



The State Bar of California

Legal Services Trust Fund Commission (LSTFC) Bank Grants Committee Teleconference

Open Session Minutes
Friday, July 28, 2023
1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

Time Meeting Commenced: The LSTFC Bank Grants Committee meeting commenced in open session at 1:08 PM

Time Meeting Adjourned: 2:08 PM

Chair: Tammy Mahoney

Committee Coordinator: Jennifer Zelnick

Members Present: Jeff Ball, James Meeker, Tammy Mahoney

Members Absent: Diana Kruze

Advisors Present: None

Advisors Absent: None

Liaisons Present: Laura Brown (Judicial Council), Lorin Kline (LAAC)

Liaisons Absent: Salena Copeland (LAAC), Melanie Snider (Judicial Council)

Staff Present: Rocio Avalos, Christal Bundang, Mikey Chong, Shannon Crossley, Brady Dewar, Brittany Veal, Jennifer Zelnick

OPEN SESSION

1. Call to Order

The LSTFC Bank Grants Committee was called to order by Chair Mahoney.

2. Roll Call

Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

Chair Mahoney called for public comment, inquiring as to whether there were person(s) who wished to comment on any agenda item. There were no members of the public who wished to speak on any agenda item.

3. Approval of Minutes

3.1 Open Session Minutes: February 2, 2022

RESOLVED, that the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission Bank Grants Committee approves the Open Session Minutes from the February 2, 2022, meeting, as posted on the agenda.

Moved by Ball, seconded by Meeker.

Ayes – (3) Ball, Meeker, Mahoney

Noes – (0)

Abstain – (0)

Absent – (1) Kruze

Motion carries.

4. Discussion and Action Items

4.1 Report on 2016–2022 Bank Grant Evaluations

Presenter: Jennifer Zelnick, Senior Program Analyst, Office of Access & Inclusion and Michael Chong, Program Analyst, Office of Access & Inclusion

Discussion only.

Program Analyst Michael Chong discussed past grant distributions to a total of 75 different organizations for 123 unique projects. He provided an overview of evaluation data, which revealed the highest area of both economic and main benefits as housing law, with over \$241 million recovered and over \$24 million saved for clients, and with 26,818 people benefitted by services. Looking forward, the State Bar will utilize lessons learned to improve reporting and data collection, and ensure that a new Bank Grant is awarded in 2024.

4.2 Approve the Request for Proposals for the 2024 –2025 Bank Grants

Presenter: Jennifer Zelnick, Senior Program Analyst, Office of Access & Inclusion

Presentation, discussion, and vote.

Zelnick reminded the Bank Grants Committee that, to date, 197 Bank Grants have been awarded totaling \$46.96 million, and there is approximately \$4.7 million remaining for a final distribution in 2024. She reviewed the proposed timeline, eligibility criteria, request for proposals (RFP), and scoring rubric for the planning and distribution of the remaining funds. Zelnick explained that, in addition to the standard rubric categories of project impact and strategies, administration, and project evaluation, projects will be evaluated on whether they serve rural populations and on the quality of the proposed partnerships and/or subgrants. Strategic subgrants will be weighted more heavily than partnerships alone. Commissioner Meeker noted that the scoring team should check to ensure applicants understand and articulate how their projects will serve rural populations according to the criteria stated in the RFP.

RESOLVED, That the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission (LSTFC) Bank Grants Committee, acting on behalf of the LSTFC under its delegated authority, approves the grantmaking timeline, request for proposals, scoring rubric, and reporting requirements for the 2024–2025 bank grants as described during the Committee meeting on July 28, 2023.

Moved by Ball, seconded by Meeker.

Ayes – (3) Ball, Meeker, Mahoney

Noes – (0)

Abstain – (0)

Absent – (1) Kruze

Motion carries.

4.3 Update on the Leadership Bank Program

Presenter: Rocío Ávalos, Program Director I, Office of Access & Inclusion

Rocio reviewed the creation and history of the Leadership Bank Program. She listed the 17 current Leadership Banks including two new additions, which are listed on the State Bar website. Some possible avenues that State Bar staff identified to enhance Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) revenue are:

1. Revamping communications and develop informational materials for the Leadership Bank Program;
2. Building deeper relationships with banks; and
3. IOLTA portal enhancements.

RESOLVED: That the Bank Grant Committee approve the formation of a Leadership Bank working group to develop recommendations on behalf of the Bank Grant Committee regarding the Leadership Bank Program and IOLTA Revenue.

Moved by Meeker, seconded by Ball.

Ayes – (3) Ball, Meeker, Mahoney

Noes – (0)

Abstain – (0)

Absent – (1) Kruze

Motion carries.

ADJOURN