the past year, SHC staff have seen a dramatic increase in demand for landlord/tenant assistance from self-represented litigants. As a result, Community Legal Aid SoCal (CLA SoCal) seeks to broaden the scope of this project to include housing assistance.</p> <p>The EEP seeks to help the Court weather the continuing pandemic and economic challenges by educating self-represented litigants about COVID-19 back rent small claims, consumer debt, and eviction processes. It is a critical service for the Compton Courthouse which serves communities that are home to significant economic and health disparities that have been worsened by COVID. As a result, there is a need for local capacity to help self-represented litigants who must engage with the civil legal system through these types of cases.</p> <p>With a 1.0 FTE Attorney, this project allows CLA SoCal staff to provide one-on-one information to self-represented litigants who are at the Compton Courthouse or who are being helped remotely. Primary goals are to help litigants understand the legal process, and correctly complete documents in order to assist litigants and help reduce obstacles for court proceedings. Litigants who would benefit from additional services, would be referred to a regional legal aid organization based on their zip code and/or the County of Los Angeles' Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA).</p>			
Court Name	Branch (If Applicable)	Address	On-Site Days/Hours	Total Hours/Month
Los Angeles Superior Court,	Compton Courthouse	200 W. Compton Blvd, Compton CA	90220	120

Personnel Categories	Project Staff	Total Project FTEs	PG Share of FTEs
Lawyers	Project Attorney	0.97	0.97
	Supervising Attorney	0.21	0
	Directing Attorney	0.01	0
	Lawyers Total	1.19	0.97
Paralegals		0	0

		0	0
	Paralegals Total	0	0
Other	Grants and Evaluation Manager	0.01	0
		0	0
	Other Total	0.01	0

	# Held	# Individuals Served	Services
Individual Services	N/A	400	Information on Legal Options; Information on Court Procedures and Hearing; Document Preparation and Review; Filing or Services Assistance
Workshops	0	0	
Self-Help Clinics	0	0	

Project Goals	EEP has two primary goals: 1) To help self-represented litigants better understand the legal system and processes they will have to navigate in order to more effectively participate in their own consumer debt, COVID-19 back rent small claims, or unlawful detainer case. This is especially important in cases where one side is represented and the other is not. For litigants who have more complex cases or seem in need of additional assistance, referrals made by EEP staff are an important component of the project. 2) To help minimize delays for the Court and ensure that judicial proceedings can proceed effectively and expeditiously.
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Outreach & Community Engagement	As an onsite provider, the Compton Self-Help Center receives most of its referrals for self-represented litigants from Court staff and the Court website, including those who work at Courts that do not have self-help centers (such as Norwalk, a consumer debt hub). We also coordinate materials with LAFLA and NLS, who also operate self-help centers in LA County, and educate our CLA SoCal staff about the work so that they can refer litigants who could benefit from the EEP.
Attorney-Client Relationship	No

Conflict of Interest Protocols	N/A
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Income Eligibility Guidelines	<p>This project will assist pro per individuals, including those who qualify as indigent, as defined under Business and Professions Code section 6213(d): ““Indigent person” means a person whose income is (1) 200 percent or less of the current poverty threshold established by the United States Office of Management and Budget, or (2) who is eligible for Supplemental Security Income or free services under the Older Americans Act or Developmentally Disabled Assistance Act. CLA SoCal’s Self-Help staff utilize a detailed intake form to gather demographic data, including income, from its customers. It will use this data to screen for eligibility.</p>
Alternative Services	<p>In keeping with the Court’s requirement to remain neutral, the project will provide legal information to all pro per litigants regardless of income earned. Equal Access Fund Partnership monies will be utilized for indigent individuals. Pro per litigants who do not meet the State Bar’s income eligibility guidelines may be supported by funding provided by the County of Los Angeles through a Self-Help grant via Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles and/or Legal Services Corporation (LSC). Referrals will be provided to any litigant in need of additional services, regardless of whether or not they are eligible for this project’s services. The most common referrals are for other Los Angeles County-based legal services programs and Bar lawyer referral services, as well as the LA County Small Claims Advisor at the LA Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA).</p>
Court’s Role	<p>This project is located at the Self-Help Center at the Compton Superior Courthouse. The site includes space, internet connection, computers for self-represented litigants, security, and publicity on the LA Superior Courts’ website. The Los Angeles Superior Court completed a renovation of the Self-Help Center in 2022 that includes additional technology for litigants to use.</p> <p>The Compton Self-Help Center began providing on-site assistance in 2022 as the Court reopened to the public. However, the Center has not returned to pre-pandemic staffing on-site. Rather, CLA SoCal recognized the importance of maintaining a hybrid model in 2023 that allows for both in-person attendance and remote participation to increase the potential for participation by the public and anticipates that we will continue utilizing this model in 2024.</p>

PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Community Legal Aid SoCal			
Project Name	Norwalk Consumer Debt Series 2024			
Grant Year	Total Budget	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded	
2024	\$48,919.00	\$34,000		
Currently Funded Partnership Grant	Court Letter(s) on File	Memorandum of Understanding(s) Reviewed	All Services at Courthouse	
No	Yes	Pending	Pending	
Project Abstract	<p>Community Legal Aid SoCal (CLA SoCal) seeks renewed funding to maintain its consumer debt workshop series at the Norwalk Courthouse. The objective of these workshops is to make the debt collection legal process more accessible and understandable to pro per litigants and guide them through any stage of the debt collection process. Consumer debt workshops are provided at no-cost and would continue to be held at the Los Angeles County Superior Courthouse in Norwalk four times per month.</p> <p>The Norwalk Consumer Debt Series is designed to assist pro per litigants starting at the earliest stage of the debt collection process, from the receipt of a letter demanding payment on a debt to those who have been served with a collection lawsuit and preparing for trial. The project also informs litigants about collection/enforcement activities following entry of a collection judgment. CLA SoCal's four-workshop series guides litigants through the full litigation cycle, which includes Overview & Answer, Discovery & Motions, and Settlement/Evidence/Getting Ready for Trial. Litigants at the Overview & Answer workshops can request that project staff review their documents for completeness.</p> <p>The project will be staffed by an attorney and paralegal, one of whom will be bilingual. While the project is open to both debtors and creditors, it is designed to help low-income self-represented litigants who are opposed by a party represented by counsel in order to increase access to the justice system for low-income individuals/families.</p>			
Court Name	Branch (If Applicable)	Address	On-Site Days/Hours	Total Hours/Month
Los Angeles Superior Court, Norwalk Courthouse		12720 Norwalk Blvd. Norwalk, CA 90650	1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Tuesdays of each month, 9-12	12

Personnel Categories	Project Staff	Total Project FTEs	PG Share of FTEs
Lawyers	Directing Attorney	0.01	0.01
	Project Attorney	0.21	0.15
		0	0
	Lawyers Total	0.22	0.16
Paralegals	Paralegal	0.19	0.13

		0	0
	Paralegals Total	0.19	0.13
Other	Grants and Evaluation Manager	0.01	0.01
		0	0
	Other Total	0.01	0.01

	# Held	# Individuals Served	Services
Individual Services	N/A	0	
Workshops	48	550	Information on Legal Options; Information on Court Procedures and Hearing; Document Preparation and Review
Self-Help Clinics	0	0	

Project Goals	The primary goal of this project is to provide critical legal information to self-represented litigants on how to navigate the judicial process in order to participate in debt collection lawsuits. Workshop participants must be self-represented. CLA SoCal may refer eligible litigants to legal aid for additional assistance as a means of providing balance to the proceeding and ensure that both sides are represented in order to participate effectively and expeditiously in the judicial process.
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Outreach & Community Engagement	CLA SoCal will continue to promote the Norwalk Consumer Debt Series workshops on the Los Angeles County Superior Court's Self-Help website. As an established partner with the Los Angeles County Superior Court, staff at the Court's Self-Help Centers play a vital role in referring litigants to the workshops by distributing a Court-produced flyer of services. Information on the Norwalk Consumer Debt Series workshops will also be available on CLA SoCal's website, and we will continue to use our social media channels to help advertise our State Bar Partnership workshops.
Attorney-Client Relationship	No

Conflict of Interest Protocols	N/A
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Income Eligibility Guidelines	This project will assist pro per individuals, including those who qualify as indigent, as defined under Business and Professions Code section 6213(d): ““Indigent person” means a person whose income is (1) 200 percent or less of the current poverty threshold established by the United States Office of Management and Budget, or (2) who is eligible for Supplemental Security Income or free services under the Older Americans Act or Developmentally Disabled Assistance Act. Eligibility will be determined through answers provided by litigants on a form at the beginning of the workshop.
Alternative Services	In keeping with the Court’s requirement to remain neutral, the workshop will provide legal information to all pro per litigants regardless of income earned. Litigants who are not eligible for additional services from CLA SoCal and who need additional assistance will be referred to the Self-Help Desk at the Compton Courthouse, the LA County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs mediation program, and/or the Los Angeles County Bar Association (LCBA) Lawyer Referral Service.
Court’s Role	<p>Although the Norwalk Consumer Debt Series returned to in-person workshops in 2022 after the pandemic began to subside, CLA SoCal recognized the importance of maintaining a hybrid model that allows for both in-person attendance and remote participation to increase the potential for participation by the public.</p> <p>The Court will provide workshop space four times per month, with two in-person workshops and two workshops available remotely over litigants’ personal devices; in order to help litigants who do not have personal devices, paralegal students and/or law students will be at the Courthouse during workshops so that litigants can access the workshops using computers in the workshop room.</p>

PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Community Legal Aid SoCal			
Project Name	Orange County Consumer Debt Series 2024			
Grant Year	Total Budget	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded	
2024	\$69,922.00	\$67,000		
Currently Funded Partnership Grant	Court Letter(s) on File	Memorandum of Understanding(s) Reviewed	All Services at Courthouse	
No	Yes	Pending	Pending	
Project Abstract	<p>Community Legal Aid SoCal (CLA SoCal), with subgrantee Public Law Center (PLC), proposes to maintain their consumer debt series. The objective of these workshops is to make the debt collection legal process more accessible and understandable to pro per litigants and guide them through the life cycle of the debt collection process. Consumer debt workshops are provided at no-cost and will continue to be held at spaces near the OC Central Justice Center.</p> <p>The Orange County (OC) Debt Series is designed to assist pro per litigants from the receipt of a letter demanding payment on a debt to those who have been served with a collection lawsuit and preparing for trial. The project also supports litigants who are subject to collection/enforcement activities following entry of a collection judgment.</p> <p>CLA SoCal and PLC will provide a monthly series that includes four workshops that guide litigants through the full litigation cycle: Overview & Answer (twice monthly), Discovery & Motions, and Settlement/Evidence/Getting Ready for Trial.</p> <p>The project will be staffed by an attorney and paralegal, one of whom will be bilingual. While the project is open to both debtors and creditors, it is designed to help low-income self-represented litigants who are opposed by a party represented by counsel in order to increase access to the justice system for low-income individuals/families. This will support pro per litigants' ability to better participate in the courtroom and present their case helping to ensure a more equitable and efficient judicial process.</p>			
Court Name	Branch (If Applicable)	Address	On-Site Days/Hours	Total Hours/Month
Orange County Public Law Library		515 N. Flower Street, Santa Ana CA 92703	W 9:00-12:00	12

Personnel Categories	Project Staff	Total Project FTEs	PG Share of FTEs
Lawyers	Project Attorney	0.16	0.16
	Directing Attorney	0.01	0
	PLC Attorneys	0.18	0.18
	Lawyers Total	0.35	0.34

Paralegals	Project Paralegal	0.13	0
	PLC Project Paralegal	0.13	0.13
	Paralegals Total	0.26	0.13
Other	Grants and Evaluation Manager	0.01	0
		0	0
	Other Total	0.01	0

	# Held	# Individuals Served	Services
Individual Services	N/A	0	
Workshops	46	250	Information on Legal Options; Information on Court Procedures and Hearing; Document Preparation and Review
Self-Help Clinics	0	0	

Project Goals	The primary goal of this project is to provide critical legal information to self-represented litigants on how to navigate the judicial process in order to participate in debt collection lawsuits. Workshop participants must be self-represented. CLA SoCal may refer eligible litigants to legal aid for additional assistance as a means of providing balance to the proceeding and ensure that both sides are represented in order to participate effectively and expeditiously in the judicial process.
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Outreach & Community Engagement	CLA SoCal and PLC will continue to promote the OC Consumer Debt Series workshops through the Orange County Superior Court's Self-Help department and its website. As an established partner with the Orange County Superior Court, staff at the Court's Self-Help Centers play a vital role in referring litigants to the workshops by distributing a Court-produced flyer of services. Both organizations identify callers through their intake processes that may be a good fit for the workshops. As noted above, we also are educating partners such as community centers and the United Way. Starting in 2022, CLA SoCal and PLC began working with the Orange County Law Library to publicize the workshop to litigants. Information on the Debt Collection workshops will also be available on CLA SoCal's and PLC's websites, and we will continue to use our social media channels to help advertise our State Bar Partnership workshops.
Attorney-Client Relationship	No

Conflict of Interest Protocols	N/A
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Income Eligibility Guidelines	This project will assist all pro per individuals, including those who qualify as indigent, as defined under Business and Professions Code section 6213(d): ““Indigent person” means a person whose income is (1) 200 percent or less of the current poverty threshold established by the United States Office of Management and Budget, or (2) who is eligible for Supplemental Security Income or free services under the Older Americans Act or Developmentally Disabled Assistance Act. Eligibility will be determined through answers provided by litigants on an intake form prior to the workshop.
Alternative Services	In keeping with the Court’s requirement to remain neutral, the workshop will provide legal information to all pro per litigants regardless of income earned. Litigants who are not eligible for additional services from CLA SoCal or PLC and who need additional assistance will be referred to the Court Self-Help Desk, to videos on the Court’s website, and to the Orange County Bar Association’s Lawyer Referral Service.
Court’s Role	<p>Although the OC Consumer Debt Workshop Series returned to in-person workshops in 2023 after the pandemic began to subside, our organizations recognize the importance of maintaining a hybrid model that allows for both in-person attendance and remote participation to increase the potential for participation by the public.</p> <p>Project partners will host four in-person workshops per month at the Orange County Public Law Library, with the intention of moving into space leased by PLC across the street from the Central Justice Center (CJC) in Santa Ana. The CJC is the hub for all consumer debt filings in Orange County, however, due to current renovations anticipated to last into 2025, the Courthouse will not be able to host workshops in the coming years. PLC’s site is an excellent compromise, as it promises proximity to Court filing windows and courtrooms. CLA SoCal and PLC staff will also utilize Zoom for these workshops, so that remote litigants can participate; in 2024 after the hybrid workshops are established, the Self-Help Manager will investigate if satellite courthouses can be used to broadcast these Zoom workshops.</p>

PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Elder Law & Advocacy			
Project Name	Imperial County Restraining Order Clinic			
Grant Year	Total Budget	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded	
2024	\$92,000.00	\$92,000		
Currently Funded Partnership Grant	Court Letter(s) on File	Memorandum of Understanding(s) Reviewed	All Services at Courthouse	
No	Yes	Pending	Pending	
Project Abstract	<p>The Imperial County Restraining Order Clinic is intended to serve older adult self-represented litigants, including those who are limited or non-English speakers, and offer services at the central Imperial County Superior Court. The goal for each participant is that they will be able to gain legal information regarding Restraining Orders, if a Restraining Order is appropriate for their situation, and successfully complete the necessary paperwork to submit a request and/or answer. The project will be an expansion of the 2023 Elder Abuse Technology Project Clinic which is working to create two kiosks located within the Imperial County Courthouse. Along with staff, the kiosks will guide eligible participants through the process of a restraining order in a step-by-step manner in order to facilitate accurate completion of the required forms. Elder Law & Advocacy (EL&A) will work to serve residents of this geographically large, diverse, and underserved county. Meetings between EL&A and the Court will consist of in-depth discussions of matters concerning ongoing clinic operations and will result in changes where indicated.</p>			
Court Name	Branch (If Applicable)	Address	On-Site Days/Hours	Total Hours/Month
Imperial County Superior Court	EI Centro	939 Main Street, EI Centro, CA. 92243	T: 9:00-12:00 and 1:00-4:00	24

Personnel Categories	Project Staff	Total Project FTEs	PG Share of FTEs
Lawyers	Staff Attorney	0.3	0.3
	Executive Director/Supervising Attorney	0.06	0.06
	Director of Legal Services	0.03	0.03
	Lawyers Total	0.39	0.39
Paralegals		0	0
		0	0
	Paralegals Total	0	0
Other	Program Assistant	0.2	0.2
		0	0
	Other Total	0.2	0.2

	# Held	# Individuals Served	Services
Individual Services	N/A	48	Information on Legal Options;Information on Court Procedures and Hearing;Document Preparation and Review;Filing or Services Assistance
Workshops	12	48	Information on Legal Options;Information on Court Procedures and Hearing
Self-Help Clinics	48	48	Information on Legal Options;Information on Court Procedures and Hearing;Document Preparation and Review;Post-Hearing Assistance

Project Goals	<p>Project goals include:</p> <p>Clinic: All walk-in participants will have access to resources to resolve their restraining order issue. Guided navigation via kiosk (or using a binder when necessary) will be available to participants. Goal includes 48 clinics per year.</p> <p>Workshop: A presentation including restraining order options, procedures, and best practices will be created and available for remote access. Goal includes 12 workshops per grant period.</p> <p>Individual Services: Clinic participants will have documents reviewed and questions answered on an individual basis. Goal includes 48 individual participants per grant period.</p>
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Outreach & Community Engagement	<p>EL&A will continue to participate in in-person community education and outreach events as part of their legal services programs and will offer information about the clinic through those events. The Imperial County Superior Court's Access Center will have information available about project services, as will the civil court clerks, and both will act as referral sources. Project partners will work together to prepare and disseminate outreach materials during the year.</p> <p>EL&A will contact government agencies and community service providers in the region to inform them about project services which are available to their clients, and to request that they assist in publicizing the availability of project services. Court personnel will be aware of clinic services and can give details to self-represented litigants about how and when the project operates. As a project partner, it is anticipated that they will direct potential clients to the project. Materials will be updated to reflect changes in the law and to address repetitive issues raised by project participants.</p>
Attorney-Client Relationship	No

Conflict of Interest Protocols	N/A
Income Eligibility Guidelines	<p>Participants must be residents of Imperial County and have a current or potential restraining order matter. They must be willing to sign the project's disclosures and conditions notice document which will include items such as project limitations, time constraints for elder abuse actions, and no attorney-client relationships are formed.</p> <p>Potential participants are required to fill in a detailed intake form when they arrive at a kiosk. Kiosk or staff review the form to determine whether the person qualifies for services and whether their matter is suitable for clinic assistance. If they do not qualify, they are given resources, and if appropriate, referrals that pertain to their particular circumstances.</p>
Alternative Services	<p>Ineligible self-represented litigants will be offered clinic resource materials, including citations to online resources, may also be directed to the law library located within the courthouse and may be given information to contact lawyer referral service organizations or other community organizations. We will also endeavor to refer to local attorneys and the California Courts website.</p>
Court's Role	<p>EL&A has maintained a collaboration with the Imperial County Superior Court at the El Centro courthouse location since 2009, with the establishment of the Partnership Grant-supported conservatorship/guardianship clinic. The Imperial County Superior Court has agreed to provide space and infrastructure required for a kiosk within the courthouse, participate in ongoing partnership clinic meetings, and refer clients for project services. The courthouse itself is readily accessible by public transportation, is wheelchair accessible and nearby parking is free. Our kiosks will likely be located within EL&A's office initially, in order to carefully monitor participation. If the project is successful, it is our intention to transition a kiosk, or implement additional kiosks, to areas of the court accessible even when EL&A staff is not fully available.</p>

PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Family Violence Law Center		
Project Name	Domestic Violence Pro Per (DVPP) Project		
Grant Year	Total Budget	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
2024	\$831,182.00	\$25,000	
Currently Funded Partnership Grant	Court Letter(s) on File	Memorandum of Understanding(s) Reviewed	All Services at Courthouse
No	Yes	Pending	Pending

Project Abstract

The Domestic Violence Pro Per (DVPP) Project is a successful ongoing collaboration between Family Violence Law Center (FVLC), Legal Access Alameda (LAA, formerly Volunteer Legal Services Corporation of the Alameda County Bar Association (VLSC)), and the Self-Help Center of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda (SHC). The DVPP Project increases access to legal services for pro per litigants in South Alameda County by serving self-represented petitioners and respondents from across South Alameda County in Domestic Violence Prevention Act restraining orders, family law and (new in 2024) housing matters. Project partners will meet the needs of self-represented litigants, including those who are low income and/or limited English proficient, in domestic violence, family law and housing matters by implementing the following objectives: 1) FVLC and LAA will hold a joint weekly Domestic Violence Petitioner Clinic for DVPA petitioners at the Hayward Hall of Justice (or virtually if required for public health reasons), staffed by a FVLC attorney, FVLC pro bono attorneys and law clerks and/or LAA pro bono attorneys; 2) SHC will provide legal information and paperwork preparation to both DVPA respondents and petitioners in DVPA matters and in housing matters, and LAA will provide assistance to petitioners and respondents through an LAA clinic; and 3) FVLC will accept warm direct referrals from SHC and the clinics for legal representation in court as agency resources allow (this will be funded by multiple other sources).

Court Name	Branch (If Applicable)	Address	On-Site Days/Hours	Total Hours/Month
Alameda County Superior Court	Hayward Hall of Justice	24405 Amador St, Hayward, CA 94544	TBD	TBD

Personnel Categories	Project Staff	Total Project FTEs	PG Share of FTEs
Lawyers	Executive Director	0.36	0.01
	Managing Attorney	1	0.08
	Staff Attorney	1	0.12
	Lawyers Total	2.36	0.21
Paralegals		0	0
		0	0
	Paralegals Total	0	0
Other	Finance Director	0.26	0.02

		0	0
	Other Total	0.26	0.02

	# Held	# Individuals Served	Services
Individual Services	N/A	75	Information on Legal Options; Information on Court Procedures and Hearing; Document Preparation and Review
Workshops	50	75	Information on Legal Options; Information on Court Procedures and Hearing; Document Preparation and Review
Self-Help Clinics	5	5	Document Preparation and Review

Project Goals	In 2024, the DVPP Project will provide paperwork assistance for pro per petitioners and respondents in DVPA matters in protective order and housing matters. FVLC and LAA will serve at least 75 participants in at least 50 planned workshop settings, and SHC will serve 75 respondents. All project partners will offer information on legal options and court processes and document preparation.
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Outreach & Community Engagement	The DVPP clinic services in restraining orders, family law and housing will be advertised via vigorous outreach to the community. Participants will be referred to the clinic by SHC in Hayward, by FVLC (which operates a 24-hour crisis line and conducts legal screenings for any victim in Alameda County), by the family law bench and court staff, and by LAA, which also serves Alameda County and conducts intake and referral through the Lawyer Referral Service, via tools such as their newsletter's "Opportunities" section. The clinic will continue to be publicized to other county agencies who serve DVPA petitioners, including the Alameda County Family Justice Center, Bay Area Legal Aid, Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach, Centro Legal de la Raza, and the county's domestic violence shelters.
Attorney-Client Relationship	No

Conflict of Interest Protocols	N/A
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Income Eligibility Guidelines	<p>FVLC and LAA's legal screenings obtain information about family size, financial background (source of income, financial dependence on abuser, eligibility for CalWORKs), and DV history, and use this information to determine financial and subject matter eligibility for appropriate assistance. FVLC has a well-established legal intake process where relevant information is gathered by trained, trauma-informed staff and used by FVLC's Managing Attorney to determine eligibility for legal assistance based on grant parameters, and grant codes are assigned to clients at the time intake. FVLC attorneys receive trainings on legal funding sources with a written guide for reference, so staff understands that IOLTA and EAF grant funds can only be used to provide services to clients below the 200% of federal poverty threshold. LAA intake staff screen for financial eligibility. Since LAA's direct services are provided by volunteers, LAA's income guidelines rely on the current figures equivalent to 75% of income for lower income households; LAA's guidelines are established pursuant to Health and Safety Code 50079(a) and Business and Professions Code 6213(d). For petitioners, LAA staff are trained in the dynamics of DV and have lists of questions that determine eligibility. For respondents, LAA staff gets information about court hearings so they can refer to the service that will best facilitate a timely response. SHC helps any pro per litigant in DVPA actions regardless of income, and instructs pro per litigants on completing paperwork and provides procedural information and written materials.</p>
Alternative Services	<p>If FVLC or LAA have conflicts or grant restrictions and cannot serve a litigant, agencies will refer to SHC, which does not have income requirements and may assist litigants who do not qualify for FVLC or LAA services. All project partners will have informational materials available for any ineligible participant, both petitioners and respondents, and will provide meaningful referrals to relevant projects for assistance. In addition, all project partners will have complete lists of referrals for other legal services, either for litigants with subject matter ineligibility or for services outside the county, if the litigant must file his or her case elsewhere. In 2022, litigants were referred to: FVLC (for crisis support, therapy, housing or additional legal services or representation), project partners SHC and LAA, East Bay Community Law Center, Centro Legal de la Raza, the Department of Child Support Services, Legal Assistance for Seniors, Family Violence Appellate Project, Bay Area Legal Aid, or sliding scale/private attorneys, depending on the individual circumstance of each case.</p>

Court's Role	<p>While FVLC and LAA will primarily provide staffing for the DVPP Project, the court will offer physical space for provision of services at the Hayward Hall of Justice, which has reopened for in-person services. The Hayward Hall of Justice houses project partner SHC, which provides paperwork preparation assistance to respondents in DVPA matters; these services have been provided in person and via remote apps, phone and live chat since September 2022. SHC will refer petitioners as walk-ins to the Petitioner clinic, space for which will be provided by the court in a private room within the Hayward Hall of Justice, facilitating convenient referrals for litigants. In addition, the Hayward Hall of Justice Children's Waiting Room has traditionally offered free childcare for parents and guardians who have court business; this service is not open at this time pending identification of a vendor, but it is available to parties served by the DVPP Project when open. If required for public health reasons, the space and services will be virtual, and SHC will continued to refer petitioners to FVLC via warm referral emails to FVLC's Managing Attorney, who assigns the referrals for immediate outreach, intake and clinic scheduling.</p>
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PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Inland Counties Legal Services			
Project Name	Consumer Rights Clinic (CRC) EXPANDED			
Grant Year	Total Budget	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded	
2024	\$326,640.00	\$255,000		
Currently Funded Partnership Grant	Court Letter(s) on File	Memorandum of Understanding(s) Reviewed	All Services at Courthouse	
No	Yes	Pending	Pending	
Project Abstract	<p>The Consumer Rights Clinic ("CRC") has been a successful partnership between ICLS and the San Bernardino and Riverside Superior Courts providing legal assistance to unrepresented indigent consumers with debt collection lawsuits.</p> <p>The project will fund an attorney, a paralegal, and a legal secretary and builds upon a document automation application (created specifically for the Consumer Rights Clinic project with non-Partnership funding) that allows consumers to respond, propound discovery, and attempt settlement with opposing counsel. All documents produced are reviewed by an attorney.</p> <p>The San Bernardino Superior Court (at the Justice Center, Central District) and the Riverside Superior Court (at the Corona Courthouse and outlying courthouses) will provide space for ICLS to operate and make referrals to the Clinic. Staff will serve pro se defendants in the courthouses either in person or virtually on a regularly scheduled clinic day. Staff will attempt to settle/dismiss cases as soon as possible. The ICLS attorney will not represent the client on the record or appear in court on the client's behalf. Through counsel and advice and document preparation, the goal is to increase access to justice for clients and alleviate the demand on the court's time by resolving cases expeditiously.</p> <p>ICLS has developed the process of working with clients and volunteer attorneys remotely and can operate remotely at any time when public health restrictions are in effect.</p>			
Court Name	Branch (If Applicable)	Address	On-Site Days/Hours	Total Hours/Month
Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino	Justice Center, Central District	247 West Third St. San Bernardino, CA 92415	M/W 9a-12p & 1p-4p	48 hr/mo
Superior Court of California, County of Riverside	Riverside Self Help Center	505 S. Buena Vista Ave. #201 Corona, CA 92882	Tu/Th 9a-12p & 1p-4p	48 hr/mo
Personnel Categories	Project Staff	Total Project FTEs	PG Share of FTEs	
Lawyers	Staff Attorney	1.1	1	
		0	0	

		0	0
	Lawyers Total	1.1	1
Paralegals	Paralegal	1.5	1
		0	0
	Paralegals Total	1.5	1
Other		0	0
		0	0
	Other Total	0	0

	# Held	# Individuals Served	Services
Individual Services	N/A	200	Information on Legal Options; Information on Court Procedures and Hearing; Document Preparation and Review; Filing or Services Assistance; Supervised Settlement Services; Post-Hearing Assistance
Workshops	0	0	
Self-Help Clinics	0	0	

Project Goals	Our goal will be to assist 200 clients with counsel and advice, document preparation, and post-judgment assistance. This goal will reduce the number of pro per litigants that fail to answer their debt collection lawsuit and therefore have a money judgment entered against them which will affect their credit and ability to borrow money, and obtain safe and decent housing.
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Outreach & Community Engagement	<p>Both Riverside and San Bernardino Courts will distribute informational flyers at court locations as well as making the information available on their websites.</p> <p>ICLS will promote the Consumer Rights Clinic on its website and social media.</p> <p>Community partners such as Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino, Inland Empire Latino Lawyers Association and Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County will distribute informational flyers to consumers they serve.</p> <p>ICLS uses advertising media as funding permits, such as newspaper and radio.</p>
Attorney-Client Relationship	Yes

Conflict of Interest Protocols	<p>ICLS maintains a case management system (CMS) that included archival records of all prior clients. This CMS is checked at intake for conflicts of interest by the Intake Unit. Suspected conflicts are immediately flagged and reviewed by supervising attorneys to determine acceptance or rejection.</p> <p>If a conflict of interest is found, the applicant will not be provided services.</p>
Income Eligibility Guidelines	<p>All applicants for the Consumer Rights Clinic will first be processed by ICLS's Intake Unit whose staff is well trained on client eligibility requirements for all of ICLS' funding sources. The Intake Unit ensures that all applicants are income qualified or age or disability qualified in accordance with Equal Access Fund eligibility requirements under BPC §6213 et. seq. Applicants must have requisite citizenship status based on Legal Services Corporation (LSC) criteria or qualify under an exception to the ICLS's citizenship requirements.</p> <p>Applicants who call inquiring about services are required to answer questions regarding their legal issues, citizenship status, and financial eligibility to ensure that they are both qualified for services and that ICLS has the resources and capacity to provide services. ICLS uses LegalServer to capture the information and calculate income and assets based on the applicant's answers regarding their household income, size, expenses, and assets.</p> <p>Services will only be provided to pro se applicants with a San Bernardino County or Riverside County Court consumer issue pending.</p> <p>Applicants who do not qualify for services under this project are referred to ICLS's regular Consumer Law team for relevant services or to the Lawyer Referral Services of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties as most appropriate and depending on resources.</p>
Alternative Services	<p>Litigants who are not eligible for services from this project will either be referred to the Consumer team to be served with non-Partnership funds or will receive referrals to the local lawyer referral service, sister organizations such as the Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino and Riverside Legal Aid.</p>

Court's Role	<p>The San Bernardino Superior Court provided space at the Justice Center, Central District for ICLS in the Civil Lobby. The Court provides desks, chairs, and electrical outlets. The Court distributes public notices informing consumers of the clinic and how to apply and the court has posted the notice on its website.</p> <p>The Riverside Court has provided space at the Corona Courthouse and provides desks and electrical outlets. The Court distributes public notices informing consumers of the clinic and how to apply and the court has posted the notice on its website. ICLS plans to work with Riverside Superior Court to secure space at other courthouses throughout the county where collections cases are heard.</p>
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PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Inland Counties Legal Services			
Project Name	Family Law Assistance Project (FLAP)			
Grant Year	Total Budget	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded	
2024	\$158,140.00	\$141,000		
Currently Funded Partnership Grant	Court Letter(s) on File	Memorandum of Understanding(s) Reviewed	All Services at Courthouse	
No				
Project Abstract	<p>The Family Law Access Project (FLAP) breaks down barriers for self-represented family law litigants to improve access to the family law court, specifically the Larson Justice Center which serves the rural areas of the Coachella Valley. FLAP is a collaboration between Inland Counties Legal Services and the Riverside County Superior Court. FLAP assists low-income consumers with counsel and advice and document preparation in the areas of dissolution, child custody and visitation, child and spousal support, paternity actions and domestic violence restraining orders.</p> <p>All prepared documents are reviewed by an attorney to ensure accuracy and the court consumer will be provided with guidance on how to navigate the court process and prepare for their hearing.</p> <p>The success of this project will ensure that court consumers will be able to finalize their dissolution action, obtain domestic violence restraining orders and gain custody and support orders. The project provides low-income consumers meaningful access to the courts.</p>			
Court Name	Branch (If Applicable)	Address	On-Site Days/Hours	Total Hours/Month
Superior Court of California, County of Riverside	Larson Justice Center	46-200 Oasis St., Indio, CA 92201	Th 9:30am-12pm & 1:30pm-4pm	20 hr/mo
Riverside County Law Library	Riverside Branch	3989 Lemon St., Riverside, CA 92501	Tu 9:30am-12pm & 1:30pm-4pm	20 hr/mo

Personnel Categories	Project Staff	Total Project FTEs	PG Share of FTEs
Lawyers	Staff Attorney	0.46	0.4
		0	0
		0	0
	Lawyers Total	0.46	0.4
Paralegals	Paralegal	0.44	0.4
		0	0
	Paralegals Total	0.44	0.4
Other	Legal Secretary	0.44	0.4
		0	0

	Other Total	0.44	0.4
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	# Held	# Individuals Served	Services
Individual Services	N/A	130	Information on Legal Options; Information on Court Procedures and Hearing; Document Preparation and Review; Filing or Services Assistance; Post-Hearing Assistance
Workshops	0	0	
Self-Help Clinics	0	0	

Project Goals	with an emphasis on the rural Coachella Valley, which has a large unmet need for services. The goal is that the services, which excludes legal representation will be extended services that will allow court consumers to navigate the family law court process and complete their court case through judgment, settlement or court order. The services provided will help the court manage the number of cases which may be languishing because court consumers do not have the legal know how to complete complicated court proceedings. ICLS projects that it will be able to provide services to 130 individuals in 2023.
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Outreach & Community Engagement	<p>ICLS will utilize a comprehensive marketing strategy using print media and radio mass marketing as well as community education and outreach. The marketing strategy will be led by the Community Engagement Team. Aside from traditional marketing tools, ICLS intends to leverage its collaborations with existing partners that provide services to victims of domestic violence through regular community presentations. ICLS presently has partnerships that provide legal services in coordination with the local Riverside County Libraries system, Riverside Area Rape Crisis Center, and the Family Justice Centers located in Riverside County, both of which provide services to survivors of abuse.</p> <p>The Court will also provide marketing through its website and Self-Help Centers. With the number of litigants seeking family law services and the lack of resources available to litigants, ICLS anticipates that there will be an overwhelming number of referrals from the Court for its services. Because ICLS will have a regular physical presence at the Larson Justice Center, pro se litigants will have easy access to services in the Courthouse.</p>
Attorney-Client Relationship	Yes

Conflict of Interest Protocols	ICLS maintains a case management system (CMS) that included archival records of all prior clients. This CMS is checked at intake for conflicts of interest by the Intake Unit. Suspected conflicts are immediately flagged and reviewed by supervising attorneys to determine acceptance or rejection.
Income Eligibility Guidelines	<p>All applicants for the Family Law Access Project will first be processed by ICLS's Intake Unit whose staff is well trained on client eligibility requirements for all of ICLS' funding sources. The Intake Unit ensures that all applicants are income qualified or age or disability qualified in accordance with Equal Access Fund eligibility requirements under BPC §6213 et. seq. Applicants must have requisite citizenship status based on Legal Services Corporation (LSC) criteria or qualify under an exception to the ICLS's citizenship requirements.</p> <p>Applicants who call inquiring about services are required to answer questions regarding their legal issues, citizenship status, and financial eligibility to ensure that they are both qualified for services and that ICLS has the resources and capacity to provide services. ICLS uses LegalServer to capture the information and calculate income and assets based on the applicant's answers regarding their household income, size, expenses, and assets.</p> <p>Services will only be provided to pro se applicants with family law issues pending.</p>
Alternative Services	Applicants who do not qualify for services under this project are referred to ICLS's regular Family Law/Domestic Violence team for relevant services utilizing non Partnership funding or to the Lawyer Referral Services as most appropriate and depending on resources.

Court's Role	<p>Specific clinic days may be modified depending on volume and client needs, however services will remain at two days per week. A clinic will be held at the Larson Justice Center in Indio one day per week and a second clinic will be held at the Riverside Law Library in Riverside one day per week. The Law Library is a one (1) minute drive (or within walking distance, 0.3 miles) from the Family Law Courthouse. The Court may be able to provide space at the Family Law Court located at 4175 Main St, Riverside, CA 92501 in the future.</p> <p>Clients will be served by a paralegal or legal secretary, and a staff attorney. The attorney will be either onsite or available through video conferencing. The clinic will target the rural community in and around the cities of Indio and Riverside. Qualified applicants that attend the clinic will be aided provided there is no conflict of interest. Eligible consumers who cannot be served the same day at the clinic will be provided an appointment outside of clinic hours.</p> <p>The Court as well as the Law Library will provide both clinic space and referrals. The court will promote the clinic on its website and at its self-help centers, and at various training that are currently provided by the Self-Help Center. The Court is also allowing ICLS project staff enhanced access to the Court's electronic records pertaining to client cases. This enhanced access allows advocates to view case filings without charge electronically.</p>
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PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco		
Project Name	Family Law Assisted Self Help (FLASH) Project		
Grant Year	Total Budget	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
2024	\$175,422.00	\$70,000	
Currently Funded Partnership Grant	Court Letter(s) on File	Memorandum of Understanding(s) Reviewed	All Services at Courthouse
No	Yes	Pending	Pending
Project Abstract	<p>The Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco (JDC) requests a Partnership Grant to operate the Family Law Assisted Self Help (FLASH) project, which provides legal assistance to indigent Self-Represented Litigants (SRLs) at the San Francisco Superior Court (Court), via its ACCESS Center. Services consist of direct legal assistance to SRLs on the Family Centered Case Resolution (FCCR) Calendar, where cases that have failed to conclude are called. The FLASH Attorney works with income-qualified litigants on this calendar and thereafter to complete their matters. The FLASH Attorney also meets one-on-one with SRLs referred by the ACCESS Center throughout their cases. The FLASH Attorney provides information and guidance and drafts all necessary pleadings for SRLs who are not able to complete their divorce paperwork without the assistance of FLASH.</p> <p>As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, JDC has developed innovative methods to communicate and interact with SRLs. Our intake form has been converted to an electronic fillable document so the ACCESS Center can complete the initial set of pleadings for each SRL. Additionally, we have added text communication capability as most of the FLASH Attorney's low-income clients are unable to use video-conferencing.</p> <p>In March 2020, the Court ended Mandatory Settlement Conference (MSC) Workshops and, indeed, all workshops or group meetings. The Court now refers litigants directly to JDC when income-qualified SRLs need help with MSCs and MSC Statements. The FLASH Attorney works individually with these clients to complete the extensive MSC Statement and to prepare to present their cases at the MSC.</p>		

Court Name	Branch (If Applicable)	Address	On-Site Days/Hours	Total Hours/Month
San Francisco Superior Court	ACCESS Center	400 McAllister Street, San Francisco, CA 94102	Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm	140 hours/month

Personnel Categories	Project Staff	Total Project FTEs	PG Share of FTEs
Lawyers	FLASH Attorney	1	0.36
	Family Law Supervising Attorney	0.15	0.08
	Director/Managing Attorney	0.11	0.05

	Lawyers Total	1.26	0.49
Paralegals		0	0
		0	0
	Paralegals Total	0	0
Other	Client Advocate	0.2	0
		0	0
	Other Total	0.2	0

	# Held	# Individuals Served	Services
Individual Services	N/A	196	Information on Legal Options; Information on Court Procedures and Hearing; Document Preparation and Review; Filing or Services Assistance; Supervised Settlement Services; Post-Hearing Assistance; Other
Workshops	0	0	
Self-Help Clinics	0	0	

Project Goals	<p>The overall goal of JDC's FLASH Project is to ensure that low-income self-represented litigants with marriage dissolution cases before the San Francisco Superior Court have the resources and knowledge to receive fair hearings and dispositions of their case. The FLASH Project will provide direct legal services with this goal for at least 196 individuals in 2024.</p> <p>Further, the project aims to facilitate Court processes to reduce the burden on Court personnel and enable the Court to operate efficiently.</p>
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Outreach & Community Engagement	The Court sends out a Notice of Hearing to litigants whose cases have been inactive for 18 months or more. Eligible litigants receive information with their Notice notifying them that legal assistance is available to them through the ACCESS Center. Family law judges also directly inform litigants of available FLASH services available through the ACCESS Center. If JDC has not been able to speak with the SRLs prior to the calendar call, litigants are notified of JDC's and ACCESS' services at the hearing.
Attorney-Client Relationship	No

Conflict of Interest Protocols	N/A
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Income Eligibility Guidelines	<p>JDC and ACCESS staff conduct subject matter and income eligibility screening procedures prior to hearings by checking the Court file for fee waiver and/or Income and Expense Declarations. A second screening is conducted by the FLASH Attorney when she meets with litigants. All customers will have incomes under 200% of the federal poverty level.</p> <p>All litigants are screened for income eligibility initially by ACCESS Center staff, which screening is then confirmed by the FLASH Attorney at the first meeting with the litigant. The FLASH Attorney reviews income documentation – such as pay stubs, tax returns, or eligibility documentation from another public benefit exclusive to indigent individuals. Only individuals or families with incomes at or below 200% of the federal poverty level will be provided FLASH services.</p>
Alternative Services	<p>For litigants who are ineligible for services due to income, subject matter, or residency, JDC refers them to other JDC projects as appropriate and to the Bar Association of San Francisco's Lawyer Referral Information Service (LRIS). Referrals are generally made directly from JDC to LRIS to ensure that the litigant does not have to repeat his or her story many times. JDC and LRIS, as part of the umbrella of the Bar Association of San Francisco, have been working together closely for more than 40 years and refer thousands of cases back and forth to each other throughout the year. Customers from other counties are generally referred to agencies in those counties. JDC works closely with these agencies to ensure that it has their most accurate and up-to-date information on file. Cases that are not income eligible may also be assisted by the ACCESS Center.</p>

<p>Court's Role</p>	<p>The San Francisco Superior Court provides the in-kind contribution of office space and computer terminals that significantly facilitate JDC's ability to operate the project onsite at the courthouse. Further, the Court sends JDC staff members the case list for each Readiness Calendar day, enabling the FLASH Attorney to preliminarily identify SRLs for potential service provision.</p> <p>Specifically, the Court agrees to provide the following resources to the FLASH Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Staff time to meet with JDC personnel regularly to plan, implement, and evaluate the project. b) Appropriate office space for the project attorney in which the project attorney can conduct one-on-one appointments with customers. c) Information on SRLs set to appear before the Family Centered Case Resolution (FCCR) Calendar. d) Access to computer, fax machine, and a copy machine for the use of the project attorney. e) Collaboration to screen and assess cases, to make appropriate referrals, and to help pro per litigants navigate the judicial process. f) Access to the ACCESS Center's legal resources library and customer resource materials. g) Cooperation with JDC's efforts to support the project by endorsing grant applications and participating in the implementation and evaluation of grants consistent with the goals and mission of the ACCESS Center. h) Assistance for JDC with training, supervising, and managing of the FLASH Attorney.
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PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	LACBA Counsel for Justice			
Project Name	Domestic Violence Legal Services Project (DVP)			
Grant Year	Total Budget	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded	
2024	\$330,747.00	\$104,000		
Currently Funded Partnership Grant	Court Letter(s) on File	Memorandum of Understanding(s) Reviewed	All Services at Courthouse	
No	Yes	Yes	Pending	
Project Abstract	<p>The Domestic Violence Legal Services Project (DVP, or "Project") of LACBA Counsel for Justice assists self-represented litigants in restraining order cases. The main goal of the Project is to provide access to justice in these complex cases by helping litigants to (a) make informed choices about their legal problems and (b) properly present their issues to the Court. DVP accomplishes this by providing legal information, direct referrals to supportive agencies, and individualized assistance with forms including requests, responses, and renewals.</p> <p>DVP recruits and trains volunteer attorneys and law students, who work one-on-one with litigants to prepare court forms with review by the Project Attorney. DVP also operates two self-help kiosks where litigants can prepare their own forms via the Court's web-based forms production program, with review by the Project Attorney.</p> <p>The Project is staffed by one Directing Attorney, one Project Attorney, and one FTE paralegal who work with litigants and assist or supervise volunteers, plus one Project Coordinator who assists with the administrative aspects of the clinic. DVP's Directing Attorney is responsible for overall supervision and direction of the Project. As it has for over 30 years, DVP works closely and continuously with the Court on issues including cross-referrals, program development, and evaluation. (DVP, the Restraining Order Center, and Family Court Services are all located on the second floor of the Stanley Mosk Courthouse.) DVP is open Monday-Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00-3:30 p.m., and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.</p>			
Court Name	Branch (If Applicable)	Address	On-Site Days/Hours	Total Hours/Month
Los Angeles County Superior Court	Stanley Mosk	111 N. Hill St Room 235 Los Angeles, CA	M-Thurs: 8:00a-12:00p and 1:00p-3:30p Fri: 8:00a-12:00p	120
Personnel Categories	Project Staff	Total Project FTEs	PG Share of FTEs	
Lawyers	Project Director	1	0.17	
	Project Attorney	1	0.29	
		0	0	

	Lawyers Total	2	0.46
Paralegals	Paralegal 1	1	0.39
	Paralegal 2	1	0.41
	Paralegals Total	2	0.8
Other	Project Coordinator	1	0.35
		0	0
	Other Total	1	0.35

	# Held	# Individuals Served	Services
Individual Services	N/A	2500	Information on Legal Options; Information on Court Procedures and Hearing; Document Preparation and Review
Workshops	0	0	
Self-Help Clinics	0	0	

Project Goals	<p>Generally, DVP strives to provide access to justice for survivors of domestic abuse by empowering them to meet their unique needs and goals. DVP uses a holistic approach to accomplish this goal—offering litigants access to legal knowledge, document assistance, and direct connections to supportive resources.</p> <p>DVP initially adapted its services to conform to Court pandemic protocol. However, it has continued to implement those adaptations and to use remote service delivery whenever possible to maximize Project capacity. In 2022, we focused on refining our hybrid model, training new staff, and developing our own forms production program. Moving forward, DVP (1) aims to improve ease-of-use to the Court's Hot Docs interview so that self-represented litigants can use the program on their own. Additionally, DVP (2) is updating its service model to incorporate the services piloted in our remote project (funded by a Partnership 2.0 grant), including automated reminder systems for litigants regarding hearing, mediation, and serve-by dates.

</p> <p>Finally, LACBA is updating its membership services system to MemberCentral, which will enable DVP to update its volunteer management process. Through MemberCentral, DVP will be able to provide streamlined recruiting, on-demand trainings, automated scheduling, and improved volunteer engagement, including customized feedback and legal practice tips.

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Outreach & Community Engagement	<p>Due to the strength of our partnerships, DVP's need for active community outreach is low. Most of our litigants come from the Court's ROC and SHRC; the LAPD frequently directly refers survivors to us; we've been in the Stanley Mosk Courthouse for 36 years; and other court-based legal service providers refer litigants directly to DVP for help with restraining order cases. Even so, DVP cultivates strong relationships with the L.A. County Domestic Violence Council through various committee meetings, and it participates in community networking events so that the public can learn about our services.</p> <p>The LACBA website hosts a DVP sub-page where we list our services provided and address different core concepts: coercive control, the unpredictability of law enforcement response to DVROs, and the possibility that a DVRO may worsen one's situation, among other topics. Additionally, at the Central Bureau Family Justice Center, we train co-located community partners on the restraining order assistance we provide so that those partners can accurately inform their clients about DVP services. The Project also provides printed materials on its services to local law enforcement agencies, hospitals, and community agencies.</p>
Attorney-Client Relationship	No

Conflict of Interest Protocols	N/A
Income Eligibility Guidelines	<p>Litigants are screened for subject matter eligibility by Court staff prior to referral and are also screened by Project staff. The following case types are eligible for Project assistance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (1) domestic violence restraining orders; • (2) elder abuse restraining orders (when physical violence has been alleged and the parties do not meet the relationship requirement of the DVPA); and • (3) civil harassment restraining orders (when sexual assault has been alleged and the parties do not meet the relationship requirement of the DVPA). <p>Prior to provision of services, litigants complete an intake form with eligibility determination questions. DVP staff then inputs this information into the Project's case management system, which uses an algorithm to determine income eligibility. Litigants that are below the appropriate income threshold are deemed an "indigent person" as defined by the Legal Services Trust Fund Program. Given the use of pro bono attorneys, DVP calculates income limits via DHSS and HUD formulas. In the absence of system access, staff utilizes the appropriate income eligibility chart.</p>

Alternative Services	<p>All of DVP's services are completely free and available to all walk-in litigants regardless of income. Litigants with income exceeding the Partnership funding eligibility threshold are served via other funding sources; litigants with issues exceeding the Project's scope are referred to the Court's SHRC or to other legal services.</p> <p>DVP maintains an updated referral list for local LSC's (specializing in areas such as housing, immigration, and family law) and social service agencies (specializing in DV support, housing, mental health, and food security).</p>
Court's Role	<p>The Court provides a former courtroom for the DVP. This room was remodeled in 2021 to have a lobby and eight cubicles, along with telephone and internet access and office furniture. The Court also provides parking for DVP staff and volunteers. Court staff are available to assist DVP's IT staff with installation of equipment as needed.</p>

PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Legal Access Alameda			
Project Name	Family Law Day of Court			
Grant Year	Total Budget	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded	
2024	\$83,546.00	\$25,000		
Currently Funded Partnership Grant	Court Letter(s) on File	Memorandum of Understanding(s) Reviewed	All Services at Courthouse	
No	Yes	Pending	Pending	
Project Abstract	<p>Legal Access Alameda's Family Law Day of Court Clinic (FLDOC) is an in-court clinic where volunteers take referrals directly from the bench on the Family Law Pro Per Request for Order (RFO) calendars. In Alameda County, self-represented litigants (SRLs) are generally assigned a specific day on each Family Law Department's calendar. Each clinic is staffed by a supervisor, either the FLDOC Supervising Attorney or a Self-Help staff person, and one to three volunteers. Volunteers and clinic staff work closely with judicial officers and courtroom personnel. The clinic seeks to assist all SRLs whose cases are set on the RFO calendar and who appear for their hearing. The hearings are short-cause hearings that are generally for child custody, visitation, and support.</p> <p>FLDOC provides assistance to the six non-DCSS family law departments on their pro per RFO calendars. These calendars occur in the morning or afternoon, several times per week. The FLDOC clinic currently provides both in person and remote services as necessary.</p> <p>The primary goal of the clinic is to provide SRLs with signed, clear, and enforceable orders as soon as possible after their hearing. Clinic staff and volunteers draft the orders immediately after the hearing, and submit proposed orders for the judge's signature and filing by the court clerk. FLDOC also assist SRLs by clarifying the newly-issued orders, explaining legal terms and court procedures, completing necessary paperwork, and running child and temporary spousal support calculations.</p>			
Court Name	Branch (If Applicable)	Address	On-Site Days/Hours	Total Hours/Month
Hayward Hall of Justice		24405 Amador Street, Hayward, CA	T/W/Th 9-12	36-45

Personnel Categories	Project Staff	Total Project FTEs	PG Share of FTEs
Lawyers	FLDOC Attorney	1	0.35
	Director	0.02	0
		0	0
	Lawyers Total	1.02	0.35
Paralegals		0	0

		0	0
	Paralegals Total	0	0
Other		0	0
		0	0
	Other Total	0	0

	# Held	# Individuals Served	Services
Individual Services	N/A	0	
Workshops	0	0	
Self-Help Clinics	280	1000	Information on Legal Options; Information on Court Procedures and Hearing; Document Preparation and Review; Filing or Services Assistance

Project Goals	The FLDOC Program goals and objectives remain providing clear, concise, and enforceable orders for the pro per Family Law litigants in Alameda County and assisting them in determining and completing the forms necessary for their case to progress. We will continue to work with our partners at the Self-Help Center to staff 6 clinics per week and network with the local family law bar to encourage more volunteers. Ensuring current staffing and volunteer levels allows the Program staff the time and ability to meet with litigants to determine what additional legal resources may be necessary and refer litigants to our community resources.
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Outreach & Community Engagement	Legal Access and the Self-Help Center will continue to: update training materials and videos, provide trainings for new volunteers, and publicize training opportunities for volunteers through the Alameda County Bar Association (ACBA), the ACBA's family law section, and at other professional, educational, and social events attended primarily by family law practitioners.
Attorney-Client Relationship	No
Conflict of Interest Protocols	N/A

Income Eligibility Guidelines	<p>Legal Access Alameda income guidelines are based on 75% of income for lower income households in Alameda County as defined by Health and Safety Code section 50079.5(a) and Business and Professions Code section 6213(d). This income guideline allows Legal Access to serve the poor and working poor in Alameda County -- individuals and families who often have regular incomes but do not make enough to afford legal assistance. This guideline is also used for the FLDOC program.</p> <p>The FLDOC program assists all self-represented litigants (SRLs) who are referred by judicial officers on a pro per RFO calendar. In Alameda County, self-represented litigants are generally assigned to days in which the six non-DCSS family law departments have Pro Per RFO calendars. The FLDOC clinic takes place on all six of these pro per RFO calendars. All clients are asked to declare their gross monthly income to track which clients are income eligible for services funded by the partnership grant. Litigants are asked to sign the intake that the statements they have made about income are correct. The Court requires all SRLs appearing on the pro per RFO calendar be provided services regardless of income. Therefore, Income ineligible clients are served by the FLDOC supervising attorney on time paid for by money provided by the Court: .4 FTE of the FLDOC Supervising Attorney's salary. Because the Court requires all SRLs be given services regardless of income, they are willing to provide additional funding to ensure over-income SRLs are also served.</p>
Alternative Services	<p>Since the FLDOC program assists nearly all self-represented litigants who are referred by judicial officers during the clinics, there are no alternative resources or referrals provided to those litigants who are over the income eligibility guidelines. Clinic staff and volunteers provide information about other legal, governmental, and social services agencies to all SRLs, where appropriate. Legal Access staff has given Family Law Bench Officers alternative options to provide to those individuals who are ineligible for assistance with support calculations, such as the bench officer running the calculation themselves, using the resources at the law library, or hiring an attorney on a limited scope basis to complete the calculation.</p>

Court's Role	<p>The Court provides a desk and shared office space for the FLDOC Staff Attorney and a contractor's badge for entry to secure areas of the courthouse. The Court also provides a laptop with access to the following systems and programs: Domain (the Court's case management system), Essential Forms software for drafting orders and judgments, and DissoMaster for computing support calculations. The FLDOC Staff Attorney also has use of Court printers, copiers, and general office supplies. The Court's Office of Information Technology offers technical support and updates for these programs at least twice per year and on an as-needed basis.</p> <p>Additionally, the Court grants special permission for clinic staff to be moderators on its videoconferencing platform in order to facilitate continued use of remote volunteers. While the Court has returned to in-hearings by default, some volunteers and litigants wish to remain remote and that is granted on a case-by-case basis. During the hearing, the Court also provides language interpreters as needed to clinic staff and volunteers to facilitate communication with litigants.</p>
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PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Legal Access Alameda		
Project Name	Family Law Status Conference		
Grant Year	Total Budget	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
2024	\$99,885.00	\$65,000	
Currently Funded Partnership Grant	Court Letter(s) on File	Memorandum of Understanding(s) Reviewed	All Services at Courthouse
No	Yes	Pending	Pending
Project Abstract	<p>The Family Law Status Conference Clinic ("FLSC Clinic") offers assistance to litigants appearing on Self-Represented Litigant Family Law Status Conference calendars in a family law department. This program brings a Legal Access staff attorney (the FLSC Attorney) on-site to provide expanded services to litigants and oversight of volunteer attorneys.</p> <p>The FLSC clinic assists with Dissolution, Legal Separation, Nullity, and Parentage cases. Clinic staff (the FLSC attorney and Self-Help staff) and volunteers help litigants understand case procedure and complete or correct necessary forms, with the ultimate goal of assisting litigants in moving their cases to a final resolution, either by completing a judgment or referring the case for trial setting. This helps the court with the status conference compliance requirement under CRC Rule 5.83(c)(2) and facilitates more efficient support to litigants with on the spot assistance and by identifying issues early on in the process.</p> <p>Before CoVid19, the FLSC clinic occurred Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, and some Friday mornings, providing all services in person. In 2020 the FLSC department started holding all hearings via video conference and consolidated all FLSC clinic cases to Tuesdays. While providing services remotely, clinic staff send litigants required forms via email and mail. The FLSC Attorney also sends letters to litigants before each clinic, which include description of how to complete the next step, required forms and filing options.</p>		

Court Name	Branch (If Applicable)	Address	On-Site Days/Hours	Total Hours/Month
Hayward Hall of Justice		24405 Amador Street, Hayward, CA	T 1-5pm	16-20

Personnel Categories	Project Staff	Total Project FTEs	PG Share of FTEs
Lawyers	Court Programs Supervising Attorney	1	0.73
	Director	0.02	0
		0	0
	Lawyers Total	1.02	0.73
Paralegals		0	0

		0	0
	Paralegals Total	0	0
Other		0	0
		0	0
	Other Total	0	0

	# Held	# Individuals Served	Services
Individual Services	N/A	0	
Workshops	0	0	
Self-Help Clinics	52	500	Information on Legal Options; Information on Court Procedures and Hearing; Document Preparation and Review; Filing or Services Assistance

Project Goals	<p>The FLSC clinic's overarching goal is to provide assistance to low income self-represented litigants that helps them efficiently move their family law case forward, ideally to a final resolution. The FLSC clinic seeks to reduce the number of status conferences litigants attend before a final resolution is reached. The FLSC clinic provides on the spot one-on-one assistance, completes forms where possible, and assist litigants with a final judgment or request to dismiss. Over the past 3 years the FLSC clinic has helped litigants complete over 300 judgments, we aim to continue this work and further refine our final judgment process in 2023.</p> <p>The FLSC clinic also aims to catch issues in cases and correct errors in paperwork early on in the process, saving litigants from needing to complete additional filings and problems later on. When meeting with litigants at the clinic, staff and volunteers point out errors in filed paperwork and offer assistance with fixing those errors.</p> <p>Finally, the FLSC clinic seeks to leave attendees with a better understanding with their cases and the process of a family law case. Clinic staff and volunteers discuss the next steps with litigants and litigants are able ask questions about their case. Ideally, litigants leave each FLSC clinic with a better understanding of the overall case procedure and what specific things they need to do to move their case forward. This education of family law litigants on the process and procedure of family cases is another important goal of the FLSC clinic.</p>
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Outreach & Community Engagement	<p>Litigants are informed of the availability of the FLSC clinic services in a number of ways. Some litigants are referred to the FLSC clinic by the clerk's office for an Initial Family Law Status Conference. The notice that is sent out to all parties regarding their Initial Family Law Status Conference that is set by the clerk's office states the parties may receive assistance at their status conference.</p> <p>In 2021 Legal Access began working more closely with the family law bench officers regarding which cases are appropriate for referral to the FLSC clinic, upcoming available clinic dates and the type of services provided at the clinic, the bench officers in turn share this information with litigants when referral a case to the clinic. The FLSC attorney sends an email to each family law bench officers each week suggesting cases for referral and often fields emails from the bench officers about potential cases in their department that could use the assistance of the clinic. Legal Access and Self-Help Staff will continue to work with the bench officers, particularly the new bench officers on the best ways to share information about the FLSC clinic to SRLs in Alameda County.</p> <p>Legal Access Alameda will also communicate the availability of the services to self-represented litigants who call the Legal Access intake line. Self-Help Center's staff will share FLSC clinic services with some litigants who contact the Self-Help Center seeking legal assistance in family law matters.</p>
Attorney-Client Relationship	No
Conflict of Interest Protocols	N/A

Income Eligibility Guidelines	<p>Legal Access Alameda income guidelines are based on 75% of income for lower income households in Alameda County as defined by Health and Safety Code section 50079.5(a) and Business and Professions Code section 6213(d). This income guideline allows Legal Access to serve the poor and working poor in Alameda County -- individuals and families who often have regular incomes but do not make enough to afford legal assistance. These income eligibility guidelines are used in the FLSC program as well.</p> <p>The FLSC Attorney, Self-Help Staff Attorney and volunteers will assess each litigant's financial eligibility by conducting an intake for each litigant, which includes gathering pre-tax income information and age. Litigants are asked to sign the intake that the statements they have made about income and age are correct. The Court requires income ineligible self-represented litigants set on this calendar are also provided services and the Court has provided additional funding to cover some of the FLSC Attorney's time (25%) to reflect that.</p> <p>Additionally, the FLSC Attorney reviews all cases set on the clinic calendars at least two weeks before the schedule is to confirm that each case is the correct type of cases (dissolution, legal separation, nullity or parentage), that there has not already been a final judgment entered and that there are no attorneys in the case. The FLSC Attorney brings any ineligible cases to the attention of the clerk in Department 504 who will take the matter off the FLSC clinic calendar.</p>
Alternative Services	<p>The Court requires that all litigants who are set on the FLSC clinic calendars are eligible for at least some services, however, if high earning self-represented litigants are referred to the clinic by the family law bench officers, clinic staff will limit the services offered to those litigants. Clinic staff will refer those high income litigants to the Lawyer Referral Service of the Alameda County Bar Association and not set those cases for a second FLSC clinic.</p>
Court's Role	<p>The FLSC Attorney is provided with a desk in an office with the Self-Help Center staff at the Hayward Hall of Justice. The Court has also provided access to a laptop computer with the court's case management system so the FLSC Attorney can review and prepare all cases. The FLSC Attorney also has access to software needed to assist these cases, Domain, DissoMaster and Essential Forms. Finally, the court has permitted the FLSC Attorney with a court contractor badge so they may access restricted areas of the courthouse.</p> <p>While working remotely, the FLSC Attorney is able to use the court laptop from home to access the case management system Domain, Essential Forms, and DissoMaster. Additionally, the court has permitted the FLSC Attorney to log on to the clinics as a guest moderator which allows the attorney to easily move litigants and staff/volunteers into breakout rooms and provide one-on-one services to litigants.</p>

PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles		
Project Name	Remote Self Help Center Access Project		
Grant Year	Total Budget	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
2024	\$100,000.00	\$100,000	
Currently Funded Partnership Grant	Court Letter(s) on File	Memorandum of Understanding(s) Reviewed	All Services at Courthouse
No	Yes	Pending	Pending
Project Abstract	<p>For nearly two decades, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA) has closely partnered with the Los Angeles County Superior Court to deliver high-quality, courthouse-based assistance to self-represented litigants. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, LAFLA nimbly transitioned to a remote and then hybrid assistance delivery model, serving over 25,000 pro se litigants to date via telephone, text message, video conferencing, and mail technologies. Although we returned to in-person services in February 2022, we are humbled by the number of litigants who experience ongoing barriers to the justice system and seek initial assistance from LAFLA's Remote Self-Help Hotline. From transportation, to health concerns and disability access, to legal literacy and language barriers, low-income litigants need and deserve accessible and contemporaneous options that meet their needs. To address this need, LAFLA's expert self-help team remains the only Los Angeles Superior Court partner with a live telephone hotline that provides immediate remote assistance to litigants facing legal crises with their housing stability, personal safety, and family-related matters. This projects seeks funding for one full-time-equivalent attorney (FTE) that would enable LAFLA to (1) sustain our unique live self-help telephone hotline Monday-Thursday for litigants who experience barriers to in-person, courthouse-based services, (2) utilize technology to continue developing innovative and plain language mobile-friendly fillable forms, and (3) in collaboration with the Court, enhance our remote supervision of Court JusticeCorps members and other volunteers who deliver an increasing volume of remote Unlawful Detainer Answer and Motion to Set Aside eviction judgment assistance.</p>		

Court Name	Branch (If Applicable)	Address	On-Site Days/Hours	Total Hours/Month
Los Angeles Superior Court	Torrance Courthouse	825 Maple Avenue, Torrance, CA 90503	M-Th 8:30am-12pm, 1pm-4:30pm; Friday 8:30am to noon	140

Personnel Categories	Project Staff	Total Project FTEs	PG Share of FTEs
Lawyers	Staff Attorney Step 3	0.88	0.88
		0	0
		0	0
	Lawyers Total	0.88	0.88

Paralegals		0	0
		0	0
	Paralegals Total	0	0
Other		0	0
		0	0
	Other Total	0	0

	# Held	# Individuals Served	Services
Individual Services	N/A	3000	Information on Legal Options;Information on Court Procedures and Hearing;Document Preparation and Review;Filing or Services Assistance;Post-Hearing Assistance;Other
Workshops	0	0	
Self-Help Clinics	108	540	Information on Legal Options;Information on Court Procedures and Hearing;Document Preparation and Review;Filing or Services Assistance;Post-Hearing Assistance

Project Goals	<p>LAFLA has three primary project goals for the 2024 grant year: (1) sustain our unique live self-help telephone hotline Monday-Thursday for litigants who experience barriers to in-person, courthouse-based services, (2) utilize technology to continue developing innovative on-demand training videos with built-in document assembly systems for Unlawful Detainer, Restraining Order, and Family Law matters, as well as plain language mobile-friendly fillable forms to augment the Court's expansive computer-based form platforms, and (3) expand our remote Clinic offerings from one to three days per week, and in collaboration with the Court, enhance our remote supervision of Court JusticeCorps members and other volunteers who deliver an increasing volume of remote Unlawful Detainer Answer assistance.</p> <p>four primary project goals for the upcoming grant year: (1) increase in-depth onsite services at the Torrance Self-Help Legal Access Center, as well strive to return to pre-pandemic onsite litigant engagements, (2) reinstate group-based workshops onsite at the Torrance Self-Help Legal Access Center, which have remained on pause due to pandemic-related space considerations, (3) augment the Court's virtual family law</p>
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	workshops and litigant-centered online materials, and enhance our remote supervision of the JusticeCorps members who present these virtual workshops, and (4) sustain our unique live self-help telephone hotline Monday-Thursday for greater South Bay litigants who experience barriers to in-person, courthouse-based services.
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Outreach & Community Engagement	LAFLA will collaborate with the Court, our legal services and community partners, and local libraries to distribute multi-language outreach materials to litigants and the community on LAFLA's hybrid self-help services and will prominently post the availability of our self-help services on LAFLA's website and social media accounts. LAFLA's website, in fact, remains one of our most important outreach tools, as many litigants have shared that they first discovered our services through an online search for assistance. LAFLA's website analytics tell this same story—our Self-Help “How-to Resource” page garners the third-highest count of visits within our website, and once viewing a LAFLA webpage, internal search terms entered by online visits reflect a strong need for family law resources.
Attorney-Client Relationship	No

Conflict of Interest Protocols	N/A
Income Eligibility Guidelines	<p>LAFLA's Self-Help Center services are available to any self-represented litigant who seeks assistance with a qualifying subject matter that is within the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles Superior Court, regardless of a litigant's financial or citizenship status. In alignment with the Court and our legal services partners, LAFLA's self-help services include, but are not limited to, family law, restraining order assistance, unlawful detainer, consumer issues, name changes, and more. To establish eligibility, all litigants are screened for pro se status, subject matter eligibility, and jurisdictional eligibility. Qualified litigants are then asked to provide additional intake information—such as gender, race/ethnicity, language, education level, COVID-19 impact, household size, and household income—that LAFLA and our partners utilize for ongoing assessment and evaluation purposes.</p> <p>While LAFLA's Self-Help Centers at large may serve litigants regardless of financial status, this project seeks to serve indigent persons only. Therefore, project staff and volunteers will perform additional income screening prior to the delivery of services to determine the scope of assistance provided—for example, ineligible litigants will receive referrals and resources only, while eligible litigants may receive direct services and/or workshop assistance.</p>

Alternative Services	LAFLA maintains a detailed and updated resources and referrals directory for litigants who are either ineligible for the project's services and/or who are seeking direct counsel. LAFLA's website (https://lafla.org/self-help/) includes a robust self-help section that features nearly 20 know-your-rights informational videos in multiple languages, over 90 self-help guides and informational hand-outs in English and Spanish, frequently asked litigant questions, and referral links to hundreds of government, non-profit, and private agencies across 34 legal areas. For those litigants with issues outside Los Angeles County, LAFLA relies on our extended, nationwide self-represented litigant network to connect litigants with meaningful referrals. Litigants are given the option to receive resource and referral information in their preferred language via postal mail, email, text message, or telephone.
Court's Role	Like LAFLA, the Court is committed to sustaining meaningful remote operations for self-represented litigants and provides key technological and staffing resources that allow for effective collaboration and successful service delivery. LAFLA is particularly grateful that the Court provides (1) courthouse-based meeting spaces for partnership collaboration, (2) access to the computer software and online tools that litigants, Court, and LAFLA staff need to thrive in a virtual environment, and (3) expertise in emerging technologies (e.g., Articulate 360 software, HotDocs, Webex, and Adobe business solutions) as LAFLA staff develop innovative guided interviews and online instructional videos. LAFLA will continue to leverage these in-kind and human resources to coordinate service delivery, provide continuing remote pro se assistance and to develop new mobile-friendly materials for litigant use.

PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles		
Project Name	Torrance Self Help Center Access Project		
Grant Year	Total Budget	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
2024	\$100,000.00	\$100,000	
Currently Funded Partnership Grant	Court Letter(s) on File	Memorandum of Understanding(s) Reviewed	All Services at Courthouse
No	Yes	Pending	Pending
Project Abstract	<p>For 19 years, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA) has closely partnered with the Los Angeles County Superior Court to deliver high-quality, courthouse-based assistance to self-represented litigants. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, LAFLA rapidly transitioned to a remote assistance delivery model in March 2020, and although the Courts and LAFLA's Self-Help Legal Access Centers returned to a hybrid service delivery model in February 2022, we remain keenly aware that low-income, self-represented litigants across the greater South Bay in Los Angeles County require deeper and more expansive in-person options to access the justice system. To address this need, this project seeks funding for one full-time-equivalent attorney (FTE) to (1) reinstate group-based workshops at the LAFLA's Torrance Self-Help Legal Access Center ("Center") inside the Torrance Courthouse, which have remained on pause due to pandemic-related space considerations, (2) increase in-depth onsite services at the Torrance Center for litigants facing legal crises with their personal safety and family-related needs, and (3) develop mobile-friendly scheduling and document review systems to augment the Court's hybrid family law workshops.</p>		

Court Name	Branch (If Applicable)	Address	On-Site Days/Hours	Total Hours/Month
Los Angeles Superior Court	Torrance Courthouse	825 Maple Avenue, Torrance, CA 90503	M-Th 8:30-12pm, 1 pm-4:30 pm; Friday 8:30 to noon	140

Personnel Categories	Project Staff	Total Project FTEs	PG Share of FTEs
Lawyers	Staff Attorney	0.72	0.72
		0	0
		0	0
	Lawyers Total	0.72	0.72
Paralegals		0	0
		0	0
	Paralegals Total	0	0
Other		0	0
		0	0

	Other Total	0	0
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	# Held	# Individuals Served	Services
Individual Services	N/A	6500	Information on Legal Options;Information on Court Procedures and Hearing;Document Preparation and Review;Post-Hearing Assistance;Other
Workshops	48	480	Information on Legal Options;Information on Court Procedures and Hearing;Document Preparation and Review;Filing or Services Assistance;Supervised Settlement Services;Post-Hearing Assistance;Other
Self-Help Clinics	0	0	Information on Legal Options;Information on Court Procedures and Hearing;Document Preparation and Review;Filing or Services Assistance;Supervised Settlement Services;Post-Hearing Assistance;Other

Project Goals	LAFLA has three primary project goals for the upcoming grant year: (1) increase in-depth onsite services at the Torrance Self-Help Legal Access Center, as well strive to return to pre-pandemic onsite litigant engagements, (2) reinstate group-based workshops onsite at the Torrance Self-Help Legal Access Center, which have remained on pause due to pandemic-related space considerations, and (3) augment the Court's virtual family law workshops and litigant-centered online materials.
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Outreach & Community Engagement	LAFLA will collaborate with the Court, our legal services and South Bay community partners, and local libraries to distribute multi-language outreach materials to litigants and the community on LAFLA's hybrid self-help services inside the Torrance Courthouse and will prominently post the availability of our self-help services on LAFLA's website and social media accounts. LAFLA's website, in fact, remains one of our most important outreach tools, as many litigants have shared that they first discovered our services through an online search for assistance. LAFLA's website analytics tell this same story—our Self-Help "How-to Resource" page garners the third-highest count of visits within our website, and once viewing a LAFLA webpage, internal search terms entered by online visits reflect a strong need for family law resources.
Attorney-Client Relationship	No

Conflict of Interest Protocols	N/A
Income Eligibility Guidelines	<p>LAFLA's Self-Help Center services are available to any self-represented litigant who seeks assistance with a qualifying subject matter that is within the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles Superior Court, regardless of a litigants financial or citizenship status. In alignment with the Court and our legal services partners, LAFLA's self-help services include, but are not limited to, family law, restraining order assistance, unlawful detainer, consumer issues, name changes, and more. The project attorneys will triage litigants with issues other than family law and restraining order assistance to other staff within LAFLA's Self-Help Center Workgroup to ensure that they build swift expertise in these predominant areas. To establish eligibility, all litigants are screened for pro se status, subject matter eligibility, and jurisdictional eligibility. Qualified litigants are then asked to provide additional intake information—such as gender, race/ethnicity, language, education level, COVID-19 impact, household size, and household income—that LAFLA and our partners utilize for ongoing assessment and evaluation purposes.</p> <p>While LAFLA's Self-Help Centers at large may serve litigants regardless of financial status, this project seeks to serve indigent persons only. Therefore, project staff will perform additional income screening prior to the delivery of services to determine the scope of assistance provided—for example, ineligible litigants will receive referrals and resources only, while eligible litigants may receive direct services and/or workshop assistance.</p>

Alternative Services	When the Center is unable to assist an ineligible litigant, Center staff will connect litigants with appropriate self-help center resources for which they qualify, provide physical or virtual plain language resources that litigants may use to independently address their matter, and provide meaningful referral information to legal, community, and government agencies. To facilitate resource connection, LAFLA maintains robust self-help and referral pages on our website and the Torrance Center has QR codes conspicuously displayed that provide easy access to these resources for those litigants with smart phones.
Court's Role	The Torrance Self-Help Legal Access Center is based inside the Torrance Courthouse and is a co-located site whereby both LAFLA and the Court staff the Center. Like LAFLA, the Court is committed to continuing meaningful hybrid operations for self-represented litigants and will provide the facilities, staffing, technology, and training resources needed to ensure its success. More specifically, the Court provides the designated Torrance Courthouse-based shared space for co-located staff to provide onsite litigant services, as well as on-site meeting spaces for partnership collaboration. The Court also provides on-site computer terminals, internet and phone access, printers and supplies, utilities, security, and furniture. LAFLA will continue to leverage these in-kind resources, as well as the Court's technology-based resources (e.g., Articulate 360 software, Hot Docs, Microsoft Teams, Webex, etc.) to coordinate service delivery, provide continuing hybrid pro se assistance and to develop new materials for litigant use.

PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name		Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County		
Project Name		Legal Resource Center Partnership		
Grant Year	Total Budget	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded	
2024	\$401,950.00	\$156,000		
Currently Funded Partnership Grant	Court Letter(s) on File	Memorandum of Understanding(s) Reviewed	All Services at Courthouse	
No	Yes	Pending	Pending	
Project Abstract		LAFSBC proposes to continue Partnership funding for a self-help attorney for the civil Legal Resource Centers (LRC) and a part-time assistant. Until the hiring of a 3rd LRC attorney with Partnership funds in 2020, the staffing level of the Legal Resource Centers had not increased for at least 15 years. In calendar year 2022, the LRCs countywide served over 6,800 self-represented litigants in civil matters. We seek to continue our project. The LRC partnership attorney will work 1 day per week in person at the Lompoc courthouse. On the remaining days, the bilingual LRC Partnership attorney will assist SRLs countywide by phone, email, or videoconference, with a focus on mid and south county residents. The LRC assistant will provide in-person bilingual support to the LRC at the Santa Barbara courthouse and other data entry assistance. The other two attorneys, funded separately, will cover in-person services in Santa Barbara and Santa Maria. We believe that by providing a combination of remote and in-person services, we will best meet the needs of residents across the 75 mile length of our county.		
Court Name	Branch (If Applicable)	Address	On-Site Days/Hours	Total Hours/Month

Personnel Categories	Project Staff	Total Project FTEs	PG Share of FTEs
Lawyers	LRC Attorney	3	1
		0	0
		0	0
	Lawyers Total	3	1
Paralegals		0	0
		0	0
	Paralegals Total	0	0
Other	LRC Bilingual Assistant	0.4	0.4
		0	0
	Other Total	0.4	0.4

	# Held	# Individuals Served	Services
Individual Services	N/A	1500	Information on Legal Options; Information

			on Court Procedures and Hearing; Document Preparation and Review; Filing or Services Assistance; Post-Hearing Assistance
Workshops	0	0	
Self-Help Clinics	0	0	

Project Goals	
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Outreach & Community Engagement	Current LRC services are advertised on the Legal Aid and Superior Court website. Potential LRC litigants are referred for LRC services by Legal Aid intake coordinators, court staff, local government agencies, other non-profits, and more. Since the LRC Partnership attorney provides an expanded set of services that LAF already provides, we do not anticipate that we will need to do a large amount of outreach to raise awareness about the expanded services. Demand remains high at all LRC locations.
Attorney-Client Relationship	No

Conflict of Interest Protocols	N/A
Income Eligibility Guidelines	All SRLs sign an intake form which explains the limited scope of service. The form includes a survey of income information and requests basic demographic and age information. We would propose to keep LRC procedures consistent across the program despite source of funding so that no one is turned away. We prioritize a low barrier procedure for service because assistance is provided on a first-come, first-served basis. The LRC attorney will see as many SRLs (self-represented litigants) as time allows. LRC Partnership funding supports approximately 1/3 of the LRC Program, and we know from surveys that at least 1/3 of LRC customers are indigent.
Alternative Services	It is not anticipated that litigants will be turned away due to "indigent" ineligibility. The LRC attorney will see as many SRLs as time allows. LRC Partnership funding supports 1/3 of the LRC Program, and we know from surveys that at least 1/3 of LRC customers are indigent. Family Law SRLs will be referred to the Family Law facilitator, and in North County, individuals with Guardianships or Conservatorships will be referred to the Probate Facilitator. Litigants needing legal representation may be referred to Legal Aid, California Rural Legal Assistance, the Public Defender, or the Santa Barbara County Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service.
Court's Role	The court will provide physical space for the Lompoc Legal Resource Center and also provides a laptop which was secured as part of a special grant. The court also grants Legal Resource Center staff to enter data into STARs. The LRC staff work closely with court clerks and other court staff in providing services to self-represented litigants.

PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Legal Aid of Marin			
Project Name	Homelessness Prevention Through Mandatory Settlement Conferences			
Grant Year	Total Budget	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded	
2024	\$112,480.00	\$80,000		
Currently Funded Partnership Grant	Court Letter(s) on File	Memorandum of Understanding(s) Reviewed	All Services at Courthouse	
No	Yes	Pending	Pending	
Project Abstract	<p>Now in its 11th year, the Marin Superior Court Unlawful Detainer Mandatory Settlement Conference Program provides critical pre-trial settlement negotiation services to pro per litigants in eviction cases. The target constituency is low-income or otherwise marginalized pro per litigants who cannot afford the cost of private legal representation. This program is a strong partnership whereby the Court requires parties to engage in mandatory settlement conferences staffed by in-house and pro bono attorneys recruited and trained by Legal Aid of Marin in an effort to resolve eviction cases without the risk of proceeding to trial. Prior to March 2020, "UDMSCs" were conducted during the week before trial at the Marin Superior Courthouse. In response to the limitations imposed by the COVID-19 crisis and continued in light of the resulting efficiencies, UDMSCs are held each Thursday afternoon starting at 1:30pm via Zoom. Legal Aid of Marin and the Court collaborate to ensure litigant and volunteer access to UDMSCs. The Court provides general oversight and approves proposed settlement agreements if reached by participants. A majority of UDMSCs result in approved settlement agreements and case dismissals - a testament to the program's effectiveness. Settlement agreements include tenancy preservation, case dismissal, rent forgiveness, and time to relocate. These outcomes prevent immediate and future homelessness. If funded, this grant will afford Marin Superior Court and Legal Aid of Marin the opportunity to increase access to justice and housing stability, encourage judicial economy, and promote civility between litigants involved in unlawful detainer actions.</p>			
Court Name	Branch (If Applicable)	Address	On-Site Days/Hours	Total Hours/Month
Marin County Superior Court	Civil	Virtual - via Zoom; Court located at 3501 Civic Center Drive, San Rafael, CA 94903	Thursdays 1:30-4pm	10

Personnel Categories	Project Staff	Total Project FTEs	PG Share of FTEs
Lawyers	Managing Attorney	0.13	0.09
	Staff Attorney	0.42	0.28
		0	0
	Lawyers Total	0.55	0.37
Paralegals	Legal Assistant	0.28	0.2

		0	0
	Paralegals Total	0.28	0.2
Other	Operations Manager	0.04	0.03
		0	0
	Other Total	0.04	0.03

	# Held	# Individuals Served	Services
Individual Services	N/A	150	Information on Legal Options; Information on Court Procedures and Hearing; Document Preparation and Review; Supervised Settlement Services
Workshops	50	1000	Other
Self-Help Clinics	0	0	

Project Goals	The goals for this project are to provide critically needed settlement negotiation legal services to unrepresented parties in unlawful detainer actions; increase housing stability; decrease housing instability and homelessness; promote judicial efficiency and civility between litigants; reduce reliance on public services like emergency housing; promote pro bono engagement from the private bar; and help increase access to justice for low-income Marin residents.
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Outreach & Community Engagement	Information about the mandatory settlement conference service is communicated by the Court in a notice to litigants. Legal Aid of Marin has developed deep connections with community-based organizations to exchange information about available services for landlord-tenant litigants at weekly outreach events where our potential participants live, work, and gather. Legal Aid of Marin regularly presents about landlord-tenant services through bilingual social media, written information on our website, recorded information, and bilingual presentations in collaboration with community partners including North Marin Community Services, Community Action Marin, West Marin Community Services, local libraries, and health clinics. Legal Aid of Marin also operates community-based intake/outreach sites co located at The Phoenix Project in Marin City – an area of high need and geographic isolation, and home to the majority of African American residents who live in the County. In 2022, Legal Aid of Marin conducted over 160 outreach events across Marin County.
Attorney-Client Relationship	No

Conflict of Interest Protocols	N/A
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Income Eligibility Guidelines	The services will be available to all unrepresented litigants. Our experience is that the overwhelming majority are indigent individuals, as defined by Business & Professions Code Section 6213. Legal Aid of Marin screens by documenting participants' income and cross-referencing it with the federal poverty guidelines.
Alternative Services	As all unrepresented parties will be eligible for services, referrals for ineligible participants are not anticipated at this time. However, litigants who can afford counsel will be referred to the San Francisco-Marin Lawyer Referral Service and urged to retain counsel.
Court's Role	<p>During remote Court, the Court provides the Zoom site to host remote UDMSCs, together with a list of settlement conferences scheduled. The Court Clerk provides Legal Aid of Marin staff with file information in advance of the UDMSC (consistent with CCCP § 1161.2(a)(1)(B)).</p> <p>Legal Aid of Marin transmits the Court file to pro bono attorneys who help self-represented litigants negotiate resolution of their case. Legal Aid of Marin and the Court share data regarding settlement outcomes and other trends.</p>

PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino		
Project Name	Caregivers and Small Estates Accessing Justice (CSEAJ)		
Grant Year	Total Budget	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
2024	\$439,202.00	\$165,000	
Currently Funded Partnership Grant	Court Letter(s) on File	Memorandum of Understanding(s) Reviewed	All Services at Courthouse
No	Yes	Pending	Pending

Project Abstract

The Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino will provide direct legal services to qualifying Pro Se litigants for Small Estates, Conservatorship, and Guardianship actions. The project will not provide legal advice but general information to help all qualifying court patrons. LASSB will provide available information, review existing documents, and prepare documents needed for case completion. The Court will refer litigants to the project and provide specific instructions on case document preparation in some cases. The project will reduce the case backlog and the Court's administrative costs while providing efficient case processing, reducing the number of visits to the courthouse, and reducing litigants' confusion and stress.

General information will include legal aspects and clarification of terms or conditions. LASSB will prepare corrected or missing pleadings, assist with pre-and post-hearing tasks, and provide procedural assistance to facilitate immediate filing and processing of their casework.

Project services will be provided in English and Spanish, Mon.-Thur. 9 am-12:30 pm and 1:30 pm-4 pm within the Justice Center. Litigants will benefit by attaining information, securing missing or corrected pleadings, and completing required tasks. The project will allow efficient case processing, reduce the number of visits to the courthouse, and reduce litigants' confusion and stress. It will eliminate delays in resolving small estates and ensure disabled adults and beloved minors attain access to daily care and healthcare services despite being disabled or estranged from their parents. The project will reduce the case backlog and the Court's administrative costs.

Court Name	Branch (If Applicable)	Address	On-Site Days/Hours	Total Hours/Month
Justice Center	Central	247 W 3rd St, San Bernardino, CA 92415	Mon-Thurs 9-12/1:03-4pm	100
Fontana Court	Fontana District	17780 Arrow Blvd, Fontana, CA 92335	Mon-Thurs 9-12/1:03-4pm	100

Personnel Categories	Project Staff	Total Project FTEs	PG Share of FTEs
Lawyers	Attorneys	1.98	0.9
	Executive Director	0.51	0.01

	Deputy Director	0.56	0.01
	Lawyers Total	3.05	0.92
Paralegals	Paralegals	1.98	0.82
	Intake/caseworker	1	0.2
	Paralegals Total	2.98	1.02
Other	Office Manager	0.97	0.01
	Compliance Analyst	0.51	0.01
	Other Total	1.48	0.02

	# Held	# Individuals Served	Services
Individual Services	N/A	300	Information on Legal Options;Information on Court Procedures and Hearing;Document Preparation and Review;Filing or Services Assistance;Post-Hearing Assistance
Workshops	0	0	
Self-Help Clinics	250	100	Information on Legal Options;Information on Court Procedures and Hearing;Document Preparation and Review;Filing or Services Assistance;Post-Hearing Assistance

Project Goals	<p>Low-income families in rural areas face difficulty locating legal aid for guardianship, conservatorship, and small estates. The cost and availability of legal services are limited, which leads to families needing access to the necessary support to meet their needs adequately. The lack of available resources results in individuals taking on guardianship and conservatorship responsibilities of their loved ones without formal court proceedings, exacerbating their struggles for legal help. The problem has created a dire need for more availability of legal resources to provide low-income families living in rural areas with access to legal support.</p> <p>This project will provide much-needed support in a clinic format in San Bernardino and Fontana Superior Court. The court will refer individuals who need assistance with guardianship, conservatorship, and small estates to legal aid services. This helps ensure that those who require legal help in these areas can receive the assistance needed to navigate these complex legal matters. In addition, court patrons can walk into the San</p>
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	Bernardino or Fontana clinic on available days and receive immediate assistance. This approach will aid the court in reducing the backlog and helping applicants to complete necessary forms correctly.
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Outreach & Community Engagement	CSEAJ services are advertised through various channels, including the LASSB website, the court's websites, news releases, flyers distributed by LASSB, the Court's Self-Help Centers, the Probate clerks and courts, and several non-profit service agencies. Additionally, these services will be listed on websites such as https://www.lawhelpca.org and https://www.probono.net to increase their visibility and accessibility. Through these efforts, CSEAJ aims to reach a wider audience and promote access to legal services for those who need it.
Attorney-Client Relationship	No

Conflict of Interest Protocols	N/A
Income Eligibility Guidelines	<p>All clients who receive services through this project will be carefully screened for eligibility based on the State Bar's established Eligibility and Poverty-Income Guidelines issued each year, as defined in B&P Code, Section 6213(d).</p> <p>Clients must meet the following criteria:</p> <p>Seeking to resolve a Small Estate Probate; or Pursuing or seeking to pursue legal action regarding Probate Conservatorship or Guardianship actions within San Bernardino County; AND Have a gross, household income that does not exceed 200% of the current poverty threshold established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget; or Be eligible for Supplemental Security Income or qualify for free services under the Older Americans Act or Developmentally Disabled Assistance Act.</p> <p>It is important to note that in the case of a client with a disability, their income will be determined after deducting the costs of medical and other disability-related extraordinary expenses.</p>

<p>Alternative Services</p>	<p>Clients who do not meet the eligibility requirements for services provided by this project will be referred to appropriate legal aid organizations, such as the San Bernardino County Bar Association referral system, the High Desert Bar Association, the West End Bar Association, the Riverside County Bar Association, and relevant online resources, including www.courts.ca.gov, www.lawhelpca.org, www.probono.net, and www.Calegaladvocates.org.</p> <p>For clients residing in Orange and Los Angeles County, information on their respective Bar Associations will also be provided. It is worth noting that local legal aid organizations typically offer services to families whose gross monthly income falls at or below HUD's annually published poverty-level, as per the State Bar's current eligibility chart, representing approximately 200% of HUD's annually published poverty-level.</p> <p>However, past experience has shown that providing referrals to such organizations can be frustrating for clients who do not financially qualify for services offered by this CSEAJ project. Therefore, appropriate referrals will be made to ensure that all clients receive the necessary legal assistance that meets their eligibility criteria.</p>
<p>Court's Role</p>	<p>The Court is generously providing several resources to LASSB for their project. This includes parking, permissive use of a room next to the Probate Courtrooms at the San Bernardino Justice Center, and a space in the Fontana Superior Court. To ensure the safety and security of staff and clientele, the Court is also offering security services to access the space.</p> <p>LASSB will have access to the Court's ACIS system, which allows for efficient review of case files. Additionally, a computer system with a software platform designed for effective form preparation will be provided, as well as a printer. Communication with the courtroom staff will be open and ongoing, and LASSB will have access to the clerk's staff for any necessary support. Shared training will also be available.</p> <p>Finally, the Court will provide janitorial services to maintain a clean and safe environment for staff and clients. All of these resources will be crucial in enabling LASSB to efficiently and effectively serve Pro Se litigants seeking assistance with guardianships and conservatorships.</p>

PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Legal Aid Society of San Diego		
Project Name	East County Restraining Order Clinic		
Grant Year	Total Budget	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
2024	\$202,327.00	\$190,000	
Currently Funded Partnership Grant	Court Letter(s) on File	Memorandum of Understanding(s) Reviewed	All Services at Courthouse
No	Yes	Pending	Pending
Project Abstract	<p>In partnership with the San Diego Superior Court, Legal Aid Society of San Diego's (LASSD) Pro Bono Program seeks to continue offering a full-time Domestic Violence/Civil Harassment/Elder Abuse Restraining Order Clinic at the East County branch of the San Diego Superior Court. The Court has expressed a need for daily full-time services to be offered to East County residents who are seeking protection from violence, stalking, sexual assault, elder/dependent adult abuse, and severe harassment. The project will operate daily in the East County Regional Center branch court from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, providing assistance with court forms, explanation of the law, options and alternatives, and referrals.</p> <p>The program will be staffed with one staff attorney, one advocate, and volunteer attorneys and students. Ongoing communication with court personnel will create a collaborative program that benefits both the court and self-represented litigants in having appropriate paperwork processed efficiently.</p> <p>The main goals of the program are to help self-represented litigants access and fully participate in the legal system, and educate litigants so they can make more informed choices that result in effective and efficient filings for the litigant and the Court. Helping litigants complete necessary paperwork ensures that the Court is given the information necessary to render a decision on a temporary restraining order that day. By providing these services, the program assists pro per petitioners protect themselves from dangerous situations, and pro per respondents protect themselves from frivolous litigation.</p>		

Court Name	Branch (If Applicable)	Address	On-Site Days/Hours	Total Hours/Month
San Diego Superior Court	East County	250 E. Main St, El Cajon, CA 92020	MTuWThF/8:30-12:00 and 12:30-4:00	140

Personnel Categories	Project Staff	Total Project FTEs	PG Share of FTEs
Lawyers	Staff Attorney	1	1
	Senior Attorney	0.1	0
		0	0
	Lawyers Total	1.1	1

Paralegals	Advocate	1	1
		0	0
	Paralegals Total	1	1
Other		0	0
		0	0
	Other Total	0	0

	# Held	# Individuals Served	Services
Individual Services	N/A	0	
Workshops	0	0	
Self-Help Clinics	400	1800	Information on Legal Options; Information on Court Procedures and Hearing; Document Preparation and Review; Filing or Services Assistance; Post-Hearing Assistance

Project Goals	<p>The main project goal is to assist low-income, self-represented litigants understand the court process and complete necessary court documents to succeed in meritorious Domestic Violence, Civil Harassment, and Elder Abuse Restraining Order actions.</p> <p>A second goal is to see Project users have greater comfort in navigating the court system by assisting many in their primary language with cultural competence. LASSD will collaborate with minority bar partners and organizations to provide culturally appropriate assistance to those involved in restraining order actions in their primary language.</p> <p>A third goal for the project is to measurably ease the burden on Family and Civil/Elder restraining order judges and court personnel handling SRLs. The court spends approximately 30 minutes with each SRL who has not received assistance at a self-help clinic, explaining paperwork and reviewing forms for critical information.</p> <p>A fourth goal is to provide meaningful referrals to free mediation services and other legal options. These other options can often provide a better result than a judge in a Civil Harassment restraining order case and can often settle tensions between litigants.</p> <p>A fifth goal is to engage the greater legal community in a meaningful way with the use of new technology. Many potential volunteers are reluctant to assist East County populations due to the long commute. With the use of technology such as Zoom, the Project will be able to utilize more volunteers and provide assistance to more litigants.</p>
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Outreach & Community Engagement	Communication and continued partnerships with like-minded nonprofits throughout the County ensure that the community knows where to find the Program and what services are offered. LASSD's Community Response Team is trained to identify candidates for Self-Help Clinic services and will direct persons to the appropriate clinic on a case-by-case basis. The Court relies on Program staff and volunteers to lighten their load and refers as many walk-ins as the Program can handle each day, often encouraging litigants to come back another day if the Clinic does not have time to assist them. LASSD prints and distributes marketing materials throughout the year and provides information on Program services on its website and 211 (San Diego County's resource and information hotline and website for community services). LASSD staff members also attend community events and participate in seminars and panels, devoted to serving this community and ensuring services are well-known and well-respected throughout San Diego County.
Attorney-Client Relationship	No

Conflict of Interest Protocols	N/A
Income Eligibility Guidelines	Participants will be required to complete an application (intake form) before utilizing clinic services. These applications will be reviewed by staff prior to providing assistance to verify eligibility as to income, subject matter, and appropriate venue. Participants will also be screened to see if they have already retained counsel through questions on the intake form. If the individual indicates representation, the program staff or volunteers would further inquire as to the nature of representation and/or review the Register of Actions. If it is representation on another matter, the Program would be able to assist. If it is on the same/related matter, the Program would refer the individual back to their attorney of record.
Alternative Services	A litigant who is not eligible for project services would be referred to the San Diego County Bar Association's Lawyer Referral and Information System (LRIS) and the San Diego Law Library. Any litigants seeking different services outside of the project's scope, such as assistance with family law custody/visitation orders or divorce would be referred to the Family Law Facilitator. Litigants seeking legal advice or representation will be referred to LRIS, LASSD's main line for client screening, and other organizations who provide legal advice and representation in restraining orders such as the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, Center for Community Solutions, Your Safe Place, and License to Freedom.

Court's Role	<p>The court will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Provide private space in the East County Regional Center branch where LASSD will operate the clinic during hours in which the courthouse is open.2. Provide security for the clinic in connection with regular security provided at the courthouse.3. Provide utilities and some furniture as agreed upon by the parties.4. Refer persons to the clinic, where appropriate.5. Allow authorized LASSD personnel access to the court facility.6. Provide telephones that will allow LASSD to make outgoing calls, both nationwide and long distance, to customer cell phones as well as internal court extension calls.
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PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Legal Aid Society of San Diego		
Project Name	South Bay Restraining Order Project		
Grant Year	Total Budget	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
2024	\$202,592.00	\$180,000	
Currently Funded Partnership Grant	Court Letter(s) on File	Memorandum of Understanding(s) Reviewed	All Services at Courthouse
No	Yes	Pending	Pending

Project Abstract

In partnership with the San Diego Superior Court, the Legal Aid Society of San Diego (LASSD) Pro Bono Program seeks to offer a full-time Domestic Violence/Civil Harassment/Elder Abuse Restraining Order Clinic at the South County branch of the San Diego Superior Court. The Court has expressed the need for daily full-time services to assist the rising number of South County residents seeking protection from violence, stalking, sexual assault, elder/dependent adult abuse, and severe harassment. The project would operate daily in the South County Regional Center branch court from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, providing assistance with court forms, explanation of the law, options and alternatives, and referrals.

The program will be staffed with one staff attorney, one advocate, and volunteer attorneys and students. Ongoing communication with court personnel will create a collaborative program that benefits both the court and self-represented litigants in having appropriate paperwork processed efficiently.

The main goals of the program are to help self-represented litigants access and fully participate in the legal system, and educate litigants so they can make informed choices resulting in effective and efficient filings for the litigant and the Court. Helping litigants complete necessary paperwork ensures that the Court receives the information necessary to render a decision on a temporary restraining order that day. By providing these services, the program helps pro per petitioners protect themselves from dangerous situations, and helps pro per respondents protect their due process rights by properly responding to petitions.

Court Name	Branch (If Applicable)	Address	On-Site Days/Hours	Total Hours/Month
San Diego Superior Court	South County	500 3rd Ave, Chula Vista, CA 91910	MTuWThF/8:30-12:00 and 12:30-4:00	140

Personnel Categories	Project Staff	Total Project FTEs	PG Share of FTEs
Lawyers	Staff Attorney	1	1
	Senior Attorney	0.1	0
		0	0
	Lawyers Total	1.1	1

Paralegals	Advocate	1	1
		0	0
	Paralegals Total	1	1
Other		0	0
		0	0
	Other Total	0	0

	# Held	# Individuals Served	Services
Individual Services	N/A	0	
Workshops	0		
Self-Help Clinics	400	3000	Information on Legal Options; Information on Court Procedures and Hearing; Document Preparation and Review; Filing or Services Assistance; Post-Hearing Assistance

Project Goals	<p>The main project goal is to assist low-income, self-represented litigants understand the court process and complete necessary court documents to succeed in meritorious Domestic Violence, Civil Harassment, and Elder Abuse Restraining Order actions.</p> <p>A second goal is to see Program users have greater comfort in navigating the court system by assisting many in their primary language with cultural competence. LASSD will utilize minority bar partners and volunteers to provide culturally appropriate assistance to those involved in restraining order actions in their primary language.</p> <p>A third goal for the program to measurably ease the burden on Family and Civil/Elder restraining order judges and court personnel handling SRLs. The court spends approximately 30 minutes with each SRL who has not received assistance at a self-help clinic, explaining paperwork and reviewing forms for critical information.</p> <p>A fourth goal is to provide meaningful referrals to free mediation services and other legal options. These other options can often provide a better result than a judge in a Civil Harassment restraining order case and can often settle tensions between litigants.</p> <p>A fifth goal is to engage the greater legal community in a meaningful way with the use of new technology. With the use of technology such as Zoom, the Program will be able to utilize more volunteers and provide assistance to more litigants. Utilizing technology such as Zoom can also assist a greater number of</p>
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	people, especially the elderly and those who are unable to access in person services.
Outreach & Community Engagement	Communication and continued partnerships with like-minded nonprofits throughout the County ensure that the community knows where to find the Program and what services are offered. LASSD's Community Response Team is trained to identify candidates for Self-Help Clinic services and will direct persons to the appropriate clinic on a case-by-case basis. The Court relies on Program staff and volunteers to lighten their load and refers as many walk-ins as the Program can handle each day, often encouraging litigants to come back another day if the Clinic does not have time to assist them. LASSD prints and distributes marketing materials throughout the year and provides information on Program services on its website and 211 (San Diego County's resource and information hotline and website for community services). LASSD staff members also attend community events and participate in seminars and panels, devoted to serving this community and ensuring services are well-known and well-respected throughout San Diego County.
Attorney-Client Relationship	No
Conflict of Interest Protocols	N/A
Income Eligibility Guidelines	Participants will be required to complete an application (intake form) before utilizing clinic services. These applications will be reviewed by staff prior to providing assistance to verify eligibility as to income, subject matter, and appropriate venue. Participants will also be screened to see if they have already retained counsel through questions on the intake form. If the individual indicates representation, the program staff or volunteers would further inquire as to the nature of representation and/or review the Register of Actions. If it is representation on another matter, the Program would be able to assist. If it is on the same/related matter, the Program would refer the individual back to their attorney of record.
Alternative Services	A litigant who is not eligible for project services would be referred to the San Diego County Bar Association's Lawyer Referral and Information System (LRIS) and the San Diego Law Library. Any litigants seeking different services outside of the project's scope, such as assistance with family law custody/visitation orders or divorce, would be referred to the Family Law Facilitator. Litigants seeking legal advice or representation will be referred to LRIS, LASSD's main line for client screening, and other organizations who provide legal advice and representation in restraining orders such as the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, Center for Community Solutions, and Your Safe Place (formerly Family Justice Center). Litigants seeking additional family violence and support services would be referred to partner organizations such as South Bay Community Services.

Court's Role	<p>The court provides:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A private office in the South County Regional Center branch where LASSD's self-help services are provided during hours in which the courthouse is open.2. Security for the clinic in connection with regular security provided at the courthouse.3. Computers, copier, utilities, and some furniture.4. Access to the courthouse to authorized LASSD personnel by providing a court badge. Additionally, the court provides badged access to the court mail room for LASSD personnel.5. Telephones that will allow LASSD to make outgoing calls, both nationwide and long distance, to customer cell phones as well as internal court extension calls.6. Plexiglass and other protective barriers for use inside of the clinic during the pandemic.
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PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Legal Assistance for Seniors		
Project Name	Partnership to Assist Guardianship Litigants		
Grant Year	Total Budget	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
2024	\$67,693.00	\$55,000	
Currently Funded Partnership Grant	Court Letter(s) on File	Memorandum of Understanding(s) Reviewed	All Services at Courthouse
No	Yes	Pending	Pending

Project Abstract

The Partnership to Assist Guardianship Litigants is a collaborative effort of Legal Assistance for Seniors (LAS), Legal Access Alameda of the Alameda County Bar Association (LAA) and the Alameda County Superior Court. The Partnership will provide legal assistance to low income, pro per litigants in guardianship cases. Partners will assist with all aspects of these cases including temporary petitions, general petitions, objections, adding or removing co-guardians, petitions for visitation and petitions for termination. The partners will develop sample documents and instructions designed to fill in any potential gaps caused by the reduction in court services, including reduced filing hours and reduced Probate Examiner phone hours. The Partnership will hold weekly workshops to assist with filing requirements. One of the weekly workshops will be dedicated to the complex notice requirements that often result in continuances for the litigants. We will also incorporate lessons learned during COVID and provide remote support if workshops are not feasible due to court safety concerns. LAA volunteers and LAS will provide day of court assistance when the pro per cases are calendared. The day of court assistance includes explaining the procedural deficiencies keeping the cases from being heard, providing forms allowing the litigants to draft declarations to address the procedural issues and assisting with filing documents. The goal of this program is to navigate litigants through the complex procedural process required in guardianship cases, providing low income litigants access to justice while also reducing continuances and preserving court resources.

Court Name	Branch (If Applicable)	Address	On-Site Days/Hours	Total Hours/Month
Alameda County Superior Court	Self Help Center	661 Washington St., Oakland, CA	Monday	1:30-4/6 Hours
Alameda County Superior Court	Berkeley Courthouse	2120 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA	as needed	as needed

Personnel Categories	Project Staff	Total Project FTEs	PG Share of FTEs
Lawyers	Legal Director	0.01	0.01
	2 Supervising Attorneys	0.11	0.11
		0	0
	Lawyers Total	0.12	0.12

Paralegals	Advocate	0.44	0.44
		0	0
	Paralegals Total	0.44	0.44
Other	Exec. Dir & Admin Asst/intake	0.02	0.02
	Assoc. Dir, Tech. Specialist, Admin Asst/Reception	0.02	0
	Other Total	0.04	0.02

	# Held	# Individuals Served	Services
Individual Services	N/A	50	Information on Legal Options; Information on Court Procedures and Hearing; Document Preparation and Review; Filing or Services Assistance; Post-Hearing Assistance
Workshops	26	80	Information on Legal Options; Information on Court Procedures and Hearing; Document Preparation and Review; Filing or Services Assistance
Self-Help Clinics	0	0	

Project Goals	<p>Our goal for this project is to provide assistance to litigants who would otherwise be unable to navigate the complex guardianship process. The amount of procedural requirements necessary to file for a guardianship is daunting to most litigants. The litigants served will be low income who cannot afford to hire an attorney to assist them. Many of them do not speak English and cannot navigate the process without assistance. We are also trying to assist with curing procedural issues before the litigants' court hearings so their matter can move forward without a continuance. The Alameda County Probate Court has a huge backlog (guardianship petitions filed in March are being calendared in the beginning of 2024) so it is important for litigants to be ready on the date of their hearing. We see pro per litigants who do not seek assistance through the project have their matters dropped without ever being heard because they are unable to cure their procedural defects. We also make sure that pro per litigants understand that they have future requirements after their appointment as guardian. We have seen the court suspend guardians who fail to file their annual status reports. Our goal is to make sure that other parties understand how to be heard in the matter. We see pro per objectors send a letter directly to the Judge hearing the matter. When referred to the project, we make sure they understand how</p>
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	to properly file and serve their objection so the Judge can consider it.
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Outreach & Community Engagement	The availability of these services will be communicated to litigants and the community in multiple ways across several formats. The Probate Court staff (clerks, probate examiners, court investigators, Judges) are familiar with this partnership and the partners make sure to provide them updated information about the services to share with litigants. The Court Investigators often recommend that any pro per litigant who has filed paperwork should contact Self Help or LAS for assistance with procedural issues. There is also a flyer that has been translated into multiple languages that is distributed at various courthouses and other locations around Alameda County. All the websites of the partners members (LAS, LAA and Self-Help) have information about the services. All the partners take calls directly from the community and all the staff are trained to identify and refer anyone who would qualify for services. The partnership has a wide range of community partners and contacts, and use that network to make sure that anyone who qualifies has the information they need to take advantage of the services provided. We make sure that East Bay Children's Law Offices, the agency appointed to represent the minors in many of these cases has information about the program and they often refer litigants. The partners have also increased their outreach to agencies that provide housing services so they are aware that the Partnership can assist litigants who need a guardianship to maintain their housing.
Attorney-Client Relationship	Yes
Conflict of Interest Protocols	The Self-Help staff and LAA volunteers will not establish an attorney-client relationship. LAS attorneys may agree to establish an attorney-client relationship and represent a pro per litigant from this project if the litigant is over the age of 50, their case is complicated or the litigant needs additional assistance. LAS staff performs a conflict check prior to assisting any litigant through this project. If there is a conflict, the litigant is assisted by Self Help Staff or a LAA volunteer.

Income Eligibility Guidelines	<p>The litigants are screened for subject matter and residence eligibility when they contact any of the partners for assistance, meaning the litigant must be preparing to file a guardianship petition, or already has a pending guardianship matter, in Alameda County probate court. The petition may be to obtain a guardianship, for visitation, or to modify, object to, or terminate a guardianship. The litigant must also be unrepresented. Screening questions are asked during the first point of contact with one of the partners, when a potential participant calls to seek assistance. Currently, there are no income restrictions officially stated for assistance as the Self Help Center cannot decline services based on income. If the volume of the work provided by the project became unmanageable and persons needed to be turned away from the workshop or clinic, the restriction placed on eligibility would be income based. During our work together, we have found that most the litigants seeking assistance through this program are low income so ineligibility due to income has not been an issue. If there is a conflict, the project has the ability to refer litigants to another partnering agency or to outside organizations should the matter require more complex assistance. Individual litigant information is not shared between the partners except for identification so a conflict determination can be made. LAS includes income information in our client database used to run reports for our finance department in order to insure that Partnership Funds are only used to assist indigent clients.</p>
Alternative Services	<p>If the litigants are ineligible due to subject matter or residency, the partners will attempt to find appropriate referrals. The most common type of request that cannot be met are concerns about a child's care and safety not in the care of the potential guardian. A referral to Department of Family and Children Services or to local law enforcement may be appropriate rather than a referral to another legal organization. We also refer litigants seeking guardianship of the estate to the private bar. Litigants who do not qualify for eligibility because of their income may still be assisted by the Self Help Center as their services may not be income based. Those litigants are also referred to the private bar. Litigants who would like to be represented in their matter who do not otherwise meet LAS' service requirements are referred to the private bar.</p>

Court's Role	<p>The Court's Self Help Center is currently closed to the public but the goal is to return to the space at the Self Help Center in the Wiley Manuel Courthouse for bi-weekly workshops. The court will provide access to a copier. Guardianship hearings in Alameda County are currently hybrid, held remotely over Zoom or in-person. We anticipate that by 2024, the hearings will return to in-person. If that is the case, the court will provide a room at the Berkeley Courthouse for the day of court assistance and access to a copier. The court has also provided LAS attorneys with the ability to access non-confidential court filings that could previously only be viewed on computers located at the courthouses. This allows LAS attorneys to review filed documents in order to assist litigants clear up any procedural issues. It is also extremely helpful when assisting the litigants with draft orders and the letters that must be filed after the order is granted.</p>
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PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Legal Assistance for Seniors		
Project Name	Partnership to Assist Limited Conservatorship Litigants		
Grant Year	Total Budget	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
2024	\$50,000.00	\$50,000	
Currently Funded Partnership Grant	Court Letter(s) on File	Memorandum of Understanding(s) Reviewed	All Services at Courthouse
No	Yes	Pending	Pending

Project Abstract

The Partnership to Assist Limited Conservatorship Litigants is a collaborative effort of Legal Assistance for Seniors (LAS), Legal Access Alameda of the Alameda County Bar Association (LAA) and the Alameda County Superior Court. The Partnership will provide legal assistance to low income, pro per litigants in limited conservatorship cases. Limited conservatorship cases have complex procedural requirements that are often daunting to pro per litigants who are typically more focused on providing and coordinating the care needed for their loved one. Many of the litigants in Alameda County do not speak English and have trouble navigating the legal system, which can lead to delays in their ability to provide adequate care. This Project allows the Partners to meet a currently unmet need in Alameda County. Partners will assist with temporary petitions, general petitions, objections, orders after hearing and other petitions necessary to meet procedural requirements. The partners will develop sample documents and instructions designed to assist with local rules and the complicated procedural process. The litigants will be assisted at workshops with one workshop a month dedicated to the complex notice requirements in these matters. Virtual assistance and one-on-one assistance will also be provided. LAA volunteers and LAS staff will assist litigants at their court hearings when needed. The goal of the partnership is for the partners to use their experience assisting pro per litigants navigate with the complex procedural requirements of limited conservatorship cases and to avoid multiple continuances that take up court resources and frustrate litigants.

Court Name	Branch (If Applicable)	Address	On-Site Days/Hours	Total Hours/Month
Alameda County Superior Court	Self Help Center	661 Washington St., Oakland, CA	Monday	1:30-4/6 Hours
Alameda County Superior Court	Self Help Center	2120 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA	As needed	As needed

Personnel Categories	Project Staff	Total Project FTEs	PG Share of FTEs
Lawyers	Legal Director	0.1	0.1
	Supervising Attorney	0.01	0.01
	3 Staff Attorneys	0.19	0.19
	Lawyers Total	0.3	0.3

Paralegals	Advocate	0.05	0.05
		0	0
	Paralegals Total	0.05	0.05
Other	Exec. Dir & Admin Asst/intake	0.02	0.02
	Assoc. Dir, Tech. Specialist, Admin Asst/Reception	0.02	0
	Other Total	0.04	0.02

	# Held	# Individuals Served	Services
Individual Services	N/A	50	Information on Court Procedures and Hearing; Document Preparation and Review; Filing or Services Assistance; Post-Hearing Assistance
Workshops	26	75	Information on Court Procedures and Hearing; Document Preparation and Review; Filing or Services Assistance; Post-Hearing Assistance
Self-Help Clinics	0	0	

Project Goals	<p>Our goal for this project is to provide assistance to litigants who would otherwise be unable to navigate the complex limited conservatorship process. The amount of procedural requirements necessary to file for a limited conservatorship is daunting to most litigants. The litigants served will be low income who cannot afford to hire an attorney to assist them. Many of them do not speak English and cannot navigate the process without assistance. We are also trying to assist with curing procedural issues before the litigants' court hearings so their matter can move forward without a continuance. The Alameda County Probate Court has a huge backlog so it is important for litigants to be ready on the date of their hearing. We see pro per litigants who do not seek assistance through the project have their matters dropped without ever being heard because they are unable to cure their procedural defects. We also make sure that pro per litigants understand that they have future requirements after their appointment as conservator. We have seen the court suspend conservators who fail to file their annual status reports. Our goal is to make sure that other parties understand how to be heard in the matter. We see pro per objectors send a letter directly to the Judge hearing the matter. When referred to the project, we make sure they understand how to properly file and serve their objection so the Judge can consider it.</p>
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Outreach & Community Engagement	<p>The availability of these services will be communicated to litigants and the community in multiple ways across several formats. The court staff, including the Judges, alert litigants who may qualify for assistance. There is also a flyer distributed at various courthouses and other locations around Alameda County which provides information about the workshops and assistance available through the project. This flyer has been translated into multiple languages. All the websites of the partnership members (LAS, LAA and Self-Help) have information posted about the program. All the partners in the project take calls directly from the community, and staff is trained to identify and refer anyone who would qualify for these services. LAS provides information about these services when doing community outreach through its community education program. The Partnership has a wide range of community partners and contacts, and will use that network to make sure that anyone who qualifies for the services has the information they need to take advantage of the services provided. We also make sure the Regional Center staff are aware of our services and know how to refer people. We have a close relationship with the Public Defenders who are appointed to represent all of the proposed conservatees in these matters. They provide email introductions to LAS and Self Help for litigants in their cases that need assistance.</p>
Attorney-Client Relationship	Yes

Conflict of Interest Protocols	<p>The Self Help Staff and LAA volunteers will not establish an attorney-client relationship. LAS represents dependent adults in elder abuse cases so will need to do a conflict check prior to assisting petitioners. If LAS has a conflict, the litigant will be assisted by Self Help Staff or a LAA volunteer. The litigants will be asked to sign an agreement indicating that they understand that the services are being provided to them in pro per and that they are responsible for their own case. The agreement makes it clear that they will not be represented at court hearings. This agreement is reviewed with the litigant prior to any assistance so the litigants have the opportunity to seek legal representation before any assistance is provided. The litigants are also instructed that the assistance provided is to assist them with the procedural process and the partners cannot provide any advice about any substantive information contained in their filings.</p>
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Income Eligibility Guidelines	<p>The litigants will be screened for subject matter eligibility when they contact any of the partners for assistance. The partners will all be trained to understand the difference between limited conservatorships, LPS conservatorships and conservatorships so litigants seeking assistance for matters other than limited conservatorships can be referred appropriately. LAS represents developmentally disabled individuals in obtaining restraining orders under the Welfare and Institutions Code and therefore may potentially have a conflict with litigants. If there is a conflict, one of the other partners will assist the litigant. The litigants will be screened to ensure they are Alameda County residents and are currently unrepresented. Currently, there are no income restrictions officially stated for assistance as the Self Help Center cannot decline services based on income. If the volume of the work provided by the project became unmanageable and persons needed to be turned away from the workshop or clinic, the restriction placed on eligibility would be income based. During our work together, we have found that most the litigants seeking assistance through this program are low income so ineligibility due to income has not been an issue. LAS includes income information in our client database used to run reports for our finance department in order to insure that Partnership Funds are only used to assist indigent clients.</p>
Alternative Services	<p>If after the intake screening, it is determined that a litigant is seeking assistance that is not related to a limited conservatorship matter, the person will be given a referral. We have found that the majority of litigants who are ineligible for assistance through this program are seeking a conservatorship for someone who is mentally ill (LPS Conservatorship) or has capacity issues unrelated to a developmental disability (General Conservatorship). Those persons are referred to the Alameda County Bar Association's Lawyer Referral Service (there are currently no legal aid referrals for this type of service in our county). If the litigants are seeking assistance with a limited conservatorship of the estate, they will be referred to the private bar. When litigants seek assistance with a matter unrelated to a conservatorship they may be referred to the appropriate non-profit or other Self Help Workshop that may be able to assist them. Litigants who are not eligible for this project's services due to their income being above the limit will still be assisted by the court's Self Help Center. The Self Help Center cannot decline services based on income and assets.</p>

Court's Role	<p>The Court's Self Help Center is currently closed to the public but the goal is to return to the space at the Self Help Center in the Wiley Manuel Courthouse for bi-weekly workshops. The court will provide access to a copier. Limited Conservatorship hearings in Alameda County are currently hybrid, held remotely over Zoom or in-person. We anticipate that by 2024, the hearings will return to in-person. If that is the case, the court will provide a room at the Berkeley Courthouse for the day of court assistance and access to a copier. The court has also provided LAS attorneys with the ability to access non-confidential court filings that could previously only be viewed on computers located at the courthouses. This allows LAS attorneys to review filed documents in order to assist litigants clear up any procedural issues. It is also extremely helpful when assisting the litigants with draft orders and the letters that must be filed after the order is granted.</p>
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**PARTNERSHIP GRANTS
PROJECT PROFILE**

Organization Name	Mental Health Advocacy Services		
Project Name	Mental Health Court Clinic		
Grant Year	Total Budget	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
2024	\$180,000.00	\$180,000	
Currently Funded Partnership Grant	Court Letter(s) on File	Memorandum of Understanding(s) Reviewed	All Services at Courthouse
No	Yes	Yes	Pending

Project Abstract

Mental Health Advocacy Services proposes continuing its Mental Health Court Clinic in partnership with the Los Angeles Mental Health Court targeting individuals with mental health disabilities. The Clinic will be open one day/week (T) for in-person, drop-in consultations and four days/week (M-Th) for phone and email inquiries. The project will be staffed by at least one Staff Attorney and one Case Manager (other staff and volunteers may also be utilized). During the grant period, the Clinic will provide services to approximately 300 individuals.

The Clinic will provide Court-approved information and resources about Mental Health Court proceedings to litigants and other members of the public who are not currently in custody. The Clinic will also offer legal information and referrals on a range of ancillary civil legal issues with a goal of helping litigants achieve greater overall stability, thus allowing them to move through their proceedings at Mental Health Court with greater efficiency and success (and with less likelihood of returning). This will include helping litigants secure and maintain housing, helping litigants access SSI or other benefits to which they may be legally entitled, and assisting litigants with obtaining - or having reinstated - their Driver's License or California ID, among other civil, legal needs.

Finally, the Clinic will offer quarterly workshops on Psychiatric Advance Directives (PADs). Used widely in other states, and growing in popularity in California, PADs are shown to promote increased autonomy and lead to better health and legal outcomes for people with mental health disabilities.

Court Name	Branch (If Applicable)	Address	On-Site Days/Hours	Total Hours/Month
LA Superior Court - Mental Health Division	Hollywood	3255 Wilshire Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90010	Tuesdays 10:00-2:00	16 hours
LA Superior Court		VIRTUAL CLINIC	MWTh 9:00-6:00	64 hours

Personnel Categories	Project Staff	Total Project FTEs	PG Share of FTEs
Lawyers		0	0
		0	0
		0	0
	Lawyers Total	0	0
Paralegals		0	0
		0	0
	Paralegals Total	0	0

Other		0	0
		0	0
	Other Total	0	0

Goals and Objectives			
	Number of Individual Services	Number of Workshops	Individuals to be Served at Workshops/Group Activities
Information on Legal Options			
Information on Court Procedures and Hearing Preparation			
Document Preparation and Review			
Filing or Services Assistance			
Supervised Settlement Services			
Post-hearing Assistance			
Other			
Explain Other			

Community Engagement – Outreach	<p>MHAS publishes information about the Clinic's services and hours on the MHAS website and has also worked with Court partners to make this information available on the Court's Mental Health Division page. The Court-approved MHAS Clinic poster is displayed throughout the courthouse's public spaces and flyers are included in court correspondence with litigants. The Deputy Public Defender in charge of the Public Defender's office within the Mental Health Division has also circulated this flyer to all members of her office to make sure they know about the Clinic and can refer their clients to it. Finally, MHAS has circulated and will continue to circulate flyers about the Clinic to our partner legal services and community organizations.</p> <p>Finally, MHAS was recently awarded a Skadden fellowship to host a Skadden fellow for two years beginning in the fall of 2023 and funded specifically to provide legal services to litigants going through CARE Court. The Skadden fellow and the MHAS Supervising Attorney will be involved in many meetings with various stakeholders around the implementation of CARE Court in Los Angeles. These meetings will provide further opportunity to publicize the Mental Health Court Clinic.</p>
Attorney-Client Relationship	No

Conflict of Interest Protocols	N/A
Income Eligibility Guidelines	MHAS administers its standard organization intake for every individual receiving individual services at the Clinic. This includes asking each potential client about their monthly household income. This information is compared to the eligibility threshold (200% of federal poverty level) to determine whether the client is eligible for MHAS services, including services received through the Mental Health Court Clinic.

Alternative Services	Litigants who meet the eligibility threshold for MHAS services but require more extensive services in a legal practice area currently covered by other MHAS projects will be referred internally to the relevant MHAS project. (In 2024, this will include housing, benefits, expungement, and driver's license/ID issues). Litigants who have legal needs beyond MHAS' current practice areas will be referred to another legal aid organization (MHAS maintains an active list of legal practice areas covered by each LA-based legal aid organization). If a litigant's income exceeds MHAS' eligibility threshold, then they are referred to the Los Angeles County Bar Association Referral Service.
Court's Role	The Mental Health Division recently relocated all Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Conservatorship and Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) cases from the Hollywood courthouse to the Norwalk courthouse. The Norwalk Courthouse is also the proposed location for all CARE Court cases, which are set to begin in December 2023. MHAS is currently discussing the possibility of extending its clinic to the Norwalk courthouse, using the self-help resource workshop room that exists in that building.

PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Neighborhood Legal Services			
Project Name	BRIDGE TO SELF-HELP			
Grant Year	Total Budget	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded	
2024	\$379,590.00	\$288,000		
Currently Funded Partnership Grant	Court Letter(s) on File	Memorandum of Understanding(s) Reviewed	All Services at Courthouse	
No			Pending	
Project Abstract	<p>Individuals with physical and mental health challenges require extra support to ensure meaningful access to justice through the courts. Health harming legal needs increase stress, keep patients from adherence to treatment plans, and further intensify instability.</p> <p>To respond to this need, NLSLA will expand partnerships with the Superior Court of California, Los Angeles ("Court") to launch the Bridge to Self-Help ("B2SH") remote Project. The Project will offer self-help services in key legal areas including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • family/domestic violence, • housing, • guardianship, and • consumer/finance; • • identify and link key referral sources including healthcare facilities and agencies serving unhoused individuals; and • Evaluate the ongoing need for accommodations and additional supports needed to ensure meaningful access to the courts. <p>The B2SH project will target populations facing challenges that meaningfully limit their ability to access the courts and existing services, including litigants having physical, mental health, developmental, or learning challenges; litigants referred by healthcare providers or other care team member; litigants who are unhoused and referred by a Coordinated Entry System or LAHSA partner agency; and litigants with limited-English proficiency. The Project will continue remotely and off-site in collaboration with the Self-Help Legal Access Centers ("SHLAC"). The hours of operation will be during SHLAC operating hours. The project's staffing will include NLSLA supervising attorney, staff attorney, paralegal, and volunteers. The Court's participation will include identifying and referring litigants, and play a vital role in evaluating the project.</p>			
Court Name	Branch (If Applicable)	Address	On-Site Days/Hours	Total Hours/Month
Superior Court, Los Angeles	VIRTUAL	Virtual - Remote Services	M-Th 8:30 - 12:00 and 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Fridays from 8:30 - noon	151.6
Personnel Categories	Project Staff		Total Project FTEs	PG Share of FTEs

Lawyers	Associate Supervising Attorney	1	0.5
	Staff Attorney	1	1
	Vice President of Access to Justice & Supervising Attorney	0.1	0
	Lawyers Total	2.1	1.5
Paralegals	Paralegal	1	1
		0	0
	Paralegals Total	1	1
Other	Secretary	1	0.45
	Coordinator of Access to Justice	0.05	0
	Other Total	1.05	0.45

	# Held	# Individuals Served	Services
Individual Services	N/A	150	Information on Legal Options; Information on Court Procedures and Hearing; Document Preparation and Review; Filing or Services Assistance; Post-Hearing Assistance
Workshops	45	450	Information on Legal Options; Information on Court Procedures and Hearing; Document Preparation and Review; Filing or Services Assistance; Post-Hearing Assistance
Self-Help Clinics	0	0	

Project Goals	<p>Identify any further or additional project goals, not identified above.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create an effective blueprint for offering enhanced Self-Help services to litigants needing extra help that's scalable and replicable; • Identify the need for Self-Help services beyond what are currently offered and seek out funding and resources to fill those needs; • Increase access to justice for litigants who are unable to access traditional Self-Help services; • Create new direct linkages within the court system to local health systems and community based organizations not already engaged;
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify opportunities for defining Court processes and workflows to further increase access for litigants with specialized needs.
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Outreach & Community Engagement	MLCP interacts with over 2,555 individuals with legal issues each year. Through this partnership, the twelve MLCP sites will be able to directly connect more individuals with disabilities with the accessible family law and housing law assistance and resources that they and their families need. In addition, MLCP has well-established partnerships with medical providers, community partners, and disability advocates that it will utilize to inform the community about the availability of services for individuals with disabilities who are not MLCP clients. Self-Help will also utilize its strong relationship with court staff (i.e., court clerks, Self-Help staff, the ADA Compliance Officer) and the bench to promote referrals to the program. Self-Help will develop materials and trainings that explain the program, criteria for referrals, and the referrals process.
Attorney-Client Relationship	No

Conflict of Interest Protocols	N/A
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<p>Income Eligibility Guidelines</p>	<p>Individuals would be deemed eligible for services if their legal needs fall within BSH's scope of services and if they meet one or more of the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Litigants who self-identify or have been identified by a health care professional as having: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. a physical disability, whether visible or non-visible; b. a psychological disability; c. a mental disability, such as a traumatic brain injury (TBI) or Alzheimer's, or; d. an intellectual, developmental, or learning disability. 2. Litigants who have low-vision or are hard-of-hearing, Deaf, Blind, or Deaf-Blind; 3. Litigants who are referred by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. a partner health care provider or care team member or; b. any other partner organization or agency. <p>Among those eligible, particular prioritizations would be given to those litigants who are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. monolingual in a language other than English, including American Sign Language ("ASL"), or who have Limited English Proficiency; 2. houseless; 3. survivors of domestic violence or; 4. unable to access existing remote Self-Help Services due to technological barriers. <p>Litigants who are not directly identified and referred by a health care provider or care team member, such as those who are walk-ins, self-referrals, or referred by partner organizations, among others, will be screened using a qualitative questionnaire performed by BSH personnel. Examples of questions may be related to receiving SSDI or SSI benefits, pre-existing accommodations in housing or other environments, or particular diagnoses. Aside from screening, this questionnaire would aid in narrowing how best BSH employees could assist the litigant.</p>
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<p>Alternative Services</p>	<p>Individuals who are deemed ineligible upon the completion of the BSH questionnaire or who present legal needs that go beyond the scope of BSH's impartial role would be provided with targeted referrals to NLSLA or other local legal aid partners. Additional targeted referrals would be made to any relevant community organizations and social organizations or agencies. Such individuals would also receive a referral organizational directory identifying each organization's contact information and service areas, which will be continually updated.</p> <p>Ineligible individuals would also be provided with informational pamphlets, flyers, resource lists, know your rights documents, particularly for those who are monolingual non-English speakers, and recorded webinars to facilitate their own self-advocacy. All self-advocacy materials will be written and spoken in plain language to increase accessibility.</p> <p>BSH will perform a quarterly quantitative and qualitative assessment to identify any demographic trends of those who are presenting as ineligible and whether eligibility requirements should be broadened for those populations.</p>
<p>Court's Role</p>	<p>These services offered by this Project will be provided by the Bridges to Self-Help team remotely. However, Court resources like technology, document assembly programs, e-filing, and other such resources will be leveraged to successfully deliver the services to the litigants. NLSLA has entered into an MOU with the Superior Court of California, Los Angeles to have access to the Justice Partner Portal which will allow access to Court records in the litigants' case. This will assist in effective service provision and accuracy of case assessments for the litigants.</p> <p>We will be receiving referrals of litigants meeting the criteria throughout Los Angeles County. All Courthouses throughout the County are likely filing locations for the litigants. The Bridge to Self-Help Services will operate 31.5 hours per week Monday through Friday. There will be 3.5 hours per month for project administration and follow up. This totals 151.6 hours per month.</p>

PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Neighborhood Legal Services		
Project Name	PASADENA - CONTINUUM OF SERVICE		
Grant Year	Total Budget	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
2024	\$214,484.00	\$150,000	
Currently Funded Partnership Grant	Court Letter(s) on File	Memorandum of Understanding(s) Reviewed	All Services at Courthouse
No	Yes	Yes	Pending
Project Abstract	<p>Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County ("NLSLA") proposes to continue its project in the Pasadena Courthouse to maintain assistance with UD Answers and serve as a triage on cases that should be placed on the continuum of services for the San Gabriel Valley. Housing continues to be the state's number one priority and State and local leaders continue to work to provide critical services in the homeless prevention efforts.</p> <p>A Right to Counsel Project continues to take shape; the Stay Housed LA Project is overwhelmed with requests for representation from tenants facing eviction. In Los Angeles County, the need continues to be great and even with Stay Housed L.A. resources, Legal Aids simply cannot meet the needs of all tenants presenting with eviction cases at the Pasadena Courthouse. The Unlawful Detainer (UD) process is an expedited one and it is difficult to meet the needs of the numerous tenants who must file an Answer to the UD especially given the quick five-day response deadline under the statute. The Court whose primary focus is family law staffs the Pasadena Resource Center at the Courthouse. This NLSLA attorney with housing experience is able to provide housing services and collaborate in operation of that center. To fill the gap in services, it is essential to continue to fund an attorney from NLSLA to help maintain the continuum of services for housing cases at the Pasadena Resource Center for at least four days a week, 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.</p>		

Court Name	Branch (If Applicable)	Address	On-Site Days/Hours	Total Hours/Month
LASC	Pasadena	300 E. Walnut, 3rd Floor, Pasadena, CA 91101	M-Th 8:30 - 12:00 and 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Fridays from 8:30 - noon	151.55

Personnel Categories	Project Staff	Total Project FTEs	PG Share of FTEs
Lawyers	Staff Attorney	1	1
	Vice President of Access to Justice	0.05	0
	Supervising Attorney	0.05	0
	Lawyers Total	1.1	1
Paralegals	Paralegal	0	0

		0	0
	Paralegals Total	0	0
Other	Secretary	0.15	0
	Coordinator for Access to Justice	0.05	0
	Other Total	0.2	0

	# Held	# Individuals Served	Services
Individual Services	N/A	400	Information on Legal Options;Information on Court Procedures and Hearing;Document Preparation and Review;Filing or Services Assistance;Post-Hearing Assistance
Workshops	80	480	Information on Legal Options;Information on Court Procedures and Hearing;Document Preparation and Review;Filing or Services Assistance;Post-Hearing Assistance
Self-Help Clinics	80	400	Information on Legal Options;Information on Court Procedures and Hearing;Document Preparation and Review;Filing or Services Assistance;Post-Hearing Assistance

Project Goals	Aside from the goal of providing legal information and assistance at the Pasadena Resource Center, another goal of the Project is to continue to update comprehensive training materials for volunteers and JusticeCorps Members interested in assisting tenants with housing issues. Local housing laws and protections are rapidly changing and can vary from city to city. The project will also create user-friendly informational brochures to educate the litigants about their rights. NLSLA is committed to offering trauma informed services to litigants and feels it is a priority to train volunteers about being trauma informed as well.
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Outreach & Community Engagement	NLSLA will provide informational flyers to LASC staff, Justice Partners, and Community based organizations to inform them of the availability of the assistance at the Pasadena Resource Center. Additionally, we will list the services on LASC website, and NLSLA website along with other legal websites like LAAC's CAlegaladvocates.org, Stay Housed L.A. and other such resources.
Attorney-Client Relationship	No

Conflict of Interest Protocols	N/A
Income Eligibility Guidelines	All litigants fill out an intake form modeled after the form used by the other SHLACs supervised by NLSLA - which includes a self-declaration of income level. All litigants assisted through this grant are indigent as is required by the Legal Services Trust Fund; however, this Remote Project will serve all litigants regardless of income as is required of NLSLA by the Court. The Court mandates that all users of the Court should be able to benefit from the assistance provided either in person or remotely. Most users of the Self-Help Centers operated by NLSLA are at or below the poverty line (91%) and are LSC eligible to receive free legal services.
Alternative Services	NLSLA has developed a list of referrals for a variety of legal matters not handled by the Self-Help team. When feasible, litigants are referred to NLSLA itself. Other referrals include other non-profit legal agencies and the bar association lawyer referral services. No referrals are made directly to individual private attorneys. NLSLA believes that a continuum of services can be achieved by appropriate referrals and collaboration.
Court's Role	<p>The Courthouse in Pasadena will house the Housing Continuum of Services Project. Currently, the Pasadena Resource Center's space designed for self-help services is on the 3rd floor and meets all ADA requirements and city codes. The facility was renovated in 2019, shortly before the Covid-19 pandemic, to provide open seating and to leverage technology in order to provide efficient legal services to the public. The public may access an Unlawful Detainer Answer WebEx workshop via the public computers and headsets in each self-help center. The JusticeCorps Fellows are available to provide any technical assistance needed to the litigant on site or on the WebEx.</p> <p>To meet the needs of Los Angeles' diverse population, all of the information available in the workshops is in English, Armenian, Chinese, and Spanish. NLSLA will produce materials in other languages as needed. This center will also rely on the widely diverse NLSLA and Court staff, volunteers, and JusticeCorps Members for interpreter services. In addition to these resources, NLSLA and the Court both contract with language service providers to provide translation services to the Self-Help Centers via telephone or in person. NLSLA continues to be culturally sensitive and competent in all of the services it provides to the community.</p>

PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Neighborhood Legal Services		
Project Name	POMONA - READY FOR TRIAL!		
Grant Year	Total Budget	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
2024	\$154,141.00	\$107,000	
Currently Funded Partnership Grant	Court Letter(s) on File	Memorandum of Understanding(s) Reviewed	All Services at Courthouse
No	Yes	Yes	Pending
Project Abstract	<p>Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County's ("NLSLA") Pomona - Ready for Trial! Project is an intensive family law trial preparation project based in the Pomona Courthouse to support self-represented litigants. The Project attorney will develop and facilitate trial preparation workshops, consisting of two parts. During the initial workshop, litigants will receive education and assistance in completing their trial brief and other trial forms. The second workshop will prepare litigants for trial day, familiarizing them with the process, walking them through check-in, informing them of the proper way to address the Court and more. The workshop will be provided in English and Spanish. The workshop in Spanish will address unique issues facing non-English proficient litigants, like presenting evidence in a different language and working with court interpreters. The Project will also create a video that provides an overview of trial day at family court, which can be easily shared across the County. The goal of the Project is to demystify the Court processes and reduce the anxiety and stress litigants experience when going to trial. This Project will give litigants the information and confidence needed to represent themselves in family law court.</p>		

Court Name	Branch (If Applicable)	Address	On-Site Days/Hours	Total Hours/Month
Los Angeles Superior Court	Pomona	400 Civic Center Plaza, Pomona, CA 91766	M-Th 8:30 am - 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm; Fri 8:30 am - 12:00 pm	151.55

Personnel Categories	Project Staff	Total Project FTEs	PG Share of FTEs
Lawyers	Vice President of Access to Justice	0.05	0
	Supervising Attorney	0.05	0
	Attorney	1	1
	Lawyers Total	1.1	1
Paralegals		0	0
		0	0
	Paralegals Total	0	0
Other	Coordinator of Access to Justice	0.05	0
		0	0

	Other Total	0.05	0
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	# Held	# Individuals Served	Services
Individual Services	N/A	700	Information on Legal Options;Information on Court Procedures and Hearing;Document Preparation and Review;Filing or Services Assistance;Post-Hearing Assistance
Workshops	80	400	Information on Legal Options;Information on Court Procedures and Hearing;Post-Hearing Assistance;Other
Self-Help Clinics	80	400	Information on Legal Options;Information on Court Procedures and Hearing;Document Preparation and Review;Filing or Services Assistance;Post-Hearing Assistance

Project Goals	The goals for this project are to have litigants better prepared when they go to their trials. We look forward to improving the education portion of the presentation as well as creating videos that can be reviewed by the litigants before trial. The Project intends on having these presentations available in at least English and Spanish to begin with. Some additional languages that are being considered for the workshops are Mandarin and Armenian.
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Outreach & Community Engagement	NLSLA will provide informational flyers to Court staff, Justice Partners and community-based organizations to inform them of the assistance available to self-represented litigants at the Pomona Courthouse with upcoming family law trials (parentage and dissolution cases). Additionally, the Project will list the services on the LASC and NLSLA websites. In addition, we will leverage other legal websites like LAAC's CAlegaladvocates.org .
Attorney-Client Relationship	No

Conflict of Interest Protocols	N/A
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Income Eligibility Guidelines	All litigants fill out an intake form modeled after the form used by other SHLACs supervised by NLSLA, which includes a self-declaration of income. All litigants assisted through this grant are indigent as is required by the Legal Services Trust Fund; however, this remote Project will serve all litigants regardless of income as is required of NLSLA by the Court. The Court mandates that all users of the Court should be able to benefit from the assistance provided either in-person or remotely. Most users of the Self-Help Centers operated by NLSLA are at or below the federal poverty level and are LSC eligible to receive free legal services.
Alternative Services	NLSLA has developed a list of referrals for a variety of legal matters not handled by the Self-Help team. When feasible, litigants are referred to NLSLA itself. Other referrals include other non-profit legal agencies and the bar association lawyer referral services. No referrals are made directly to individual private attorneys. NLSLA believes that a continuum of services can be achieved by appropriate referrals and collaboration.
Court's Role	The Court provides space in the Self-Help Center located on the 7th Floor of the Pomona Courthouse. Recently, the Court re-furbished the first floor workshop space, which will be used by the team for the Project. The services will be provided during Courthouse hours of operation; therefore no special access will be needed. NLSLA will provide the staffing for the Project, materials to be used during the workshop, the curriculum and any volunteers that may be needed as the Project is rolled out. This Project will also leverage the diverse NLSLA and Court staff, volunteers, and JusticeCorps members for interpretation services. In addition to these resources, NLSLA and the Court both contract with Alta Language Services to provide translation and interpretation services.

PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Neighborhood Legal Services			
Project Name	REMOTE ACCESS - LA			
Grant Year	Total Budget	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded	
2024	\$444,865.00	\$338,000		
Currently Funded Partnership Grant	Court Letter(s) on File	Memorandum of Understanding(s) Reviewed	All Services at Courthouse	
No	Yes	Yes	Pending	
Project Abstract	<p>NLSLA proposes to further expand and streamline this initial 2.0 Partnership Grants and incorporate remote Hague Service Abroad assistance. NLSLA developed remote operations using telephone, e-mail, document assembly programs created by Pro Bono Net and the Judicial Council, co-browsing, Teams video appointments, and other technologies. We developed protocols, built a system, made modifications, and tested them over time. We used programs developed by the Court such as the Justice Portal to obtain documents from the litigant's case to be able to provide accurate information and assessment of next steps. Although Court operations resumed, safety protocols, continued outbreaks and exposures made litigants seek alternatives to in-person services.</p> <p>In a county of about 10 million people, justice demands continued learning about creating bridges to the communities we serve. In 2024, that means robust in-person and robust remote services. This pilot is critical to solidifying processes and protocols that create access to a population that has been transformed by the pandemic, learning to access services remotely, taking their work and family schedules into consideration. Los Angeles County can better serve litigants by offering both in-person and remote services. To pilot this team, we are seeking two lawyers, two paralegals and one secretary. This team will provide high quality legal services, we will provide accommodations when needed, we will provide language access services and will gather data to make the case to the County of Los Angeles that funding for remote services must be provided long term along with in-person self-help services</p>			
Court Name	Branch (If Applicable)	Address	On-Site Days/Hours	Total Hours/Month
Superior Court, Los Angeles	VIRTUAL		M-Th 8:30 - 12:00 and 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Fridays from 8:30 - noon	151.55

Personnel Categories	Project Staff	Total Project FTEs	PG Share of FTEs
Lawyers	Attorney	1	1
	Supervising Attorney & Vice President of Access to Justice	0.1	0
	Associate Supervising Attorney	0.5	0.5
	Lawyers Total	1.6	1.5

Paralegals	Paralegal	2	2
		0	0
	Paralegals Total	2	2
Other	Secretary	0.45	0.45
	Coordinator of Access to Justice	0.05	0
	Other Total	0.5	0.45

	# Held	# Individuals Served	Services
Individual Services	N/A	1800	Information on Legal Options;Information on Court Procedures and Hearing;Document Preparation and Review;Filing or Services Assistance;Post-Hearing Assistance
Workshops	45	450	Information on Legal Options;Information on Court Procedures and Hearing;Filing or Services Assistance;Post-Hearing Assistance
Self-Help Clinics	45	270	Information on Legal Options;Information on Court Procedures and Hearing;Document Preparation and Review;Filing or Services Assistance;Post-Hearing Assistance

Project Goals	NLSLA expects that with increased coordination between remote and in-person teams, litigants will be more easily assisted with the various aspects of their civil cases. This hybrid model will provide more options leading to convenience, time savings and cost savings for the litigants so that they receive the type of service their specific case warrants when they are able to focus and consume the material or work on the forms. This hybrid model offers users different service delivery models so that the product for the litigant is of the highest possible quality.
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Outreach & Community Engagement	The availability of these services will be posted on the Court's website and the NLSLA website. NLSLA is proud of the self-help services we offer throughout the County and tout the self-help program as a signature project. When NLSLA advocates go out to do community presentations, our remote self-help services will be included and potential litigants are told how to access them at their local courts. Daily, hundreds of people call the NLSLA hotline and our staff is trained to direct people with family and housing issues to the dedicated remote self-help team. Additionally, we will add the dedicated remote team to our network of centers listed at the legal services partner agencies websites, on Law Help, CA legal Advocates and the LAAC websites. The primary source of referrals will come from the 12 Courthouses with self-help centers and the filing windows.
Attorney-Client Relationship	No

Conflict of Interest Protocols	N/A
Income Eligibility Guidelines	All litigants fill out an intake form modeled after the form used by the other SHLACs supervised by NLSLA - which includes a self-declaration of income level. All litigants assisted through this grant are indigent as is required by the Legal Services Trust Fund; however, this Remote Project will serve all litigants regardless of income as is required of NLSLA by the Court. The Court mandates that all users of the Court should be able to benefit from the assistance provided either in person or remotely. Most users of the Self-Help Centers operated by NLSLA are at or below the poverty line (91%) and are LSC eligible to receive free legal services.
Alternative Services	NLSLA has developed a list of referrals for a variety of legal matters not handled by the Self-Help team. When feasible, litigants are referred to NLSLA itself. Other referrals include other non-profit legal agencies and the bar association lawyer referral services. No referrals are made directly to individual private attorneys. NLSLA believes that a continuum of services can be achieved by appropriate referrals and collaboration.
Court's Role	The Court is supportive and involved in evaluation and operation to some degree. The Court will refer litigants to this Project. The Court will also coordinate with NLSLA's Remote Team to certify Hague documents via the Clerk's Office and to facilitate Hague documents pickup appointments via the Self-Help Centers. NLSLA has access to the LASC's Justice Partner Portal which facilitates obtaining information about a pending Court case in order to provide assistance to the litigants. Finally, NLSLA will continue to use the document assembly models of Law-Help Interactive and Guide and File to provide efficient services remotely.

PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Neighborhood Legal Services		
Project Name	San Gabriel Valley - Remote Services - Housing		
Grant Year	Total Budget	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
2024	\$257,465.00	\$195,000	
Currently Funded Partnership Grant	Court Letter(s) on File	Memorandum of Understanding(s) Reviewed	All Services at Courthouse
No	Yes	Yes	Pending

Project Abstract

The San Gabriel Valley - Remote Services - Housing Project ("Project") expands NLSLA's partnership with the Los Angeles Superior Court ("Court") to support vulnerable self-represented litigants in the underserved San Gabriel Valley ("SGV"). Utilizing remote technology, the Project will provide self-help assistance with housing matters to litigants in the SGV, including Glendale, Pomona, and West Covina. These areas have limited access to self-help housing services, as many of the currently funded providers are overwhelmed and at capacity with housing services. The program will provide information, education and assistance with the preparation of legal documents to litigants who are navigating the Unlawful Detainer ("UD") process. Litigants will also be able to obtain assistance and resources for pre-UD matters such as Reasonable Accommodation letters, illegal lockout letters, harassment complaints, habitability requests, and tips for navigating security deposit disputes. The Project will include monthly, virtual workshops as additional guidance for tenants and/or property owners on topics such as the post-judgment process.

Additionally, the Project will work with the Court to promote and develop an array of web-based tools and interactive materials to educate the public on these and other collaterally related housing issues for community members throughout Los Angeles County. The remote services will collaborate with the Self-Help Legal Access Centers ("SHLAC"). The Project's remote team will work closely with staff working on-site at the courthouses and provide technical assistance to the Court and SHLAC staff as needed.

The Project's staffing will include NLSLA's supervising attorney, staff attorney, support staff, and volunteers.

Court Name	Branch (If Applicable)	Address	On-Site Days/Hours	Total Hours/Month
Los Angeles Superior Court		VIRTUAL	M-Th 8:30 am - noon and 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm; Fri 8:30 am - noon	126

Personnel Categories	Project Staff	Total Project FTEs	PG Share of FTEs
Lawyers	Associate Supervising Attorney	0.1	0
	Attorney	1	1
		0	0

	Lawyers Total	1.1	1
Paralegals	Paralegal	1	1
		0	0
	Paralegals Total	1	1
Other	Secretary	0.15	0
		0	0
	Other Total	0.15	0

	# Held	# Individuals Served	Services
Individual Services	N/A	1100	Information on Legal Options;Information on Court Procedures and Hearing;Document Preparation and Review;Filing or Services Assistance;Post-Hearing Assistance
Workshops	24	350	Information on Legal Options;Information on Court Procedures and Hearing;Document Preparation and Review;Filing or Services Assistance;Post-Hearing Assistance
Self-Help Clinics	0	0	

Project Goals	Because UD filings jumped by approximately 280% to 6,460 from 2021 to 2022, this Project intends to help meet the need for self-help remote services in the San Gabriel Valley by offering workshops and individual assistance to low-income tenants and landlords unable to find a lawyer to represent them. We will provide legal information and form filling assistance along with educational videos on housing topics. Because the San Gabriel Valley has a large presence of ethnic populations such Asian and Latinx, NLSLA will provide language access and serve individuals in their preferred language. We will also work to create more educational content to support litigants with housing issues.
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Outreach & Community Engagement	NLSLA will provide informational flyers to Court staff, Justice Partners, and community based organizations to inform them of the Project and the availability of remote assistance for San Gabriel Valley self-represented litigants experiencing housing issues. Additionally, NLSLA will list the services on the Court website and NLSLA website, along with other legal websites such as CAlegaldvocates.org and other such resources. NLSLA will conduct outreach by hosting Know Your Rights workshops with community organizations to increase awareness of the project, engage in meetings with the LA Tenants Union, KTown for All, LA Community Entry Services, and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority ("LAHSA"). NLSLA will utilize these connections to build upon relationships with other community service organizations that are providing resources to the vulnerable or unhoused to raise awareness about the project and its service offerings. These relationships will also allow the project to get materials and flyers out to different segments of the community.
Attorney-Client Relationship	No

Conflict of Interest Protocols	N/A
Income Eligibility Guidelines	This project will target serving indigent, self-represented litigants in housing matters. All litigants would need to complete an initial intake that requires information about the total household income and a self-declaration of income level, as well as their residency. An intake screener would do an initial screening of all participants to assess whether they meet the eligibility guidelines required for service: indigent with a focus on those who reside in the San Gabriel Valley areas. Approximately 95% of litigants who are served by the Self-Help Legal Access Centers operated by NLSLA are at or below the poverty level and are Legal Services Corporation ("LSC") eligible to receive free legal services. All litigants will be interviewed by the intake paralegal to determine if they meet the subject-matter eligibility. If not, the litigant will be provided appropriate referrals.

<p>Alternative Services</p>	<p>NLSLA is currently a part of several comprehensive housing collaboratives uniquely designed to address housing needs associated with vulnerable tenants that are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, facing challenges arising out of physical/mental health disability, served with an unlawful detainer or post-judgement action, and/or require advocacy as a result of their status as a mobile home park owner. If a litigant is ineligible for services under this Project, staff will be trained to re-direct them to one of our partner agencies for additional or higher-level assistance, a court Self-Help Legal Access Center, other local legal service providers, government agencies, and/or a bar association lawyer referral service. Because self-help services will be provided under this Project, all parties on a case will be able to receive assistance. However, litigants who are represented will be ineligible for the Project's services. If self-represented litigants ask for services beyond self-help, including legal advice and/or legal representation, they will be provided with referral(s) to other legal service agencies and/or bar association lawyer referral services. If the litigant needs self-help services beyond the scope of the Project, a referral to another self-help service - either in-person or remote - will be provided.</p>
<p>Court's Role</p>	<p>The Project will be virtual but connected to the Mosk Courthouse, located at 111 N. Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012, as part of an existing self-help center. While NLSLA intends on focusing the majority of its remote services to underserved areas of the San Gabriel Valley, including Pomona, West Covina, Pasadena and Glendale, NLSLA plans to leverage its current infrastructure and staff available at the Stanley Mosk courthouse to support, train and work closely with the virtual team to ensure that varying needs that arise are met.</p> <p>NLSLA will not require separate office space within the Court since the Project is virtual and co-located with an existing housing program. However, NLSLA will need to work with the Court's IT Department to create links that would be housed on the Court's website to directly connect litigants to the Project's content and resources on a separate platform. This would help the Project track referrals from the Court, increase the number of viewers accessing the various resources provided, and viewer satisfaction for outcome reporting. NLSLA's expansion would also require dedicated staff and/or clerk representatives in the four (4) expansion courthouses (Pomona, West Covina, Pasadena and Glendale) to help facilitate referrals, provide case information, and/or work with NLSLA staff to address unique issues or special accommodation requests that may arise with litigants who have a disability, limited mobility, or limited access to technology. NLSLA will furnish all necessary equipment, as well as absorb the cost of supplies.</p>

PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Neighborhood Legal Services		
Project Name	STABILIZING FAMILIES PROJECT		
Grant Year	Total Budget	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
2024	\$152,607.00	\$110,000	
Currently Funded Partnership Grant	Court Letter(s) on File	Memorandum of Understanding(s) Reviewed	All Services at Courthouse
No	Yes	Yes	Pending
Project Abstract	<p>NLSLA proposes to continue operating the Stabilizing Families Project to support self-represented litigants through the Probate Guardianship process. This Project includes education on alternative options to guardianship, application preparation, service requirements, clearing probate notes, and preparing Letters and Orders. The service focuses on empowerment and education to litigants, who would otherwise be unable to afford legal representation throughout the long process of probate guardianship. The Project provides assistance to litigants seeking information and support to obtain, object to, or terminate a legal guardianship, with resources and support offered at all stages. The Project operates in conjunction with the Self-Help hours of operation from 8:30am to 4:30pm.</p> <p>An NLSLA attorney at the Antelope Valley courthouses will provide both remote and on-site support to litigants and collaborate in operating the Center. Following the self-help model, there will be no attorney-client relationship between the attorney and litigants, no court appearances, and no legal advice will be provided. The program's main goals are to alleviate the confusion with probate guardianships through targeted education and to support litigants who are navigating their way without attorney representation.</p>		

Court Name	Branch (If Applicable)	Address	On-Site Days/Hours	Total Hours/Month
Los Angeles Superior Court	Antelope Valley	42011 4th St. West, Lancaster, CA 93534	M-Th 8:30 am - 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm; Fri 8:30 am - 12:00 pm	151.55

Personnel Categories	Project Staff	Total Project FTEs	PG Share of FTEs
Lawyers	Staff Attorney	1	1
	Vice President of Access to Justice	0.05	0
	Supervising Attorney	0.05	0
	Lawyers Total	1.1	1
Paralegals		0	0
		0	0
	Paralegals Total	0	0

Other	Secretary	0.1	0.1
	Coordinator of Access to Justice	0.05	0
	Other Total	0.15	0.1

	# Held	# Individuals Served	Services
Individual Services	N/A	450	Information on Legal Options;Information on Court Procedures and Hearing;Document Preparation and Review;Filing or Services Assistance;Post-Hearing Assistance;Other
Workshops	48	350	Information on Legal Options;Information on Court Procedures and Hearing;Filing or Services Assistance;Post-Hearing Assistance;Other
Self-Help Clinics	52	350	Information on Legal Options;Information on Court Procedures and Hearing;Document Preparation and Review;Filing or Services Assistance;Post-Hearing Assistance;Other

Project Goals	<p>One of the project goals is to conduct workshops. The workshops will be held on-site at the Michael D. Antonovich Courthouse. The workshops will include Guardianship Orientation & Intake (estimates at 24 annually) and Guardianship Petition Assistance (estimated at 24 annually).</p> <p>The courses available remotely will include Guardianship Orientation (on-demand), Preparing Temporary Letters and Orders video (on-demand), Preparing Letters and Orders video (on-demand), and Completing Termination of Guardianship (on-demand).</p> <p>The Project also intends on holding a total of 52 self-help clinics annually, with Guardianship Drop-In Clinics being held on Thursdays. Probate guardianship hearings are scheduled every Thursdays at the Michael D. Antonovich courthouse. On these days, we see an influx of self-represented litigants at the Center to</p>
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	see if their notes are answered, coming in after their hearing to prepare orders and letters, and who are simply overwhelmed at their pending court appearance. These clinics will offer a drop-in space to answer last-minute questions and help prepare litigants for their hearing.
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Outreach & Community Engagement	<p>Much of the outreach for the program will be done on-site at the various self-help centers throughout Los Angeles County. Self-represented litigants who are navigating their way through the probate guardianship system have historically been referred by court staff to seek information and support through self-help. The Project often gets referrals through DCFS case workers or word-of-mouth, as the community members understand that self-help is a resource for legal information and a space for self-represented litigants to ask questions and get legal help. The community tends to catch on to our services and the information is distributed to those who are in immediate need of our assistance.</p> <p>Some litigants will come to the self-help center without explicitly identifying a need for guardianship assistance, so on-site or remote triage is a great way to educate litigants about the most preliminary information about their options.</p>
Attorney-Client Relationship	No

Conflict of Interest Protocols	N/A
Income Eligibility Guidelines	All litigants fill out an intake form modeled after the form used by other SHLACs supervised by NLSLA, which includes a self-declaration of income. All litigants assisted through this Project are indigent as is required by the Legal Services Trust Fund; however, this Remote Project will serve all litigants regardless of income as is required of NLSLA by the Court. The Court mandates that all users of the Court should be able to benefit from the assistance provided either in-person or remotely. Most users (91%) of the Self-Help Centers operated by NLSLA are at or below the federal poverty level and are LSC eligible to receive free legal services.
Alternative Services	NLSLA has developed a list of referrals for a variety of legal matters not handled by the self-help team. When feasible, litigants are referred to NLSLA for services from different projects. Other referrals include other non-profit legal agencies and the bar association lawyer referral services. No referrals are made directly to individual private attorneys. NLSLA believes that a continuum of services can be achieved by appropriate referrals and collaboration.

Court's Role	<p>The Stabilizing Families Project is operated out of the Antelope Valley Self-Help Legal Access Center at the Lancaster Courthouse on the 3rd floor in room 3700. There is free public parking available and the Court has provided parking for NLSLA staff in the secured parking area. We have access to the staff restrooms and work with Court self-help staff co-located in this space. NLSLA has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Los Angeles Superior Court ("LASC") to use its Justice Partner Portal to electronically obtain case summaries, minute orders and documents filed in the case so that the litigant can be assisted without unnecessary delays. NLSLA provides its own computers for staff but there are Court computers in the Center, which are used to run the LawHelp Interactive as well as the Guide and File document assembly programs when appropriate. NLSLA and LASC have been partners for over 20 years and the partnership is strong.</p>
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PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Public Counsel		
Project Name	Further Expansion of Appellate Clinic		
Grant Year	Total Budget	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
2024	\$280,998.00	\$203,000	
Currently Funded Partnership Grant	Court Letter(s) on File	Memorandum of Understanding(s) Reviewed	All Services at Courthouse
No	Yes	Yes	Pending

Project Abstract

Established in 2007, Public Counsel's Appellate Clinic for Self-Represented Litigants provides assistance to indigent, pro se appellate litigants with support from the Second Appellate District of the California Court of Appeal. The key goals of the Clinic are to: (1) improve equal access to justice by helping pro se indigent litigants effectively represent themselves on appeal; and (2) increase the efficiencies of the judicial system by decreasing record preparation times, reducing delays caused by pro se errors, and improving the quality and cogency of the briefing.

The Clinic is located at the Court of Appeal in downtown Los Angeles and is currently open to eligible participants three days a week. No direct representation of clients occurs at the Clinic and an attorney-client relationship is formed only for the purposes of short-term limited counsel and advice.

Clinic staff work with the court clerks to ensure our services meet litigants' needs for thorough and correct procedural guidance. We communicate informally with the clerk's office on an almost weekly basis. We also meet with the Administrative Presiding Justice at least once per year.

The desired outcome of this project is to increase equal access to the judicial system by providing indigent litigants with the tools and technical assistance they need to more effectively represent themselves in the appellate process. This outcome will also serve to reduce delays in the Court's administrative system caused by improper or inaccurate filings, and thereby improve the quality and efficiency of the judicial services that can be provided to the public.

Court Name	Branch (If Applicable)	Address	On-Site Days/Hours	Total Hours/Month
The California Court of Appeal	Second Appellate District	Ronald Reagan State Building, 300 S Spring St B-228, Los Angeles, CA 90013	MWThF; 9:00AM - 2:00pm	80

Personnel Categories	Project Staff	Total Project FTEs	PG Share of FTEs
Lawyers	Supervising Attorney	1	0.6
		0	0
		0	0

	Lawyers Total	1	0.6
Paralegals	Paralegal Admin	1	1
		0	0
	Paralegals Total	1	1
Other		0	0
		0	0
	Other Total	0	0

	# Held	# Individuals Served	Services
Individual Services	N/A	0	
Workshops	4	80	Information on Legal Options;Information on Court Procedures and Hearing;Other
Self-Help Clinics	190	200	Information on Legal Options;Information on Court Procedures and Hearing;Document Preparation and Review;Filing or Services Assistance;Other

Project Goals	Established in 2007, Public Counsel's Appellate Clinic for Self-Represented Litigants provides assistance to indigent, pro se appellate litigants with support from the Second Appellate District of the California Court of Appeal. The key goals of the Clinic are to: (1) improve equal access to justice by helping pro se indigent litigants effectively represent themselves on appeal; and (2) increase the efficiencies of the judicial system by decreasing record preparation times, reducing delays caused by pro se errors, and improving the quality and cogency of the briefing.
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Outreach & Community Engagement	<p>The Clinic currently operates three day per week and remains overwhelmed with requests for assistance. In expanding the Clinic to five days per week, we hope to be able to serve all the litigants needing our help. In addition, we intend to reach out to other legal services and community-based organizations in the Second Appellate District to ensure that prospective appellants and respondents know how to access services. The Directing Attorney of the Consumer Law and Economic Justice project at Public Counsel, under which the Appellate Clinic for Self-Represented Litigants operates, already has extensive contacts with legal services organizations from her involvement leading the Southern California Advocates for Consumer Justice Group. In addition, we will identify and work with legal services organizations in Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo counties so they can publicize the Clinic to their clients and through their networks.</p> <p>Information about the Appellate Clinic for Self-Represented Litigants, including its hours and available services, will be available on Public Counsel's website and the California Courts website, courts.ca.gov. The Clinic's location and hours will be clearly marked in the Ronald Reagan State Building, which houses the Second Appellate District Court. Additionally, the information desk at the Second Appellate District Court will hand out Appellate Clinic for Self-Represented Litigants flyers. We will also circulate flyers with partner agencies and post them to Public Counsel's social media accounts.</p>
Attorney-Client Relationship	Yes
Conflict of Interest Protocols	<p>Yes, but only for the purposes of short-term limited counsel and advice. Conflicts checks will be run when a Self-Represented Litigant first contacts the Clinic. Conflicts are exceptionally rare. If a conflict is identified, the person will be directed to the Los Angeles County Bar Association and can access self-help materials on our website. We anticipate this may be needed on average less than once each year. For the Self-Represented Litigants seen at the Clinic, whether virtually or in person, we will explain, and have them acknowledge in writing, that the Clinic only provides services ranging from self-help assistance through to counsel and advice at each clinic appointment. No appointment will proceed without this written acknowledgement. The disclosures will be very clear that no ongoing attorney-client relationship will ever be formed with Public Counsel and that the Clinic will never represent the self-represented litigant in any court proceeding. On the rare occasion we identify a case for potential pro bono placement, we explain to the prospective client that no pro bono sourced by Public Counsel will become their attorney of record unless and until they have signed a separate agreement stating such with the pro bono attorney.</p>

Income Eligibility Guidelines	Public Counsel has established protocols for the Clinic in accordance with current IOLTA guidelines for financial eligibility. We ask each litigant to fill out an online intake sheet, the first page of which asks for income information. When we review each intake sheet, we record whether or not the litigant has established that they meet the income eligibility guidelines.
Alternative Services	<p>The Appellate Clinic for Self-Represented Litigants screens individuals to determine: (1) whether they are eligible for self-help assistance and/or pro bono representation; (2) whether to refer them to another legal services program; and (3) if they are over-income, have a criminal matter, or in the very rare instance there is a conflict, whether to refer them to self-help materials available on our website or the local bar association lawyer referral service. Public Counsel will continue to refer individuals to other agencies or resources if they are eligible for other services and benefits.</p> <p>If a litigant needs help with an issue other than Second District appeals and it is one that Public Counsel can assist with, we refer the litigant to one of our in-house projects. Otherwise, we refer the litigant to another organization. We routinely refer litigants to the LA County Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service (SmartLaw).</p>
Court's Role	The Court is committed to continuing to support the Clinic by providing a centrally located space, equipment, and supplies necessary for the Clinic to operate, for which we are grateful. The Clinic will be open four days a week, and accepting emergency referrals from the Court on the fifth day. The Clinic will be by appointment only, although spots will be created to accommodate same-day referrals from the Court.

PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Public Counsel		
Project Name	Guardianship Clinic		
Grant Year	Total Budget	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
2024	\$461,715.00	\$439,000	
Currently Funded Partnership Grant	Court Letter(s) on File	Memorandum of Understanding(s) Reviewed	All Services at Courthouse
No	Yes	Yes	Pending
Project Abstract	<p>Established in 2001, Public Counsel's Pro Per Guardianship Clinic provides legal information, pro per assistance, and referrals to pro per litigants from throughout LA County who are seeking guardianships or other actions in the probate court. We propose to assist approximately 2,000 litigants annually by providing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Information about guardianships and other probate issues; * Screening to ensure that the litigant's legal matter is appropriate for filing in probate court; * Assistance in preparing pleadings; * Assistance with notices; and * User-friendly guides in English and Spanish to assist litigants with guardianship proceedings, including form pleadings, filing instructions, notice requirements, and information on appearing in court. <p>The proposed grant would enable us to operate the Clinic from 9:00am to 3:00pm Monday through Thursday at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse. All services are available in both English and Spanish. Services are provided on-site by Public Counsel staff and pro bono volunteers, including law students and attorneys, trained by Public Counsel.</p> <p>Clinic staff work closely with the court to ensure our services meet litigants' needs. We communicate informally with the clerk's office on an almost weekly basis and meet with the presiding probate judge twice per year, dependent on the current presiding judge's schedule and willingness to meet.</p> <p>Our ultimate goal is to provide the litigants we serve with the tools they need to understand their case and to obtain the outcome they hope to achieve.</p>		

Court Name	Branch (If Applicable)	Address	On-Site Days/Hours	Total Hours/Month
Los Angeles Superior Court	Stanley Mosk Courthouse (Central District)	111 N Hill St, Los Angeles, CA 90012	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00am to 3:00pm	96

Personnel Categories	Project Staff	Total Project FTEs	PG Share of FTEs
Lawyers	Directing Attorney	0.05	0.05
	Supervising Staff Attorney	1	0.95

	New Hire (3rd Year Attorney)	1	0.95
	Lawyers Total	2.05	1.95
Paralegals	Paralegal	1	0.95
		0	0
	Paralegals Total	1	0.95
Other	Program Admin	1	0.95
		0	0
	Other Total	1	0.95

	# Held	# Individuals Served	Services
Individual Services	N/A	0	
Workshops	0	0	
Self-Help Clinics	175	2000	Information on Legal Options; Information on Court Procedures and Hearing; Document Preparation and Review; Filing or Services Assistance; Post-Hearing Assistance

Project Goals	Our ultimate goal is to provide the litigants we serve with the tools they need to understand their case and to obtain the outcome they hope to achieve. We also strive to make proceedings more efficient for the court by ensuring litigants have their pleadings completed properly and completely and by providing assistance with required notice before hearing dates so that the court may proceed without unnecessary delays due to procedural issues.
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Outreach & Community Engagement	Information about the Guardianship Clinic, including its hours and available services, is available on Public Counsel's website and lacourt.org. The Clinic's location and hours are also clearly marked in the Los Angeles Superior Court building. Additionally, the information desk at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse hands out Guardianship Clinic flyers. These flyers are posted on the door of our physical clinic as well as in the clerks' office and in the courtrooms hearing guardianship matters. We have circulated the flyers with partner agencies and have posted them to Public Counsel's social media accounts. Once we are able to establish the aforementioned appointment system, we will work in coordination with the probate investigations' office to schedule appointments.
Attorney-Client Relationship	No

Conflict of Interest Protocols	N/A
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Income Eligibility Guidelines	Public Counsel has established protocols for the Clinic in accordance with current IOLTA guidelines for financial eligibility. We ask that each litigant fill out an intake sheet, the first page of which asks for income information. When we review each intake sheet, we record whether or not the litigant meets the income eligibility guidelines.
Alternative Services	<p>We help pro per litigants who reach out to our Clinic prepare their guardianship forms or pleadings related to guardianship matters. We explain the court procedure for guardianship and give them information regarding the steps for guardianship—including filing, the investigation, and notices to the parties.</p> <p>If a litigant needs help with a legal issue other than guardianship, and it is one that Public Counsel can assist with, we refer the litigant in-house. Otherwise, we refer the litigant to another organization. We routinely refer litigants to the Family Law Resource Center, Maynard Toll Center of the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, and the Restraining Order Center, all of which are located in the Stanley Mosk Courthouse. We refer litigants with conservatorship issues to Bet Tzedek. We refer parents who want legal representation to Levitt & Quinn.</p> <p>If a litigant asks for an attorney to represent them in their guardianship matter, depending on the litigant's income, we: 1) refer them to other local public interest law firms, such as The Alliance for Children's Rights and Bet Tzedek, if they meet the IOLTA guidelines; or 2) refer them to the Los Angeles County Bar Association Referral Service if they do not meet the IOLTA guidelines.</p>
Court's Role	The court is committed to continuing to support the Clinic by providing a centrally located space, equipment, and supplies necessary for the Clinic to operate. We are grateful to the court for offering these much-needed resources to the Clinic.

PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Public Law Center		
Project Name	Adoptive & DeFacto Parent Assistance Project		
Grant Year	Total Budget	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
2024	\$86,075.00	\$65,000	
Currently Funded Partnership Grant	Court Letter(s) on File	Memorandum of Understanding(s) Reviewed	All Services at Courthouse
No	Yes	Pending	Pending

Project Abstract

During the past four years, Public Law Center has provided crucial legal services to hundreds of low-income de facto and adoptive parents in Juvenile Court proceedings in Orange County, California. This project seeks to continue those services, which are unduplicated by any other legal services provider in Orange County. The Orange County Superior Court originally sought a project partner to support de facto and adoptive parents in Juvenile Court proceedings, so the Court can use limited funds for contract attorneys for minor/parent representation. Without this project (and the complementary representation services PLC's Family Law Unit provides), adoptive and de facto parents in Dependency Court termination of parental rights proceedings are at risk of becoming the only parties unrepresented by counsel. PLC staff attorneys and trained volunteers provide: information on legal option, information on court procedures, and document preparation and review. The Project also informs litigants about the benefits and options for finding pro bono counsel. Where appropriate, participants are referred out of the Project to PLC's Family Law Unit for placement with in-house or trained pro bono counsel. The Project name was reoriented to properly reflect that 90% of the 100-120 Project cases per year are for adoptive parents. The Project currently operates as a virtual service with the Court providing referrals through social workers from Orange County Social Services. The Court is an engaged partner, ensuring the Project's success rate remains at 100% and participants receive the high quality services.

Court Name	Branch (If Applicable)	Address	On-Site Days/Hours	Total Hours/Month
Orange County Superior Court	Lamoreaux Justice Center	341 The City Drive S., Orange, CA	Virtual Anytime	60

Personnel Categories	Project Staff	Total Project FTEs	PG Share of FTEs
Lawyers	Staff Attorney	0.4	0.4
	Supervising Attorney	0.05	0
		0	0
	Lawyers Total	0.45	0.4
Paralegals	Paralegal	0.15	0.15
		0	0
	Paralegals Total	0.15	0.15

Other		0	0
		0	0
	Other Total	0	0

	# Held	# Individuals Served	Services
Individual Services	N/A	100	Information on Legal Options; Information on Court Procedures and Hearing; Document Preparation and Review; Other
Workshops	0	0	
Self-Help Clinics	0	0	

Project Goals	PLC's goals are to continue to serve 100 unrepresented adoptive or de facto parents in Juvenile Proceedings through this Project. During the past four years of funding, PLC has annually served 100-120 clients referred by the court. This amounts to PLC serving close to 1/3 of the total number of adoption from foster care cases in Orange County (usually around 350 per year). While Project staff will continue to provide technical assistance and support for clients whom PLC refers out of the clinic for more extensive services from our pro bono network, PLC is not including any goals as to pro bono placement, given that separate funds will be used for those activities.
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Outreach & Community Engagement	Project outreach is built into the work of Social Workers within Orange County Social Services. Project staff knows and interacts regularly with all the social workers who refer cases to the Project. No additional outreach is currently needed, but PLC has competencies to outreach and community education if the need arises.
Attorney-Client Relationship	No

Conflict of Interest Protocols	N/A
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Income Eligibility Guidelines	<p>Project clients are highly likely to be eligible for services, given that the OC Social Services Agency first acts as a type of screener by only referring clients to the Project whom they have already determined to be unrepresented, in financial need, and legally categorized as either an adoptive or a de facto parent in the proceedings. Nonetheless, the Project staff will conduct an intake before serving each client that assesses financial need and other eligibility, based on either self-reported or documented income information. Due to restrictions of the Partnership Grant program, the project will only assist litigants up to the point of pro bono placement by PLC's Family Law Unit. PLC will provide disclosures and additional information to clients in plain, easy-to-understand language. Should Project staff discover after providing services that a given client was non-indigent, PLC will shift to general, unrestricted funds to cover the time spent serving that client and will not count that individual in future reporting.</p>
Alternative Services	<p>Should Project staff encounter a litigant who is not eligible for any PLC service, she will refer them to the Orange County Bar Association's Lawyer Referral Information Service. Parties are highly likely to be eligible for services due to the Court's role in determining adoptive & de facto status and referring litigants to our project. Due to restrictions of the Partnership Grant program, the project will only assist litigants up to the point of pro bono placement by PLC's Family Law Unit.</p>
Court's Role	<p>Although the project is currently operated as a virtual service, the Court has agreed to provide basic space, supplies, and access necessary for PLC to implement this project if it returns as an in-person Courthouse Clinic. The Court has also agreed to continue to meet with PLC on a quarterly basis to identify ways the project can be improved. Social workers from Orange County Social Services will continue to provide information about this Project to unrepresented adoptive or de facto parents and refer their cases to PLC. If the Project transitions back to an in-person space at the Courthouse, signs will be posted outside the courtroom space set aside for the Project and the Orange County Superior Court website will also provide notice of the Project, including time, location and eligibility requirements.</p>

PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program		
Project Name	Central Division Restraining Order Clinic		
Grant Year	Total Budget	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
2024	\$186,254.00	\$140,000	
Currently Funded Partnership Grant	Court Letter(s) on File	Memorandum of Understanding(s) Reviewed	All Services at Courthouse
No	Yes	Yes	Pending

Project Abstract

The Central Division Restraining Order Clinic (CDROC) is a collaboration between San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, Inc. (SDVLP) and the San Diego Superior Court (Court) to assist domestic violence survivors and survivors of elder or dependent adult abuse in obtaining legal protection and referrals for legal and social services providers. SDVLP staff and volunteer attorneys at the CDROC provide one-on-one assistance to survivors of abuse by preparing Domestic Violence, Elder Abuse or Dependent Adult Abuse Restraining Order (DVRO) applications, which survivors file in pro per. The days and hours of operation of the CDROC are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., excluding court holidays. The cut-off for walk-in assistance is 3:30 p.m. The CDROC is located on the 4th floor of the Central Courthouse at 1100 Union Street, San Diego, CA 92101.

Additionally, the CDROC will hold virtual legal workshops and cover topics such as how to interact with the Court, and what constitutes proper service of process. The CDROC will also develop and hold virtual legal workshops for SRLs on hearing preparation and presentation of evidence, and best practices for attending hearings virtually and in person.

Lastly, the CDROC will continue to create a series of short, informational videos on topics related to domestic violence, such as safety planning, the intersection between immigration and domestic violence, the impact of restraining orders on child custody, proper service of process, and how to file evidence. The CDROC will create two to five informational videos to be distributed to clients.

Court Name	Branch (If Applicable)	Address	On-Site Days/Hours	Total Hours/Month
San Diego County Superior Court	Central	1100 Union Street, San Diego, CA 92101	Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Average of 172 hours per month

Personnel Categories	Project Staff	Total Project FTEs	PG Share of FTEs
Lawyers	CEO	0.02	0
	Supervising Attorney & Pro Bono Manager	0.4	0.3
	Staff Attorney	0.5	0.5

	Lawyers Total	0.92	0.8
Paralegals		0	0
		0	0
	Paralegals Total	0	0
Other	Legal Admin Assistant	1.03	0.65
	Pro Bono Administrative Coordinator	0.01	0
	Other Total	1.04	0.65

	# Held	# Individuals Served	Services
Individual Services	N/A	0	
Workshops	36	60	Information on Legal Options; Information on Court Procedures and Hearing
Self-Help Clinics	1	3100	Information on Legal Options; Information on Court Procedures and Hearing; Document Preparation and Review; Filing or Services Assistance; Post-Hearing Assistance; Other

Project Goals	<p>The goal of the CDROC is to keep survivors of domestic violence and elder abuse and their dependents safe from further abuse, through providing quality legal services on restraining order matters. Specifically, the CDROC staff and pro bono attorneys will counsel litigants on restraining order issues and/or draft these orders when necessary to be filed with the Court. The CDROC aims to increase the chances of the litigants obtaining not only the temporary restraining order, but also the permanent restraining order which may be granted after a noticed hearing. The CDROC is located at the Central Courthouse to provide these services in a direct and efficient manner so litigants can obtain their orders of protection within one day. Another related goal of the CDROC is to alleviate some of the burden on the court and court staff of dealing with pro per litigants by providing these litigants with advice, resources, and information so they are better prepared to help themselves. If a litigant does not qualify for a restraining order, CDROC staff still provide them with resources and information so they are able to get the help they need. Lastly, the CDROC aims to encourage the private bar in volunteering with the program, through taking shifts at the clinic, creating or presenting webinars and informational videos on domestic violence/elder abuse topics and/or, with the use of separate funding, taking restraining order cases for direct representation at the restraining order hearing. Engaging the private bar allows the CDROC to</p>
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	offer its services to significantly more people than would be possible with only the CDROC staff.
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Outreach & Community Engagement	<p>SDVLP's CDROC has been in operation at the downtown San Diego Superior Court since 1989. Litigants who come to the courthouse seeking assistance with a DVRO are directed to the CDROC by Court staff including the FLF and business office. Law enforcement routinely refer survivors to the CDROC, as do other DV service providers and social service agencies, such as the two Family Justice Centers (FJC) in San Diego County - One Safe Place and Your Safe Place, Fleet and Family, and Child Welfare Services. The clinic information is also listed on the self-help services section of the San Diego Superior Court's website. Detailed information regarding these services is posted on SDVLP's website, along with information regarding other social service providers (such as 211), and on the CDROC flyer. SDVLP's promotional materials were recently redesigned and the updated materials for our programs and flyers will be distributed to the community.</p> <p>SDVLP staff also attend and co-host community outreach events to provide information on the CDROC directly to potential litigants. For example, during Domestic Violence Awareness month in October 2022, SDVLP participated in the Family Justice Center's Community Resource fair. This event was a chance to meet other providers, and engage members of the community to educate them about domestic violence and services provided by SDVLP, which may be of assistance to them or someone they know. SDVLP staff also regularly attend San Diego Bar Association and other private bar events to educate attorneys where they may refer potential litigants.</p>
Attorney-Client Relationship	Yes

Conflict of Interest Protocols	<p>A conflict check on each potential litigant is performed prior to providing legal services. The CDROC has direct, online access to SDVLP's database for conflict check purposes.</p> <p>SDVLP has an agreement with the Court and the Court's Family Law Facilitator (FLF) wherein those with conflicts are referred to FLF and such litigants receive priority access to the FLF. The FLF's office is located on the same floor as the CDROC, and does not inconvenience the litigant requesting assistance. SDVLP provides a referral slip to the requesting party, so that the FLF is aware of the source and reason for the referral.</p>
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Income Eligibility Guidelines	<p>Applicants are required to complete a brief initial intake form which collects the basic information necessary for clinic staff to determine if there is a conflict.</p> <p>After a determination that there is no conflict, applicants complete an application for legal services which documents the amount and source of their gross monthly income and other basic demographic information. SDVLP has adopted the State Bar of California's Income Guidelines for Pro Bono Programs and applies this criteria program-wide in determining an applicant's eligibility for services. In certain exigent situations in which the applicant requires immediate assistance to obtain protection from abuse, SDVLP will waive the financial eligibility test. In instances where there is not an emergency, applicants who do not fall within these financial eligibility guidelines will be given relevant legal educational materials, referrals to the FLF or referrals to the local bar association lawyer referral service.</p> <p>Applicants meet with a Staff Attorney, or CDROC volunteer for a screening interview to ensure that the subject matter falls within the statutory guidelines for DVROs (or other type of restraining order). Intake personnel are trained on this screening process. Eligible clients who qualify for a DVRO, but are in the wrong venue, will still be assisted in the preparation of the necessary documents, as statutorily, a DVRO may be filed at any courthouse, regardless of venue.</p> <p>Finally, SDVLP does not assist individuals who already have an attorney of record. These individuals will be referred to their attorneys for assistance.</p>
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<p>Alternative Services</p>	<p>When the CDROC recognizes that the litigant is not eligible for CDROC services, the CDROC makes referrals to the proper legal services provider. The list is long and is dependent upon the applicant's legal needs. Common legal provider referrals include the FLF, Family Justice Center, San Diego County Law Library, Public Defender's Office, District Attorney's Office, Legal Aid Society of San Diego, ABA Immigration Justice Project, Access, Inc., Casa Cornelia Law Center, Catholic Charities of San Diego, Employee Rights Center, Immigration Center for Women and Children, International Rescue Committee, Jewish Family Service of San Diego, the University of San Diego School of Law's Legal Clinics or to the San Diego County Bar Association's Lawyer Referral and Information Service.</p> <p>When the CDROC refers litigants who are not eligible for CDROC services to human and social services agencies, the referrals again vary depending upon the litigant's needs. The CDROC frequently makes referrals to other agencies that assist survivors of domestic violence such as the YWCA of San Diego County, South Bay Community Services, Jewish Family Service (Project Sarah), Southern Indian Health Council, License to Freedom, and the LGBTQ Community Center.</p> <p>The CDROC has created a safety planning resource which includes referrals to the San Diego Family Justice Center, 2-1-1 San Diego, 911, San Diego County's 24-Hour DV Hotline, Center for Community Solutions, Women's Resource Center, Community Resource Center, and Crisis House. This resource is provided to all litigants applying for CDROC services.</p>
<p>Court's Role</p>	<p>The Court utilizes the CDROC as the primary legal resource for DVRO litigants. As a result, the Court provides stand-alone office space for SDVLP staff and volunteers on the 4th floor of the Central Courthouse. CDROC staff are provided with badges to access the CDROC space. In addition to this office space, the Court provides the clinic with six desktop computers to support staff and volunteer workstations, a printer, an internal phone line and telephone, and additional utilities. To alleviate potential health and safety concerns arising from interacting with the public as a result of COVID-19, the Court also supplies a hand sanitizing station, rolling sneeze guards, and other safeguard barriers. The Court provides signage so that litigants can easily locate the CDROC and access its services, and lists the CDROC and its services on the Court's website. Additionally, the Court provides security at the CDROC.</p>

PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Senior Citizens Legal Services		
Project Name	2024 Indigent Landlord/Tenant Services and Mediation		
Grant Year	Total Budget	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
2024	\$113,000.00	\$102,000	
Currently Funded Partnership Grant	Court Letter(s) on File	Memorandum of Understanding(s) Reviewed	All Services at Courthouse
No	Yes	Yes	Pending
Project Abstract	<p>The overarching goal of this important Partnership project is to keep people safely housed by educating both sides in housing disputes and promoting mediation prior to unlawful detainer ("UD") hearings. Senior Legal Services ("SLS") has been successfully partnering with the Superior Court of Santa Cruz County ("Court") and contracting with the Conflict Resolution Center ("CRC") since January 2022, and as a result of this partnership has helped Santa Cruz County maintain low levels of eviction filings at the Superior Court. A full time Partnership Legal Advocate provides bilingual, in-person, in pro per services to indigent tenants and landlords at the Santa Cruz County Law Library five days a week. She is available for 26 hours of in person service, and additional 10 hours each week is spent on email and phone pro per services, as well as SLS and Court administrative tasks. Conflict Resolution Center conducts 10-15 pre and post filing UD mediations each month, at a location designated by CRC or via zoom. Services are promoted via e-mail to non-profit, government and legal organizations throughout the County and to the general public through media outlets and social media. The target population for these Partnership services are indigent landlords and tenants from across Santa Cruz County; all share a grave concern about housing and do not have private representation.</p>		

Court Name	Branch (If Applicable)	Address	On-Site Days/Hours	Total Hours/Month
Santa Cruz Superior Court	Santa Cruz	701 Ocean Street, Rm 070, Santa Cruz, CA 95060	M-Th 8:30 - 12:15 and 12:45 - 5:00 and F 8:30-12	144

Personnel Categories	Project Staff	Total Project FTEs	PG Share of FTEs
Lawyers		0	0
		0	0
		0	0
	Lawyers Total	0	0
Paralegals		0	0
		0	0
	Paralegals Total	0	0
Other	Partnership Project Advocate	1	1

		0	0
	Other Total	1	1

	# Held	# Individuals Served	Services
Individual Services	N/A	850	Information on Legal Options; Information on Court Procedures and Hearing; Document Preparation and Review; Filing or Services Assistance; Supervised Settlement Services; Post-Hearing Assistance
Workshops	0	0	
Self-Help Clinics	0	0	

Project Goals	<p>The partnership project is currently in its second year, and does still carry forth the same four goals as originally proposed:</p> <p>Goal 1: Expand service capacity for Superior Court of Santa Cruz's unlawful detainer calendar and in pro per housing related services in Santa Cruz County.</p> <p>Goal 2: Provide earlier access to mediation as an alternative to the standard unlawful detainer docket.</p> <p>Goal 3: Preserve Court resources by having properly prepared self-represented litigants, particularly with properly prepared documents, correct venue, service, and adequate courtroom presentation.</p> <p>Goal 4: Increase project participant satisfaction with the partnership project services compared with other standard services provided that are not part of the project.</p> <p>Though these four goals remain consistent, experience has shown us, that our team does not have a solid means of proving that Goal 3 is being met, primarily because the courthouse was offering Housing Law services and assisting landlords and tenants with properly prepared documents before this Partnership project began. Our team is exploring options for more closely tracking documents completed while in the law library. However, our team has pointed out that it is difficult to track the 'outcome' of these self-help individual cases since the services provided do not include advice or legal representation.</p> <p>These realistic goals will continue to be met through the combined commitment and leadership of the Court, Senior Legal Services, the Conflict Resolution Center and oversight through the state.</p>
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Outreach & Community Engagement	<p>While we did conduct some tabling and community outreach in 2022, we will limit our 2024 services to in person information and mediation services only.</p> <p>We will continue to promote the availability of these services via the SLS mail chimp list serv email to all non-profit, government and legal organizations in the Santa Cruz County jurisdiction. Print and social media outreach may also still be conducted as marketing these important services can potentially lead to housing problems being caught significantly "upstream" leading to more people remaining safely housed.</p>
Attorney-Client Relationship	No

Conflict of Interest Protocols	N/A
Income Eligibility Guidelines	<p>Services are targeted for indigent individuals under this partnership project. The Court is responsible for review and documentation of indigent status at the Law Library. To determine initial eligibility, the Project Advocate will use an already established intake form that includes the Self Help Center's screening questions and additional questions about income have been added specifically to this form. At the Courthouse, the Law Librarian will generally be available to screen the individual and direct the person to the project advocate, if eligible. If the individual is over income and not a senior, they will be fortunately be assisted using other available resources right at the law library.</p> <p>From a practical stand point, historically, the Law Library and Self Help Center has not seen income restriction be a problem. The Court's Self Help Center and SLS had one previous partnership grant which began in 2008 and had similar income restrictions for conservatorship cases. Very few customers presented above income and virtually every customer was grateful for the legal assistance they received whether from the project staff or other Self Help Center staff. Similarly, the law library has very few inquiries from housing law customers who are over resource limits and fortunately adequate alternative resources are available for those who are above income.</p>
Alternative Services	<p>As stated above, the law library has staff who can provide housing law services to anyone who is not income eligible for Partnership services. Additional referrals may be made to the County's Lawyer Referral Service, or the Watsonville Law Center or CRLA, if required. The Project Advocate, or law library staff can also show the over-income consumer how to locate the court forms online while providing other referrals and explaining that services from the partnership project will not be available.</p>

Court's Role	<p>Customers benefit from access to the wealth of resources already offered at the Santa Cruz Law Library. Six large tables, computers, copiers, internet services and other routine supplies are provided. These public computers are linked to the California Court's On-line Self Help center, have access to Nolo Press books and include programs to prepare required judicial council forms. Security at the court-site is handled by court staff and by the Santa Cruz County Sheriff.</p> <p>The Partnership Advocate is considered a 'quasi-court' employee and is equipped with courthouse access and a desktop workstation at the Law Library. The court desktop will be linked to the Courthouse Odyssey internal case database which proves invaluable in helping staff understand what services customers may need for already existing UD matters. The desktop will also be used in responding to email and phone calls from landlords and tenants from Santa Cruz. In-kind service through personnel, space use, and other Partnership Project collaboration, from the Court, and from the Conflict Resolution Center, and community-based partners, is aiding the successful implementation of the project. The Partnership Advocate also has access to office space, computers, a printer, and all necessary tools at SLS, which allows for work at SLS to offer pro per services.</p>
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2024 Partnership Grant Rubric Scores and Tentative Funding Recommendations

To be completed at the May 17, 2023 Partnership Grants Committee Meeting

Total Amount Requested	\$5,062,000
Total Amount Available	TBD
2023 Total Amount Awarded (for reference)	\$2,786,034

Organization Name	Project Name	Amount Requested	Counties	Years Funded	Selection Criteria (85 pts)	Funding Priorities (15pts)	Optional-Innovation (up to 5pts)	TOTAL	Tentative Funding Recommendation (as of 5/17/23)
Alliance for Children's Rights	Permanency Benefits Clinic Court Partnership	\$ 163,000	Los Angeles	0	66.9	10.0	3.3	80.2	
Bet Tzedek Legal Services	Remote Pro Se Technology Initiative	\$ 150,000	Los Angeles	2	65.0	5.0	1.2	71.2	
Bet Tzedek Legal Services	Decedent Estate Self-Help Clinic	\$ 165,000	Los Angeles	2	70.8	5.0	0.8	76.7	
California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.	San Joaquin County Housing Helpline Court Clinic Partnership	\$ 132,000	San Joaquin	2	75.0	5.0	1.0	81.0	
Central California Legal Services	Guardianship Project	\$ 90,000	Fresno	8	82.5	5.7	2.3	90.5	
Community Legal Aid SoCal	Norwalk Consumer Debt Series 2024	\$ 34,000	Los Angeles	1	63.3	5.0	1.0	69.3	
Community Legal Aid SoCal	Compton Self-Help Economic Expansion Project Year 3	\$ 91,000	Los Angeles	2	59.2	5.0	0.0	64.2	
Community Legal Aid SoCal	Orange County Consumer Debt Series 2024	\$ 67,000	Orange	1	59.2	5.0	0.5	64.7	
Elder Law & Advocacy	Imperial County Restraining Order Clinic	\$ 92,000	Imperial	1	64.0	10.0	0.2	74.2	
Family Violence Law Center	Domestic Violence Pro Per (DVPP) Project	\$ 25,000	Alameda	7	82.0	5.0	0.4	87.4	
Inland Counties Legal Services	Family Law Assistance Project (FLAP)	\$ 141,000	Riverside	2	74.2	10.0	2.2	86.3	
Inland Counties Legal Services	Consumer Rights Clinic (CRC) EXPANDED	\$ 255,000	San Bernardino,Riverside	3	72.5	10.0	1.5	84.0	
Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco	Family Law Assisted Self Help (FLASH) Project	\$ 70,000	San Francisco	1	80.8	5.0	2.2	88.0	
LACBA Counsel for Justice	Domestic Violence Legal Services Project (DVP)	\$ 104,000	Los Angeles	5	85.0	5.0	1.5	91.5	
Legal Access Alameda	Family Law Day of Court	\$ 25,000	Alameda	7	79.0	5.0	0.4	84.4	
Legal Access Alameda	Family Law Status Conference	\$ 65,000	Alameda	4	80.0	6.0	1.0	87.0	
Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles	Torrance Self Help Center Access Project	\$ 100,000	Los Angeles	4	80.0	5.0	2.5	87.5	
Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles	Remote Self Help Center Access Project	\$ 100,000	Los Angeles	2	75.0	5.0	1.7	81.7	
Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County	Legal Resource Center Partnership	\$ 156,000	Santa Barbara	4	60.0	10.0	1.5	71.5	
Legal Aid of Marin	Homelessness Prevention Through Mandatory Settlement Conferences	\$ 80,000	Marin	3	80.0	10.0	0.2	90.2	
Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino	Caregivers and Small Estates Accessing Justice (CSEAJ)	\$ 165,000	San Bernardino	2	80.8	10.0	1.0	91.8	
Legal Aid Society of San Diego	East County Restraining Order Clinic	\$ 190,000	San Diego	1	80.0	10.0	0.0	90.0	
Legal Aid Society of San Diego	South Bay Restraining Order Project	\$ 180,000	San Diego	1	80.0	5.0	0.0	85.0	
Legal Assistance for Seniors	Partnership to Assist Guardianship Litigants	\$ 55,000	Alameda	12	75.0	5.0	0.0	80.0	
Legal Assistance for Seniors	Partnership to Assist Limited Conservatorship Litigants	\$ 50,000	Alameda	4	77.0	5.0	0.0	82.0	
Mental Health Advocacy Services	Mental Health Court Clinic	\$ 180,000	Los Angeles	1	71.3	5.0	3.0	79.3	
Neighborhood Legal Services	POMONA - READY FOR TRIAL!	\$ 107,000	Los Angeles	1	72.0	5.0	4.0	81.0	
Neighborhood Legal Services	PASADENA - CONTINUUM OF SERVICE	\$ 150,000	Los Angeles	3	72.0	5.0	0.2	77.2	
Neighborhood Legal Services	STABILIZING FAMILIES PROJECT	\$ 110,000	Los Angeles	3	71.0	10.0	0.2	81.2	
Neighborhood Legal Services	San Gabriel Valley - Remote Services - Housing	\$ 195,000	Los Angeles	1	65.0	5.0	0.8	70.8	
Neighborhood Legal Services	REMOTE ACCESS - LA	\$ 338,000	Los Angeles	1	61.0	5.0	0.8	66.8	
Neighborhood Legal Services	BRIDGE TO SELF-HELP	\$ 288,000	Los Angeles	1	70.0	5.0	3.4	78.4	
Public Counsel	Further Expansion of Appellate Clinic	\$ 203,000	Los Angeles,Santa Barbara,Ventura,San Luis Obispo	6	62.5	5.0	1.2	68.7	
Public Counsel	Guardianship Clinic	\$ 439,000	Los Angeles	13	75.0	5.0	0.8	80.8	
Public Law Center	Adoptive & DeFacto Parent Assistance Project	\$ 65,000	Orange	4	66.3	5.0	0.0	71.3	
San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program	Central Division Restraining Order Clinic	\$ 140,000	San Diego	4	60.7	10.0	0.0	70.7	
Senior Citizens Legal Services	2024 Indigent Landlord/Tenant Services and Mediation	\$ 102,000	Santa Cruz	2	65.0	10.0	0.0	75.0	

2024 Partnership Grant Rubric Scores and Final Funding Recommendations

To be completed at the July 19, 2023 Partnership Grants Committee Meeting

Total Amount Requested	\$5,062,000
Total Amount Available	\$4,694,497
2023 Total Amount Awarded (for reference)	\$2,786,034
2023 Total Amount Available for Distribution (for reference)	\$3,501,479

PG Funding Ranges

Grant Year	Min	Max	Total
2022 (12 months)	\$21,000	\$120,000	\$2.58M
PG 2.0 (21 months)	\$4,000	\$300,000	\$3.88M
2023 (12 months)	\$25,000	\$159,000	\$2.79M
2024 (12 months)	TBD	TBD	\$4.69M

Organization Name	Project Name	Years Funded	Selection Criteria (85 pts)	Funding Priorities (15pts)	Optional Innovation (up to 5pts)	TOTAL	Requested Grant Amount	PG Committee Tentative Funding Recommendations (as of 5/17/23)	PG Committee Funding Recommendations (as of 7/19/23)
Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino	Caregivers and Small Estates Accessing Justice (CSEAJ)	2	80.8	10.0	1.0	91.8	\$ 165,000	\$ 165,000	
IACBA Counsel for Justice	Domestic Violence Legal Services Project (DVP)	5	85.0	5.0	1.5	91.5	\$ 104,000	\$ 104,000	
Central California Legal Services	Guardianship Project	8	82.5	5.7	2.3	90.5	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	
Legal Aid of Marin	Homelessness Prevention Through Mandatory Settlement Conferer	3	80.0	10.0	0.2	90.2	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	
Legal Aid Society of San Diego	East County Restraining Order Clinic	1	80.0	10.0	0.0	90.0	\$ 190,000	\$ 175,000	
Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco	Family Law Assisted Self Help (FLASH) Project	1	80.8	5.0	2.2	88.0	\$ 70,000	\$ 70,000	
Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles	Torrance Self Help Center Access Project	4	80.0	5.0	2.5	87.5	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	
Family Violence Law Center	Domestic Violence Pro Per (DVPP) Project	7	82.0	5.0	0.4	87.4	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	
Legal Access Alameda	Family Law Status Conference	4	80.0	6.0	1.0	87.0	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000	
Inland Counties Legal Services	Family Law Assistance Project (FLAP)	2	74.2	10.0	2.2	86.3	\$ 141,000	\$ 141,000	
Legal Aid Society of San Diego	South Bay Restraining Order Project	1	80.0	5.0	0.0	85.0	\$ 180,000	\$ 175,000	
Legal Access Alameda	Family Law Day of Court	7	79.0	5.0	0.4	84.4	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	
Inland Counties Legal Services	Consumer Rights Clinic (CRC) EXPANDED	3	72.5	10.0	1.5	84.0	\$ 255,000	\$ 175,000	
Legal Assistance for Seniors	Partnership to Assist Limited Conservatorship Litigants	4	77.0	5.0	0.0	82.0	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	
Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles	Remote Self Help Center Access Project	2	75.0	5.0	1.7	81.7	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	
Neighborhood Legal Services	STABILIZING FAMILIES PROJECT	3	71.0	10.0	0.2	81.2	\$ 110,000	\$ 110,000	
California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.	San Joaquin County Housing Helpline Court Clinic Partnership	2	75.0	5.0	1.0	81.0	\$ 132,000	\$ 132,000	
Neighborhood Legal Services	POMONA - READY FOR TRIAL!	1	72.0	5.0	4.0	81.0	\$ 107,000	\$ 107,000	
Public Counsel	Guardianship Clinic	13	75.0	5.0	0.8	80.8	\$ 439,000	\$ 175,000	
Alliance for Children's Rights	Permanency Benefits Clinic Court Partnership	0	66.9	10.0	3.3	80.2	\$ 163,000	\$ 163,000	
Legal Assistance for Seniors	Partnership to Assist Guardianship Litigants	12	75.0	5.0	0.0	80.0	\$ 55,000	\$ 55,000	
Mental Health Advocacy Services	Mental Health Court Clinic	1	71.3	5.0	3.0	79.3	\$ 180,000	\$ 157,500	
Neighborhood Legal Services	BRIDGE TO SELF-HELP	1	70.0	5.0	3.4	78.4	\$ 288,000	\$ 157,500	
Neighborhood Legal Services	PASADENA - CONTINUUM OF SERVICE	3	72.0	5.0	0.2	77.2	\$ 150,000	\$ 135,000	
Bet Tzedek Legal Services	Decedent Estate Self-Help Clinic	2	70.8	5.0	0.8	76.7	\$ 165,000	\$ 148,500	
Senior Citizens Legal Services	2024 Indigent Landlord/Tenant Services and Mediation	2	65.0	10.0	0.0	75.0	\$ 102,000	\$ 91,800	
Elder Law & Advocacy	Imperial County Restraining Order Clinic	1	64.0	10.0	0.2	74.2	\$ 92,000	\$ 82,800	
Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County	Legal Resource Center Partnership	4	60.0	10.0	1.5	71.5	\$ 156,000	\$ 140,400	
Public Law Center	Adoptive & DeFacto Parent Assistance Project	4	66.3	5.0	0.0	71.3	\$ 65,000	\$ 58,500	
Bet Tzedek Legal Services	Remote Pro Se Technology Initiative	2	65.0	5.0	1.2	71.2	\$ 150,000	\$ 135,000	
Neighborhood Legal Services	San Gabriel Valley - Remote Services - Housing	1	65.0	5.0	0.8	70.8	\$ 195,000	\$ -	
San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program	Central Division Restraining Order Clinic	4	60.7	10.0	0.0	70.7	\$ 140,000	\$ 126,000	
Community Legal Aid SoCal	Norwalk Consumer Debt Series 2024	1	63.3	5.0	1.0	69.3	\$ 34,000	\$ -	
Public Counsel	Further Expansion of Appellate Clinic	6	62.5	5.0	1.2	68.7	\$ 203,000	\$ -	
Neighborhood Legal Services	REMOTE ACCESS - LA	1	61.0	5.0	0.8	66.8	\$ 338,000	\$ -	
Community Legal Aid SoCal	Orange County Consumer Debt Series 2024	1	59.2	5.0	0.5	64.7	\$ 67,000	\$ -	
Community Legal Aid SoCal	Compton Self-Help Economic Expansion Project Year 3	2	59.2	5.0	0.0	64.2	\$ 91,000	\$ -	

Available	\$ 3,501,479	\$ 3,501,479	\$4,694,497
Distributed	\$ 5,062,000	\$ 3,515,000	TBD
Remaining	(\$1,560,521)	(\$13,521)	TBD
# of Projects	37	31	TBD