



The State Bar of California

OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEM 50-7 NOVEMBER 2023

DATE: November 16, 2023

TO: Members, Board of Trustees

FROM: Doan Nguyen, Program Director, Office of Access & Inclusion
Erica Carroll, Lead Program Analyst, Office of Access & Inclusion

SUBJECT: Proposed Amendments to State Bar Rules Related to Legal Services Trust Fund Program (Rules 3.661, 3.670, 3.673, 3.680; and Proposed New State Bar Rule 3.683): Return from Public Comment and Request for Approval

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Legal Services Trust Fund Commission (LSTFC) administers civil legal aid grants to nonprofit organizations serving indigent persons throughout California with the support of the State Bar's Office of Access & Inclusion. The work of the LSTFC is governed by California Business and Professions Code sections 6210-6228 and the Rules of the State Bar of California under Title 3, Division 5, Chapter 2. The LSTFC has undertaken a codification process to recommend updates to the existing rules. Goals of this process include, but are not limited to, clarifying grant eligibility and compliance parameters; improving efficiency and fairness in grants administration; and ensuring all grant requirements are contained in the governing authorities.

In August 2023, the LSTFC tentatively approved the proposed new and revised rules; Office of Access & Inclusion staff then circulated the rules for a 45-day comment period.¹ The comment period closed on October 23, 2023, and the State Bar received two comments in response to the proposed changes; as discussed below, no changes to the rules are recommended as a result of the comments.

Under Business and Professions Code section 6210.5, subsections (e)(1) and (e)(3), the Board of Trustees shall approve the LSTFC's recommended changes unless "a recommendation conflicts with a statutory, fiduciary, or legal obligation of the State Bar." The State Bar's Office of General

¹ The proposed change to Rule 3.661 is merely an administrative update and was not circulated for public comment.

Counsel reviewed the proposed rules and identified no such conflicts. The rules are recommended for approval.

BACKGROUND

LSTFC CODIFICATION PROCESS

In 2019, the BOT undertook a review of the functions of all its subentities and advisory bodies. A stakeholder working group was convened to obtain feedback on the work of the LSTFC specifically. As a result of that process, in early 2020, the LSTFC developed a long-term plan to examine the existing Rules of the State Bar pertaining to the Legal Services Trust Fund Program, as well as the accompanying Eligibility Guidelines for the two types of legal aid grantees (legal services projects and support centers). The statute creating the LSTFC, and the Rules of the State Bar, are official, binding authority for the LSTFC and grantees regarding legal aid grant requirements. The Eligibility Guidelines provide further explanation and context for the requirements under the statute and rules. However, the guidelines are not intended to expand or alter existing requirements. The codification process intends to harmonize all the governing authorities and examine whether the guidelines are still useful once proposed updates to the Rules of the State Bar become effective.

The LSTFC established a Rules Committee to review the existing authorities and suggest updates and revisions to the rules. With the help of the Legal Aid Association of California (LAAC), the Rules Committee has circulated preliminary recommendations to, and solicited feedback from, the existing legal aid grantees regarding the impact of the proposed changes. This approach has yielded a high level of engagement from major stakeholders in the codification process.

The rule changes addressed in this agenda item include the establishment of an IOLTA reserve policy; the definition of “fee generating case” and its relevance to grants administration; the review process for competitive discretionary grants; the operation of law school clinical programs; and a minor administrative update indicating that the LSTFC uses the most recent version of the American Bar Association’s Standards for the Provision of Civil Legal Aid as its quality control standards. (For additional details regarding the specific rule changes, see the LSTFC memorandum in Attachment A.) The LSTFC has discussed and approved each of the rule revisions in this memorandum. Under Business and Professions Code section 6210.5, subsections (e)(1) and (e)(3), the BOT shall approve the LSTFC’s recommended changes unless “a recommendation conflicts with a statutory, fiduciary, or legal obligation of the State Bar.”

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED

The public comment period closed on October 23, 2023, and the State Bar received two comments in response to the proposed rule changes. Staff believes that the low number of comments received after the proposed rules were released may be attributed, in part, to the fact that the LSTFC has proactively engaged the stakeholders most impacted by these rule changes—the legal aid community—throughout the codification process. This impression is supported by the letter submitted by LAAC in favor of the changes.

Both comments received were generally in favor of the proposed changes. (One agreed, and the other agreed with recommended modifications.) However, the substance of the suggestions primarily related to implementation of the rules, rather than the contents of the proposed rules themselves. (The text of the public comment received appears in Attachment B.)

DISCUSSION

RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS

Under Business and Professions Code section 6210.5, the LSTFC is charged with recommending rules related to grants administration to the BOT. Consequently, the LSTFC is responsible for necessary updates to improve the existing grants administration process. As noted above, the two comments received were mostly in favor, and their suggestions for implementation will be shared with the LSTFC. Accordingly, staff does not recommend any changes to the proposed rules based on these public comments.

The LSTFC will be provided an update at its November 9, 2023, meeting regarding the public comment received. The LSTFC already tentatively approved recommending the rules revisions, and staff does not anticipate any changes prior to the Board's review, given that the public comments received did not advocate changes to the rules themselves or were previously addressed by the LSTFC. (Redline and clean versions of the proposed rule changes appear in Attachments C and D, respectively.)

Addressing the issues presented through these proposed rule changes will improve efficiency and fairness in the grantmaking process. System improvements are always desirable but given the current level of grantmaking by the State Bar—which will have distributed almost \$150 million in legal aid funding this year alone—these changes are imperative to ensure all involved have sufficient guidance to execute the requirements of the grants and administer them with confidence and accuracy.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MUST APPROVE THE PROPOSED RULE CHANGES ABSENT ANY CONFLICT WITH STATUTORY, FIDUCIARY, OR LEGAL OBLIGATIONS OF THE STATE BAR

The LSTFC must obtain Board approval for certain decisions, including these proposed rule changes, but, pursuant to statute, such approval must be given unless the LSTFC's recommendations conflict with the statutory, fiduciary, or legal obligations of the State Bar. (Bus. & Prof. Code, section 6210.5(e)(1) & (3).) The LSTFC does not believe that its current proposals create any conflict with such requirements. The Office of General Counsel has been involved in all stages of the codification process and agrees that the proposed rule changes do not conflict with any statutory, fiduciary, or legal obligations of the State Bar. The rules are recommended for approval.

FISCAL/PERSONNEL IMPACT

None

AMENDMENTS TO RULES OF THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA

Title 3, Division 5, Chapter 2, Rules 3.661, 3.670, 3.673, 3.680; and Proposed New State Bar Rule 3.683.

AMENDMENTS TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES POLICY MANUAL

None

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS & IMPLEMENTATION STEPS

Goal 2. Protect the Public by Enhancing Access to and Inclusion in the Legal System

RECOMMENDATIONS

Should the Board of Trustees concur in the proposed action, passage of the following resolution is recommended:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees, hereby approves and adopts the proposed amendments to the Rules of the State Bar relating to the Legal Services Trust Fund Program—Rules 3.661, 3.670, 3.673, 3.680, and 3.683 (new rule)—as set forth in Attachment D.

ATTACHMENTS LIST

- A.** Memorandum to LSTFC with Proposed Rules for Public Comment
- B.** Text of Public Comments Received
- C.** Proposed Revisions to Rules of the State Bar Regarding the Legal Services Trust Fund Program – Redline
- D.** Proposed Revisions to Rules of the State Bar Regarding the Legal Services Trust Fund Program – Clean Version



**OPEN SESSION
AGENDA ITEM XX
NOVEMBR 2023
LEGAL SERVICES TRUST FUND COMMISSION**

DATE: August 25, 2023

TO: Members, Legal Services Trust Fund Commission

FROM: State Bar of California, Office of Access & Inclusion

SUBJECT: Proposed Amendments to State Bar Rules 3.670, 3.673, 3.680; and Proposed New State Bar Rule 3.683: Circulation for Public Comment

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Legal Services Trust Fund Commission (LSTFC) administers civil legal aid grants to nonprofit organizations serving indigent persons throughout California with the support of the State Bar's Office of Access & Inclusion. The work of the LSTFC is governed by California Business & Professions Code sections 6210-6228 and the Rules of the State Bar of California under Title 3, Division 5, Chapter 2. The LSTFC is undertaking an extensive codification process to recommend updates to the existing rules. The goals of this process include, but are not limited to, clarifying grant eligibility and compliance parameters; improving efficiency and fairness in grants administration; and ensuring all grant requirements are contained in the governing authorities.

The LSTFC created a Rules Committee to explore these issues in depth. In order to ensure the codification process is collaborative and inclusive, the Rules Committee established working groups with LSTFC members and State Bar staff to engage in initial discussion around the topics presented here. Then, as a major stakeholder in this process, the legal aid community was consulted for its feedback before the Rules Committee formulated a recommendation to the LSTFC. All new and revised rules in this memorandum have been considered and recommended for approval by the LSTFC. They are now being released for a 45-day public comment period prior to being submitted to the State Bar's Board of Trustees for final approval.

BACKGROUND

LSTFC CODIFICATION PROCESS

The LSTFC was established within the State Bar in 1981 as the oversight body to administer funds intended to support the provision of free civil legal services in California to indigent persons. In early 2020, the LSTFC developed a long-term plan to examine the existing Rules of the State Bar pertaining to the Legal Services Trust Fund Program, as well as the accompanying Eligibility Guidelines for the two types of legal aid grantees (legal services projects and support centers).

The statute creating the LSTFC, and the Rules of the State Bar, are official, binding authority for the LSTFC and grantees regarding legal aid grant requirements. The Eligibility Guidelines provide further explanation and context for the requirements under the statute and rules. However, the guidelines are not intended to expand or alter existing requirements; in the event of any conflict between the guidelines and the statute and/or State Bar Rules, the statute and rules would control. The codification process intends to harmonize all the governing authorities and examine whether the guidelines are still useful once proposed updates to the Rules of the State Bar become effective.

To consolidate and clarify the governing authorities as much as possible, the LSTFC established its Rules Committee to review the existing authorities and suggest updates and revisions to the Rules of the State Bar. Since the inception of the Rules Committee, several working groups comprised of State Bar staff and LSTFC members have convened to identify and discuss gaps or areas for improvement within the governing authorities. In collaboration with the Legal Aid Association of California, these working groups have disseminated preliminary recommendations to existing legal aid grantees, soliciting feedback regarding the impact of the proposed changes. For larger topics, State Bar staff has also convened focus groups of grantees. This approach has yielded a high level of engagement from major stakeholders in the codification process.

After incorporating feedback from the preliminary recommendations, the Rules Committee reviews the final proposed rule changes before making a recommendation to the full LSTFC. The LSTFC has discussed and approved each of the recommendations in this memorandum. The topics addressed through these rule changes relate to fundamental grant administration obligations, including the establishment of a reserve for IOLTA funds; the interpretation of “fee-generating work”; the review process for discretionary grants; and the requirements of law school clinic applicants.

SUMMARY OF TOPICS ADDRESSED AND PROPOSED CHANGES

IOLTA Reserve Policy

This topic relates to the development of a new Interest on Lawyers’ Trust Accounts (IOLTA) grant reserve policy. Though the IOLTA statute (Bus. & Prof. Code sections 6210–6228) allows

for the creation of a “reasonable reserve” under section 6216, there currently exists no official guidance regarding the contributions to, and maintenance of, a reserve of IOLTA funds. This proposal would establish a more reasonable and reliable method for determining grant distributions by only requiring IOLTA revenue projections for the remainder of the year, rather than over a period of two years. It would also establish parameters for the reserve, including guidance to make minimum contributions to the reserve in each year of increasing revenue; the creation of a separate restricted account for the reserve funds so it is clear how much has been set aside and when, or under what circumstances, those funds can be accessed; and setting a maximum permissible reserve of \$25 million to maintain emphasis on grant distribution while ensuring the ability to stabilize and mitigate the impact on grantees when revenue is decreasing.

Under the proposed rule, the LSTFC would retain a significant amount of discretion regarding IOLTA grant distribution determinations and reserve contribution amounts (e.g., it could choose to contribute more than the minimum to the reserve in a given year, could increase the maximum reserve balance due to inflation or when grant distributions would otherwise more than double, and allow multiyear spending on typically one-year grants, where appropriate). However, the rule also provides specific criteria for accessing funds once they become part of the reserve, including considerations like catastrophic events or significant declines in interest revenue.

The proposed rule will assist the LSTFC in making decisions regarding arguably one of its most important functions: ensuring continued legal aid funding through the judicious distribution and oversight of IOLTA revenue funds. For further discussion of this topic, consult Attachment A.

Fee Generating Work and Contingency Fee Arrangements

By statute, IOLTA/EAF funds may not be used for the provision of legal assistance in a “fee generating case,” except in accordance with guidelines set by the State Bar. Under Business and Professions Code section 6213(e), the State Bar has the authority to set out guidelines for when IOLTA/EAF funds may be used in fee generating cases. The proposed revision to Rule 3.673 would clarify the definition of a “fee generating case” to align with the analogous definition in the Federal Legal Services Corporation Act of 1974. A second revision would clarify that funds recovered from exempt cases must only be used for providing legal services to the indigent. Finally, the LSTFC recommends requiring grant recipients to certify that any work on a case determined to be a “fee generating case” satisfies one of the statutory exemptions. This self-certification must be included in a recipient’s annual IOLTA/EAF application. Other than the certification requirement, these proposed revisions to Rule 3.673 are intended to be non-substantive. For further discussion of this topic, consult Attachment B.

Review Process for Competitive Discretionary Grants

This topic addresses standardization of the State Bar’s competitive discretionary grants. Applicants that qualify for IOLTA and EAF funds may also be eligible to apply for competitive

discretionary grants administered by the LSTFC. As new funding opportunities become available, based on recent trends, it is anticipated that the State Bar will continue to administer additional competitive discretionary grants.

Unlike formula grants where awards are allocated based on a statutory formula, discretionary grant awards are based on recommendations from committees tasked with reviewing the grant applications. While not required, the standard practice of current committees has been to develop and implement a scoring rubric for their respective grants to aid in this review process.

In efforts to streamline and provide continuity across grants, the proposed rule seeks to codify the use of a scoring rubric to aid in the review and evaluation of competitive discretionary grant applications. It further requires that the rubric consist of the general selection criteria of Impact, Administration, and Evaluation, and other grant-specific criteria. Selection criteria, point allocations, and implementation of the scoring rubric will be at the discretion of the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission. For further discussion of this topic, consult Attachment C.

Law School Clinical Programs

Law School Clinical Programs (LSCPs) are a type of qualified legal services project (QLSP). However, because of their unique structure and their relationships to law schools, some rules that govern QLSPs generally may not be suitable for LSCPs. Specifically, this topic addresses six questions related to LSCPs:

1. How LSCPs should demonstrate that they are an identifiable law school unit;
2. What documentation LSCPs need to demonstrate their nonprofit status;
3. How to calculate duration of operations for LSCP applicants;
4. Whether to allow LSCPs to include funds received from the law school to demonstrate community support and cash funding;
5. What teaching activities count as qualifying activities and expenditures; and
6. How LSCPs can fulfill their obligation to submit audits.

The LSTFC recommends codifying the current practice—either in full or with minor modifications—regarding the first four topics listed above. The LSTFC recommends modifying current practice to require LSCPs to demonstrate that they are an identifiable law school unit by satisfying a bright line rule which includes: an identifiable and dedicated location associated with a law school that is designed to provide civil legal services to indigent Californians; dedicated staffing whose job duties exclusively serve the LSCP; a clinical director with authority over operations and staffing of non-faculty positions; segregation of fiscal records and activities such as the ability to provide audited confirmation of clinical expenditures; and proof of institutional oversight. The LSTFC recommends codifying current practice for LSCPs to establish their nonprofit status by submitting copies of their or their host institution's articles of incorporation and determination letters from the IRS and the State Franchise Tax Board. Similarly, the LSTFC recommends codifying current practice to look two years back from the application due date when calculating duration of operation for LSCP applicants. LSCPs can support this requirement by providing audited financial statements and schedules, budgets,

staff lists, class rosters, clinic enrollment records, or functional equivalent. Finally, the LSTFC recommends codifying current practice to allow LSCPs to fulfill their obligation to submit audits by submitting audits prepared on behalf of the law school with an independently audited schedule for the clinic, regardless of the program's gross expenditures.

For the remaining two topics, the LSTFC recommends codifying rules that differ from current practice. First, the LSTFC recommends deviating from current practice to allow LSCPs to count funds received from the law school to fulfill their community support and cash funding requirement. Unlike other QLSPs, which have staff and Boards to fundraise on their behalf, most LSCPs fundraise through the law school. Second, the LSTFC recommends eliminating the current practice of evaluating teaching time on a case-by-case basis, and instead limiting teaching time on applications and spending reports to clinical classes in which only clinic students can enroll, and in which clinic participation is an expectation of the course. Additionally, the class must advance the clinic's provision of civil legal services to indigent persons.

These recommended rule changes would provide clarity for grant administration for LSCPs and to LSCP applicants, the LSTFC, and State Bar staff through greater consistency and compliance with the governing authorities. Furthermore, these changes would balance the unique needs and circumstances of LSCPs while maintaining parity between LSCPs and other QLSPs as much as possible.

For further discussion of this topic, consult Attachment D.

DISCUSSION

THE PROPOSED CHANGES ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LSTFC

Under Business and Professions Code section 6210.5, the LSTFC is charged with recommending rules related to grants administration to the State Bar's Board of Trustees (BOT). Consequently, the LSTFC is responsible for necessary updates to improve the existing grants administration process. Addressing the issues presented through these proposed rule changes will improve efficiency and fairness in the grantmaking process. Such improvements are always desirable but given the current level of grantmaking by the State Bar—which will distribute over \$146 million in legal aid funding in 2023 alone—such changes are imperative to ensure all involved have sufficient guidance to execute the requirements of the grants and administer them with confidence and accuracy.

A statutory change in 2022 increased the LSTFC's authority to make proposed rule changes. Previously, the LSTFC required BOT authorization to resolve questions of eligibility and grant distribution. Now, the LSTFC must obtain BOT approval for certain decisions, including these proposed rule changes, but such approval must be given unless the LSTFC's recommendation conflicts with the statutory, fiduciary, or legal obligations of the State Bar. (Bus. & Prof. Code, section 6210.5(e)(1) & (3).) The Office of General Counsel has been involved in all stages of the

codification process and agreed that the proposed rule changes do not conflict with any statutory, fiduciary, or legal obligations of the State Bar.

FISCAL/PERSONNEL IMPACT

None

AMENDMENTS TO RULES OF THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA

Title 3, Division 5, Chapter 2, Rules 3.670, 3.673, 3.680, and 3.683 (new proposed rule)

AMENDMENTS TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES POLICY MANUAL

None

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS & IMPLEMENTATION STEPS

Goal 2. Protect the Public by Enhancing Access to and Inclusion in the Legal System

RECOMMENDATIONS

Should the LSTFC concur in the proposed action, passage of the following resolution is recommended:

RESOLVED, the Legal Service Trust Fund Commission recommends that the Board of Trustees, approve and adopt the proposed amendments to the Rules of the State Bar relating to the Legal Services Trust Fund Program—Rules 3.670, 3.673, 3.680, and 3.683 (new rule)—as set forth in Attachment F.

ATTACHMENT(S) LIST

- A.** Codification of Grant Administration Practices: IOLTA Reserve Policy (Memo to LSTFC dated August 10, 2023)
- B.** Proposed Rules Related to Fee Generating Cases (Memo to LSTFC dated August 10, 2023)
- C.** Codification of Grant Administration Practices: Review Process for Competitive Discretionary Grants (Memo to LSTFC dated August 10, 2023)
- D.** Recommend Codifying Requirements for Law School Clinical Programs (Memo to LSTFC dated August 10, 2023)
- E.** Proposed Revisions to Rules of the State Bar Regarding the Legal Services Trust Fund Program – Redline

F. Proposed Revisions to Rules of the State Bar Regarding the Legal Services Trust Fund Program – Clean Version



The State Bar of California

OPEN SESSION

AGENDA ITEM 5.2

AUGUST 2023

LEGAL SERVICES TRUST FUND COMMISSION

DATE: August 10, 2023

TO: Members, Legal Services Trust Fund Commission

FROM: Members, Legal Services Trust Fund Commission Rules Committee

SUBJECT: Codification of Grant Administration Practices: IOLTA Reserve Policy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Legal Services Trust Fund Commission Rules Committee (Rules Committee) is working to gather, codify, and revise, as necessary and appropriate, all of the decision points and considerations related to the grant administration process. The purpose of the codification process is to ensure transparency, ease administration, and provide clarity for grantee applicants, the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission (LSTFC), and staff.

On June 21, 2023, the Rules Committee met to discuss recommendations regarding the creation of an Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) Reserve Policy. Topics discussed included:

- The role of the reserve to help provide grant stabilization and reduce major fluctuations in IOLTA distributions from year to year;
- The possibility of multiyear budgeting; and
- Increasing accuracy in revenue projections.

This memorandum presents the Rules Committee's final recommendations for approval after the LSTFC's consideration at its August 10, 2023, meeting.

BACKGROUND

Attachment A provides comprehensive background information on the codification process, governing authorities, and relevant updates to the issues identified above.

DISCUSSION

On June 21, 2023, the Rules Committee discussed the working group's recommendation regarding the establishment of a reserve policy for IOLTA funds. Given the considerations outlined in Attachment A, the working group recommended the creation of a restricted reserve of IOLTA funds to be accessed as part of planned grant distribution when revenues decrease, or in emergencies. In addition, the working group recommended determining grant distribution based on one year's projected revenue, rather than two; identifying conditions for adding to, or withdrawing from, the reserve; and supporting multiyear budgeting option in years of large distribution increases.

The Rules Committee agreed with the working group's proposed rule after some minor corrections and clarifications to the text during the meeting. (Attachment B.) However, the substance of the rule did not change.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Should the LSTFC concur in the proposed action, passage of the following resolution is recommended:

RESOLVED, that the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission approves the Rules Committee's recommendation related to the creation of an IOLTA reserve and accompanying policy:

Adopt new State Bar Rule 3.683, as set forth in Attachment B, for the LSTFC to establish and manage a reserve of IOLTA funds while providing stronger guidance in determining grant distribution and prescribing circumstances for accessing the reserve.

If the Rules Committee's recommendation is adopted, the proposed rule will then be circulated for public comment, returned to the LSTFC for review of any significant feedback, and ultimately presented to the State Bar's Board of Trustees for approval.

ATTACHMENTS LIST

- A. Memo and Attachments from June 21, 2023, Rules Committee Meeting
- B. New Proposed State Bar Rule



Date: June 21, 2023

To: Members, Legal Services Trust Fund Commission Rule Committee

From: Members, Legal Services Trust Fund Commission IOLTA Reserve Policy Working Group

Subject: 4.1 Approve Recommendations Regarding IOLTA Reserve Policy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This working group convened to discuss the development of a new Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) grant reserve policy. The working group has identified as least three areas where the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission's (LSTFC) current approach, based on a 2006 memorandum, might be improved: (1) the existing approach does not provide specific guidance for determining the grant distribution amount in years where net revenue is decreasing, (2) it does not prevent large fluctuations in grant distribution as it was intended to, and (3) it conflates the concepts of cash-on-hand and reserve. This memo provides an overview of the working group's recommendations for a new State Bar Rule that will establish a fiscally responsible reserve policy that will address the above-identified concerns, to the extent possible. Of the above concerns, the working group was particularly interested in stabilizing grant amounts in future periods of declining revenue, given IOLTA's recent history of volatile interest rates.

DEFINITIONS

See Attachment A for a list of definitions for some of the fiscal terms and concepts used throughout the memorandum, as they relate to this topic.

GOVERNING AUTHORITIES

Each year, the LSTFC recommends for approval to the Board of Trustees (BOT) the amount of IOLTA funds to be made available for distribution in the following calendar year as grant

awards.¹ The statute goes on to say that it is also the LSTFC's charge to recommend "the amount to be maintained as a fiscally responsible reserve." (Bus. & Prof. Code § 6210.5(e)(2).) (Attachment B.)

The LSTFC follows the approach outlined in a 2006 memorandum (discussed in greater detail below) that provides specific guidance for determining IOLTA grant amounts when net revenue is increasing and general guidance when net revenue is decreasing. (Attachment C.) However, this policy is not codified and, thus, nonbinding.

BACKGROUND

EXISTING CASH-ON-HAND POLICY AND APPROACH TO IOLTA DISTRIBUTION AMOUNTS²

In the first eight years of the IOLTA grant (1984-1992), the Legal Services Trust Fund Program recommended to the BOT distribution of the total money projected to be "on hand" as of the end of the prior year, less administrative costs during the same period. In other words, the program collected money for a year and then gave it out in the following year, such that 100 percent of the money for grants was "on hand" for distribution throughout the year. Financial institutions continued to remit interest earned, so the program always had on hand about one full year's revenue.

In 1992, in response to low interest rates and declining revenue, the then-Board of Governors adopted a cash-on-hand policy to hold only 75 percent of a year's cash on hand. Over the years, subsequent interest rate declines led to further reductions bringing the target range to 30 to 75 percent of the prior year's projected revenue. IOLTA revenue remained flat between 2001 and 2004—approximately \$10 million—but showed a steady increase beginning with the 2005 grant year. In 2006, the Commission proposed, and the Board of Governors approved, a revision to the cash-on-hand policy (also called the reserve policy, see Attachment C). The goal was to build reserve funds that could be distributed during years of low remittance.

According to the approach outlined in the 2006 memorandum, when net revenue is higher than in the previous year, grants are increased incrementally while also increasing the reserve/cash on hand. The cash-on-hand policy applies the following methodology in years where net revenue has increased from the previous year:

1. The previous year's grant distribution is established as the planned grant distribution base amount;

¹ Business and Professions Code section 6210.5 went into effect on January 1, 2022. The new provision offers the LSTFC more autonomy in its decision-making. Going forward, the BOT must approve the LSTFC's recommended grant distribution unless it "conflicts with a statutory, fiduciary, or legal obligation of the State Bar."

² Partially excerpted from June 17, 2022, staff memo to LSTFC.

2. Increased revenue is used to increase grant distribution by 5 percent over the prior year's amount;
3. If additional funds remain, ten percent of the prior year's grant distribution is added to the reserve/cash on hand;³
4. Any additional projected funds remaining are split equally, increasing both grant distribution and reserve/cash on hand, up to a reserve cap of 75 percent of the prior year's revenue.

In contrast, the reserve policy does not provide a similar step-by-step formula for calculating the distribution amount when revenues are declining, setting only the target that reserves remain between 30 and 75 percent of the prior year's projected revenue. Moreover, the policy conflates cash on hand and reserves. What is referred to as a "reserve" is simply ensuring the State Bar has enough money to maintain cash flow during the year, should there be any unexpected and/or drastic drop in revenue.⁴

To adhere to the current guidance from the 2006 memorandum, State Bar staff must provide the LSTFC with IOLTA revenue projections not only for the remainder of the year—for which staff usually only has data from the first full quarter—but also for the *following* year. (To illustrate: For 2024 IOLTA distribution discussions, staff would not only need to project revenue for the remainder of 2023 after Q1, but also all of 2024.) It has proved challenging to provide accurate estimates, particularly in a quickly changing economic environment. Fortunately, in recent years, actual revenue has exceeded staff's initial estimates. However, had revenue fallen short of projections, corrective action may have been required (e.g., reducing the planned distribution amount).

OTHER FACTORS INFLUENCING IOLTA GRANT DISTRIBUTION DETERMINATIONS

Federal Funds Rate

The Federal Reserve sets the federal funds rate (FFR), which is the interest rate charged on lending between financial institutions to maintain their reserve balances. This amount is adjusted periodically and can have a significant influence on the economy (e.g., recent interest rate increases to attempt to control inflation). Fluctuating interest rates, in addition to the amount on deposit in client trust accounts, impact IOLTA funds.

³ The 2006 memo states that ten percent of the prior year's revenue should be added to the reserve; however, the example included in the memo illustrating the application of the formula used ten percent of the grant distribution.

⁴ Banks remit interest, at a minimum, at the end of each quarter, though monthly is preferred. Thus, the State Bar makes grant payments at the beginning of each quarter but must wait until the end of the quarter to determine if sufficient revenue has accumulated to cover the amounts distributed. Having cash on hand allows the State Bar to make timely and full grant payments when periodic revenue is insufficient.

In the past year alone, the FFR was increased several times from near zero to 4.75-5.00 percent. Though banks are not required to match the FFR when setting interest rates on their own accounts, the FFR nonetheless has a powerful influence on the interest rate adjustments that banks make on their consumer accounts. With higher interest accumulating on large client trust account balances, this drives the historically high IOLTA revenue we currently see, which in turn impacts IOLTA award amounts.

Leadership Bank Program

In 2019, the State Bar established the Leadership Bank program to help sustain revenue by incentivizing banks to offer a minimum interest rate on IOLTA accounts while also eliminating associated fees. In exchange, the State Bar recognizes these banks on its website for attorneys' consideration when opening a client trust account. Most of the IOLTA revenue in California—approximately 75 percent—comes from three banks (Wells Fargo, Chase, and Bank of America). Each of these banks currently participates in the Leadership Bank program, which requires a minimum interest rate of 68 percent of the current FFR, or 0.68 percent, whichever is higher.

The State Bar monitors participation and is proactive to ensure continued commitment from the program's participants. If any Leadership Bank with large amounts on deposit were to discontinue its partnership with the program and lower interest rates on client trust accounts, a significant drop in IOLTA revenue could result.

Though many banks lowered the interest earned on trust accounts during the pandemic, corresponding to the decreased FFR, IOLTA revenue has remained strong. This is mostly due to the high amount on deposit and the State Bar's work to ensure banks are remitting correct amounts. However, changes to any of the three factors discussed above (interest rates, amount on deposit, and Leadership Bank participation) can cause significant fluctuations in IOLTA revenue to a degree that is largely beyond the direct control of the LSTFC or the State Bar.

Fee Statements, Justice Gap Fund, and Other Contributions

IOLTA funds are supplemented from sources other than trust account interest revenue. For example, when licensed attorneys pay their dues to the State Bar each year, \$45 of that amount is directed to legal services.⁵ There is also a recommended voluntary donation of \$100 to support legal aid, known as the Justice Gap Fund. The State Bar accepts cy pres awards through the Justice Gap Fund as well. These funds are grouped with IOLTA. The combined amount varies from year to year but is usually at least several million dollars (\$5-10 million on average). All of these contributions ultimately count toward amounts available for distribution through IOLTA grants.

⁵ Attorneys may opt out of paying this amount under Business and Professions Code section 6140.03(b), but it is otherwise included as part of their fee statement.

State Bar Investment Policy

Currently, the State Bar places its existing IOLTA fund balance, minus the amount needed for grant disbursement, into short-term government bonds and notes. These are considered safe investment products that provide a modest return while guaranteeing no loss of principal. The interest generated by these accounts will go toward future grant distribution. A future codification topic will develop a more robust policy regarding investment of IOLTA funds that will be in alignment with the State Bar's investment policy and offer more specific guidance for the LSTFC's various grant funds.

ROLE OF EQUAL ACCESS FUND (EAF) IOLTA FORMULA GRANTS

Equal Access Fund grants are calculated and distributed on the same formula basis as IOLTA, but the funds originate from a different source (the state budget and court filing fees). EAF amounts are included in the Judicial Council of California's budget, and the Judicial Council contracts with the State Bar to have the funds administered through the LSTFC. While subject to change during the months-long budgeting process, the proposed amount of EAF funding for the following year is known as early as May when the governor's revised budget is released.

Since its inception in 1999, EAF IOLTA formula funding⁶ remained fairly consistent, experiencing an occasional substantial increase that was typically sustained in subsequent years. However, over the past three years EAF has fluctuated considerably, with the most notable change occurring in 2022, when EAF IOLTA formula funding nearly tripled.⁷ This was a purposeful one-time increase, partially in response to fears that reduced interest rates during the COVID pandemic would result in fewer available IOLTA funds for distribution. However, IOLTA revenues were higher than predicted, and the LSTFC authorized \$35.5 million of IOLTA funds to be distributed in 2022. The result was that 2022 yielded the highest combined IOLTA/EAF IOLTA formula grant distribution ever (approximately \$93.6 million). Because they are administered jointly, any major changes to funding amounts for either IOLTA or EAF IOLTA formula grants in a given year can impact the overall stability of State Bar grantees and their service capacity, as these grants are relied upon as core funding for most grantees.

DISCUSSION

WORKING GROUP PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE CURRENT APPROACH

Attachment D contains an illustration of what the 2024 IOLTA distribution could look like if following the recommendations outlined in this memorandum. (Please note that Attachment D

⁶ Other grants funded through the state budget, such as the Homelessness Prevention grants, are also sometimes denoted in budget documents as EAF grants. However, only the EAF IOLTA formula grants are relevant to, and discussed in, this memorandum.

⁷ Funding increased from \$21.1 million in 2021 to \$58.1 million in 2022. For 2023, funding dropped to \$31.6 million, while remaining above 2021 levels.

is based on current information as of the date of this memorandum and is subject to change as new and updated numbers become available).

- 1. The working group recommends discontinuing the practice of estimating IOLTA revenue over a period of nearly two years.** The current practice—which uses the 2006 memorandum for determining the distribution amount—not only looks at current year revenue, but it also predicts revenue for the following year. Given that the LSTFC receives a grant distribution recommendation for the coming year in June, staff has only the first quarter’s results to use in building a prediction model.

Staff has been relatively conservative in its estimates, and rates have generally increased, meaning that revenue has been higher than predicted, but this will not be the case indefinitely. Projecting that far out is speculative at best. If revenue were to decrease instead of increase, in the worst-case scenario it could result in a shortfall of funds needed for distribution, resulting in an inability to fulfill grant agreements.

Grant agreements with the State Bar always contain a caveat that, should funds be lacking, the State Bar is not obligated to pay the grant award. Nonetheless, the working group thinks it would be best to avoid such a situation, because failing to fulfill a grant agreement could have highly disruptive results for grantees relying on those funds.

Regardless of the impact, the fact that the estimates have not borne out further indicate that this is not the most reliable model to use. In addition to the use of projections over almost two years, in years of increasing net revenue, the 2006 memorandum establishes the current year’s IOLTA distribution amount as the base amount for distribution the following year. It then prescribes how much to add to the cash on hand and how much to add to the next year’s distribution without flexibility.

Instead, the working group recommends basing the next year’s IOLTA grant distribution on the ending net assets of the prior year, plus the estimate of the revenue for the current year minus expenses and any amount set aside for the reserve (or Total Ending Net Assets for Funding). Projections would be based on confirmed data from the first quarter and only require 9, rather than 21, months of estimates. This would be more manageable, and hopefully more accurate, without requiring the LSTFC to take a risk by relying on anticipated but unguaranteed revenue to maintain cash flow. It would also free the LSTFC to use more discretion in determining the distribution by adjusting the distribution and reserve amounts.

- 2. For purposes of grant stabilization, the working group recommends creating a separate account to function as a fiscally responsible reserve,** as permitted by Business and Professions Code section 6210.5(e)(2), which will require certain conditions to be

met before accessing funds to be paid out. Funds could be included as part of a planned grant distribution or accessed under emergency circumstances to cover existing grant payments. The model in Attachment D illustrates how the approach would work, but the proposed policy would leave the total contribution to the reserve in a given year mostly to the LSTFC's discretion.⁸

The hope would be to build a reserve that could then be accessed only under defined circumstances, either to help mitigate major fluctuations in IOLTA grant amounts year-to-year or to provide the necessary cash-on-hand in statewide emergencies. (This would be to supplement the distribution as a whole, not to supplement individual grantees experiencing an emergency.) However, in years with significant revenue increases, it would allow sufficient flexibility to direct more funds to the reserve without negatively impacting grant distribution.

This would be a move away from the formulaic approach required in years of increasing net revenue as outlined in the 2006 IOLTA grant distribution memorandum, and it would provide guidance that is lacking for years of decreasing net revenue. The reserve would not be built at the expense of grant disbursement. Indeed, the emphasis would remain on distributing as much funding as possible but setting aside a prudent amount for a reasonable reserve.⁹

3. Related, the working group **proposes \$25 million as the initial maximum reserve amount, with permission to increase over time to account for inflation.**¹⁰ As discussed above, the current year's projected revenue minus expenses and, if needed, a contribution to the reserve, would become the planned distribution amount for the following year. The proposed rule would also allow the LSTFC discretion to increase the maximum allowable reserve amount to plan for more measured increases to the distribution in years where the distribution would otherwise more than double and other interventions, such as multiyear budgeting, would be insufficient to ensure grant funds are spent effectively.

Given the very large increase in anticipated revenue this year, the recommendation in the model is to fully fund the reserve with a contribution of \$25 million. (Under different circumstances, the reserve could be built more gradually over a period of years.) However, in years where revenue experiences a significant drop (i.e., where current

⁸ This model directs \$25 million per year to the reserve due to a major anticipated revenue increase this year.

⁹ Any amount placed in reserve could generate additional grant funds by placing the reserve balance in interest-bearing accounts, which would go toward the revenue calculation for distribution. This can be explored more deeply as part of the investment policy topic to be addressed through codification later this year.

¹⁰ The \$25 million amount is the average of the prior ten years' distributions and administrative expenses. If the average IOLTA grant distribution increases significantly in a sustained way, the LSTFC might want to increase the target reserve in the future to meet potential grant needs.

year revenue is not covering most of the expenses, thus cutting into the cash on hand), it would be appropriate to plan to withdraw from the reserve to mitigate fluctuations in grant amounts the following year.

(See Attachment E for the proposed rule capturing these changes and the proposed policy.)

THE POTENTIAL ROLE OF MULTIYEAR BUDGETING

Historically, IOLTA grants have operated on one-year cycles. The requirement to distribute funds on a yearly basis under the IOLTA statute has been widely interpreted to mean that the funds must also be spent within a year. (See Attachment B, section 6216.) However, in 2022, when the Legislature authorized the large one-time increase to EAF funding, it also permitted spending the funding over two years instead of one. The LSTFC then piloted allowing grantees to submit two-year budgets for their 2022 EAF awards instead of one.¹¹

This approach stemmed from a desire to respond to grantees' long-term planning needs, which are compounded by large fluctuations in year-to-year funding. Grantees reported that significant fluctuations make it difficult to effectively budget on a long-term basis, which in turn impacts recruitment and retention because of uncertainty around whether current staffing levels and/or increased compensation can be maintained in the long-term. There was also a desire to allow grantees flexibility with this funding source when they needed to spend other grants and forgivable loans that had a shorter timeline for expenditure.

The second year of this two-year 2022 EAF multiyear budgeting opportunity began in January 2023. As expected, grantees received a 2023 allocation on top of any 2022 funds budgeted over a two-year basis, thus obligating grantees to spend the remainder of their 2022 grant along with the full 2023 grant. The working group believes it is necessary to continue to make multiyear budgeting an option, when and where appropriate, as a strategy to help reduce significant fluctuations in grant awards. Consequently, the proposed rule incorporates language to allow for this.

In practice, any multiyear budgeting proposal would first pass through the LSTFC's Eligibility & Budget Review Committee before receiving full LSTFC approval. This would provide an opportunity to elaborate on the requirements of the multiyear budgets, such as whether to permit carryover requests and, if so, the guidelines that would apply. The working group encourages the LSTFC to consider the multiyear budgeting option—in consultation with staff—in years where there are large increases in anticipated grant distribution, particularly when the reserve has reached its cap. It will have the added benefit of minimizing the amount held by the State Bar at any given time.

¹¹ EAF is administered on the same basis as IOLTA.

RESPONSE FROM THE LEGAL AID COMMUNITY AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

The preliminary memorandum was forwarded to Legal Aid Association of California (LAAC) on May 12 for circulation among the legal aid community. State Bar staff additionally held a webinar on May 24 to provide an overview of this topic and answer questions from the community. This provided various avenues for the community to respond to the proposal. LAAC will also attend this committee meeting to provide additional feedback and context from its discussions with the legal aid community.

Most of the feedback was supportive, or at least optimistic, about the proposed changes. LAAC and many grantees agree in principle that it makes sense to set aside some funding for when IOLTA revenue decreases. One grantee acknowledged that the decision to set aside some amount for reserve is prudent given the current funding environment generally. For example, it seems major funders like the Legal Services Corporation anticipate reducing awards by up to 30 percent. LAAC also noted that it has heard from foundations about possible funding decreases due to a volatile stock market, which could be another source of lost income for grantees.

Smaller organizations voiced support for more predictable funding amounts from a budgeting perspective. There seemed to be universal support for the flexibility offered by multiyear budgeting in response to large IOLTA increases so that hiring and spending can be done responsibly. However, LAAC reported that grantees also seek more budgeting guidance in response to these possible changes.

Most criticism and questions centered not on the concept of the reserve but rather the methodology for determining the grant distribution. There was some feedback that the State Bar would hold on to too much money and should be distributing the fund balance not only at the end of 2023 but the projected balance for 2024 as well, or at least some part of it.

WORKING GROUP RESPONSE

The working group appreciates the positive feedback as it highlights many of the primary concerns that this topic intended to address. Knowledge of the general funding environment was also important to this working group, which is why such considerations are included in the proposed rule, particularly in circumstances where the reserve may, or will, be accessed.

Regarding the feedback on the distribution method: During the webinar held in May, State Bar staff explained that the fund balance shown in the attachment for the following year (i.e., the fund balance for the end of 2024) is not a fixed amount of money held for the entire year. Rather, it is a projection of the total amount expected to be on-hand at the end of the following year, representing a distant point in time. To distribute the amount of money projected at the

end of 2024 in addition to the fund balance at the end of 2023 would be a return to the current method, which is disfavored due to its unreliability. It is also important to emphasize that all of these funds will be distributed. Simply the timing of that distribution will be different, and, unlike the current approach, it will not be speculative.

Moreover, the fund balance does not sit idle. The State Bar periodically places the balance, minus amounts needed for grant distribution, into interest-bearing government notes and bonds, which increases the total amount of funding available for distribution. Given the current interest rate, the interest generated is significant. The working group respectfully recommends against maintaining the current distribution method and instead reiterates its recommendation to only project revenue for the remainder of the current year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Should the Rules Committee concur with the working group's proposal, passage of the following resolution is recommended:

RESOLVED, that the Rules Committee of the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission approves the following working group recommendation:

Adopt new State Bar Rule 3.683, as set forth in Attachment E, for the LSTFC to establish and manage a reserve of IOLTA funds while providing stronger guidance in determining grant distribution and prescribing circumstances for accessing the reserve.

Once the Rules Committee makes its final recommendations, these recommendations will be reviewed subsequently by both the LSTFC and, ultimately, the State Bar's Board of Trustees.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Definitions
- B. Business and Professions Code sections 6210.5 and 6216 (relevant portions of IOLTA statute)
- C. 2006 Cash-on-Hand/Reserve Memorandum
- D. Fiscal worksheet illustrating proposal in context of 2024 IOLTA distribution
- E. Proposed State Bar Rule detailing IOLTA distribution and reserve policy

Attachment A – Definitions (in the Context of IOLTA Grants)

Revenue: Income from various sources (interest remitted by banks from client trust accounts, Justice Gap Fund, one-time donations, etc.) used to fund IOLTA grants and pay related administrative expenses

Cash-on-hand: Funds that are accessible and available to cover costs related to IOLTA grant administration on an as-needed basis (e.g., for grant-related expenses or to be rolled into a subsequent year grant distribution)

Reserve:

- **Historical definition:** The terms “reserve” and “cash-on-hand” (see above) have been used interchangeably regarding IOLTA grants since the implementation of the current distribution approach in 2006
- **New/proposed usage:** Funds that are set aside in a restricted account to be accessed and used only under certain conditions; not intended to be immediately available to cover general needs/expenses related to IOLTA grants but rather to help stabilize grant distribution from year-to-year or in emergency circumstances, for example

Fund balance: Amount of funds expected to be available at a specific future time after accounting for anticipated revenue, expenses, and any amount set aside for the separate reserve (essentially, a snapshot of the projected cash-on-hand figure at a point in time, such as the end of the calendar year)

Attachment B – Selected Provisions from the IOLTA Statute (Business and Professions Code sections 6210-6228)

6210.5.

(a) There shall be created, within the State Bar, a Legal Services Trust Fund Commission to administer IOLTA accounts, Equal Access Funds, or similar funds or grant moneys intended for the support of qualified legal services projects and qualified support centers, as those terms are defined in Section 6213.

(b) (1) The Legal Services Trust Fund Commission shall be comprised of 24 commissioners as follows:

(A) Six commissioners shall be appointed by the State Bar Board of Trustees.

(B) Two commissioners shall be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules.

(C) Two commissioners shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly.

(D) Ten commissioners shall be appointed by the Chair of the Judicial Council, of which three shall be nonvoting judicial advisors. The three nonvoting judicial advisors shall be comprised of two superior court judges and one appellate justice.

(E) Four commissioners shall be appointed by the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission, of which at least two shall be, or have been within five years of appointment, indigent persons as defined by Section 6213.

(2) No employee or independent contractor acting as a consultant to a potential recipient of Legal Services Trust Fund grants shall be appointed to the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission. All commissioners shall be designated employees under the Conflict of Interest Code of the State Bar.

(3) Except as provided in paragraph (4), each commissioner shall serve for a term of four years that begins upon appointment. Upon completion of an initial term, a commissioner may be reappointed for a second four-year term. An initial or second term may be extended by one or two years, for a maximum of 10 years, to allow a commissioner to serve as chair or vice chair. A commissioner currently serving as of January 1, 2022, may be reappointed to two additional full terms following the completion of their current term pursuant to paragraph (5).

(4) A commissioner appointed by the chair of the Judicial Council shall have no term limits.

(5) Each commissioner shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing entity. Each appointing entity may stagger their appointments so one-half of the commissioners are appointed in 2022 and the other one-half are appointed in 2023. A commissioner serving as of January 1, 2022, may continue to serve until replaced by the appointing entity or January 1, 2024, whichever occurs first.

(6) Commissioners who are not currently and have never been attorneys licensed in California or another jurisdiction and who submit a form designated by the commission to request a per diem shall be entitled to receive fifty dollars (\$50) per day for each day that they attend a commission meeting of at least one hour in length.

(c) The chair and the vice chair of the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission shall be selected by the Chair of the Judicial Council. The chair of the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission shall preside over

the commission's meetings. The Chair of the Judicial Council may select up to two chairs and two vice chairs to lead the commission.

(d) The Legal Services Trust Fund Commission shall be subject to the California Public Records Act (Division 10 (commencing with Section 7920.000) of Title 1 of the Government Code) and the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Article 9 (commencing with Section 11120) of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code).

(e) (1) The Legal Services Trust Fund Commission shall recommend to the Board of Trustees of the State Bar rules to determine an applicant's eligibility for grants under this article and for rules related to grant administration, including rules to monitor and evaluate a recipient's compliance with Legal Services Trust Fund requirements and grant terms based on criteria established by the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission.

(2) The Legal Services Trust Fund Commission shall recommend to the Board of Trustees of the State Bar the amount proposed to be made available for grant distribution from IOLTA funds, along with the amount to be maintained as a fiscally responsible reserve.

(3) The Board of Trustees of the State Bar shall approve each recommendation made pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2) unless the Board of Trustees of the State Bar makes a finding in writing that a recommendation conflicts with a statutory, fiduciary, or legal obligation of the State Bar.

(4) The decisions of the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission regarding individual grant awards shall take effect without approval by the Board of Trustees of the State Bar. However, the board may reverse or modify an individual grant award if it makes a finding in writing that the award violates Legal Services Trust Fund rules or a statutory, fiduciary, or legal obligation of the State Bar.

(f) Except as provided by subdivision (a) of Section 6033 and by Section 6140.03, the State Bar's actual administrative costs to administer the Legal Services Trust Fund Program, including IOLTA, Equal Access Funds, and similar funds and grant moneys shall be fully funded through these grant programs. The State Bar shall not provide administrative services to the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission in excess of the administrative costs allocated to the State Bar by the Legislature, or by the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission as part of any request by the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission's request for administrative support.

(g) At the conclusion of each fiscal year, the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission shall include a report of receipts of funds under this article, expenditures for administrative costs, and disbursements of the funds on a county-by-county basis, in the annual report of the State Bar's receipts and expenditures required pursuant to Section 6145. To ensure that awards made by the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission are consistent with statute, rules, and other governing authority, the State Bar shall develop a program to audit a representative sample of grant awards each year. The results of the most recent audit shall be included with the report of receipt of funds described in this subdivision.

(h) This section supersedes any conflicting State Bar rules regarding the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission or its responsibilities or oversight by the State Bar's board of trustees.

(Amended by Stats. 2022, Ch. 28, Sec. 10. (SB 1380) Effective January 1, 2023.)

6216. The State Bar shall distribute all moneys received under the program established by this article for the provision of civil legal services to indigent persons. The funds first shall be distributed 18 months from the effective date of this article, or upon such a date, as shall be determined by the State Bar, that adequate funds are available to initiate the program. Thereafter, the funds shall be distributed on an annual basis. All distributions of funds shall be made in the following order and in the following manner:

(a) To pay the actual administrative costs of the program, including any costs incurred after the adoption of this article and a reasonable reserve therefor.

(b) Eighty-five percent of the funds remaining after payment of administrative costs allocated pursuant to this article shall be distributed to qualified legal services projects. Distribution shall be by a pro rata county-by-county formula based upon the number of persons whose income is 125 percent or less of the current poverty threshold per county. For the purposes of this section, the source of data identifying the number of persons per county shall be the latest available figures from the United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. Projects from more than one county may pool their funds to operate a joint, multicounty legal services project serving each of their respective counties.

(1) (A) In any county which is served by more than one qualified legal services project, the State Bar shall distribute funds for the county to those projects which apply on a pro rata basis, based upon the amount of their total budget expended in the prior year for civil legal services without charge for indigent persons in that county as compared to the total expended in the prior year for civil legal services without charge for indigent persons by all qualified legal services projects applying therefor in the county.

(B) The State Bar shall reserve 10 percent of the funds allocated to the county for distribution to programs meeting the standards of subparagraph (A) of paragraph (3) and paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision (b) of Section 6214 and which perform the services described in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (3) of Section 6214 as their principal means of delivering civil legal services. The State Bar shall distribute the funds for that county to those programs which apply on a pro rata basis, based upon the amount of their total budget expended for free civil legal services for indigent persons in that county as compared to the total expended for free civil legal services for indigent persons by all programs meeting the standards of subparagraph (A) of paragraph (3) and paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision (b) of Section 6214 in that county. The State Bar shall distribute any funds for which no program has qualified pursuant hereto, in accordance with the provisions of subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) of this subdivision.

(2) In any county in which there is no qualified legal services projects providing services, the State Bar shall reserve for the remainder of the fiscal year for distribution the pro rata share of funds as provided for by this article. Upon application of a qualified legal services project proposing to provide legal services to the indigent of the county, the State Bar shall distribute the funds to the project. Any funds not so distributed shall be added to the funds to be distributed the following year.

(c) Fifteen percent of the funds remaining after payment of administrative costs allocated for the purposes of this article shall be distributed equally by the State Bar to qualified support centers which apply for the funds. The funds provided to support centers shall be used only for the provision of civil legal services within California. Qualified support centers that receive funds to provide services to

qualified legal services projects from sources other than this article, shall submit and shall have approved by the State Bar a plan assuring that the services funded under this article are in addition to those already funded for qualified legal services projects by other sources.

(Amended by Stats. 2021, Ch. 723, Sec. 13. (SB 211) Effective January 1, 2022.)

AGENDA ITEM

MARCH 54-166

Legal Services Trust Fund Program:
Set Amount for Distribution for
2006-2007 IOLTA Grants

DATE: February 28, 2006

TO: Members of the Board of Committee on Stakeholder Relations
Members of the Board of Governors

FROM: Judy Garlow, Director, Legal Services Trust Fund Program

SUBJECT: Legal Services Trust Fund Program:
Set Amount for Distribution for 2006-2007 IOLTA Grants

Executive Summary

Each year, the Board of Governors sets an amount for distribution in Legal Services Trust Fund Program grants from interest on lawyer trust accounts ("IOLTA"). Since 1992, the method for setting the amount has been to allocate for the grants the amount of prior year revenue less administrative costs, adjusted by an amount by which cash on hand as of June 30 is projected to be more or less than a specific percent of the prior year's net revenue. Most recently, this cash-on-hand target has been 30 percent. After consultation with the Legal Aid Association of California, the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission is recommending adjusting this target for this year upward to approximately 50 percent, so as to take advantage of increased IOLTA revenue to put us in a position to cushion the effects of lower interests rates as needed in the future. Using this system will result in 2006-2007 grants of \$12.7 million, up about 6 percent from the \$12 million distributed in the 2005-2006 grant year.

BACKGROUND

The Board of Governors each year sets an amount for distribution in IOLTA grants to be administered by the Legal Services Trust Fund Program. That amount is distributed for the grant year beginning July 1. The amount is set in March or April, depending on the board meeting schedule, so that the Trust Fund Commission can notify each recipient program of a grant amount, give them 30 days to prepare proposed budgets, review the budgets and still get grant agreements signed and the checks mailed in July.

For each of the first eight grant periods (fiscal years 1984-1985 through 1991-1992), the amount approved for distribution was the total money projected to be on hand June 30. This amounted to the total revenue of the program in the year preceding the grant period, less administrative costs during the same period. In other words, the program collected money for a year and then gave it out in the following year.

At the beginning of the grant year, 100 percent of the money for grants was on hand. Grants were disbursed in quarterly payments. At the same time, money came in that would become the next year's grants, so the program always had on hand about one full year's revenue.

In 1992, the Board of Governors changed that system on the recommendation of the Legal Aid Association of California and the Trust Fund Commission. We moved away from a system where grants were made up only of money already in hand, and to a system of paying part of the grant out of income as it came in. The motivation for this change was the view that the program did not need to keep such a large amount of cash on hand, especially in times of low interest rates and correspondingly lower revenue.

The basic distribution method remained, as before, to allocate for grants the amount of prior year revenue less administrative costs. To determine the amount for distribution, this net prior year revenue amount was adjusted by the amount by which cash on hand as of June 30 was projected to be more or less than a set percentage of the prior year's revenue amount. When the original change was made in 1992, interest rates had begun to drop and the target was set at 75 percent, in order to increase grants by 6 percent over the previous year even though revenue was down about 7 percent. Subsequently, interest rates fell dramatically. The cash-on-hand target was reduced to 60 percent and then to 30 percent, where it has remained for the last 12 grant years.

In years when revenue is increasing, the money coming in exceeds the grant amount going out, and cash on hand builds up above 30 percent. That "extra" amount is added onto the grants for the next year, resulting in a larger increase. In years when revenue is decreasing, the money coming in is less than the grant amount going out, and cash on hand drops below 30 percent. We make up for that by holding back money to increase the cash on hand for the next year, resulting in a greater decrease in grants.

This system has had the desired effect of putting the money in the hands of grant recipients quickly, and has minimized the amount of the program's cash on hand. Because of the swings in interest rates in the last several years, however, it has also meant there were somewhat unpredictable swings in the amount of grants from year to year. As just one example, the total grant amount went up 22 percent in 2001 and then back down 38 percent the following year. Although the grants on average represent a small share of each recipient's total income, in many cases, the ups and downs have been significant. In a time of increasing revenue, the Trust Fund Commission decided to explore whether there might be a better approach.

PROPOSED CHANGE

The Commission has now discussed its proposed change with the Legal Aid Association of California, which consulted with all of the recipients of Trust Fund Program grants. LAAC came back to the Commission in support of the proposal, with a few relatively small suggestions that the Commission has incorporated into this recommendation.

The proposal is to increase cash on hand above 30 percent with the goal of decreasing the fluctuation in grants caused by sizable increases and decreases in interest rates. In years of increasing revenue, grants would be held to a smaller increase than is currently provided for, so as to increase cash on hand. Then in years of decreasing revenue, the cash on hand will be spent down again, to keep grants larger than they would otherwise have been.

The recommendation of the Commission and the legal services community involves a three-step calculation for years in which income is increasing:

- The amount for distribution will be allowed to increase by 5 percent before increasing cash on hand above the current 30 percent. For 2006-2007, this means an increase from \$12 million to \$12.7 million in total grants.
- The funds that would represent the next 10 percent increase--in this case, \$1.2 million--will go to increasing the cash on hand.
- In years when revenue increases more than that, the additional amount will be divided equally between increased grants and increased cash on hand, up to a cap of 75 percent of the previous year's available funds. For this year, there is \$229,520 to be shared equally between grants and increased cash on hand.

Two elements of this change will required ongoing discussion between the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission and the Legal Aid Association, to arrive at further recommendations as needed by this time next year. The first of these two elements is the system for distributing the funds held back when we come upon years of declining income. It is much more difficult to come up with an automatic formula for that. It is likely that a policy will be developed after consultation with the Legal Aid Association.

A second issue for ongoing discussion is the cap on the amount held back to increase cash on hand. LAAC suggested limiting the cash on hand to a specific target, in the range of 50 to 75 percent. The Trust Fund Commission has agreed to a 75 percent cap, and also agreed to discuss whether it should be smaller (or larger) than that. The amount for this year will be 53 percent. Between now and the next time the board goes through this process, a year from now, we can explore the most effective cap. This is a decision that must in any case be made annually, based on the particular income in that year.

CURRENT AND PROJECT REVENUE AND CASH ON HAND

Using this revised system for determining the grant amount will result in setting the grant amount for 2006-2007 at \$12.7 million. This grant amount is larger than the 2005-2006 distribution, due primarily to increased income from substantial increases in the balance on deposit in attorney-client trust accounts and also to small increases in the interest rates on checking accounts.

We currently expect net IOLTA revenue (income less expenses) for the period July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006 to be \$14 million. At this income level, the program expects to have on hand as of June 30, 2006 about \$7.5 million, which is 53 percent of last year's net revenue. To calculate the grant amount for the coming year, we have added to last year's grant amount a 5 percent increase, plus half of the amount by which net revenue is greater than 15 percent of last year's grants.

RECOMMENDATION

The attached schedule shows the calculation, based on actual experience to date and projections through the rest of the grant year.

Because money will continue to be disbursed as it is received, the Trust Fund Commission will continue to monitor revenue closely and will return with recommendations if there are significant variances from the projections. The agreements signed with grant recipients will continue to include language to make clear that payment of these grants is contingent upon the Legal Services Trust Fund Program having sufficient money on hand from IOLTA revenue to make the scheduled payments. In addition, the Trust Fund Commission will meet with LAAC over the coming months to evaluate the effectiveness of the procedures used this year and what changes should be made for the future.

BOARD BOOK/ADMINISTRATIVE MANUAL IMPACT: None.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

The Board Committee on Stakeholder Relations will have a recommendation at the time of your meeting. If you agree with this proposal, the following resolution would be appropriate:

RESOLVED, upon recommendation of the Board Committee on Stakeholder Relations, that the Board hereby approves that the distribution of IOLTA grants from the Legal Services Trust Fund Program for the grant period July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007 shall be made in the order and manner provided by Business and Professions Code Section 6216, and the funds to be distributed shall be \$12,720,721 calculated as follows

(1) The amount projected to be received by the Legal Services Trust Fund Program and the interest earned thereon from July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006, totaling \$15,256,329, shall be allocated for the grant period July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007.

(2) The administrative costs to be deducted prior to distribution shall be the costs projected for the period July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006, totaling \$1,220,280.

(3) To be subtracted from the total amount prior to distribution shall be \$1,200,568, 10 percent of prior year net revenue reserved for cash on hand.

(4) Also to be subtracted from the total amount prior to distribution shall be \$114,760, one-half of the amount over 15 percent of prior year net revenue reserved for cash on hand, and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED that grant payments are to be made from funds received pursuant to Business and Professions Code Section 6212 and the income earned from investment of such funds, and that payment of grants is contingent upon the State Bar having sufficient money on hand from such sources to make the scheduled payments; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission is directed to monitor program revenue during the grant year and to recommend action to change the total grant amount for the year if needed in the event of significant variances from projections.

STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA

Legal Services Trust Fund Distribution

Available Funds for Grant Period 2006-2007

DATE: FEBRUARY 21, 2006	<u>AMOUNT</u>
A. <u>Revenue: 7/1/05 – 6/30/06</u>	
2005: 3rd Quarter	\$ 3,726,984
4th Quarter	3,679,345
2006: 1st Quarter (Projected)	3,900,000
2nd Quarter (Projected)	<u>3,950,000</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 15,256,329
B. <u>Administrative Costs: 7/1/05 – 6/30/06</u>	
7/1/05 – 12/31/05	\$ 734,972
1/1/06 – 6/30/06 (Budgeted)	815,308
Less Projected Equal Access Fund Reimbursements	<u>(330,000)</u>
Total Administrative Costs	\$ 1,220,280
C. <u>Cash-on-Hand Calculation</u>	
Cash on Hand 6/30/05	\$ 5,547,400
Add: Net Revenue 7/1/05 – 6/30/06	14,036,049
Less: 2005-2006 Grants (Net of amounts from past years redistributed)	<u>(12,005,677)</u>
Projected Cash on Hand – 6/30/06 (53 percent of prior year net revenue)	\$ 7,577,772
<u>Grant Amount Calculation</u>	
2005-2006 Net Revenue	\$ 14,036,049
Less 10 percent reserved for cash on hand	(1,200,568)
Less one-half of amount over 15 percent reserved for cash on hand	\$ <u>(114,760)</u>
Total Grant Amount for 2006-2007	\$ 12,720,721
Prior Year Distribution (2005-2006)	\$ 12,005,677
Percent Increase from Prior Year Distribution	6%

Attachment D - Modeling 2024 Distribution Based on Working Group Proposal

	2023		2024 (reserve \$25M/ Distribute Prior Year Fund Bal not including Balance of Reserve)	
Fund Balance at Beginning of the Year	\$	53,557,332	\$	106,929,490
Total Revenues	\$	131,509,553	\$	116,515,414
Expenses				
IOLTA Grant Distribution	\$	50,684,923	\$	106,929,490
Projected Admin Costs (not realized)	\$	2,452,472	\$	2,653,691
Transfer to Restricted Reserve Fund	\$	25,000,000	\$	-
Total Expenses	\$	78,137,395	\$	109,583,181
Fund Balance at End of the Year (not including restricted reserve balance)	\$	106,929,490	\$	113,861,723
Restricted Reserve Balance	\$	25,000,000	\$	25,000,000

State Bar Rule 3.683 Determination of IOLTA Distribution Amounts

- (A)** The Legal Services Trust Fund Commission will annually recommend to the Board of Trustees the amount of IOLTA funds to be distributed and the amount to be held in reserve the next year.¹ The Commission will set the current year's projected IOLTA revenue total as the target distribution amount after deducting State Bar administrative costs and any amount set aside for the reserve. Instead of setting aside an amount for reserve, the Commission may increase the distribution with contributions from the reserve.
- (B)** The reserve will be established as a restricted fund account that may be accessed to increase planned IOLTA grant distributions or to ensure sufficient funds for the State Bar to fulfill current-year IOLTA grant disbursements.
- (1)** A minimum of 5 percent of current year revenue should be added to the reserve each year, subject to the maximum reserve balance set forth below, unless revenue is projected to fall, in which case the Commission may direct a smaller percentage of revenue, or none, to the reserve for the following year.
- (a)** The Commission may increase the amount of revenue directed to the reserve, unless it would exceed the maximum allowable balance.
- (2)** The maximum reserve balance will be set at \$25 million.
- (a)** The Commission may periodically choose to increase the maximum allowable reserve balance to account for inflation, as reflected by the overall percentage increase in the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index in the prior twelve months.
- (b)** If the reserve has reached the maximum allowable balance, all revenue remaining after administrative costs will be distributed as grants. However, if the Commission determines that the grant distribution will be at least double the distribution of the prior year, and the size of the distribution cannot be effectively or efficiently used by grant recipients within the grant period, the Commission may increase the reserve by an amount not to exceed a total of \$40 million.
- (C)** The Commission will determine whether to access funds held in reserve as part of the planned IOLTA grant distribution. Factors for consideration include, but are not limited to,
- (1)** Catastrophic events or other emergency circumstances resulting in significantly decreased IOLTA revenue and/or legal aid funding generally;
- (2)** Catastrophic events or other emergency circumstances resulting in significantly increased need for legal aid services;
- (3)** IOLTA revenue decreases of more than 15 percent.
- (D)** If IOLTA revenue yields insufficient funds for the State Bar to disburse quarterly IOLTA grant payments, the Commission will authorize use of the reserve to fulfill existing grant obligations.
- (E)** IOLTA funds shall be distributed on an annual basis. However, the Commission may authorize yearly IOLTA grant distributions to be spent over a period of multiple years.

¹ Business and Professions Code § 6210.5(e).

State Bar Rule 3.683 Determination of IOLTA Distribution Amounts

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- (1)** Catastrophic events or other emergency circumstances resulting in significantly decreased IOLTA revenue and/or legal aid funding generally;
- (2)** Catastrophic events or other emergency circumstances resulting in significantly increased need for legal aid services; or
- (3)** IOLTA revenue decreases of more than 15 percent.
- (D)** If IOLTA revenue yields insufficient funds for the State Bar to disburse quarterly IOLTA grant payments, the Commission will authorize use of the reserve to fulfill existing grant obligations.
- (E)** IOLTA funds shall be distributed on an annual basis. However, the Commission may authorize yearly IOLTA grant distributions to be spent over a period of multiple years.

¹ Business and Professions Code § 6210.5(e).



Date: August 10, 2023

To: Members, Legal Services Trust Fund Commission Rules Committee

From: Raul Duran, Assistant General Counsel
Brady Dewar, Assistant General Counsel

Subject: Proposed Rules Related to Fee Generating Cases

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This memo is part of the continuing work of the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission (LSTFC) to revise the State Bar Rules for the Legal Services Trust Fund Program (rules). The overarching goal of these revisions is to ensure accuracy, clarity, transparency, and consistency in grants administration for applicants, grantees, the LSTFC, and State Bar staff.

This memo presents the staff's recommendation for the LSTFC Rules Committee (Committee) regarding clarification of the rules governing fee generating cases.

Specifically, this memo addresses:

- How to interpret the definition of "fee generating case" based on the relevant statute.
- A proposal for clarifying, but not substantively altering, the rule defining fee generating cases to align with similar federal law.
- A proposal for requiring recipients to self-certify the applicability of fee generating case exemptions.
- A proposal for addressing concerns about the recovery of attorneys' fees in exempt cases by clarifying the applicable rule.

Staff circulated its recommendations to the legal aid community via the Legal Aid Association of California (LAAC) on March 29, 2023. This memo describes staff's recommendations, after considering the community's feedback, for the Committee meeting on April 27, 2023.

CODIFICATION PROCESS

In 2019, at the recommendation of the Board of Trustees, State Bar staff and the LSTFC agreed to engage in a multi-phase process of revising and/or codifying all decision points employed in the grant-making process for IOLTA and Equal Access Fund (EAF) grants. The intent was to provide more transparency in the process and to ensure consistency in administering the grants.

For the proposed rules regarding fee generating cases, staff developed preliminary recommendations, which were circulated to the legal aid community through LAAC to obtain feedback. Staff and the Committee will then consider the proposed rule and community feedback and discuss the same before making a final recommendation to the LSTFC, and in turn, the Board of Trustees.

GOVERNING AUTHORITIES

Applicants and grantees must comply with requirements in the IOLTA statute, State Bar Rules and Appendices, Eligibility Guidelines for Legal Services Projects and Support Centers, General Grant Provisions, and Standards for Financial Management Systems and Audits. In particular, the IOLTA statute and rules govern which applicants qualify for funding, on what work grantees may spend their IOLTA/EAF dollars, and how much funding they will receive.

By statute, IOLTA/EAF funds may not be used for the provision of legal advice in a “fee generating case,” except in accordance with guidelines set by the State Bar.¹ The Business and Professions Code defines a fee generating case as “a case or matter that, if undertaken on behalf of an indigent person by an attorney in private practice, reasonably may be expected to result in payment of a fee for legal services from an award to a client, from public funds, or from the opposing party.”²

There are several statutory exemptions that permit the expenditure of IOLTA funds in fee generating cases where adequate representation is unavailable.³ Those exemptions are as follows:

1. The recipient has determined that free referral is not possible because of any of the following reasons:

¹ See Business and Professions Code § 6223(a).

² Fee-shifting cases, such as cases brought under the Equal Access to Justice Act, are considered fee-generating cases unless otherwise exempt.

³ See Business and Professions Code § 6213(e)(1-4); see also State Bar Rule 3.673(b).

- a. The case has been rejected by the local lawyer referral service, or if there is no such service, by two attorneys in private practice who have experience in the subject matter of the case.
 - b. Neither the referral service nor any attorney will consider the case without payment of a consultation fee.
 - c. The case is of the type that attorneys in private practice in the area ordinarily do not accept, or do not accept without prepayment of a fee.
 - d. Emergency circumstances compel immediate action before referral can be made, but the client is advised that, if appropriate and consistent with professional responsibility, referral will be attempted at a later time.
2. Recovery of damages is not the principal object of the case and a request for damages is merely ancillary to an action for equitable or other nonpecuniary relief, or inclusion of a counterclaim requesting damages is necessary for effective defense or because of applicable rules governing joinder of counterclaims.
3. A court has appointed a recipient or an employee of a recipient pursuant to a statute or a court rule or practice of equal applicability to all attorneys in the jurisdiction.
4. The case involves the rights of a claimant under a publicly supported benefit program for which entitlement to benefit is based on need.

Under State Bar Rules, if an IOLTA recipient determines that a case falls within one of the above exemptions, it must document the records reflecting the facts that led to that conclusion and any action taken to confirm it.⁴ However, there is no requirement to submit that documentation to the State Bar and, in practice, the State Bar does not ask to inspect such records.

Under Business and Professions Code section 6213(e), the State Bar has the authority to set out guidelines for when IOLTA/EAF funds may be used in fee generating cases. However, at present, the State Bar Rules do not set out any such guidelines other than the record keeping mandate regarding exemptions.

The Federal Analogue

The Federal Legal Services Corporation Act of 1974 (“LSCA”) created the Legal Services Corporation (“LSC”) to provide funding to civil legal aid services to the indigent. The LSCA includes a similar prohibition on the use LSC funds “to provide legal assistance (except in accordance with guidelines promulgated by the [LSC]) with respect to any fee-generating

⁴ See State Bar Rules 3.673(b).

case.”⁵ LSC has implemented regulations governing fee generating cases and has stated that the purpose of the prohibition is “to ensure recipients do not use scarce legal services resources when private attorneys are available to provide effective representation.”⁶

The LSC rules include exemptions to the definition of fee generating cases that are nearly identical to those in the Business and Professions Code.⁷

In 1996, LSC amended its rules to clarify that the definition of fee generating cases “excluded situations where recipients undertake representation under a contract with a government agency or other entity and the agency or entity pays the recipient because a contract payment does not constitute fees that come from an award to a client or attorneys’ fees that come from the losing party in a case, or from public funds.”⁸ To the extent the LSC imposes restrictions on the use of non-LSC funds, those restrictions address concerns that the LSC would indirectly subsidize prohibited categories of activities such as lobbying, prisoner litigation, and abortion.⁹

In 2017, LSC adopted a further revision to the definition of fee generating case. At the time, the definition was identical to the definition the State Bar presently uses. The 2017 revision was adopted to address the concern that “[a] reader could interpret ‘award’ as modifying only ‘to a client’ and not include an ‘award . . . from public funds or [an award] from the opposing party.’” The definition was therefore modified to read as follows: “Fee-generating case means any case or matter which, if undertaken on behalf of an eligible client by an attorney in private practice, reasonably may be expected to result in a fee for legal services from an award to a client.”¹⁰

The LSC also clarified the exemption where the recovery of damages is not the principal object of the case. It eliminated reference to “ancillary relief” and “counter claims” as needlessly complicated and revised the exemption to read as follows: “Recovery of damages is not the principal object of the recipient’s client’s case and substantial statutory attorneys’ fees are not likely to be available.” Along with this change, LSC included commentary that this exemption was meant to cover situations where the available fees are not sufficient to attract private counsel.¹¹

The LSC’s regulations also govern how fund recipients must handle any recovered attorneys’ fee. It mandates that any recovered attorneys’ fees be proportionately allocated to the fund that supported the matter.¹²

⁵ See 42 U.S.C. 2996f(b)(1).

⁶ See 45 CFR 1609.

⁷ See 45 CFR 1609.3.

⁸ 45 CFR 1609.2(b).

⁹ 42 U.S.C. 2996i(c).

¹⁰ 45 CFR 1609.2(a).

¹¹ 45 CFR 1609.3.

¹² See 45 CFR 1609.4.

DISCUSSION

Is it Fee Generating?

In a typical IOLTA/EAF fund application, it is relatively clear whether a case is fee generating. In practice, cases involving a contingency agreement or where the client is themselves paying for legal services are treated as falling within the definition of a Fee Generating Case.

However, over the years there have been select instances where questions have arisen about whether a case was in fact fee generating or if the case fell within an exemption. For example, awards to programs that have arrangements with public entity-third parties to pay for legal services (e.g., partnerships courts/judicial entities) have raised concerns whether such awards should be disallowed on the basis that the programs are receiving a fee from public funds. With the present opportunity to refine and/or clarify the rules, a question remains about whether such cases should be excluded moving forward.

1. Grantee Example 1

Grantee Example 1 (“GE1”) is a nonprofit family defense organization that provides free legal services to indigent parents, and some children, in a local juvenile dependency system. In connection with the representation it provides, GE1 receives partial funding through a contract with a judicial entity. In 2019, GE1’s application was discussed during an LSTFC Eligibility & Budget Review Committee meeting for IOLTA and EAF funds for 2020. The committee discussed GE1’s application and recommended IOLTA/EAF funds not be budgeted for representation in cases where GE1 had an existing contract. Ultimately, the committee never voted on the issue because GE1 withdrew its request and attributed the funds to a more clearly qualifying purpose before the committee’s next meeting.

This example and the recommendation LSTFC adopted illustrate the ambiguity under the statute and current rules of whether this and other similar government funding partnerships run afoul of the prohibition of public fund expenditure in fee generating cases. However, a fair reading of the current definition of fee generating case would exclude the GE1 situation, at least if the LSC’s clarifying approach, expressly adopted through its 2017 rule revision, is followed in interpreting the concept of fee generating case: The source of public funds in this case is not from **an award** of public funds.¹³ Furthermore, as written, the definition of a fee generating case does not depend solely on the fee in fact being paid from “an award to a client, from public funds, or from the opposing party” but whether “at attorney in private practice” would reasonably expect to secure a fee from such sources. Although the GE1 situation

¹³ See 45 CFR 1609.2(b).

involves compensation from “public funds” by virtue of its contract with the judicial entity, such funding source is not one a private attorney would reasonably expect to secure.

Is it Exempt?

Business and Professions Code section 6213(e)(1) exempts fee generating cases where a free referral is not possible for various reasons. However, it is ambiguous how robust an assessment is required to claim the exemption and the justifications allowed by statute are somewhat subjective. For example, how would a fund recipient document that a case is one “that attorneys in private practice in the area ordinarily do not accept”¹⁴ or that “[r]ecovery of damages is not the principal object of the case”?¹⁵

In practice, the State Bar has allowed recipients to self-determine and self-report the applicability of an exemption. The State Bar has not provided guidance on how a recipient should document that determination. A couple recent examples of how the State Bar handled the question of whether a case is fee generating and/or exempt are discussed below.

1. Grantee Example 2

At a monitoring visit in 2022, the State Bar learned that about half of Grantee Example 2’s (“GE2”) revenue is derived from attorneys’ fees awarded in due process appeals in special education-related cases.

Under the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (“IDEA”), a parent of a child with a disability, who prevails on appeal to a state agency that a public school system has denied the child an appropriate education, can recover attorneys’ fees.¹⁶ GE2’s staff have indicated that generating revenue through the recovery of attorneys’ fees is a significant focus in these cases. Indeed, the likelihood of recovering attorneys’ fees factors heavily in GE2’s decision about assuming representation of a client.

Given the organization’s years as a grantee, a decision was made to defer addressing any eligibility concerns until after the current codification process. When GE2’s eligibility is revisited, it should be evaluated in light of whether the available attorneys’ fees would be sufficient to attract private counsel. It may also be important to consider that the Section 6213 exemptions are alternatives. If GE2’s cases are not exempt under section 6213(e)(2), that would not preclude that they would be exempt under the section 6213(e)(1-4) exemptions.

2. Grantee Example 3

¹⁴ Business and Professions Code § 6213(e)(1)(C).

¹⁵ Business and Professions Code § 6213(e)(2).

¹⁶ See 20 U.S.C. § 1415(i)(3)(B)(I).

In 2022, Grantee Example 3 (“GE3”) contacted the State Bar with concerns about running afoul of the fee generating case rule. GE3 provides legal representation to indigent clients on issues concerning elder abuse. Under Welfare and Institutions Code section 15657.5, a plaintiff who prevails under a claim of elder abuse “shall” be awarded attorneys’ fees. GE3’s concern was that, in successful cases, their clients would automatically be entitled to attorneys’ fees. However, the State Bar’s determination was that this type of case was exempt as the fee generating aspect of the case was not the main objective of the representation¹⁷ and because GE3 reported that attorneys in private practice would not typically assume this type of representation.¹⁸

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Clarifying the Definition of Fee Generating

To reduce the ambiguity of the definition of “fee generating case,” the State Bar should enact a rule consistent with the current statute to align the definition with the federal analogue in the LSCA. The language of a proposed revision to the rule is included in **Attachment A**.

Part of the feedback we received from LAAC involved concerns that the fee generating case definition would include fee-shifting cases such as those brought under the Equal Access to Justice Act and cases involving employment law and housing law claims. Such cases are indeed fee generating cases for purposes of the statute. In a fee-shifting case, where a plaintiff prevails, the defendant must pay the plaintiff’s attorneys’ fees and/or costs. Accordingly—under the plain meaning of both the original and proposed revision to the definition—fee-shifting cases are cases that “may reasonably result in the payment of fee from an award to a client, from public funds, or from the opposing party.”¹⁹

2. Requiring Self-Certification of Exemptions With State Bar Monitoring

The current version of Rule 3.673(b) requires only that recipients document their determinations that a case is an exempt fee generating case and to maintain records of all such fees. Given the lack of visibility into to how recipients are invoking these exemptions in practice, we initially considered recommending a revision to Rule 3.673(b) that would require recipients to submit their Rule 3.673(b) records along with their annual IOLTA/EAF application. However, the feedback we received from LAAC was that requiring recipients to document and assemble such records for every case would be administratively burdensome. Based on such concerns, State Bar staff considered and determined that recipient self-certification of

¹⁷ See Bus. & Prof. Code § 6213(e)(2) (“Recovery of damages is not the principal object of the case and a request for damages is merely ancillary to an action for equitable or other nonpecuniary relief. . .”)

¹⁸ See Bus. & Prof. Code § 6213(e)(1)(C) (“The case is of the type that attorneys in private practice in the area ordinarily do not accept, or do not accept without prepayment of a fee.”)

¹⁹ Business and Professions Code § 6213.

compliance together with a focus during monitoring visits on how such exemptions are invoked would provide sufficient protection against improper exemption determinations. Accordingly, we recommend instead that (1) recipients self-certify that any fee generating case receiving IOLTA/EAF funds is exempt, and (2) that the State Bar devote additional attention to how recipients invoke fee generating case exemptions during monitoring visits. Staff believes this approach will ensure compliance with the statute and avoid imposing undue administrative burden on grant recipients. For the proposed revision, see **Attachment A**.

As for determining the applicability of the Section 6123(e)(2) exemption, staff should consider evaluating whether the availability of attorneys' fees in a case would be sufficient to attract private counsel.

3. Clarifying the Appropriate Use of Recovered Attorneys' Fees

Both recent instances discussed above where there were concerns about the applicability of an exemption for fee generating cases involved those where the types of claims involved in the representation provided for the recovery of attorneys' fees.

At present, the State Bar rule governing the recovery attorneys' fees in exempt cases is unclear. Rule 3.673(b) states "[i]f attorney fees are generated in cases funded by Trust Fund Program grants, the fees must be used only for purposes permitted by statute." To clarify that such funds must only be used for the provision of legal services for the indigent, we propose revising Rule 3.673(b) to make such restriction explicit. For the proposed revision, see **Attachment A**.

FISCAL/PERSONNEL IMPACT

None.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A.

Attachment A

Rule 3.673 Permissible uses of funds

- (a) A qualified legal services project or qualified support center must use funds received under Business and Professions Code section 6216 to provide legal assistance to indigent persons or qualified legal services projects as defined by statute. Reasonable administrative expenditures and overhead required to deliver such services meet the statutory requirement.
- (b) No recipient may use an allocation made under Business and Professions Code section 6216 to provide services in a fee-generating case, except as described in Business and Professions Code section 6213(e)(1)-(4). If a recipient determines that a case is not fee generating because it qualifies for a statutory exemption, the recipient must maintain records reflecting the facts that led to that conclusion and any action taken to confirm it. Client reimbursements of nominal costs or expenses are not considered fees. If attorney fees are generated in cases funded by Trust Fund Program grants, the fees must be used only for ~~purposes permitted by statute~~ civil legal services to the indigent in California. Recipients must maintain complete records of all such fees. Recipients must certify, with their annual IOLTA/EAF application, that any fee generating case which received IOLTA/EAF funds is exempt.
- (c) Except as described in Business and Professions Code section 6213(e)(1)-(4), a fee-generating case means any case or matter which, if undertaken on behalf of an eligible client by an attorney in private practice, reasonably may be expected to result in a fee for legal services from an award to a client.



The State Bar *of California*

OPEN SESSION

AGENDA ITEM 3.3

AUGUST 2023

LEGAL SERVICES TRUST FUND COMMISSION

DATE: August 10, 2023

TO: Members, Legal Services Trust Fund Commission

FROM: Members, LSTFC Rules Committee

SUBJECT: Codification of Grant Administration Practices: Review Process for Competitive Discretionary Grants

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Legal Services Trust Fund Commission Rules Committee (Rules Committee) is working to gather, codify, and revise, as necessary and appropriate, all of the decision points and considerations related to the grant administration process. The purpose of the codification process is to ensure transparency, ease administration, and provide clarity for grantee applicants, the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission (LSTFC), and staff.

On March 29, 2023, the Rules Committee met to discuss recommendations regarding the review process for competitive discretionary grants. Topics discussed included:

- Whether a standard scoring rubric approach should be utilized for all future competitive discretionary grants;
- Whether overlapping and scoring categories should be streamlined; and
- Whether a standard application review process should be adopted for all competitive discretionary grants.

This memo presents the Rules Committee's final recommendations for the LSTFC's consideration at its August 10, 2023, meeting.

BACKGROUND

Attachment A provides comprehensive background information on the codification process, governing authorities, and relevant updates to the issues identified above.

DISCUSSION

On March 29, 2023, the Rules Committee discussed the working group's recommendation regarding the review process for discretionary grants. Given the considerations outlined in Attachment A, the working group recommended the following:

- Codify office practice by adopting the use of a scoring rubric for all competitive discretionary grants with the general selection criteria categories of Impact, Administration, and Evaluation.

In addition to the recommendation above, the working group also recommended an optional scoring rubric framework based on best practices from past and current grants. This framework included creating a review team comprised of committee and staff, implementing a calibration structure to guide scoring process, and refining the scoring rubric to best adapt to the funding landscape for continuing grants.

The Rules Committee agreed with the working group's recommendation and made some modifications to the proposed rule during the meeting (Attachment B).

RECOMMENDATIONS

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 approves the Rules Committee's recommendation related to the competitive discretionary grant review process:

Adopt new State Bar Rule 3.680(F) as set forth in Attachment B to codify the use of a scoring rubric to aid in the review and evaluation of competitive discretionary grant applications. Qualified legal services projects and support centers may apply for competitive discretionary grants if they meet threshold eligibility requirements for those funding opportunities. A scoring rubric will be utilized to aid in the review and evaluation of competitive discretionary grant applications. The scoring rubric should, absent an explanation from the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission, consist of the general selection criteria, Impact, Administration, and Evaluation, as well as other grant-specific criteria. Selection criteria, point allocations, and implementation of the scoring rubric will be at the discretion of the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission.

ATTACHMENTS LIST

- A.** Memo and Attachments from March 23, 2023, Rules Committee Meeting
- B.** Proposed Revisions to State Bar Rules



The State Bar *of California*

OPEN SESSION

AGENDA ITEM

4.2 MARCH 2023

LEGAL SERVICES TRUST FUND COMMISSION RULES COMMITTEE

DATE: March 29, 2023

TO: Rules Committee, Legal Services Trust Fund Commission

FROM: Amin Al-Sarraf, Working Group Member
James Meeker, Working Group Member
Eric Isken, Working Group Member

SUBJECT: Codification of Grant Administration Practices: Review Process for Competitive Discretionary Grants

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Legal Services Trust Fund Commission Rules Committee (Rules Committee) is working to gather, codify, and revise, as necessary and appropriate, all of the decision points and considerations related to the grant administration process. The purpose of the codification process is to ensure transparency, ease administration, and provide clarity for grantee applicants, the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission (LSTFC), and staff.

This memo presents the recommendations of the Rules Committee's working group for the discretionary grant process on the following issues regarding the review process for competitive discretionary grants:

- Whether a standard scoring rubric approach should be utilized for all future competitive discretionary grants;
- Whether overlapping and scoring categories should be streamlined; and
- Whether a standard application review process should be adopted for all competitive discretionary grants.

The codification topic was first previewed by the Rules Committee on July 13, 2021, and proposed recommendations with legal aid community support were discussed on August 24, 2021. Since this time, the State Bar has administered additional discretionary grants and the

working group has reconvened to revisit these recommendations. This memo seeks to provide updates regarding those additional grants and revisions to the earlier recommendations.

The working group requested feedback regarding the updated proposed recommendations from the legal aid community through the Legal Aid Association of California (LAAC) on February 15, 2023. There were no comments received and LAAC indicated that it generally supports the review process for discretionary grants, as proposed, as it appears to standardize and streamline in positive ways. The working group will present its recommendations to the full Rules Committee on March 29, 2023.

BACKGROUND

CODIFICATION PROCESS

Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) and Equal Access Fund (EAF) grants are awarded to approximately 100 nonprofit legal services organizations each year to provide free civil legal aid in California to indigent persons and support services such as legal training, legal technical assistance, and advocacy support. In 2019, at the recommendation of the Board of Trustees (Board), the LSTFC determined that it would engage in a multi-phase process to review and codify all decision points employed in the grant-making process for IOLTA and EAF grants. The LSTFC established the Rules Committee to lead this effort, with the overall goal to ensure transparency and efficiencies, in support of the IOLTA statute, which is intended is "to expand the availability and improve the quality of existing free legal services in civil matters to indigent persons, and to initiate new programs that will provide free services to them."

The Rules Committee adopted a work plan outlining the codification process and issues to be addressed:

1. Preview issues at Rules Committee meeting for initial feedback
2. Staff and working group draft memo with preliminary recommendations
3. Send memo to LAAC for community feedback
4. Rules Committee meets to discuss and approve recommendations to the LSTFC
5. LSTFC meets to approve Committee's recommendations
6. Send proposed rules to Board for consideration
7. Board circulates proposed rules for 45-day formal comment period
8. Board votes to approve rule change

GOVERNING AUTHORITIES

Grantee applicants must comply with criteria set forth in Business & Professions Code sections 6210-6228, State Bar Rules and Appendices, Eligibility Guidelines for Legal Services Projects and Support Centers, General Grant Provisions, and Standards for Financial Management Systems and Audits.

Applicants that qualify for IOLTA and EAF funds may also be eligible to apply for competitive discretionary grants administered by the LSTFC. These grants have varying authorities enabling the funding opportunities and different eligibility requirements.

CODIFICATION ISSUE

Unlike formula grants where awards are allocated based on a statutory formula, discretionary grant awards are based on recommendations from committees tasked with reviewing the grant applications.

Although most of the currently administered grants are competitive discretionary grants, a majority of total grant funding is distributed through formula grants:

**Table 1.1 State Bar-Administered Grants
Formula vs. Discretionary Grants (2021-2023) ¹**

	2021			2022			2023		
	Amount Distributed	% of Distribution	# Grants	Amount Distributed	% of Distribution	# of Grants	Amount Distributed	% of Distribution	# of Grants
Formula	\$52.49M	87%	3	\$120.51M	85%	4	\$109.07M	75%	4
Discretionary	\$7.33M	13%	4	\$22.02M	15%	8	\$37.16M	25%	7
TOTAL	\$60.32M	100%	7	\$142.53M	100%	12	\$146.23M	100%	11

As new funding opportunities become available, based on recent trends, it is anticipated that the State Bar will continue to administer additional competitive discretionary grants.

In 2021, the Rules Committee discussed whether a standardized scoring rubric and streamlined review processes should be adopted to enhance efficiencies with the overall goals of providing transparency to applicants, ensuring equitable review of all competitive discretionary grants, and providing guidance to the committees. Since the August 2021 Rules Committee meeting, scoring rubrics have been consistently used by all committees to review competitive discretionary grant applications. In August and December 2022, staff met with various LSTFC members to gather feedback about their respective review processes and scoring rubrics used to inform the working group's updated recommendations.

Whereas the working group's previous recommendations focused on whether a scoring rubric approach should be utilized at all, because scoring rubrics are now standard for discretionary grant review processes, the working group now offers recommendations regarding streamlined categories and a general scoring rubric framework for future discretionary grants.

¹ Formula grants include IOLTA (Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts), Equal Access Fund (EAF), Homelessness Prevention (HP) 2 Formula, and HP 3 Formula. Discretionary grants include Partnership Grants, Bank Grants, HP 2 RFP, HP 3 RFP, HP 4 RFP, CalHFA, Consumer Debt, Provisionally Licensed Lawyers (PLL), and Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Court Planning grants. The discretionary Law School Summer Fellowship Grants will also be distributed in 2023, but that amount is currently pending and is not included in the total for 2023.

DISCUSSION

SCORING RUBRIC FRAMEWORKS

The purpose of a scoring rubric is to provide transparency for applicants and to aim for equitable and consistent review of applications. Additionally, scoring rubrics enhance applicants' understanding of grant requirements and helps applicants develop applications that are more responsive to criteria deemed important by the relevant committee and requirements sent forth by authorizing statute. Utilizing a scoring rubric also provides a numeric baseline for the committee to compare applications and to help guide committee discussions.

In 2021, the working group also reviewed the discretionary grant frameworks from other large funders supporting legal aid, including the Legal Services Corporation and other government agencies. In 2022 and 2023, the working group reviewed all of the State Bar's current discretionary grant review processes. In instances when a grant was administered over multiple cycles, the working group reviewed only the most recent cycle.

Bank Grants

Bank Grants fund projects to provide foreclosure prevention legal assistance and community redevelopment legal assistance. The Bank Grants Committee (BG Committee) is delegated authority for reviewing applications and determining funding recommendations for the LSTFC's approval. To date, the BG Committee has administered five rounds of grants from 2016-2022 and plans to administer a final round of funding in 2024. In the most recent round, 35 organizations applied, and 13 grants were awarded.

Bank Grants were the first of the competitive discretionary grants to use an informal scoring rubric approach for application review. The BG Committee identified five criteria for funding: 1) Demonstrated Need of the Target Population, 2) Impact of Services, 3) Deliverables within Grant Period, 4) Partnerships and Collaboration, 5) Leverage and Sustainability, and 6) Organizational Excellence.

During its most recent application review process in 2019, the BG Committee divided into three review teams², each consisting of two committee members and a staff member that reviewed a subset of 11-12 applications. While no formal points-based scoring rubric was implemented at the time, an informal guide based on the criteria above was developed. Using the guide, each working group discussed each proposal's strengths and weaknesses and rated the overall application as High, Medium, or Low. These ratings and potential funding recommendations were discussed at the November 5, 2019, BG Committee meeting (Attachment A).

²For purposes of this memo, the term "Review Team" is used to describe the team tasked with reviewing and scoring applications. This is inclusive of other terms such as working groups and scoring team.

Partnership Grants

Ten percent of the Equal Access Fund is designated for Partnership Grants to fund joint court and legal services provider projects to provide civil legal services to indigent pro per litigants. The Partnership Grants Committee (PG Committee) is delegated authority for reviewing applications and determining funding recommendations for the LSTFC and Judicial Council of California's approval. About 30-35 applications are submitted annually, and in most years, all eligible projects receive funding.

The PG Committee first used a scoring rubric for the 2021 Partnership Grants. In anticipation of the LSTFC's approval of the Rules Committee's recommendations, the PG Committee adopted some of the proposed streamlined category definitions for its 2022 Partnership Grants, PG 2.0 grants, and 2023 Partnership Grants. For the 2024 Partnership Grants, whose grants administration cycle begins in 2023, the PG Committee updated its rubric to clarify expectations for applicants and to update its overall funding priorities. These proposed updates were approved by the LSTFC at its November 16, 2022, meeting and is reflected in the 2024 Request for Proposal (Attachment B).

The 2024 Partnership Grants scoring rubric is divided into four main sections: 1) Eligibility Requirements (not scored), 2) Selection Criteria (85 points), 3) Funding Priorities (15 points), and 4) an optional Innovation category (up to 5 points). Selection Criteria has 6 subcategories of 1) Court Involvement, 2) Project Impact, 3) Administration, 4), Continuity Planning, and 5) Evaluation. Based on responses in the application, each subcategory is rated as Exceeds Expectation, Meets Expectation and Below Expectation. The PG Committee has discretion to award 0-20 points for subcategories 1 and 2 and 0-15 points for subcategories 3 to 6. For Funding Priorities, the PG Committee rates an application as 1, 2 or 3, which is then multiplied by 5. Optional bonus points between 0-5 are awarded for Innovation. Based on this rubric, the highest number of points an applicant can score is 105 points.

While the application review process for Partnership Grants has varied across grant years, it has always involved participation from both committee members and staff. For the 2023 Partnership Grants, the PG Committee and staff each scored the same sample of applications and had an initial calibration session during a publicly noticed meeting. Each PG Committee member then participated in 1-2 subsequent calibration sessions to review a subset of the remaining applications with the staff team.

Whereas each PG Committee member reviewed a subset of 4-6 applications, each of three to five staff members reviewed all applications to ensure continuity during application review. This allowed staff to offer its insight and ensure consistent scoring. During these sessions, rubric scores were compared and calibrated within the review team. When consensus was not reached on a particular category, the review team took the average of all individual scores. If needed, staff followed up with applicants to get additional information. Although some grantees received follow up questions, no scoring adjustments were made. Following the calibration sessions, staff compiled all rubric scores and presented the proposed funding recommendations to the PG Committee. The PG Committee discussed and adjusted the

recommended amounts based on available funding and other relevant factors, including geographic spread and overall impact. All funding recommendations were approved by both the LSTFC and the Judicial Council.

Homelessness Prevention Grants

Homelessness Prevention (HP) Grant funds are used to provide homelessness prevention legal services, such as eviction defense, other tenant defense assistance in landlord-tenant rental disputes, or services to prevent foreclosure for homeowners. The Homelessness Prevention Committee (HP Committee) is delegated authority for developing the scoring rubric, reviewing applications and determining funding recommendations for the LSTFC's approval. To date, the HP Committee has administered four cycles of discretionary HP grants – HP 1, HP 2, HP 3, and HP 4; the HP Committee plans to administer an HP 4 Supplemental grant in 2023. Unlike HP 1, HP 2, and HP 3, which were highly competitive, for HP 4, all 46 organizations that applied were fully funded.

The HP Committee has used a scoring rubric since HP 1's administration and has updated it each time a new HP grant was administered to better reflect the grant requirements and priorities. The HP 4 scoring rubric is comprised of six selection criteria categories: 1) Project Impact and Strategies, 2) Administration, 3) Serves Rural Populations, 4) Serves Underserved Populations, 5) Project Evaluation, and 6) Partnerships. Based on responses in the application, each category is rated as Exceeds Expectation, Meets Expectation, Below Expectation, and Not Addressed. The HP Committee had discretion to award 0-25 points for category 1 and 0-15 points for categories 2 to 6. The highest an applicant could score is 100 points.

The application review process for HP has also varied across grant cycles. For HP 4, the HP Committee first discussed a cross-section of four applications at its October 20, 2022, meeting. Following that meeting, the review team comprised of two HP Committee members and three staff members reviewed the rest of the submitted applications. This five-member team arrived at unified scores and funding recommendation amounts for each application. For Project Impact, instead of reaching a consensus, the review team averaged individual scores to determine the category score.

Final scores and recommendations were approved at the LSTFC's December 13, 2022, meeting (Attachment C).

CalHFA Grants

CalHFA Grants is a one-time funding opportunity intended to provide legal services related to foreclosure prevention or displacement to eligible households. This includes providing outreach and education on financial assistance and reviewing loan documents and counseling regarding the viability of loan modifications. Due to its condensed grants administration timeline, the LSTFC delegated authority to the LSTFC Executive Committee (ExCom) to review, score and determine funding recommendations for the CalHFA Grants. In total, 22 applications were submitted and only 11 projects were funded for a grant period of July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2025.

In developing a scoring rubric, ExCom leveraged the existing HP 3 scoring rubric and made updates appropriate to its requirements and priorities. CalHFA's scoring rubric is comprised of six categories: 1) Project Impact and Strategies, 2) Administration, 3) Serves Rural Populations, 4) Serves Underserved Populations, 5) Project Evaluation, and 6) Special Considerations. Based on responses in the application, each category is rated as Exceeds Expectation, Meets Expectation, Below Expectation, and Not Addressed. The ExCom had discretion to award 0-30 points for category 1, 0-20 points for category 2, 0-15 points for categories 3 to 5, and 0-5 points for category 6. The highest an applicant could score is 100 points.

The CalHFA review team was comprised of two ExCom Committee members and staff. Because majority of the ExCom members were already on the review team, there was no initial calibration process. During the scoring sessions, the review team compared their individual scores and aimed to for consensus for most rubric categories with the exception of the Special Considerations category, where there was a greater point variance. For this category, the review team opted to take the average of all individual scores. After scoring all applications, the ExCom met on June 13, 2022, and finalized funding recommendation amounts for the selected projects (Attachment D).

Consumer Debt Grants

Consumer Debt Grants is a one-time funding opportunity intended to provide civil legal services for indigent persons related to consumer debt matters affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Because Consumer Debts were similarly situated as the CalHFA grants, the LSTFC delegated authority to the ExCom to review and score applications in lieu of creating a new committee. In total 30 applications were received, and 20 were funded for a grant period of January 1, 2023, and end on December 31, 2025.

In developing a scoring rubric, ExCom leveraged the HP 4 scoring rubric and made necessary updates to scoring values and category definitions. The Consumer Debt scoring rubric is comprised of six categories: 1) Project Impact and Strategies, 2) Administration, 3) Serves Rural Populations, 4) Serves Underserved Populations, 5) Project Evaluation, and 6) Special Considerations. Based on responses in the application, each category is rated as Exceeds Expectation, Meets Expectation, Below Expectation, and Not Addressed. The ExCom had discretion to award 0-25 points for category 1, 0-20 points for category 2, and 0-15 points for categories 3 to 5, and 0-10 points for category 6. Therefore, the highest an applicant could score is 100 points.

The Consumer Debt review team was comprised of two commission members and staff. Unlike other discretionary grants administered, both commission members were new to reviewing discretionary grants. The review team held an initial calibration session to discuss the scoring rubric, scoring guide, and the approach for scoring categories. Subsequent calibration sessions were held to discuss a subset of applications. After the review team compared individual scores, they aimed to reach a consensus for rubric categories with fixed values. For categories allowing for a range of points, if no consensus was reached, the average score was taken.

Scores and funding recommendations were presented and approved at the December 13, 2023, LSTFC meeting (Attachment E).

Provisionally Licensed Lawyers Grants

The Provisionally Licensed Lawyers (PLL) grants was a one-time funding opportunity for Qualified Legal Services Providers and Support Centers to hire law school graduates with a temporary provisional licensed issued by the State Bar. In consideration of the limited time available to administer the grant, in lieu of creating a new committee, the LSTFC delegated responsibility to staff to score all applications and delegated authority to ExCom to determine recommendation amounts. Out of 32 applications submitted, 21 were funded for a grant period of January 1, 2021, to June 1, 2022.

The PLL scoring rubric was comprised of five categories: 1) Impact, 2) Support, 3) Safeguards, 4) Recruitment, and 5) Special Consideration. Based on responses in the application, each category is rated as Exceeds Expectation, Meets Expectation, Below Expectation, and Not Addressed. In categories 1-4, Exceeds Expectations was scored 25 points, Meets Expectations at 20 points, Below Expectations at 15 points, and Not Addressed at 0 points. The committee had discretion to award 0-10 points for category 5, Special Considerations. Therefore, the highest an applicant could score is 110 points.

The review team was comprised of three staff members, who reviewed and scored applications during an initial and subsequent calibrations session. Scores and recommendations were presented on at the May 12, 2021, ExCom meeting (Attachment F).

Law School Fellowship Grants

The Law School Fellowship Grants is a funding opportunity intended to support the pipeline of legal aid professionals by providing summer fellowships to law students. The LSTFC delegated responsibility to the Law School Fellowship Grant (LSFG) Committee to approve rubric, review applications, and make award recommendations. Unlike the other LSTFC committees, because the LSFG Committee is comprised of members from the LSTFC and the Council on Access and Fairness, which is another State Bar sub-entity, the LSTFC will approve final grant awards. This grant cycle's administration began January 2023 (Attachment G), and grants will be awarded for a grant period of May 15, 2023, to September 30, 2023.

The LSFG Committee used the PLL scoring rubric as a starting point when developing its own scoring rubric. The LSFG scoring rubric is comprised of two main categories: 1) Selection Criteria (up to 88 points) and 2) Funding Preferences (up to 12 points). Selection Criteria is further divided into Impact, Supervision, Support, and Recruitment. Based on responses in the application, each individual category is then rated as Exceeds Expectations, Meets Expectations and Below Expectations, and scored a corresponding multiplier value. Funding Preferences is divided into serves rural populations, serves underserved populations, and serves clients regardless of immigration or citizenship status. The highest an applicant could score is 100 points.

Following the March 10, 2023, application deadline, the LSFG committee will form two review teams comprised of committee members and staff. Consistent with other discretionary grants, the LSFG Committee plans to have an initial calibration session at a publicly noticed meeting before reviewing all applications.

COMPARISON ACROSS GRANTS

After reviewing each individual discretionary grants review process, the working group compared various characteristics across the grants.

First, the working group confirmed that all discretionary grants were overseen by LSTFC committees that are delegated responsibility to review, score, and determine funding (with the LSFG Committee making funding recommendations to the LSTFC, rather than final decisions).

Table 2.1 LSTFC Committees and Grant Purpose

Grant	Purpose	Delegated Committee	Number of Committee Members
2020-2022 Bank Grants	Provide foreclosure prevention legal assistance and community redevelopment legal assistance	LSTFC Bank Grant Committee	5
2023 Partnership Grants	Fund joint court and legal services provider projects to provide civil legal services to indigent pro per litigants	LSTFC Partnership Grants Committee	7
2023-2024 Homelessness Prevention Grants (HP 4)	Provide homelessness prevention legal services, such as eviction defense, other tenant defense assistance in landlord-tenant rental disputes, or services to prevent foreclosure for homeowners	LSTFC Homelessness Prevention Committee	5
2022-2025 CalHFA Foreclosure Grants	Provide legal services to eligible households eligible with matters related to foreclosure prevention or displacement	LSTFC Executive Committee	3
2023-2025 Consumer Debt Grants	Provide civil legal services for indigent persons related to consumer debt matters affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.	LSTFC Executive Committee	3
2021-2022 Provisionally Licensed Lawyer Grants	Qualified Legal Services Providers and Support Centers to hire law school graduates with a temporary provisional licensed issued by the State Bar	LSTFC Executive Committee	3
Law School Fellowship Grants	Support the pipeline of legal aid professionals by providing summer fellowships to law students	Law School Fellowship Grants Committee	4

The working group also compared the number of applications received with those funded, as well as the total amount requested with the total funding available.

Table 2.2 Percentage of Successful Applicants³

Grant	# Applications Received	# Funded	% of Successful Applicants	Total Amount Requested	Total Funding Available	Total Awarded
2020-2022 Bank Grants	35	13	37%	\$27.6M	\$6.5M	\$6.5M
2023 Partnership Grants	31	30	97%	\$2.9M	\$3.5M	\$2.77M
2023-2024 HP 4 Grants	46	46	100%	\$25.8M	\$28.5M	\$25.8M
2022-2025 CalHFA Grants	22	11	50%	\$26.3M	\$11.04M	\$11.04M
2023-2025 Consumer Debt Grants	30	20	67%	\$22.5M	\$14.25M	\$14.25M
2021-2022 PLL	32	20	62%	\$2.38M	\$1.36M	\$1.36M

With the exception of the PLL grants, the LSFTC committees opted to have a review team comprised of both committee members and staff.

Table 2.3 Review Team Overview

Grant	Review Team Description	Initial Calibration
2020-2022 Bank Grants	3 review teams, each comprised of 2 committee members and 1 staff	No
2023 Partnership Grants	1 review team comprised of 4 staff and alternating committee members	Yes
2023-2024 HP 4 Grants	1 review team comprised of 2 committee members and 3 staff	Yes
2022-2025 CalHFA Grants	1 review team comprised of 2 committee members and 2 staff	No
2023-2025 Consumer Debt Grants	1 review team comprised of 2 committee members and 2 staff	Yes
2021-2022 PLL	1 review team comprised of 3 staff	Yes
Law School Fellowship Grants	2 review teams, each comprised of 2 committee members and 1 staff	Yes

Finally, the working group consolidated and compared the selection criteria category from the most recent discretionary grants. This comparison highlighted similarities and differences in subcategories.

³ The Law School Fellowship Grants is in its first administration cycle, so information regarding successful applicants is not yet available.

Table 2.4 Scoring Rubric Categories and Point Allocations (2020-2024)

	Bank (2020)	Partnership (2023)	Homelessness Prevention (2023)	CalHFA (2022)	Consumer Debt (2023)	PLL (2021)	Law School Fellowship (2024)
Impact	✓	✓ (20pts)	✓ (25pts)	✓ (30pts)	✓ (25pts)	✓ (25pts)	✓ (22pts)
Organizational Excellence	✓						
Demonstrated Need	✓						
Leverage and Sustainability	✓						
Diversity of Projects	✓						
Grant Deliverables	✓						
Rural	✓		✓ (15pts)		✓ (15pts)		✓ (4pts)
Partnerships	✓		✓ (15pts)				
Administration		✓ (10pts)	✓ (15pts)	✓ (20pts)	✓ (20pts)		
Evaluation		✓ (10pts)	✓ (15pts)	✓ (15pts)	✓ (15pts)		
Court Involvement		✓ (20pts)					
Budget		✓ (10pts)					
Continuity Planning		✓ (10pts)					
Funding Priorities		✓ (20pts)					
Innovation (Optional)		✓ (10pts)					
Underserved			✓ (15pts)		✓ (15pts)		✓ (4pts)
Outreach Strategy				✓ (15pts)			
Socially disadvantaged				✓ (15pts)			
Special Considerations				✓ (5pts)	✓ (10pts)	✓ (10pts)	
Support						✓ (25pts)	✓ (22pts)
Safeguards						✓ (25pts)	
Recruitment						✓ (25pts)	✓ (22pts)
Supervision							✓ (22pts)
Immigration/ Citizenship Status							✓ (4pts)
TOTAL POINTS	N/A	110pts	100pts	100pts	100pts	110pts	100pts

⁴ While some category names are different, there may be overlap in the criteria evaluated. The 2024 Partnership Grants are currently being administered and has an updated scoring rubric that omits the budget subcategory and reallocates points across various categories for a total of 105 points.

CODIFYING OFFICE PRACTICE

In efforts to provide continuity across grants, the working group recommends that the Rules Committee codify the use of a scoring rubric for all competitive discretionary grants with the suggested selection criteria categories of Impact, Administration, and Evaluation, which have been consistently used in the grants administered to date.

The working group also discussed whether specific points should be allocated to these categories to reinforce consistency. However, without the ability to foresee future grant requirements and acknowledging that fixed point allocations could be unintentionally restrictive, the working group recommends that the committees maintain discretion to recommend point designations, based on specific grant requirements and objectives. The working group further recommends that all rubrics and distribution plans be subject to LSTFC approval before implementation.

The proposed changes would be reflected in State Bar Rule 3.680, under new section, (F):

Article 3. Applications and distributions

Rule 3.680 Application for Trust Fund Program grants

To be considered for a Trust Fund Program grant, a qualified legal services project or qualified support center seeking a Trust Fund Program grant must submit a timely and complete application for funding in the manner prescribed by the Commission. The applicant must agree to use any grant in accordance with grant terms and legal requirements.

...

(F) Qualified legal services projects and support centers may apply for competitive discretionary grants if they meet threshold eligibility requirements for those funding opportunities. A scoring rubric will be utilized to aid in the review and evaluation of competitive discretionary grant applications. The scoring rubric may consist of general selection criteria such as Impact, Administration, and Evaluation as well as other grant-specific considerations. Selection criteria, point allocations, and implementation of the scoring rubric will be at the discretion of the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission.

RECOMMENDED SCORING RUBRIC FRAMEWORK

The working group further offers a general scoring rubric framework for future discretionary grants, based on what was successful in past grant administrations. This framework is only recommended, and committees would maintain discretion when developing their own framework.

Utilize streamlined category definitions

First, the working group offers streamlined category definitions for Impact, Administration, and Evaluation, in an effort to provide continuity for applicants and commissioners. These definitions would be subject to modification by the respective committees as needed in consideration of volume of applications submitted, timeline limitations, grant requirements, and other factors.

- **Impact:** A successful proposal will clearly describe the needs of the targeted population and how anticipated outcomes 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.
- **Administration:** 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.
- **Evaluation:** 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.

Create a review team comprised of committee and staff

Since LSTFC committees are typically delegated authority to make funding recommendations for discretionary grants, it is important to have committee members involved in the review process. Staff also offers valuable perspective based on their knowledge and experience working with the grantees. Therefore, the working group recommends that a review team be comprised of both committee members and staff to offer a balance of perspectives and experiences. If appropriate, the working group also recommends that training and resources be available to help new review team members understand the discretionary grants review process.

Implement a calibration structure to guide scoring process

Based on the most recent discretionary grants administered, the working group recognizes the value in the calibration process as it offers an opportunity for the committee to discuss the scoring rubric in the context of the applications submitted. Calibration helps align expectations

and interpretations of rubric categories within the committee. Subsequent calibration sessions further refine this scoring process since a subset of applications are discussed in-depth. By the time all final scores are presented after a calibration process, there generally are few to no questions regarding the integrity of the scoring process from either committee members or applicants, which has the added benefit of a more efficient review process.

Refine the scoring rubric to best adapt to the funding landscape for continuing grants

If a funding opportunity is ongoing, it is important that the scoring rubric is refined to best adapt to the current funding landscape and the competitiveness of a grant. The committee may want to consider reviewing its current categories, definitions, and point allocations to confirm that the successful applicants and projects align with the intent of funding opportunity. The committees should also discuss and be clear on the parameters for application review, such as whether it will take additional information into consideration, such as results from the Grants Management Assessment⁵ or a grantee's previously submitted evaluation reports.

Other considerations

In efforts to ensure equitable funding of grant awards, the working group also recommends that committees should consider evaluating the diversity of applicants as part of the review process, including applicant's geographical distribution throughout California, experience level, and size.

WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

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

RESOLVED, that the Rules Committee of the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission approves the following working group recommendation related to the competitive discretionary grant review process:

Adopt new State Bar Rule 3.680(E) as set forth in Attachment H to codify the use of a scoring rubric to aid in the review and evaluation of competitive discretionary grant applications. The scoring rubric may consist of general selection criteria such as Impact, Administration, and Evaluation as well as other grant-specific considerations. Selection criteria, point allocations, and implementation of the scoring rubric will be at the discretion of the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission.

Once the Rules Committee makes its final recommendations, these recommendations will be reviewed subsequently by both the LSTFC and, ultimately, the State Bar's Board of Trustees.

⁵ Pursuant to the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 2, Part 200, the State Bar is required to assess applicants for federal funding to aid in selecting grant recipients most likely to be successful in meeting the goals of the grant opportunity. Currently, HP 3 Formula, HP 3 RFP, and CalHFA are subject to this requirement.

ATTACHMENTS LIST

- A.** November 9, 2019, Bank Grant Committee meeting memo
- B.** November 16, 2022, LSTFC meeting memo re: 2024 Partnership Grants
- C.** December 13, 2022, LSTFC memo re: HP 4 Grants
- D.** June 13, 2022, ExCom meeting memo re: CalHFA Grants
- E.** December 13, 2022, LSTFC meeting memo re: Consumer Debt Grants
- F.** May 12, 2021, ExCom meeting memo re: PLL Grants
- G.** 2023 Law School Fellowship Grants Request for Proposal
- H.** Proposed Revisions to State Bar Rules



Date: October 31, 2019

To: Members, Bank Grant Committee of the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission

From: Christine Holmes, Senior Program Analyst

Subject: November 5, 2019 Bank Grant Committee Meeting

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2015 and 2016, the State Bar of California received \$50.9 million from Bank of America and Citi following the settlement of lawsuits brought by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). These national settlements provided funds to states for “foreclosure prevention legal assistance and community redevelopment legal assistance.” The funds were provided to the entity in each state responsible for distribution of Interest on Lawyers’ Trust Accounts (IOLTA). To date, the State Bar, through the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission (LSTFC), has allocated \$40.8 million to fund 128 community redevelopment and foreclosure prevention projects.

The LSTFC is set to distribute \$6.5 million of the remaining \$10.5 million¹ Bank Community Stabilization and Reinvestment (BCSR) Grant for statewide and regional foreclosure prevention and community redevelopment collaborations to IOLTA-funded providers through a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) process.² Funding of up to \$2.17 million annually for three years will commence in January 2020. Thirty-five applications were received, requesting a total of \$27.26 million. Twenty-seven of the applications were for community redevelopment legal assistance projects and eight applications were for foreclosure prevention legal assistance projects.

The purpose of this memo is to provide context for the in-person November 5, 2019 Bank Grant Committee meeting, including a summary of the application review process and the three working groups’ recommendations for funding.

BACKGROUND

Initial Distributions of Bank Grants

¹ The amount already allocated (\$40.8 million) plus the amount remaining (\$10.5 million) does not equal the total amount awarded (\$50.9 million) as a result of investment income earned on the principal and authorized administrative expenses.

² Only State Bar-funded Legal Services Projects and Support Centers are eligible to apply for BCSR Grants. State Bar-funded programs are permitted to subgrant to non-State Bar-funded 501(c)(3) programs.

In 2015, as a result of settlements between the U.S. DOJ and Bank of America and Citi, the State Bar received \$6.1 million for administration of grants to legal services organizations to provide “foreclosure prevention legal assistance and community redevelopment legal assistance.” The LSTFC broadly defined community redevelopment legal assistance as projects that support and promote economic development by providing legal services which revitalize or stabilize low-income communities. To qualify as community redevelopment work, the services must be tied to broader systemic work that benefits the community as a whole.

The first round of grant distributions funded 16 community redevelopment and nine foreclosure prevention projects. The projects were geographically diverse and served a variety of disadvantaged populations, such as day laborers, low-income children, and mobile home owners in rural communities. Approximately 30 percent of projects served rural communities.

In 2016, the LSTFC received an additional \$44.8 million from the Bank of America Settlement and distributed a second and third round of grant awards totaling \$5.8 million. The three rounds of distributions funded a total of 16 foreclosure prevention and 42 community redevelopment projects which encompassed broad categories such as: affordable housing, transactional assistance for nonprofits and small businesses, homelessness prevention, employment, fair housing, and environmental justice. The projects funded through the three rounds of distributions protected the housing of over 42,000 low-income mobile-home residents, including seniors and families with children in rural communities. The grants were also used to prevent 413 foreclosures and to support impact litigation and advocacy work to develop over 10,000 new units of affordable housing. Organizations advanced efforts to secure over \$500 million in additional funding for the development of affordable housing and rental assistance programs throughout California.

Establishing Priorities and a Strategy for Remaining \$38 million

Given the likely one-time and non-recurrent nature of these funds, as well as their significant size, the LSTFC carved out funds for a one-year planning period from 2016 to 2017 to enable programs to identify the best and most impactful statewide or regional priorities for the remaining \$38 million in BCSR funds. Seventy-four IOLTA-funded organizations participated, with each receiving a \$10,000 planning grant.

As part of the strategy development and planning period, the LSTFC sought feedback from the legal services community through a series of surveys, webinars, and in-person statewide planning meetings. At the end of the one-year planning period, several substantive priority areas were identified by IOLTA funded programs, including housing and homelessness prevention, capacity building for nonprofit organizations and small businesses, and equitable development. The prevailing feedback from IOLTA-funded programs and leading experts in the field was that community economic development work needed to be multidisciplinary and multisector in order to be effective. Moreover, legal services providers noted they needed to engage and collaborate with community based nonprofit organizations in order to revitalize low-income neighborhoods and kindle economic growth. As such, the LSTFC reserved a portion of the funding for regional and statewide collaborations and permitted grantees to subcontract with non-IOLTA organizations.

The collaborations were meant to expand the breadth and depth of services available and potentially reach broader communities than legal aid organizations typically served. To encourage collaborations, all bank grant RFPs including the current 2020 RFP, permitted IOLTA grantees to subcontract with non-IOLTA organizations. In the past three years, 58 non-IOLTA nonprofit organizations received more than \$4 million in total subcontracts. Examples of grants included using non-IOLTA subcontracts to preserve mobile and manufactured homes in rural areas and develop statewide policy responses to address predatory lending scams. These collaborations included a diverse group of nonprofits throughout the state with different types of services.

As expected, housing was the substantive area that was most represented in the fourth distribution of approximately \$28.5 million BCSR funds, with 36 projects and over \$17 million in funding.

2020 – 2022 Bank Grant RFP

On April 25, 2019, the Board of Trustees approved the LSTFC recommendation for the distribution of \$6.5 million BCSR funds for statewide and regional foreclosure prevention and community redevelopment collaborations. The purpose of this distribution is to fund large, high-impact projects that consist of a collaboration between at least two programs. The size of the grant is dependent upon the number of programs partnering in the project, with projects consisting of two partners eligible for up to \$175,000 per year, and projects consisting of five partners eligible for up to \$400,000 per year. To ensure a bigger impact, services proposed must be provided statewide or regionally. Statewide is defined as providing services in five of the following seven districts: Northern California, Sacramento Area, Bay Area, Central Coast, Central Valley, Eastern California, and Southwestern California. Regional is defined as: (1) five or more counties; or (2) two or more districts; or (3) at least two counties that have a total of at least 400,000 people living below the 125% federal poverty threshold.

As with prior distributions, 2020 grant awards will be based on a variety of factors, including the demonstrated need of the targeted population,³ impact of services, deliverables achievable within the grant period, extensiveness of partnerships and collaboration, sustainability, and organizational excellence (cumulatively referenced as criteria). The LSTFC stated a preference to projects serving rural communities.⁴ Also as in prior distributions and stated in the RFP, the LSTFC seeks to fund a diversity of projects and will take into consideration various factors such as geographic region, program size, and project type. (See Attachment 1.)

³ While there are no income-eligibility requirements for this funding, the LSTFC will consider the articulated needs of a defined target population, with consideration to indigency, and to other special needs, such as those of especially vulnerable populations, or persons with limited English language proficiency.

⁴ For the purposes of the BCSR Grant RFP, “rural” is defined as areas that meet the definition of “rural” or “frontier” that the medical community uses to analyze the availability of medical services. This classification scheme is known as Medical Service Study Areas (MSSAs). Rural MSSAs have 50,000 or fewer residents and population densities below 250 people per square mile, while “frontier” MSSAs are defined by population densities of fewer than 11 people per square mile.

Application Review Process

Proposals for the BCRS Grant funding were due on Friday, September 13, 2019. In total, the State Bar received 35 applications requesting a total of approximately \$27.26 million. The Bank Grant Committee divided into three working groups, consisting of two members of the Committee and one staff member. Each team reviewed 11 or 12 applications and conducted meetings via conference calls to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each proposal. In addition, the working groups identified questions that needed clarification from the applicants and indicated an initial funding position for each proposal. Staff communicated with applicant organizations to resolve as many questions as possible that came up during the working group meetings. Although the RFP does not describe a scoring rubric, a guide based on the criteria above was developed in previous review cycles and a similar guide was developed and used for this grant cycle. The working group members used the guide to then discuss and rate the strong applications as “High” recommendations for funding, followed by “Medium” and “Low.” (See Attachment 2.)

DISCUSSION

The Bank Grant Committee will meet on November 5, 2019, for a four-hour in person meeting. Given the distribution for the 2020 – 2022 bank grants is only \$6.5 million and applicants requested a total of \$27.26 million in funding, the Committee will need to consider the impact of this funding. During this meeting all committee members will report out on each proposal’s strengths and challenges in regards to the criteria described above. An initial range for potential funding will be identified for each proposal, based on such factors as the amount that was requested in the proposal; the potential impact of the funding on the targeted populations; prior funding history, if any; the level of engagement of the partnerships; and the total amount of funding recommendations. In addition to the criteria enumerated in the RFP, staff asks the Committee to consider at the November 5th Committee meeting the following additional information.

Justice Gap Study Findings

As described above, several substantive priority areas were identified by IOLTA-funded organizations during the one-year planning period from 2016 to 2017, including housing and homelessness prevention, capacity building for nonprofits and small businesses, and equitable development. Since the planning period was over three years ago, staff recommends also taking into consideration preliminary findings in the California Justice Gap Study conducted by the State Bar and NORC at the University of Chicago.⁵

The Justice Gap Study is the first comprehensive statewide study on the need for civil legal assistance from representative samples of Californians on the legal problems they faced in the past year. Preliminary findings revealed that housing, immigration, and health issues were the most common problems that IOLTA funded legal aid providers addressed. In fact, housing and

⁵ 2019 California Justice Gap Study – Technical Report at <http://board.calbar.ca.gov/docs/agendaitem/Public/agendaitem1000024723.pdf>

immigration cases represent one-third of the problems for which people received services from IOLTA funded organizations. However, the study identified that for Californian households at or below 125% of the federal poverty level, the most common types of civil legal issues individuals identified experiencing in their households were health, finance, employment and income maintenance, respectively.⁶ Although the Technical Report did not find significant differences for those living in rural areas (using MSSA) compared to those in urban areas regarding experience with civil legal issues, they did find that rural respondents reported more issues with homeownership.⁷

Equal Access Fund Homelessness Prevention Grants

The LSTFC is also distributing \$20 million to qualified legal services projects and support centers to provide eviction defense or other tenant defense assistance in landlord-tenant rental disputes through the IOLTA formula and a request for proposal process. This is one-time funding through the Equal Access Fund (EAF) that will need to be expended by June 31, 2021. While the EAF Homelessness Prevention grants focus on direct services and the BCSR grants focus on systemic legal strategies, staff recommends that the Bank Committee take into consideration the sheer amount of total funding that will go towards housing and how the BCSR grants could complement or augment the EAF Homelessness Prevention grants. The list of EAF Homelessness Prevention Formula grants is included for context. (See Attachment 6.) Staff will provide an oral update of the EAF Homelessness Prevention RFP grant review process at the November 5th Bank Grant Committee meeting.

Geographic Distribution and Rural Preference

The 2020 Bank Grant RFP explicitly states that the LSTFC will give preference to rural projects. As a result of the one-year planning period and letters of advocacy for increased rural legal assistance, LSTFC approved adding a preference for rural projects to the RFP. While projects that reach rural communities will be weighted more heavily in the review process, the Committee should consider if the funding should cover a broad area of the state or focus solely on rural areas.

CONCLUSION

As mentioned above, each working group reviewed 11 or 12 of the total 35 applications. Attachment 2 lists the working groups' ranking of each project as High, Medium, or Low as well as a low and high range for the funding amount. The entire Committee should review all proposals marked as High. If there are any proposals in the Medium or Low category that working group members would like the larger Committee to consider, the member will have the opportunity to discuss why the Committee should further consider that application.

The Committee will finalize award recommendations at the November 5th meeting and present its recommendations to the LSTFC for approval at their November 22nd meeting.

⁶ Id, at page 10.

⁷ Id, at page 30.

Several maps are attached to this memo to help visualize the geographic scope of the proposed community redevelopment projects ranked either High or Medium as well as a map of all eight proposed foreclosure prevention projects. (See Attachments 3-5.)

ATTACHMENTS

1. Bank Community Stabilization and Reinvestment Grant RFP
2. Working Group Ranking of Assigned 2020 – 2022 BCSR RFPs
3. Map of Proposed Foreclosure Prevention Projects
4. Map of Proposed Community Redevelopment Projects Ranked High
5. Map of Proposed Community Redevelopment Projects Ranked Medium
6. List of EAF Homelessness Prevention Formula Grants
7. Profile Sheets of 2020 – 2022 BCSR Grant Proposals



The State Bar of California

2020 – 2022 Bank Community Stabilization and Reinvestment Grant Request for Proposal

Background

In 2015 and 2016, the State Bar of California received over \$50 million from Bank of America and Citi in accordance with bank settlements with the U.S. Department of Justice. These national settlements provided funds to IOLTA organizations in every state for “foreclosure prevention legal assistance and community redevelopment legal assistance.” To date, the State Bar, through the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission, has allocated approximately \$41 million to fund 128 community redevelopment and foreclosure prevention projects.

On April 25, 2019, the State Bar’s Board of Trustees¹ approved the distribution of \$6.5 million of the remaining Bank Community Stabilization and Reinvestment Grant (BCSR) funds for statewide and regional foreclosure prevention and community redevelopment collaborations as described below.

Eligibility

Grant applications must be submitted via SmartSimple **by Friday, September 13, 2019 at 5:00pm.** Applicants and their projects must meet the following criteria in order to be eligible to apply:

- State Bar-Funded Organizations: Only State Bar-funded Legal Services Projects and Support Centers are eligible to apply for BCSR Grants.
- Foreclosure Prevention or Community Redevelopment: Projects must provide legal assistance in either foreclosure prevention or community redevelopment.
- Collaborative Projects: Projects must be collaborative and include a minimum of one organization other than the eligible applicant. Funding caps are based on the total number of organizations collaborating on the project.
- Statewide or Regional Services: Applicants must establish that services are available, and will be actually provided, on either a statewide or regional basis as defined on page three.

Award Information

The State Bar will distribute up to \$2.17 million annually for three years using a competitive RFP process. Applicants may apply for three year grants, with funding to commence in January 2020. Any funds that are not committed in 2020 will be added to the distribution pool for future years. Eligibility is restricted

¹ In this RFP, references to the State Bar means the Board of Trustees, the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission, or staff in the Office of Access & Inclusion, as appropriate.

to State Bar-funded organizations; however, State Bar-funded organizations may subgrant to non-State Bar-funded 501(c)(3) organizations or to other State Bar-funded organizations. Organizations that previously received BCSR Grant awards may apply for funding. The State Bar has full discretion to award or hold funding for any reason, including an assessment of the ability of the applicants to meet the articulated requirements below.

- **Funding Caps**

Project funding caps are determined by the total number of organizations in a collaborative project. Each project must consist of one State Bar-funded organization applying for the BCSR grant and at least one other program, who may be a State Bar or a non-State Bar-funded organization. Previous BCSR grant awards will not be applied to funding caps in this application cycle, even if prior awards are for the 2020 grant year.

- Two organizations (including applicant) may apply for up to \$175,000 per year for a total of \$525,000 over three years
- Three organizations (including applicant) may apply for up to \$250,000 per year for a total of \$750,000 over three years
- Four organizations (including applicant) may apply for up to \$325,000 per year for a total of \$975,000 over three years
- Five or more organizations (including applicant) may apply for up to \$400,000 per year for a total of \$1,200,000 over three years

- **Subgrants**

Subgrants may be made to non-State Bar-funded 501(c)(3) organizations or to other State Bar-funded organizations. Funding caps are based on the total number of organizations in a collaborative project and will include subgrant amounts. If a State Bar-funded organization is applying for a grant and is also a subgrantee in another project, the subgrant amount will not count towards the funding cap in their application. However, the total amount requested per organization (as an applicant and subgrantee in another project) may be taken into consideration when determining grant awards. State Bar-funded organizations that are both subgrantees and are also applying for a grant must demonstrate that the separate grants will not fund the same activities.

Project Requirements

Proposals for funding must demonstrate how projects will meet the following requirements:

1. Collaboration: Projects must consist of a collaboration between a minimum of two organizations, including the eligible applicant. Funding caps are based on the total number of organizations collaborating on the project. The proposal should describe how the applicant has already developed the necessary partnerships for the project and how it will accomplish its goals.
2. Statewide or Regional Services: Services must be provided statewide or regionally.

- A. **Statewide Services:** Grant applicants must establish that their services are available, and will be actually provided, on a “statewide” basis. Statewide is defined as providing services in five of the following seven districts: Northern California, Sacramento Area, Bay Area, Central Coast, Central Valley, Eastern California, and Southwestern California.²

– OR –

- B. **Regional Services:** Grant applicants must establish that their services are available, and will be actually provided within a specific region. A region is defined as:

- i. Five or more counties; or
- ii. Two or more districts; or
- iii. At least two counties that have a total of at least 400,000 people living below the 125% federal poverty threshold, which is approximately 5% of the total poverty population in California.³

3. **Foreclosure Prevention or Community Redevelopment Legal Assistance:** Projects must provide legal assistance in either of two substantive areas:

- A. **Foreclosure Prevention Legal Assistance:** Proposals should describe how grant funds will be used to prevent foreclosure in the context of the specific circumstances currently faced by the communities served. Recognizing that the foreclosure crisis has slowed, an applicant should discuss specifically which foreclosure trends, and ongoing borrower needs, the project seeks to address, and how the proposed services will meet those needs. Strategies may be across a broad range of options including but not limited to advice and counsel, representation, mediation programs, or policy and impact work, but should reflect an understanding of the current needs and challenges within the communities to be served, knowledge of successful models, flexibility and creativity, and necessary collaborations to achieve stated goals.

Examples of legal assistance for foreclosure prevention include:

- Outreach and education on the foreclosure process and legal options
- Review of loan documents and counseling regarding the viability of loan modifications, and triage for state or federal violations, including Homeowner Bill of Rights violations
- Loan modification assistance, including forbearance agreements and repayment plans for debt forgiveness or reduction, interest rate reduction, or extending time for payment; also transitional options, including short sale, deed in lieu of foreclosure, and cash for keys
- Negotiation, mediation, and litigation to address service violations
- Loan modification denial appeals
- Reverse mortgage advice to older adults
- Pursuing affirmative actions to restore title in other contexts, such as consumer fraud, predatory lending, or financial abuse

² This definition of statewide is adopted from Support Center requirements for statewide support services. The seven districts can be found on the 2020 BCSR Grant Districts map on page eight.

³ A copy of the county population living in poverty based on the California 2016 ACS Data is included on page nine.

- Legislative or administrative advocacy
- Policy advocacy and support services to increase capacity and foster collaboration with local, state, and national groups on any of the issues above

By the terms of the bank settlement agreement, grants in this category must “prevent foreclosure.” Therefore, protecting the rights of a tenant generally will not be considered for funding under this category. However, if the applicant can make the appropriate case that particular activities identified are foreclosure prevention, they should do so. If, in proposing a project, the applicant can justify why the project falls within U.S. DOJ settlement parameters, it should do so with documented evidence.

If an organization submits a proposal that includes work that is clearly not qualifying – such as eviction defense for individual tenants in already foreclosed properties – the State Bar will not likely be able to fund that proposal. Applications will be reviewed based on the information provided and it is the applicant’s responsibility to establish, in the original application, the connection to qualified purposes.

– OR –

- B. Community Redevelopment Legal Assistance:** Proposals should describe how grant funds would be used for community redevelopment legal services.⁴ Proposed projects should support and promote economic development by providing legal services that revitalize or stabilize low-income communities. Strategies may cross a broad range of options from counseling advocacy groups, transactional law, representation, or policy and impact work, but should reflect an understanding of the current needs and challenges within the communities to be served, and the knowledge of successful models for meeting those needs. The organization should have established partnerships that are necessary to achieve the stated goals.

Applicants should present projects that will have far-ranging and lasting impact on communities. The State Bar generally will not fund for these purposes direct legal services. While improving the situation of individuals suggests those individuals will bring resources back to their communities, for individual services to qualify as community redevelopment work, the services must be tied to broader systemic work that benefits the community as a whole.

Examples of community redevelopment legal assistance include:

- Transactional support such as developing the capacity of nonprofit organizations that serve low-income communities; supporting projects typically considered community development such as development and preservation of affordable housing, childcare, senior centers, job training centers, day labor centers, etc.; or support for micro-businesses and low-income entrepreneurs, or other local and community-owned services (childcare and credit unions)

⁴The term “community redevelopment” is from the bank settlement agreements. For purposes of this RFP, we will not be relying on California’s Community Redevelopment Law as it existed prior to the adoption of the Dissolution Act, or as it exists as modified by the Dissolution Act to define “community redevelopment.”

- Developing the capacity of low-income community members to advocate on behalf of their community with respect to proposed laws or legislative action, whether by representing a nonprofit organization or a community group
- Representation of low-income communities with respect to community conditions, e.g., with respect to environmental justice, equity in transit-oriented development, prevention and elimination of homelessness, inclusion of affordable housing, and other matters that protect the healthy development of communities
- Legal assistance that is transformative to a community, promotes systemic change, promotes economic security, and/or has broad impact
- Redevelopment assistance to cities and counties, e.g., ensuring that localities and developers meet their obligations to provide adequate relocation assistance and replacement housing for families displaced by redevelopment
- Devising program, policy, and legislative solutions to the loss of affordable housing, other affordable housing advocacy to combat displacement and enforce redevelopment law
- Developing anti-displacement and gentrification-prevention strategies
- Strategies to eliminate and prevent conditions of blight
- Legislative or administrative advocacy

If a program submits a proposal that includes work that is clearly not community redevelopment – such as direct legal immigration help or direct public benefits legal assistance – that proposal will not likely be funded. Applications will be reviewed based on the information provided and it is the applicant’s responsibility to establish, in the original application, the connection to qualified purposes.

4. **Evaluation and Data Collection:** Grantees will be required to complete annual evaluative reports including service and outcome data. The State Bar retains discretion with respect to funding for second and third year grants. As a grant condition, grantees must agree to cooperate in providing any additional reporting information required by Bank of America, their settlement monitors, regulators, or other concerned national organizations.

- A. **Evaluation Plans:** Proposals should include a clear statement of the goals of the project, how the project will achieve those goals, and the evaluation methods to be used to make any mid-course adjustments to the delivery model and to evaluate the success of the project at its conclusion.

–AND–

- B. **Data Collection and Status Reports:** Grantees will be required to report on the status of the grant, including service deliverables and outcomes, and client stories. Grantees will also be required to report:

- i. **Foreclosure Prevention Legal Assistance**

- How many individuals were served (separately, how many elderly, children, and veterans)?
- How many foreclosures were prevented?
- How many foreclosure clients benefitted in other ways? Explain other benefits

ii. **Community Redevelopment Legal Assistance**

- How many individuals benefitted (separately, how many elderly, children, and veterans)?
- How many non-profits benefitted, if any?
- How many small business clients benefitted, if any?

Selection Criteria

The exact dollar amount of grant awards will vary depending on the number and quality of applications received, an assessment of needs for funding of the particular project, and the extent to which a proposal addresses the items below. Grant award decisions are final. There is no appeals process.

- Demonstrated Need of the Targeted Population: While there are no income-eligibility requirements for this funding, the State Bar will consider the articulated needs of a defined target population, with consideration to indigency, and to other special needs, such as those of minority populations, or persons with limited-English language proficiency. Income eligibility might be, for example, service to persons at 400 percent of the federal poverty threshold, or 80 percent of the Home Affordable Modification Program level for the county, particularly if the target population has other special needs.
- Impact of Services: The State Bar will consider the anticipated outcomes of the services, including the number of people that will be served, and the nature of the impact on the lives of targeted populations.
- Deliverables within Grant Period: Grant deliverables must be achievable within the period of the proposed grant. While funding a portion of a project (e.g., impact litigation) coupled with other funding as a bigger project, or over a longer term, will be considered, the proposal should articulate the specific deliverables that will be achieved with this grant funding during the grant period.
- Partnerships and Collaboration: The State Bar will consider the extent to which an applicant already has developed necessary partnerships, or has demonstrated the ability to collaborate with community organizations, local government, or other stakeholders to accomplish their goals.
- Leverage and Sustainability: Because this funding is of limited duration, the State Bar is particularly interested in understanding how the proposed project fits within current organizational programming. If it is an existing project, how will funds be leveraged to increase services? If the project is new, how will the organization sustain the project? Is it replicable or scalable? How will information about the project be shared with other legal aid organizations?
- Organizational Excellence: The State Bar will also consider the experience of the grantee in successfully executing similar projects, and the stability of the organization infrastructure as it affects the ability, as necessary, to hire, retrain, and supervise attorneys, and to administer the grant successfully, including the timely and accurate submission of grant budgets, reports, and evaluations.

- Diversity of Projects: The State Bar would like to fund a variety of projects, and will take into consideration various factors such as geographic region, program size, and project type.
- Services to Rural Areas: Preference will be given to projects that serve rural communities. According to the California Commission on Access to Justice's 2010 report entitled "Improving Civil Justice in Rural California," the most helpful approach for defining "rural" is the approach used by the medical community which uses sub-county areas.⁵ For the purposes of this RFP, "rural" is defined as areas that meet the definition of "rural" or "frontier" that the medical community uses to analyze the availability of medical services. This classification scheme is known as Medical Service Study Areas (MSSAs). Rural MSSAs have 50,000 or fewer residents and population densities below 250 people per square mile, while "frontier" MSSAs are defined by population densities of fewer than 11 people per square mile. A map of MSSAs in California is included on page 11. Rural areas will be evaluated on the specific MSSAs where services are to be provided, and not on counties.

⁵ The California Commission on Justice to Justice (2010). [*Improving Civil Justice in Rural California*](#), 19.

2020 BCSR Grant Districts



2016 ACS Poverty Data

County	Total Population	Total <125%
Alameda County	1,577,618	246,740
Alpine County	1,170	250
Amador County	32,969	4,891
Butte County	218,439	60,238
Calaveras County	44,280	7,212
Colusa County	21,150	4,287
Contra Costa County	1,098,165	148,997
Del Norte County	24,011	6,703
El Dorado County	181,369	23,846
Fresno County	946,765	319,654
Glenn County	27,541	6,990
Humboldt County	131,865	36,184
Imperial County	168,279	52,279
Inyo County	17,706	2,633
Kern County	839,619	253,404
Kings County	132,716	39,119
Lake County	63,263	19,622
Lassen County	21,974	4,482
Los Angeles County	9,906,013	2,344,151
Madera County	145,251	43,363
Marin County	253,100	25,803
Mariposa County	17,457	3,398
Mendocino County	86,001	22,705
Merced County	258,684	83,311
Modoc County	8,761	1,950
Mono County	13,936	1,684
Monterey County	411,820	93,532
Napa County	137,140	18,797
Nevada County	97,760	15,794
Orange County	3,094,893	514,421
Placer County	367,202	41,482
Plumas County	18,363	3,535
Riverside County	2,289,086	497,243
Sacramento County	1,458,871	332,615
San Benito County	57,696	9,038
San Bernardino County	2,050,839	510,253
San Diego County	3,172,544	582,769
San Francisco County	836,561	135,208
San Joaquin County	701,338	166,182
San Luis Obispo County	262,763	48,128
San Mateo County	748,756	78,557
Santa Barbara County	420,739	90,011
Santa Clara County	1,856,096	229,430
Santa Cruz County	259,991	50,984
Shasta County	176,464	40,571
Sierra County	2,902	468
Siskiyou County	43,259	12,210
Solano County	418,688	70,357
Sonoma County	491,031	76,293
Stanislaus County	524,616	129,497
Sutter County	94,349	22,823
Tehama County	62,205	17,772
Trinity County	12,947	3,560
Tulare County	449,819	164,623
Tuolumne County	50,446	9,813
Ventura County	831,731	122,923
Yolo County	201,542	48,489
Yuba County	72,585	19,711
	37,913,144	7,920,985

California Medical Service Study Area Poverty Map

California Medical Service Study Areas (MSSA) Urban/Rural/Frontier Designation



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau; CA Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development

Map by Cynthia Gutierrez, Revathi Rao, and Catherine Williams, MPP
Faculty Supervisor Prof. James Meeker, UC Irvine

2020 Bank Grant Applications														
	Organization	Funding Program	Project Title	Total RFP Request	Award Per Year	Previous Bank Grant Award	Substantive Area(s)	Constituency	Geographic Area(s)	Total FTEs Per Year	Subgrantee Organizations	Subgrantee Amount	Total Recommended Funding Range (Low)	Total Recommended Funding Range (High)
	HIGH													
1	California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.	Foreclosure Prevention Grant	Foreclosure Prevention	\$ 525,000	\$ 175,000	\$275,000/year	Foreclosure prevention	Homeowners 50+ (incl. women, people of color, individuals w/ disabilities, immigrants and LEP), and young & low-income owners who have inherited	Statewide	0.37-0.65 FTE Attorney; 0.05 FTE Foreclosure Supervisor; 0.10 - 0.25 FTE Foreclosure Paralegal; 0.15 - 0.25 FTE Foreclosure Coordinator	Housing & Economic Rights Advocates (HERA)	\$87.5k/year	\$ 450,000	\$ 525,000
2	Community Legal Aid SoCal	Community Redevelopment Grant	Housing Element Accountability Initiative	\$ 525,000	\$ 175,000	\$250,000/year	Affordable housing	Low-income	LA; OC	0.60 FTE Attorney; 0.21 FTE Paralegal; 0.07 Legal Secretary	The Kennedy Commission	\$75k/year	\$ 300,000	\$ 400,000
3	East Bay Community Law Center	Foreclosure Prevention Grant	Northern California Foreclosure Prevention Collaborative	\$ 750,000	\$ 250,000	\$175,000/year	Foreclosure prevention	Low-income homeowners, communities of color, older adults, natural disaster victims	Alameda, Contra Costa, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Sonoma	0.67-0.75 FTE Attorney; 0.2 Program Manager; 0.05-0.1 Data Scientist	Bay Area Legal Aid; Legal Aid of Sonoma County	BALA: \$95k/year; LASC: \$30k/year	\$ 600,000	\$ 650,000
4	Inner City Law Center	Community Redevelopment Grant	Affordable Housing Strategies and Advocacy	\$ 750,000	\$ 250,000	\$190,000/year	Affordable housing	Low-income	Alameda; Contra Costa; Fresno; Kern; LA; Medera; Merced; Riverside; Sacramento; SD; Tulara	1 FTE Attorney; 0.30 FTE Policy Advocate	ACCE Institute; Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability	\$130k/year	\$ 650,000	\$ 700,000
5	Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights	Community Redevelopment Grant	Collaboration for Transformative Community Redevelopment: Building Equitable Ownership of Land, Labor, Capital and Power	\$ 750,000	\$ 250,000	\$150,000/year	Transactional assistance to small businesses	Low-and moderate-income people of color, predominantly small business owners, farmers, and tenants from Black, Latinx, and Asian communities	Statewide	0.60 - 0.88 FTE Attorney; 0.10 - 0.30 FTE Paralegal	Sustainable Economies Law Center; Asian Pacific Environmental Network	\$95k/year; \$50k/year	\$ 450,000	\$ 550,000
6	Legal Aid at Work	Community Redevelopment Grant	Network Against Wage Theft	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 400,000	\$120,000/year	Wage theft	Women, immigrants	Statewide	1.65 FTE Attorney; 0.50 FTE Paralegal	Center for Workers' Rights; Watsonville Law Center; Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino; Centro Laboral de Graton	\$75k/year; \$10k/year; \$10k/year; \$10k/year	\$ 750,000	\$ 900,000
7	Legal Aid of Sonoma County	Community Redevelopment Grant	North Bay Regional Housing Preservation Project	\$ 905,001	\$ 301,667	\$175,000/year	Affordable housing and tenants rights	Tenants of color, seniors, and people with disabilities	Statewide: Northern California, Bay Area	0.23 - 1.98 FTE Attorney; 0 - 0.35 FTE Paralegal; 1.44 - 1.90 FTE Other Staff	Bay Area Organizing Committee; Legal Aid of Marin; Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California; North Bay Organizing Project	\$53,563/year 2 & 3; \$25k/year; \$71.5k/year 2 & 3; \$65k/year 2 & 3	\$ 600,000	\$ 750,000
8	OneJustice	Community Redevelopment Grant	Inland Empire Community Redevelopment Pro Bono Project	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 400,000	\$125,000/year	Transactional assistance to small businesses	Rural small business owners	Riverside; San Bernardino	1.09 - 1.40 FTE Attorney; 0.06 - 0.10 FTE Other Staff	Bet Tzedek; Legal Aid of San Bernardino; Inland Empire Latino Lawyers Association; Catholic Charities of San Bernardino & Riverside Counties	141/year	\$ 650,000	\$ 800,000
9	Public Counsel	Foreclosure Prevention Grant	Southern California Foreclosure Prevention Collaborative	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 400,000	\$225,000/year	Foreclosure prevention	Elderly, individuals w/ disabilities, monolingual Spanish, low-income homeowners and people of color	Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego	1-1.1 FTE Attorneys; 0.1-0.2 Directing Attorney; 0.10-0.16 Paralegals	Bet Tzedek; Public Law Center; Elder Law & Advocacy; Inland Counties Legal Services	\$114.7k/year; \$70.3k/year; \$40.7k/year; \$29.6k/year	\$ 800,000	\$ 900,000
												TOTAL HIGHS	\$ 5,250,000	\$ 6,175,000
	MEDIUM													
10	California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform	Foreclosure Prevention Grant	Senior Equity Protection	\$ 750,000	\$ 250,000	\$130,000/year	Foreclosure prevention	Low-income seniors (62+); Spanish-speakers	Alameda, Los Angeles, Monterey, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Francisco	0.3-0.4 FTE Senior Staff Attorney; 0.5 FTE Program Manager; 0.3-0.4 FTE Outreach/Education Coordinator	Legal Assistance for Seniors; Legal Service for Seniors	\$65k/Yr 1, \$68k/Yr 2, \$72k/Yr 3; LSS: \$50k/Yr 1, \$52k/Yr 2, \$55k/Yr 3	\$ 650,000	\$ 700,000
11	Child Care Law Center	Community Redevelopment Grant	Eliminating Child Care Deserts and Creating Opportunities for Families Stabilizing Communities Through Housing and Employment Justice for Domestic Violence Survivors, Focusing on Native American and Rural Communities	\$ 525,000	\$ 175,000	\$160,000/year	Affordable child care programs	Women of color below 400%FPL	Statewide	0.15 FTE Attorney; 0.35 FTE Paralegal	Public Counsel	\$87.5k/year	\$ 300,000	\$ 360,000
12	Family Violence Appellate Project	Community Redevelopment Grant	LAFLA-THRIVE BCSR Community Redevelopment Partnership	\$ 863,058	\$ 287,686	\$100,000/year	Housing and employment	DV survivors	Statewide	1.11 FTE Attorney; 0.02 FTE Paralegal; 0.03 FTE Other Staff	Legal Aid at Work; National Indian Justice Center; California Partnership to End DV	\$100k/year; \$30k/year; \$15k/year	\$ 450,000	\$ 550,000
13	Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles	Community Redevelopment Grant	Central Coast Foreclosure Prevention Program	\$ 525,000	\$ 175,000	\$250,000/year	Community organizing, affordable housing	Low-income members of community land trusts and potential new CLTs	Los Angeles, Orange	1 FTE Attorney; 0.1 FTE Managing Attorney; 0.2-0.5 FTE Paralegal	THRIVE	\$45k/Yrs 1 & 2; \$65k/Yr 3	\$ 450,000	\$ 500,000
14	Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County	Foreclosure Prevention Grant	Central Coast Foreclosure Prevention Program	\$ 456,000	\$106,000/Yr 1; \$175,000/Yr 2 & 3	\$115,000/year	Foreclosure prevention	Seniors, LEP, and other low-income individuals at risk of foreclosure	Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura	0.13-0.5 FTE Attorney; 0.25-0.5 FTE Paralegal	San Luis Obispo Legal Assistance Foundation	\$60k/year	\$ 300,000	\$ 400,000
15	Legal Aid Society of San Diego	Foreclosure Prevention Grant	Foreclosure Prevention Program	\$ 750,000	\$ 250,000	\$275,000/year	Foreclosure prevention	Low-to-middle-income homeowners, elderly, LEP, living in rural areas	Imperial, San Diego	2.09 FTE Attorney; 0.24 FTE Accounting Staff	Elder Law and Advocacy, Media Arts Center San Diego	\$50k/year (\$25k/year each)	\$ 550,000	\$ 625,000
16	National Health Law Program	Community Redevelopment Grant	Maximizing Health Insurance to Avoid Medical Debt	\$ 525,000	\$ 175,000	\$36,222/year	Health Insurance/medical debt	Californians eligible for Medi-Cal and/or Medicare Savings Programs, and CovCA with Advanced Premium Tax Credits	Statewide	0.88 FTE Attorney; 0.05 FTE Other Staff	Justice in Aging	\$75k/year	\$ 200,000	\$ 350,000
17	National Housing Law Project	Foreclosure Prevention Grant	California Foreclosure Prevention Collaborative	\$ 975,000	\$ 325,000	\$200,000/year	Foreclosure prevention	Senior, LEP, and rural homeowners	Statewide	0.54 FTE Attorneys; 0.23 Tech/Web/Comm Support	UCI Consumer Law Clinic; Public Counsel; Public Law Center; Bet Tzedek	\$115k/year; \$50k/year; \$10k/year; \$50k/year	\$ 700,000	\$ 800,000
18	Public Advocates Inc.	Community Redevelopment Grant	Bay Area Regional Community Redevelopment Collaboration	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 400,000	\$200,000/year	Affordable housing tenant rights	Low or extremely low-income renter households	Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, Sonoma	0.49 FTE Attorney; 0.17 FTE Other Staff	Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto; East Bay Community Law Center; Tenants Together; Urban Habitat	\$100k/year; \$100k/year; \$45k/year; \$45k/year	\$ 500,000	\$ 650,000
19	Public Law Center	Community Redevelopment Grant	Orange & San Diego Counties Low-Income Entrepreneurs Project	\$ 525,000	\$ 175,000	\$220,000/year	Small business entrepreneurship	Low-income communities in Orange/SD, special attention to immigrants, refugees, women, vets, military	Orange, San Diego	0.7 FTE Attorney; 0.15 FTE Directing Attorney; 0.2 FTE Paralegal	San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, Inc.	\$75k/year	\$ 450,000	\$ 500,000
20	Western Center on Law and Poverty	Community Redevelopment Grant	California Support Center Collaborative: Increasing Affordable Housing and Protecting the Rights of Tenants	\$ 975,000	\$ 325,000	\$200,000/year	Affordable housing	Cost-burdened renters in urban and rural communities (disproportionately people of color)	Statewide	0.3 FTE Attorneys and Advocates; 0.03 FTE Senior Paralegal; 0.03 Program Support Staff	National Housing Law Project; The Public Interest Law Project; California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation	\$229.1k/year (approx. \$76.4k/year each)	\$ 725,000	\$ 825,000
												TOTAL HIGHS and MEDIUMS	\$ 10,525,000	\$ 12,435,000
	LOW													
21	Advancing Justice-Los Angeles	Community Redevelopment Grant	Reforming the Nail Salon Industry	\$ 648,645	\$ 216,215	\$150,000/year	Employment	Nail salon technicians	Alameda, LA, OC, SF, San Mateo, Santa Clara	1.2 FTE Attorneys	California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative; Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus	\$20k/year; \$20k/year	\$ 300,000	\$ 420,000
22	Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach	Foreclosure Prevention Grant	Central Valley-East Bay Homeowner Assistance Program	\$ 975,000	\$ 325,000	\$100,000/year	Foreclosure prevention	Immigrant, elder and LEP homeowners, potential homeowners, and tenants	Alameda, Contra Costa, Merced, San Joaquin, Solano, Stanislaus	1 FTE Attorney; .025 FTE Managing Attorney	Lao Family Community Empowerment; The Bridge Community Center; Filipino Advocates for Justice	\$206.4k/year, didn't specify how much to each subgrantee	\$ 750,000	\$ 850,000
23	Central California Legal Services	Community Redevelopment Grant	Technical Assistance Affordable Housing	\$ 750,000	\$ 250,000	\$275,000/year	Fair housing	Low-income with focus on Latino and Hmong	Fresno; Kings; Merced; Tulare	1-2 FTE Attorney	California Coalition for Rural Housing; California Housing Partnership	\$60k/year; \$60k/year	\$ 500,000	\$ 575,000
24	Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund	Community Redevelopment Grant	Inclusive Emergency Planning in Schools	\$ 525,000	\$ 175,000	\$170,000/year	School emergency planning	Disabled students	Statewide	0.55 FTE Attorney; 0.05 FTE Other Staff	California Foundation for Independent Living Centers	\$35k/year	\$ 225,000	\$ 300,000
25	Family Violence Law Center	Community Redevelopment Grant	A Roof of One's Own Project	\$ 1,199,319	\$ 399,773	\$75,000/year	Homelessness prevention	DV survivors	Statewide	1.10 FTE Attorney; 0.02 Other Staff	Building Futures with Women and Children; California Partnership to End DV; Family Violence Appellate Project; National Alliance for Safe Housing	\$5k/year; \$141k/year; \$67k/year; \$10k/year	\$ 350,000	\$ 500,000
26	Harriett Buhai Center for Family Law	Community Redevelopment Grant	The Protection and Preservation of Wealth Assets and Income in Dissolution Cases	\$ 328,338	\$ 109,446	\$34,320/year	Family law	Older family law litgants in marriages of 10+ years	LA	0.52 FTE Attorney; 0.08 FTE; 0.14 FTE Other Staff	Advancing Justice - LA; CA Womens' Law Center; Community Legal Aid SoCa; ICLS; LAFLA; Legal Aid San Bernardino; LA Center for Law and Justice; NLS; Sojourn; SD Volunteer Lawyer Program	\$0	\$ -	\$ -

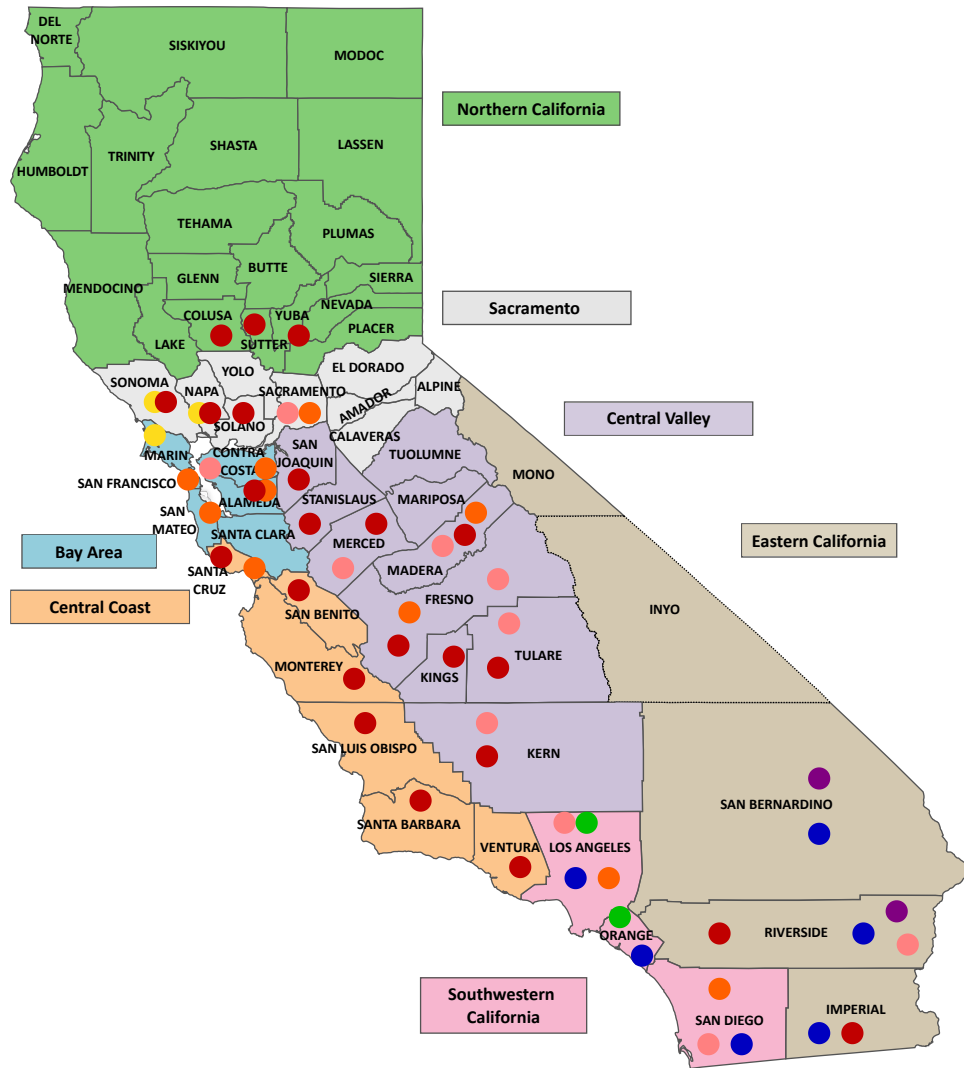
	Organization	Funding Program	Project Title	Total RFP Request	Award Per Year	Previous Bank Grant Award	Substantive Area(s)	Constituency	Geographic Area(s)	Total FTEs Per Year	Subgrantee Organizations	Subgrantee Amount	Total Recommended Funding Range (Low)	Total Recommended Funding Range (High)
27	Immigrant Legal Resource Center	Community Redevelopment Grant	Immigrant Community Education and Empowerment in San Joaquin Valley	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 400,000	\$120,000/year	Immigration	Immigrants in San Joaquin; low-income farmwaorkers	Fresno; Kern; Kings; Madera; Merced; San Joaquin; Stanislaus; Tulare	?	Central Valley Immigrant Integration Collaborative; Centro Binacional para el Desarrollo Indigena Oaxaqueno; El Quinto Sol de America; Empowering Marginalized Asian Communities	\$230k/year	\$ 450,000	\$ 600,000
28	Inland Counties Legal Services	Community Redevelopment Grant	Nonprofit Legal Assistance Project (NLAP)	\$ 525,000	\$ 175,000	\$275,000/year	Transactional assistance to nonprofits	Low-income communities who would benefit from nonprofits	Riverside; San Bernardino	0.95 FTE Attorney; 0.25 FTE Other Staff	Community Partners	\$24k/year	\$ 300,000	\$ 400,000
29	Justice in Aging	Community Redevelopment Grant	Senior Housing Advocacy Coalition	\$ 750,000	\$ 250,000	\$150,000/year	Affordable housing	Seniors	Statewide	0.56 FTE Attorney; 0.16 FTE Other Staff	Bet Tzedek; Legal Assistance for Seniors	\$75k/year; \$75k/year	\$ 300,000	\$ 450,000
30	Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco	Community Redevelopment Grant	Know Your Rights: Intact Families, Stable Communities	\$ 745,452	\$ 248,484	\$25,000/year	Immigration	Immigrant communities	Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Monterey, San Benito, Santa Cruz, Stanislaus, Tulare	0.55 FTE Attorney; 0.50 Other Staff	Watsonville Law Center; Central Valley Immigrant Integration Collaborative	\$76k/year; \$75k/year	\$ -	\$ 225,000
31	Learning Rights Law Center	Community Redevelopment Grant	Healthy Homes Education Outreach Project	\$ 880,215	\$ 293,405	\$175,000/year	Lead poisoning and early education interventions	Low-income families with children living in multi-family homes	Regional: Central Coast, Southwestern California	0.08 - 0.30 FTE Attorney; 0.16 FTE Paralegal; 0.66 FTE Other Staff	Healthy Homes; Inquilinos Unidos; Coalition for Economic Survival	\$60k/year; \$65k/year; \$65k/year	\$ -	\$ 200,000
32	Legal Access Alameda	Community Redevelopment Grant	Community and Business Resiliency - "Start Small California"	\$ 525,000	\$ 175,000	\$120,000/year	Transactional assistance to small businesses	Low-income early-stage small business owners	Alameda, Contra Costa, Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara	0.14 - 0.35 FTE Attorney; 1.04 -2.04 FTE Paralegal; 0.20 FTE Other Staff (1st yr only)	Start Small Think Big	\$52,87k/year	\$ 250,000	\$ 350,000
33	Legal Services for Children	Community Redevelopment Grant	Equitable Access to Education and Opportunity	\$ 604,755	\$ 201,585	\$25,000/year	School discipline practices	Students, parents/caregivers in school districts with high rate of expulsion and racial disparity	Alameda, Contra Costa, Fresno, San Fancisco, San Maateo, Solano	0.75 FTE Attorney; 0.18 FTE Paralegal; 0.49 FTE Other Staff	San Mateo County Bar Association; Coleman Advocates for Youth	\$0	\$ -	\$ 125,000
34	National Center for Youth Law	Community Redevelopment Grant	Community Redevelopment Through Transforming Educational Experiences of California's Most Vulnerable Youth	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 400,000	\$150,000/year	Education	System-involved students (foster care and juvenile justice system)	Northern California, Bay Area, Central Coast, Central Valley, Southwestern California	1.17 - 1.42 FTE Attorney; 1.33 FTE Other Staff	John Burton Advocates for Youth; Public Council; Law Foundation of Silicon Valley; Legal Advocates for Children & Youth Program; California Collaborative for Youth	\$10k/year each	\$ 175,000	\$ 300,000
35	Worksafe, Inc.	Community Redevelopment Grant	Sacramento Worker Advancement Project	\$ 525,000	\$ 175,000	\$175,000/year	Workers' rights	Low-income and immigrant workers of color	Sacramento	1.09 FTE Attorneys; 0.15 FTE other	Center for Workers' Rights	\$75k/year	\$ 375,000	\$ 475,000
												TOTAL HIGHS, MEDIUMS, & LOWs	\$ 14,500,000	\$ 18,205,000

2020 BG Foreclosure Prevention Proposals



Organization	Symbol	Counties
Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach		Alameda, Contra Costa, Merced, San Joaquin, Solano, Stanislaus
CA Advocates for Nursing Home Reform		Alameda, Los Angeles, Monterey, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Francisco
California Rural Legal Assistance		Alameda, Colusa, Fresno, Imperial, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Monterey, Napa, Riverside, San Benito, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tulare, Ventura, Yuba
East Bay Community Law Center		Alameda, Contra Costa, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Sonoma
Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County		Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura
Legal Aid Society of San Diego		Imperial, San Diego
National Housing Law Project	None	Statewide
Public Counsel		Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego

2020 Bank Grant High Ranked Proposals



2020 Bank Grant Medium Ranked Proposals



Organization	Symbol	Substantive Area
California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform	Blue dot	Foreclosure prevention
Child Care Law Center	Statewide	Affordable Child Care Programs
East Bay Community Law Center	Green dot	Foreclosure Prevention
Family Violence Appellate Project	Statewide	Housing and Employment for DV Survivors
Justice in Aging	Statewide	Affordable Housing for Seniors
Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles	Orange dot	Community Organizing/ Affordable Housing
Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County	Pink dot	Foreclosure Prevention
Legal Aid Society of San Diego	Purple dot	Foreclosure Prevention
National Health Law Program	Statewide	Health Insurance/Medical Debt
National Housing Law Project	Statewide	Foreclosure Prevention
Public Advocates Inc.	Red dot	Affordable Housing
Public Law Center	Yellow dot	Small Business
Western Center on Law and Poverty	Statewide	Affordable Housing

**Equal Access Fund Homelessness Prevention
Formula Grant Recipients**

#	Organization	Amount
1	Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus	139,014
2	Affordable Housing Advocates	50,035
3	Aids Legal Referral Panel	50,075
4	Alliance for Children's Rights	312,828
5	Bay Area Legal Aid	318,452
6	Bet Tzedek Legal Services	481,989
7	California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform	126,170
8	California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.	1,260,931
9	California Women's Law Center	88,000
10	Central California Legal Services	707,062
11	Child Care Law Center	126,170
12	Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations	126,170
13	Community Legal Aid SoCal	486,990
14	Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto	120,470
15	Contra Costa Senior Legal Services	50,058
16	Disability Rights California	1,745,481
17	Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund	126,170
18	East Bay Community Law Center	83,632
19	Elder Law & Advocacy	86,066
20	Family Violence Appellate Project	126,170
21	Family Violence Law Center	50,036
22	Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance	340,569
23	IELLA Legal Aid Project	130,573
24	Inland Counties Legal Services	938,812
25	Inner City Law Center	230,268
26	Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Assoc of SF	83,498
27	Justice in Aging	126,170
28	La Raza Centro Legal	50,124
29	Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights	85,201
30	Legal Access Alameda	50,166
31	Legal Aid at Work	281,366
32	Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles	674,219
33	Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara	65,873
34	Legal Aid of Marin	50,110
35	Legal Aid of Sonoma County	78,349
36	Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino	189,669
37	Legal Aid Society of San Diego	510,441
38	Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County	50,194
39	Legal Assistance for Seniors	50,093

**Equal Access Fund Homelessness Prevention
Formula Grant Recipients**

#	Organization	Amount
40	Legal Assistance to the Elderly	50,039
41	Legal Services for Children	50,168
42	Legal Services of Northern California	752,347
43	Mental Health Advocacy Services	50,141
44	National Center for Youth Law	126,170
45	National Housing Law Project	126,170
46	Neighborhood Legal Services	520,973
47	OneJustice	126,170
48	Public Advocates Inc.	198,337
49	Public Counsel	749,927
50	Public Interest Law Project	126,170
51	Public Law Center	372,466
52	Riverside Legal Aid	100,318
53	San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program	133,382
54	San Luis Obispo Legal Assistance Foundation	50,079
55	Santa Clara County Asian Law Alliance	50,165
56	Senior Adults Legal Assistance	50,071
57	Senior Advocacy Network	50,109
58	USD School of Law Legal Clinics	66,564
59	Western Center on Law and Poverty	126,170
60	Youth Law Center	126,170
61	Yuba-Sutter Legal Center for Seniors	50,057
	TOTALS	\$ 14,699,833

2020
BANK COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AND STABILIZATION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Advancing Justice-Los Angeles		
Project Name	Amount Requested	Grant Period	
Reforming the Nail Salon Industry	\$648,645	Three Years	
Is this a statewide or regional project?	Regional		
Will this project serve rural communities?	No		
Project Abstract	<p>In partnership with Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus (ALC) and California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative (HNSC), Advancing Justice-LA proposes a multi-pronged strategy to increase the economic stability of both workers and law-abiding owners in the nail salon industry across the state, focusing on Los Angeles and Orange Counties, and key Bay Area counties (San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Alameda). The overarching goal is to improve wages and working conditions, and help employers abide by labor laws through adoption of model business practices. The nail salon industry is notorious for its rampant labor violations, which are exacerbated by the fact that the workforce is comprised of predominantly monolingual, immigrant women workers, mostly Vietnamese American, who endure workplace labor violations because of linguistic and other barriers to accessing the broader labor market.</p> <p>We propose utilizing three strategies to address the industry's systemic issues: (1) conducting Know Your Rights (KYRs) presentations and workshops to educate workers and employers; (2) bringing strategic impact litigation with State labor enforcement agencies against high-profile "bad actors" engaged in severe wage theft and labor law violations; and (3) educating policymakers about the need to ensure full compensation for wage theft in low-wage industries.</p>		
Sub-Grantees	Organization	Year 1 Sub-Grant	
	California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus		
Community Served	The project's target population is California's nail salon workforce, particularly Vietnamese workers. Specifically, the project will prioritize assisting small businesses attempting to comply with the law, and immigrant, limited-English proficient, and indigent workers who are particularly vulnerable to exploitation. Geographically, while potential policies would have statewide impact, the proposed KYRs and workshops will be conducted in areas with a high concentration of nail salons, including Los Angeles and Orange Counties, and key Bay Area counties.		
Project Outcomes	<p>Goal 1: Outreach and educate at least 130 nail salon workers and employers per year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create at least 4 education materials for law-abiding businesses and the workforce. Potential topics include model business plans to help guide businesses to better comply with the law, wage and hour laws, and public benefits. - Host at least 2 workshops for 30 employers per year, with one in the Bay Area and one in Southern California. - Host at least 4 Know Your Rights presentations for 100 workers per year, with two in the Bay Area and two in Southern California. <p>Goal 2: Identify and develop at least 2 strategic litigation cases and/or collaborate in State labor enforcement action.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finalize litigation selection criteria. - Conduct background research on potential target defendants, including their corporate structure. - Develop and execute strategies to identify potential plaintiffs. <p>Goal 3: Increase awareness among policymakers about the importance of nail salon industry reform.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Educate at least 15 policymakers about the nail salon industry, labor law violations faced by workers, and potential reforms. - Strategize and develop policies that may include: (a) a surety/bond requirement tied to a 		

business license, modeled after successful corollaries in the car wash, agriculture, garment, and other low-wage industries, and/or (b) a compensation fund tied to obtaining a business license, similar to the garment fund, wherein employees can satisfy a wage theft or other labor law violation judgment even if the offending business is defunct or otherwise lacks funds.

GRANT BUDGET BY YEAR

Personnel

Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Personnel	\$92,000	\$95,680	\$99,507	\$287,187
Benefits	\$20,240	\$21,050	\$21,892	\$63,182

Non-Personnel

Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Non-Personnel	\$32,070	\$33,161	\$34,295	\$99,526
Admin.	\$26,250	\$26,250	\$26,250	\$78,750

Sub-Recipient(s)

Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Sub-Recipient(s)	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$120,000

Grand Total

Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Grand Total	\$210,560	\$216,141	\$221,944	\$648,645

Lawyers

Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Staff Attorney	1	1	1	3
Litigation Director	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.6
	0	0	0	0
Total	1.2	1.2	1.2	3.6

Paralegals

Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Total	0	0	0	0

Others

Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Total	0	0	0	0

2020
BANK COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AND STABILIZATION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach		
Project Name	Amount Requested	Grant Period	
Central Valley-East Bay Homeowner Assistance Program	\$975,000	Three Years	
Is this a statewide or regional project?	Regional		
Will this project serve rural communities?	Yes		
Project Abstract	<p>The Central Valley-East Bay Homeowner Assistance project will provide legal services, education, and outreach to LEP homeowners at risk of foreclosure. Bringing together the experience of Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach, Lao Family Community Empowerment, the Bridge Community Center, the CV-EBHAP will focus on immigrant, elder, and limited-English speaking homeowners, who have been underserved and disproportionately impacted by the foreclosure crisis. The project will provide foreclosure prevention legal services with issues including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Outreach and education on the foreclosure process and legal options · Review of loan documents and counseling regarding loan modifications, and triage for state or federal violations, including HBOR violations · Loan modification assistance, including all consumer options · Negotiation, mediation, and litigation · Loan modification denial appeals · Reverse mortgage advice to older adults · Pursuing affirmative actions such as consumer fraud, predatory lending, or financial abuse · Policy advocacy and support services to increase capacity and foster collaborations. <p>Culturally competent services will be provided in the language of the client's choice in over 15 languages by agency staff. The project will offer all services at community sites in Modesto, Stockton, Vallejo, Brentwood, Pittsburg, Oakland, and other areas.</p>		
Sub-Grantees	Organization	Year 1 Sub-Grant	
	Lao Family Community Empowerment The Bridge Community Center Filipino Advocates for Justice		
Community Served	The CV-EBHAP will focus on immigrant, elder, and limited-English speaking homeowners, potential homeowners, or tenants of foreclosed property owners, who have been underserved and disproportionately impacted by the foreclosure crisis. LEP, of color, and immigrant homeowners are in particular need of assistance because they are at greater risk of foreclosure due to language barriers, discriminatory lending, and vulnerability to predatory lending. Many immigrants are disconnected from public services, with the effect that they are less able to access legal or housing services to help them restabilize, and they continue to be impacted by the fear perpetrated by the federal government.		
Project Outcomes	1) Increase in access to and use of coordinated services in at least 70% of project's consumers; 2) increase in knowledge and awareness about the rights and remedies available to prevent foreclosure in at least 80% of project's consumers; 3) increase in awareness about community resources available for addressing such needs in at least 80% of project's consumers; 4) increase in foreclosure prevention in at least 70% of clients; and 5) increase in housing stability in at least 70% of clients.		
	Deliverables Individuals served: 610 per year		

Foreclosures prevented: 70 per year
Foreclosure clients who benefited in other ways: 540 per year

GRANT BUDGET BY YEAR

Personnel

Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Personnel	\$77,500	\$77,500	\$77,500	\$232,500
Benefits	\$18,600	\$18,600	\$18,600	\$55,800

Non-Personnel

Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Non-Personnel	\$22,500	\$22,500	\$22,500	\$67,500
Admin.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Sub-Recipient(s)

Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Sub-Recipient(s)	\$206,400	\$206,400	\$206,400	\$619,200

Grand Total

Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Grand Total	\$325,000	\$325,000	\$325,000	\$975,000

Lawyers

Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Staff Attorney	1	1	1	3
Managing Attorney	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.75
	0	0	0	0
Total	1.25	1.25	1.25	3.75

Paralegals

Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Total	0	0	0	0

Others

Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Total	0	0	0	0

2020
BANK COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AND STABILIZATION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform		
Project Name	Amount Requested	Grant Period	
Senior Equity Protection	\$750,000	Three Years	
Is this a statewide or regional project?	Statewide		
Will this project serve rural communities?	Yes		
Project Abstract	<p>In 2016, the State Bar's Bank Grant enabled CANHR to develop the Home Equity Protection Program to prevent unscrupulous lending and improper estate planning that threatens the housing security of low-income older adults.</p> <p>This project will build on HEPP's substantive program areas to address predatory lending in California's Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) loans, as well as "equity-split" loans. PACE loans offer up-front financing for energy-efficient home improvements, payable through a special property tax assessment. "Equity-split" loans permit lenders to share future appreciation in a home. Both loans offer few consumer protections, are aggressively marketed to seniors, and have given rise to an array of abuses that can lead to foreclosure.</p> <p>CANHR will partner with two QLSPs – Legal Assistance for Seniors in Oakland, and Legal Services for Seniors in Seaside – to prevent predatory lending through multiple avenues: consumer education, targeted outreach to highly impacted counties and rural communities, and partnerships with direct service providers to offer consultation on safe estate planning and homeownership. In reviewing the success and specific legal issues brought to CANHR and its grant partners, CANHR will also explore policy proposals, including legislation to require a PACE Suitability Worksheet as part of the lending process.</p>		
Sub-Grantees	Organization	Year 1 Sub-Grant	
	Legal Assistance for Seniors		
	Legal Service for Seniors		
Community Served	<p>The target population includes low-income seniors aged 62 and older (the minimum age for a reverse mortgage loan) in California. Oakland has one of the highest rates of reverse mortgage foreclosures per capita in California; this project will target Alameda County through a partnership with Legal Assistance for Seniors. Additionally, Spanish-speaking communities served by Legal Services for Seniors will be targeted, along with training and outreach to the Inland Empire through dissemination of printed materials and online trainings to QLSPs.</p> <p>Because PACE loans are heavily marketed in Spanish-speaking communities, all consumer education materials will also be available in Spanish.</p>		
Project Outcomes	<p>(1) Consumer education and prevention: develop new consumer materials on predatory lending trends impacting older homeowners: a PACE Suitability Worksheet, Consumer's Guide to Reverse Mortgages, and home-equity split fact sheet. All materials will be translated into Spanish, and distributed free of charge to Qualified Legal Services Programs. Depending on demand, the proposal is to distribute: 3,500 in year one, 2,500 in year two, and 3,000 in year three.</p> <p>(2) Direct legal services: CANHR will work collaboratively with LAS and LSS to facilitate the development of community-based legal services (direct client representation, and consumer workshops) focused on prevention of predatory lending, foreclosure, and counseling on "safe estate planning," which may include advice on Medi-Cal estate recovery. Workshop and direct legal service subject areas will be improved upon and modified based on community needs.</p> <p>(3) Conduct outreach to rural QLSPs through dissemination of printed materials in English and Spanish, and through a minimum of two webinars per grant year.</p> <p>(4) Based on the specific legal issues brought to CANHR and its grant partners, CANHR</p>		

will engage in strategic development of policy proposals at the local and state level. Engage with stakeholders, county officials, and state legislators to educate them on PACE and reverse mortgage issues, and explore municipal requirements and/or legislation requiring seniors to be provided with a Suitability Worksheet as part of the PACE lending process.

(5) Replicate service model for other legal aid organizations statewide, particularly in the Inland Empire and rural counties.

GRANT BUDGET BY YEAR

Personnel

Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Personnel	\$106,577	\$104,549	\$105,656	\$316,782
Benefits	\$19,923	\$20,051	\$10,144	\$50,118

Non-Personnel

Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Non-Personnel	\$8,500	\$4,650	\$7,200	\$20,350
Admin.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Sub-Recipient(s)

Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Sub-Recipient(s)	\$115,000	\$120,750	\$127,000	\$362,750

Grand Total

Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Grand Total	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$750,000

Lawyers

Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Senior staff attorney	0.4	0.4	0.3	1.1
Total	0.4	0.4	0.3	1.1

Paralegals

Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Total	0	0	0	0

Others

Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Program Manager	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.5
Outreach/Education coordinator	0.4	0.4	0.3	1.1
Administrative Assistance	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.6
Total	1.1	1.1	1	3.2

2020
BANK COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AND STABILIZATION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.		
Project Name	Amount Requested	Grant Period	
Foreclosure Prevention	\$525,000	Three Years	
Is this a statewide or regional project?	Statewide		
Will this project serve rural communities?	Yes		
Project Abstract	<p>Burdened by rising amounts of both mortgage and non-mortgage debt, low-income homeowners across the state face an ever-tightening housing market, threats of foreclosure, predatory and discriminatory financing, and myriad scams. California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc. (CRLA) and Housing & Economic Rights Advocates (HERA) will provide legal services to prevent foreclosure and help low-income Californians remain in their homes. This collaborative project will serve residents of Northern California, the Sacramento Area, the Bay Area, the Central Coast, the Central Valley, and Eastern California. CRLA and HERA will focus on recruiting clients over the age of 50, but will also serve younger homeowners. This project will have a focus on homeowners who are people of color, women, individuals with disabilities, immigrants, and people with limited English proficiency. Some clients will be low-income heirs to the family home who are attempting to assume the mortgage loan after the death of a loved one; these individuals often need to modify the loan to make it affordable. CRLA and HERA will provide loan document review, mortgage modification, litigation, advocacy, and investigation, and will file administrative complaints. In addition to serving individuals, this project will educate a wider audience through home preservation workshops.</p>		
Sub-Grantees	Organization	Year 1 Sub-Grant	
	Housing & Economic Rights Advocates (HERA) California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc. (CRLA)		
Community Served	CRLA and HERA propose a statewide project in Northern California, the Sacramento Area, the Bay Area, the Central Coast, the Central Valley, and Eastern California. This project will include a special focus on homeowners over age 50—many of whom are people of color, women, individuals with disabilities, immigrants, and have limited English proficiency. The proposed project will also serve younger homeowners and low-income Californians who have inherited a home after the death of a loved one and are trying to assume the loan; these individuals often need to modify the loan to prevent the loss of the family home.		
Project Outcomes	<p>Funding for the proposed project will enable CRLA and HERA to serve a combined total of 208 individual homeowners per year across the six-region target area. Of the 208 homeowners served, CRLA and HERA will file administrative complaints or litigate cases for at least 7 individual clients on an annual basis. HERA will serve an additional 240 Californians per year through home preservation workshops, which will rotate across cities throughout the six-region target area. Workshops will be held in multiple languages, as determined by the linguistic needs of each target area.</p> <p>Over the three-year project period, CRLA and HERA will provide individual foreclosure prevention services to a total of 624 homeowners and reach an additional 720 community members through home preservation workshops. As a result of this project, CRLA and HERA will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Prevent loss of housing for 20% of individual clients served; 2) Negotiate or facilitate move out to provide a “soft landing” for 10% of individual clients served; 3) Prevent, end or obtain relief from unfair or illegal behavior, or otherwise enforce rights or obtain remedies related to housing for 10% of individual clients served; 4) Obtain relief from foreclosure or property scams for 12% of individual clients served; 5) Obtain other housing benefit for 18% of individual clients served; and 6) Improve knowledge of home preservation strategies for 80% of consumer workshop participants. 		

GRANT BUDGET BY YEAR				
Personnel				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Personnel	\$57,932	\$57,603	\$57,660	\$173,195
Benefits	\$13,324	\$13,249	\$13,262	\$39,835
Non-Personnel				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Non-Personnel	\$4,828	\$5,236	\$5,166	\$15,230
Admin.	\$11,414	\$11,413	\$11,413	\$34,240
Sub-Recipient(s)				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Sub-Recipient(s)	\$87,500	\$87,500	\$87,500	\$262,500
Grand Total				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Grand Total	\$174,998	\$175,001	\$175,001	\$525,000
Lawyers				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Staff Attorney	0.65	0.4	0.37	1.42
Foreclosure Supervisor	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.15
Total	0.7	0.45	0.42	1.57
Paralegals				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Foreclosure Paralegal	0.1	0.25	0.25	0.6
Total	0.1	0.25	0.25	0.6
Others				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Foreclosure Coordinator	0.15	0.25	0.25	0.65
Total	0.15	0.25	0.25	0.65

**2020 BANK COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AND STABILIZATION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE**

Organization Name	Central California Legal Services		
Project Name	Amount Requested	Grant Period	
Technical Assistance Affordable Housing	\$750,000	Three Years	
Is this a statewide or regional project?	Regional		
Will this project serve rural communities?	Yes		
Project Abstract	<p>Too often cities and counties fail to plan to accommodate the housing needs of very low-income and low-income households. This failure results in an insufficient supply of affordable housing, which in turn results in acute substandard housing conditions, and backbreaking cost burden for the region's lowest-income families.</p> <p>This grant allows CCLS and its partners to address the region's severe shortage of affordable housing through a more systematic approach closer to the root of the problem: giving local jurisdictions the tools they need to prioritize, incentivize, and catalyze new construction to increase the supply of affordable housing—including best practices, model ordinances, assistance with available tax credits and financial programs, and other resources.</p> <p>CCLS's existing bank grant funds a robust Housing Element advocacy and litigation component. Because this project's needs assessment component will also allow advocates to assess the willingness and capacity of critical players—electeds, planners, developers—to get more affordable housing built in their jurisdiction, it will provide CCLS with invaluable information to inform that ongoing Housing Element advocacy for safe and affordable housing, including the litigation that will compel local jurisdictions to plan for and implement development goals by complying with California's housing element and fair housing law.</p>		
Sub-Grantees	Organization	Year 1 Sub-Grant	
	California Coalition for Rural Housing California Housing Partnership		
Community Served	<p>Of CCLS's six-county service area, this project will focus on four counties on the Valley floor (Merced, Tulare, Fresno, and Kings), a rural area with several small cities, and multiple disadvantaged, unincorporated communities.</p> <p>This area's ethnically diverse population is majority Latino, includes the second-largest Hmong population in the country, and the second-highest incidence of concentrated poverty; almost half (47%) speak a language other than English in the home.</p>		
Project Outcomes	<p>Year 1 project goals and deliverables:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Identify priority jurisdictions requiring technical assistance; Identify, and establish relationships with, city managers and planning staff, city attorneys, and elected officials of the target jurisdictions in the region to educate about HE and AFFH requirements and inform of project's services; Assess local needs and develop and implement a technical assistance plan for such jurisdictions customized to their identified needs; Develop a toolkit to include model policies for compliance and best practices to foster the construction of affordable housing, including financial incentives; Working with target jurisdictions to eliminate identified barriers, streamline the production of multi-family housing and the preservation of affordable housing; Work with community groups to bring the voice of low-income households into the planning process. <p>Years 2 & 3 project goals and deliverables:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work with jurisdictions identified in Year 1 to provide technical assistance and support to increase compliance with HE and AFFH laws (collaborative partners: CHP, CCRH) Continue HE and AFFH advocacy and litigation begun under expired bank grant (collaborative partner: PILP); Undertake new HE and AFFH advocacy and litigation initiatives, informed by Year 1 work on this grant (support center PILP) 		

GRANT BUDGET BY YEAR				
Personnel				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Personnel	\$65,208	\$115,842	\$128,176	\$309,226
Benefits	\$9,781	\$14,158	\$1,824	\$25,763
Non-Personnel				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Non-Personnel	\$16,221	\$0	\$0	\$16,221
Admin.	\$38,790	\$0	\$0	\$38,790
Sub-Recipient(s)				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Sub-Recipient(s)	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$360,000
Grand Total				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Grand Total	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$750,000
Lawyers				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Staff Attorney	1	1	1	3
Staff Attorney	0	1	1	2
Director of Litigation and Advocacy	0	0	0	0
Total	1	2	2	5
Paralegals				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Total	0	0	0	0
Others				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Legal Secretary	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0

2020
BANK COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AND STABILIZATION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Child Care Law Center						
Project Name	Amount Requested	Grant Period					
Eliminating Child Care Deserts and Creating Opportunities for Families	\$525,000	Three Years					
Is this a statewide or regional project?	Statewide						
Will this project serve rural communities?	Yes						
Project Abstract	<p>This project will promote economic development by addressing legal barriers to owning and operating child care businesses – particularly family child care – in low-income communities. Family child care is the most affordable type of licensed child care in California and the primary source of child care for babies and toddlers. It generally offers flexible hours for families who work unpredictable or nontraditional hours. The majority of family child care providers who run these businesses are women of color and immigrants.</p> <p>Landlords, local governments, mortgage lenders, homeowners' associations, and insurance companies are unaware that family child care is protected under both state and federal law. Discrimination and other unlawful practices by these parties have helped create "child care deserts," where fewer than 30% of families in a community can find licensed child care.</p> <p>Child Care Law Center and Public Counsel will offer legal services, advocate for new policies, and - potentially - conduct impact litigation to ensure that child care programs can open and expand in communities.</p> <p>The result will be increased economic opportunity where small businesses like child care can thrive, parents can find affordable care that allows them to work, and neighborhood culture and institutions are supported.</p>						
Sub-Grantees	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Organization</th> <th>Year 1 Sub-Grant</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Public Counsel</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Organization	Year 1 Sub-Grant	Public Counsel	
Organization	Year 1 Sub-Grant						
Public Counsel							
Community Served	<p>The target population is women, particularly women of color, who earn less than 400% of the federal poverty level.</p> <p>The geographic area to be served is statewide, but we will focus initial outreach and services on high need counties that have an extreme shortage of child care, a shortage of housing, a high job growth rate, and a higher-than-average percentage of people earning less than 400% of FPL.</p> <p>This group is in particular need of our services because state and federal policies to assure low-income individuals have equitable access to housing, education, transportation, and family support are not being enforced.</p>						
Project Outcomes	<p>The goal of this project is to promote economic development by supporting and building the capacity of child care providers. As a result of our work, child care businesses (a vital community asset, job-generator, and work support for parents) will be able to open, expand, and operate in rental housing without discrimination, and stay in business.</p> <p>The activities we propose are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educating the community about state and local laws that protect family child care providers' rights to housing, insurance, business operations, and related issues • Identifying emerging issues • Creating legal and advocacy strategies to remove barriers to the provision of quality, affordable child care <p>We expect the outcome of this project to be an increased supply of child care providers who are fairly compensated, securely housed, and able to nurture and enrich the children and families in their communities.</p>						

	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate property owners, homeowners' associations, state and local government agencies, and nonprofits about child care providers' rights to housing, insurance, business operations, and related issues. Remove unlawful or burdensome legal and administrative barriers. Build capacity and leadership through community organizing and advocacy
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GRANT BUDGET BY YEAR				
Personnel				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Personnel	\$34,915	\$42,420	\$46,447	\$123,782
Benefits	\$10,475	\$12,732	\$13,934	\$37,141
Non-Personnel				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Non-Personnel	\$31,850	\$22,055	\$16,586	\$70,491
Admin.	\$10,260	\$10,293	\$10,533	\$31,086
Sub-Recipient(s)				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Sub-Recipient(s)	\$87,500	\$87,500	\$87,500	\$262,500
Grand Total				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Grand Total	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$525,000
Lawyers				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Laurie Furstenfeld	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.45
Total	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.45
Paralegals				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Julia Frudden	0.35	0.45	0.49	1.29
Total	0.35	0.45	0.49	1.29
Others				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Total	0	0	0	0

**2020 BANK COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AND STABILIZATION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE**

Organization Name	Community Legal Aid SoCal						
Project Name	Amount Requested	Grant Period					
Housing Element Accountability Initiative	\$525,000	Three Years					
Is this a statewide or regional project?	Regional						
Will this project serve rural communities?	No						
Project Abstract	<p>California cities are required to provide their “fair share” of housing, including units for economically disadvantaged residents and emergency housing for homeless. However, many cities are not in compliance with state housing law, which is contributing to the serious statewide housing crisis. Through our work, both separately and together, Community Legal Aid SoCal and the Kennedy Commission are using California’s housing laws to successfully advocate for systemic change and bring new, affordable housing to our region’s economically disadvantaged residents.</p> <p>Funding for our “Housing Element Advocacy Initiative” will help us to build on our successful work to improve fair and equitable housing in Orange and Los Angeles Counties using housing element laws. As southern California’s 6th Housing Element Cycle commences, State Bar Bank Grant funding will support our robust participation from the outset, from the process to determine housing unit allocations in 2020 to monitoring implementation of plans in 2022, including possible litigation. This funding will also help us educate and mobilize the communities that will be affected by these plans for years to come.</p>						
Sub-Grantees	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Organization</th> <th>Year 1 Sub-Grant</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>The Kennedy Commission</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Organization	Year 1 Sub-Grant	The Kennedy Commission	
Organization	Year 1 Sub-Grant						
The Kennedy Commission							
Community Served	<p>According to “Missing the Mark”, “the percentage [of housing] completed is progressively worse the lower the income level.” Housing Element Accountability Initiative staff will advocate for the housing needs of Very Low-Income (below 50% of AMI) and Extremely Low-Income (below 30% of AMI) residents.</p> <p>Orange County has 500,471 residents who live at 125% of the federal poverty limit or below and the third highest cost of living in California. Los Angeles County has 2,259,471 residents who live at 125% of the FPL. As such, thousands of lower-income residents in our geographic area stand to benefit from our project.</p>						
Project Outcomes	<p>PROJECT GOAL#1: Build local capacity to participate in the Housing Element process and other housing policy matters.</p> <p>Objective #1a: Host a minimum of two meetings per year in Los Angeles County and two meetings in Orange County with potential partners and stakeholders.</p> <p>#1b: Educate a minimum of 50 community members annually.</p> <p>#1c: Monitor the public process and provide legal and strategic guidance to community members/groups participating in the Housing Element process. To the extent possible, advise and/or represent community members facing resistance from municipalities about compliance with Housing Element laws.</p> <p>PROJECT GOAL#2: Successfully advocate for submittal of compliant 6th Cycle Housing Elements by cities in Orange and Southeastern Los Angeles Counties. Compliant plans will accommodate the units required by the RHNA to promote development of affordable housing (including very low-income and extremely low-income units), and include zoning for transitional and permanent supportive units and emergency shelters in the region.</p> <p>Objective #2a: Assess the current state of compliance of adopted 5th Cycle Housing Elements to identify cities that may merit particular focus from this project as well lessons learned.</p> <p>#2b: Conduct research, review and comment on draft Regional Housing Needs Allocation</p>						

	<p>(RHNA); comment or appeal if needed.</p> <p>#2c: Assess draft Housing Element plans, negotiate with stakeholders, and attend public meetings and meetings of elected officials to advocate for compliance Housing Elements.</p> <p>#2d: Monitor implementation of plans by cities starting in 2022; negotiate and/or litigate if cities fail to comply with plans.</p>
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GRANT BUDGET BY YEAR				
Personnel				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Personnel	\$55,203	\$57,476	\$58,021	\$170,700
Benefits	\$15,873	\$16,338	\$16,302	\$48,513
Non-Personnel				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Non-Personnel	\$12,971	\$12,399	\$11,890	\$37,260
Admin.	\$15,953	\$13,787	\$13,787	\$43,527
Sub-Recipient(s)				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Sub-Recipient(s)	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$225,000
Grand Total				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Grand Total	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$525,000
Lawyers				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Supervising Attorney	0.2	0.17	0.17	0.54
Staff Attorney	0.2	0.17	0.17	0.54
Staff Attorney	0.2	0.17	0.17	0.54
Total	0.6	0.51	0.51	1.62
Paralegals				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Complex Litigation Paralegal	0.21	0.19	0.17	0.57
Total	0.21	0.19	0.17	0.57
Others				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Total	0	0	0	0

2020
BANK COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AND STABILIZATION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund		
Project Name	Amount Requested	Grant Period	
Inclusive Emergency Planning in Schools	\$525,000	Three Years	
Is this a statewide or regional project?	Statewide		
Will this project serve rural communities?	Yes		
Project Abstract	<p>Educational opportunities—or conversely barriers—are a driver for community revitalization and stabilization. This is particularly true as to emergency planning, given how that any disaster-related scenario that might occur during the daytime when parents are separated from children who are at school. Families are unlikely to put down roots, or remain, in communities unless they are confident that their children will be safe in school. Effective community redevelopment must include emergency planning for disabled students. These students, often students of color in urban and rural communities, may be marginalized by segregation and poverty. This is compounded by the fact that disabled adults and children are disproportionately affected by disasters when emergency planning fails to address disability-specific needs. This inequity affects the health of communities by leading to increased injury, mortalities, and trauma.</p> <p>This Project seeks to address this gap in access through building inclusive community development and equity with comprehensive school emergency planning. This goal will be accomplished through surveying urban and rural school district emergency plans for mandatory disability access provisions, community education and empowerment on the emergency planning rights of disabled students, targeted advocacy to bolster disability access in emergency planning, and potential legislative advancements of state protections.</p>		
Sub-Grantees	Organization	Year 1 Sub-Grant	
	California Foundation for Independent Living Centers		
Community Served	<p>There are 794,604 students with disabilities living in both rural and urban school districts across the state. A large percentage of these students are also students of color bearing the consequences of the ingrained effects of segregation and poverty in their schools and communities. African American and Latino students represent the majority of students attending some of the poorest schools in urban areas while low-income Latino and limited English speaking children are often overrepresented in rural schools. Progress made in improving accessible school emergency planning will have long felt affirmative effects on the co-occurring inequities that shape these children's lives.</p>		
Project Outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Systematic survey of school districts in urban and rural areas across the state with the use of outreach to QLSPs, parent advocates, and the disability community, and public record act requests and cataloguing of publicly available information. 2. Collect, document and review the universe of planning for students with disabilities in targeted urban and rural school districts statewide. 3. Facilitate new connections among education and disability community, legal services, government and community development stakeholders. 4. Memorialize systematic outreach and investigation results, plus lists and summaries of relevant materials, in master resource documents, for wide distribution as a Project legacy. 5. Systematically identify existing disability-related data relevant to effective school safely planning vis-à-vis disability access needs; assess whether existing data is sufficient to ensure effective implementation of AB 1747, and how such data might be used to shape effective 1747 implementation. 6. Use Project expertise to determine what (if any) additional data-gathering or disability access considerations might be necessary or beneficial to school safety planning. 		

	<p>7. Pursue at least one piece of impact litigation or formal negotiation per year to remedy violation of existing laws, or explain why not feasible or efficient.</p> <p>8. Craft “model policies” and “best practices” recommendations to address accessible school emergency planning gap(s).</p> <p>9. Memorialize potential new policy proposals that can be used by any or all stakeholders, including use in legislative education efforts.</p> <p>10. Deliver at least three presentations at local, regional or statewide trainings or conferences.</p>
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GRANT BUDGET BY YEAR				
Personnel				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Personnel	\$80,652	\$82,387	\$82,661	\$245,700
Benefits	\$25,002	\$25,384	\$25,308	\$75,694
Non-Personnel				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Non-Personnel	\$25,760	\$23,424	\$22,929	\$72,113
Admin.	\$8,586	\$8,805	\$9,102	\$26,493
Sub-Recipient(s)				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Sub-Recipient(s)	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$105,000
Grand Total				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Grand Total	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$525,000
Lawyers				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Total	0	0	0	0
Paralegals				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Total	0	0	0	0
Others				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Total	0	0	0	0

2020
BANK COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AND STABILIZATION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	East Bay Community Law Center										
Project Name	Amount Requested	Grant Period									
Northern California Foreclosure Prevention Collaborative	\$750,000	Three Years									
Is this a statewide or regional project?	Regional										
Will this project serve rural communities?	Yes										
Project Abstract	<p>Lower-income homeowners continue to struggle to keep their homes, as the foreclosure crisis spanning the last decade has decimated homeownership rates, particularly affecting communities of color and the elderly (U.S. Census Bureau, 2015). Across California, thousands of people in the middle- and lower-income brackets have lost not only their homes but also their financial stability and primary asset. Recently, there has been a spike in unscrupulous practices to recruit homeowners to enter into PACE contracts they are not able to afford, resulting in the potential loss of their homes. According to the Wall Street Journal's analysis of PACE accounts, the program's high fees caused mortgage default rates almost to quintuple in 40 California counties between 2016 and 2017. Additionally, the recent fires in Sonoma County have destroyed entire communities who are now particularly vulnerable to predatory lending and contractor practices as they rebuild.</p> <p>Over the next 3 years, the Northern California Foreclosure Prevention Collaborative (NCFPC) will provide legal services and community education, as well as develop shareable resources that combat consumer fraud. NCFPC's work will significantly mitigate displacement of low-income communities due to foreclosures or loss of property as a result of falling prey to predatory lending and fraudulent contractors.</p>										
Sub-Grantees	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Organization</th> <th>Year 1 Sub-Grant</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bay Area Legal Aid</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Legal Aid of Sonoma County</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>East Bay Community Law Center</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Organization	Year 1 Sub-Grant	Bay Area Legal Aid		Legal Aid of Sonoma County		East Bay Community Law Center			
Organization	Year 1 Sub-Grant										
Bay Area Legal Aid											
Legal Aid of Sonoma County											
East Bay Community Law Center											
Community Served	<p>The structure of the PACE program, in addition to other contractor fraud and debt collection abuses, has created fissures that leave low-income homeowners vulnerable to fraud, elder abuse, predatory lending, and foreclosure. Thus, NCFPC will serve low-income homeowners, communities of color, the elderly, and natural disaster victims in urban and rural communities in Alameda, Contra Costa, Sonoma, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties. It is critical to reach homeowners before they enter pre-foreclosure status, as preventing the foreclosure process from moving forward is far more effective than fighting the foreclosure once proceedings have been initiated.</p>										
Project Outcomes	<p>Goal 1: Provide holistic legal and educational consumer legal services to low-income homeowners at risk of foreclosure in order to prevent the loss of their homes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Conduct 23 scam prevention workshops to educate low-income homeowners on spotting contractor fraud. -Conduct 6 Know Your Rights clinics for target populations and attend 8 community outreach events to educate service providers about clinics. -Create and disseminate 1,000 Know Your Rights pamphlets helping Sonoma County residents to spot contractor fraud, including PACE fraud. -Provide 176 clients with financial consultations to identify foreclosure risk and navigate through reverse mortgage process if appropriate. -Provide at least 160 clients with wraparound consumer services including debt collection defense, post-judgment help, credit reporting, and utility reduction assistance. (See "Consult" packets in uploaded documents for service materials.) -Coordinate calls with subcontractors to track progress of project. <p>Goal 2: Prevent foreclosure due to PACE financing among low-income California homeowners with a highly coordinated statewide collaborative organized regionally and with complementary and aligned project design.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Litigate 1 high-impact case on behalf of a low-income senior at risk of foreclosure due to PACE. 										

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Contribute to the development of the CFPC PACE Tool Kit. -Provide brief legal services, including but not limited to filing 12 PACE complaints with the Contractors State Licensing Board and the Department of Business Oversight, negotiating directly with PACE administrators, and filing DCBA complaints. -Prepare local agency complaints and requests for administrative review. -Participate in 20 calls with SCFPC to gather data from a region where PACE crisis is rampant.
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GRANT BUDGET BY YEAR				
Personnel				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Personnel	\$81,975	\$83,250	\$85,350	\$250,575
Benefits	\$18,855	\$19,150	\$19,630	\$57,635
Non-Personnel				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Non-Personnel	\$6,600	\$6,480	\$6,480	\$19,560
Admin.	\$17,570	\$16,120	\$13,540	\$47,230
Sub-Recipient(s)				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Sub-Recipient(s)	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$375,000
Grand Total				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Grand Total	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$750,000
Lawyers				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Staff Attorneys	0.67	0.75	0.75	2.17
Total	0.67	0.75	0.75	2.17
Paralegals				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Total	0	0	0	0
Others				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Program Manager	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.6
Data Scientist	0.1	0.05	0.05	0.2
Contracts Officer	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.16
Total	0.36	0.3	0.3	0.96

2020
BANK COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AND STABILIZATION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Family Violence Appellate Project		
Project Name	Amount Requested	Grant Period	
Stabilizing Communities Through Housing and Employment Justice for Domestic Violence Survivors, Focusing on Native American and Rural Communities	\$863,058	Three Years	
Is this a statewide or regional project?	Statewide		
Will this project serve rural communities?	Yes		
Project Abstract	<p>Family Violence Appellate Project (FVAP), in collaboration with Legal Aid at Work (LAAW), National Indian Justice Center (NIJC) and California Partnership to End Domestic Violence (CPEDV), will perform community development work to revitalize and stabilize low-income communities by preventing homelessness of survivors of domestic violence (DV) through legal services in housing and employment law. While California and federal law provides DV survivors protections in housing and employment, these laws are underutilized, often because survivors of DV and their advocates, most of whom are not lawyers, are unaware of their existence or how to use them to protect survivors' housing and employment rights. Focusing on the needs of rural and Native American communities, FVAP and its partners will take a three-pronged approach to help DV survivors avoid homelessness. First, we will engage in nonprofit capacity-building by providing trainings, community outreach, and culturally competent and accessible written legal tools on housing and employment rights of DV survivors. Second, we will represent DV survivor communities by supporting systemic solutions through policy and legislative advocacy. Third, we will provide systematic legal support through appellate litigation and legal technical assistance to advocates and attorneys working with survivors of DV.</p>		
Sub-Grantees	Organization	Year 1 Sub-Grant	
	Legal Aid at Work National Indian Justice Center California Partnership to End Domestic Violence Family Violence Appellate Project		
Community Served	<p>Although the Project will serve DV survivors throughout California, it will focus on Native American survivors and survivors in rural communities. The Project is focusing on Native American survivors because Native Americans experience DV at higher rates than other populations. Additionally, DV survivors working or living on tribal lands must navigate different tribes' tribal laws, federal law, and complicated jurisdictional issues, which can make advocacy more difficult.</p> <p>The Project is focusing on California's rural communities because DV survivors in rural communities have far less access to direct legal services and are often solely served by non-attorney advocates at DV agencies.</p>		
Project Outcomes	<p>The Project has three key goals with corresponding deliverables. The first is to increase nonprofits' capacity to assist survivors with housing and employment needs, especially those serving rural and Native American communities. The Project will do this by providing trainings, community outreach, and culturally competent and accessible written legal tools on housing and employment rights of DV survivors. The Project will create at least 15 written legal tools, a portion of which will be tailored for Native American communities, by the end of the 3-year project. The written legal tools will remain available on FVAP and CPEDV's password-protected websites. The Project will also create and give 5-10 trainings over the 3-year period. The trainings will also be available on-demand via recorded webinars.</p> <p>The second key goal is to represent DV survivor communities by supporting systematic solutions through policy and legislative advocacy. The Project will engage in 1-3 systemic advocacy campaigns each calendar year. The campaigns will work to create meaningful community change that will strengthen housing and/or employment right of DV survivors, resulting in preventing DV survivor homelessness.</p> <p>The third key goal is to provide systematic legal support through appeals and technical</p>		

	assistance to advocates and attorneys working with DV survivors. By providing technical assistance (estimated 60-100/year), the Project will support trial-level matters and help preserve issues for appeal. Using NIJC's and CPEDV's networks, the Project will engage in targeted outreach, focusing its systematic legal support on Native American DV survivors and DV survivors in rural communities.
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GRANT BUDGET BY YEAR				
Personnel				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Personnel	\$27,227	\$93,814	\$101,458	\$222,499
Benefits	\$7,977	\$21,219	\$22,424	\$51,620
Non-Personnel				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Non-Personnel	\$13,202	\$19,317	\$20,089	\$52,608
Admin.	\$16,011	\$41,150	\$44,370	\$101,531
Sub-Recipient(s)				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Sub-Recipient(s)	\$144,445	\$139,925	\$150,430	\$434,800
Grand Total				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Grand Total	\$208,862	\$315,425	\$338,771	\$863,058
Lawyers				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Housing and Employment Attorney	0.09	1	1	2.09
Director of Programs	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3
Staff Attorney	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.03
Total	0.2	1.11	1.11	2.42
Paralegals				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Staff Paralegal	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.06
Total	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.06
Others				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Office Manager - Support Staff	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.03
Development Manager	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.03
Executive Director	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.03
Total	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.09

**2020 BANK COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AND STABILIZATION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE**

Organization Name	Family Violence Law Center		
Project Name	Amount Requested	Grant Period	
A Roof of One's Own Project	\$1,199,319	Three Years	
Is this a statewide or regional project?	Statewide		
Will this project serve rural communities?	Yes		
Project Abstract	<p>Family Violence Law Center's (FVLC) "A Roof of One's Own" is an advocacy project that applies a racial and gender equity lens to homelessness. The project centers the needs of the most vulnerable, unhoused women of color, to develop policy solutions to end homelessness for all. Too often, unhoused women are left out of conversations concerning homelessness and women of color are left out of conversations concerning racial disparities in homelessness. In Alameda County, FVLC has: formed a coalition to advocate for policy changes; increased funding to address the needs of unhoused women; and successfully advocated for coordinated entry improvements and domestic violence training for street outreach workers, direct homeless service providers and emergency response teams.</p> <p>FVLC and its partners the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence (the Partnership), Family Violence Appellate Project (FVAP), National Alliance for Safe Housing (NASH) and Building Futures with Women and Children (BFWC), propose to expand "A Roof of One's Own" to raise the issue of women's homelessness to the state level. The project will gather information about women's homelessness across the state, provide technical assistance for stakeholders that assist unhoused women, develop and advocate for statewide policy solutions, and identify opportunities for impact litigation.</p>		
Sub-Grantees	Organization	Year 1 Sub-Grant	
	Building Futures With Women and Children California Partnership to End Domestic Violence Family Violence Appellate Project National Alliance for Safe Housing		
Community Served	In 2018, there were 130,000 unhoused people in California. Based on local counts in 2019, that number has likely increased. For example, the homeless population increased by 43% in Alameda County and 16% in Los Angeles County. There are disparities within California's homeless population. While African Americans were 6.5% of the state's population, they were 29% of the homeless population. As stated above, there's no data on the number of women experiencing homelessness. It is likely that women of color disproportionately experience homelessness. FVLC will expand its project statewide to address the racial and gender gaps in California's homelessness response.		
Project Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a survey tool to assess the needs of unhoused women statewide. Survey at least 100 organizations statewide. • Provide peer to peer learning spaces, technical assistance, trainings and material resources to ensure domestic violence advocates have the capacity to effectively engage in housing and homelessness advocacy. • Specialized learning spaces will be available for rural areas, as strategies created and implemented in large, urban cities often fail to address the unique needs of rural communities. • In addition to the survey, use existing statewide networks to gather data to develop recommended policies and practices for local jurisdictions to implement. Provide technical assistance to at least 100 organizations to ensure domestic violence advocates, legal services providers, housing/ homeless providers, and local jurisdictions have the capacity to implement policy recommendations across the state. • Engage in local and statewide policy and systems change advocacy as informed by information gathered from partners' statewide networks. Advocacy will include efforts to allocate funding to continue this work beyond the grant period. As local advocacy efforts are implemented, provide feedback to project partners and redistribute information about the effectiveness of strategies across statewide networks. • Continuously assess the need for litigation regarding local and statewide compliance with state and federal laws and regulations impacting unhoused women. 		

- Publish and distribute a report including policy recommendations for effectively addressing the needs of unhoused women. Convene key stakeholders to present and discuss findings.

GRANT BUDGET BY YEAR
Personnel

Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Personnel	\$2,984	\$71,992	\$73,845	\$148,821
Benefits	\$582	\$13,994	\$14,384	\$28,960

Non-Personnel

Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Non-Personnel	\$12,299	\$11,981	\$51,731	\$76,011
Admin.	\$3,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$13,000

Sub-Recipient(s)

Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Sub-Recipient(s)	\$341,979	\$290,047	\$300,501	\$932,527

Grand Total

Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Grand Total	\$360,844	\$393,014	\$445,461	\$1,199,319

Lawyers

Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Executive Director - Erin Scott	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3
Housing & Gender Justice Staff Attorney - Ja'Nai Aubry	1	1	1	3
Total	1.1	1.1	1.1	3.3

Paralegals

Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Total	0	0	0	0

Others

Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Finance Director - Juliet Crosby	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.06
Total	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.06

**2020 BANK COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AND STABILIZATION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE**

Organization Name	Harriett Buhai Center for Family Law		
Project Name	Amount Requested	Grant Period	
The Protection and Preservation of Wealth Assets and Income in Dissolution Cases	\$328,338	Three Years	
Is this a statewide or regional project?	Regional		
Will this project serve rural communities?	Yes		
Project Abstract	<p>This proposal will protect and secure the sole assets of low-income family law litigants in divorce cases, their pensions and homes. It will allow new and existing family law clients of participating IOLTA and non-IOLTA providers, many of whom are victims of domestic violence, older and women, to benefit from economic resources to which they have previously been denied because of lack of provider capacity. The goal is to improve their financial well-being and economic security by creating, for the first time, legal provider capability. This will strengthen their families and communities because of the preservation and enhancement of income and assets. The program represents a consortium of eleven non-profit provider partners including the Harriett Buhai Center for Family Law (the Center) as the lead applicant, representing two State Bar Bank Grant districts and rural areas in several counties. Over a three-year period the Center will create a free original curriculum with materials taught in 4 installments and online learning segments with an extended mentoring period for the partner agencies. The program will be augmented by use of a software subscription service for retirement fund division, which will be provided at no cost to the participating agencies.</p>		
Sub-Grantees	Organization	Year 1 Sub-Grant	
	Asian American Advancing Justice- LA California Women's Law Center Community Legal Aid SoCa Inland Counties Legal Services Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles Legal Aid Society of San Diego Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County Sojour (Ocean NonProfit Legal) San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program		
Community Served	<p>The target population will be older family law litigants in marriages of 10 years or more who are separated and have or will file dissolution actions through participating programs. These will be clients who possess a community property interest in the other party's retirement fund and/or in a marital home. The target population will be without other means to secure legal counsel through attorney liens or loans against the asset. Each participating program will be directed to set their own resource limits for eligible clients based on the value of the non-liquid assets at the time of eligibility determination.</p>		
Project Outcomes	<p>The deliverables will be provided to all Partner Agencies, divided into two groups in consecutive cycles of 15 months for a total of 30 months. The deliverables listed below should be doubled unless otherwise indicated (see also Schedule of Activities chart).</p> <p>Goal #1: Increase the number of low-income clients who are able to obtain their assets from retirement funds and marital homes by enabling IOLTA and non-IOLTA providers to perform the necessary work.</p> <p>Goal #2: Enable the providers to accept and handle these dissolution asset cases for low-income litigants.</p> <p>Deliverables:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create a curriculum with updates for marital home protection and acquisition; 2. Create a curriculum with updates for retirement funds protection and acquisition; 3. Create and provide agenda and program for four onsite trainings; 4. Create two online learning segments; 5. Prepare Practice Pointers throughout mentoring period; 		

	6.	Conduct 4 onsite trainings;
	7.	Provide 12 months of one-to-one mentoring;
	8.	Provide free access to retirement fund software throughout the mentoring period;
	9.	Conduct 3 phone conferences with Partner liaisons for planning and feedback; and
	10.	Draft and utilize two program evaluation forms during the course of the project.

GRANT BUDGET BY YEAR				
Personnel				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Personnel	\$56,203	\$42,863	\$35,381	\$134,447
Benefits	\$12,284	\$9,369	\$7,734	\$29,387
Non-Personnel				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Non-Personnel	\$43,187	\$59,385	\$29,915	\$132,487
Admin.	\$10,322	\$10,745	\$10,950	\$32,017
Sub-Recipient(s)				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Sub-Recipient(s)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Grand Total				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Grand Total	\$121,996	\$122,362	\$83,980	\$328,338
Lawyers				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Executive Director	0.15	0.1	0.1	0.35
Director of Legal Services	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.17
Staff Attorneys (6)	0.31	0.29	0.2	0.8
Total	0.52	0.45	0.35	1.32
Paralegals				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Senior Client Assistant	0.08	0	0	0.08
Total	0.08	0	0	0.08
Others				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Project Assistant	0.14	0.14	0.1	0.38
Total	0.14	0.14	0.1	0.38

2020
BANK COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AND STABILIZATION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Immigrant Legal Resource Center												
Project Name	Amount Requested	Grant Period											
Immigrant Community Education and Empowerment in San Joaquin Valley	\$1,200,000	Three Years											
Is this a statewide or regional project?	Regional												
Will this project serve rural communities?	Yes												
Project Abstract	<p>This project will provide critical updates on immigration law and policy and promote civic engagement among hard to reach immigrant populations in the San Joaquin Valley. The ILRC will collaborate with four local partners to coordinate a series of community forums across the region to provide urgent updates on immigration policy, provide relevant resources and materials, and facilitate a discussion on local issues and opportunities for civic engagement. The project will target isolated and hard to reach populations, including: rural farmworker communities, the Southeast Asian population, unincorporated communities, and the indigenous Mexican population. The ILRC will provide training and technical support to the partner organizations, who have deep ties to these communities but limited legal capacity, which will enhance their outreach efforts and overall work with the immigrant community. The focus on these target communities and the on-going engagement will improve access to accurate information regarding issues of importance and provide a space for local communities to come together. During this time of confusion and fear for immigrant communities, the project will inform and empower underserved and isolated immigrant communities about their rights and opportunities for civic participation.</p>												
Sub-Grantees	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 75%;">Organization</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Year 1 Sub-Grant</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Central Valley Immigrant Integration Collaborative (CVIIC)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Centro Binacional para el Desarrollo Indígena Oaxaqueno (CBDIO)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>El Quinto Sol de America</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Empowering Marginalized Asian Communities (EMAC/APSARA)</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Organization	Year 1 Sub-Grant	Central Valley Immigrant Integration Collaborative (CVIIC)		Centro Binacional para el Desarrollo Indígena Oaxaqueno (CBDIO)		El Quinto Sol de America		Empowering Marginalized Asian Communities (EMAC/APSARA)	
Organization	Year 1 Sub-Grant												
Central Valley Immigrant Integration Collaborative (CVIIC)													
Centro Binacional para el Desarrollo Indígena Oaxaqueno (CBDIO)													
El Quinto Sol de America													
Empowering Marginalized Asian Communities (EMAC/APSARA)													
Community Served	<p>The project targets hard to reach immigrant populations, which include rural communities and marginalize immigrant populations. The San Joaquin Valley's urban centers are home to a small number of legal service organizations, but isolated rural areas are left almost completely underserved and low-income farmworkers face transportation challenges to reach these urban centers. Furthermore, certain non-Spanish speaking immigrant populations face linguistic barriers to information and services. Geographic and linguistic isolation leave many of the region's immigrants without access to information and vulnerable to immigration fraud. There is an urgent need to reach underserved areas in order to bridge this justice gap.</p>												
Project Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ILRC will convene partners annually to identify target communities and locations, develop an annual work plan, and assign ILRC point staff. • Each of the 4 partner organizations, in collaboration with the ILRC, will host a series of 8 events per year in target, hard to reach communities. A total of 32 forums will be held throughout the region each year. • Each forum will reach 20-50 community members depending on the size of the community in question for a total of 640-1600 immigrant community members reached annually. • Staff from partner organizations as well as an ILRC staff member will provide policy updates to community members at the forum, distribute relevant resource materials, and engage participants in discussion of local issues and opportunities for civic engagement. • ILRC will provide 3 trainings per year in order for staff from partner organizations to understand emerging immigration issues and to provide accurate and accessible updates to the community. • ILRC will develop and share relevant written resources with partners for use in their outreach efforts as well as for distribution at the community forums, including a resource list tailored for the target communities. • ILRC will convene all partners on a quarterly basis through 1 in-person convening and 3 conference calls. 												

GRANT BUDGET BY YEAR				
Personnel				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Personnel	\$96,814	\$96,814	\$96,814	\$290,442
Benefits	\$25,171	\$25,171	\$25,171	\$75,513
Non-Personnel				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Non-Personnel	\$35,045	\$35,045	\$35,045	\$105,135
Admin.	\$12,970	\$12,970	\$12,970	\$38,910
Sub-Recipient(s)				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Sub-Recipient(s)	\$230,000	\$230,000	\$230,000	\$690,000
Grand Total				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Grand Total	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$1,200,000
Lawyers				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Executive Director	5	5	5	15
Supervising Attorney	13	13	13	39
Legal Fellows (2)	62	62	62	186
Total	80	80	80	240
Paralegals				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Total	0	0	0	0
Others				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Outreach Worker	23	23	23	69
Total	23	23	23	69

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2020
BANK COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AND STABILIZATION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Inland Counties Legal Services		
Project Name	Amount Requested	Grant Period	
Nonprofit Legal Assistance Project (NLAP)	\$525,000	Three Years	
Is this a statewide or regional project?	Regional		
Will this project serve rural communities?	Yes		
Project Abstract	Inland Counties Legal Services' (ICLS) community redevelopment project will provide transactional support to stabilize low-income communities. Legal assistance will be provided to non-profit organizations whose mission is to provide supportive services and basic needs to persons living in poverty and the homeless population. In collaboration with Community Partners, a 501(3)(c) organization, and more specifically its project, California Partnership, ICLS will provide legal services to small nonprofit organizations to assist them in fulfill their mission to secure food, shelter, and other resources for persons living in poverty in the Inland Empire. The goal of the program is to stabilize low-income communities by empowering nonprofit organizations to maximize their resources to expand and improve services to their communities. By assisting nonprofit organizations to obtain corporate status, navigate reporting requirements, obtain tax exemption status and gain access to greater grant opportunities, ICLS will expand the resources available to persons living in poverty.		
Sub-Grantees	Organization	Year 1 Sub-Grant	
	Community Partners		
Community Served	The goal of the Nonprofit Legal Assistance Project (NLAP) is to serve the low income communities of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. The target populations are individuals who need services from NPOs related to food, shelter, job training, counseling and assistance with substance abuse issues. The NLAP project focuses on NPOs that will provide a majority of their services to persons living under 200% of the federal poverty guidelines.		
Project Outcomes	1. Attend two outreaches per month, one in each county 2. Provide legal transactional assistance for 10 clients per month 3. One presentation per month to NPOs 4. Assist 10 clients per year in forming a 501(c)(3) corporation 5. Assist 20 clients per year in meeting IRS reporting requirements for a 501(c)(3) corporation		

GRANT BUDGET BY YEAR**Personnel**

Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Personnel	\$75,760	\$75,760	\$75,760	\$227,280
Benefits	\$18,180	\$18,180	\$18,180	\$54,540

Non-Personnel

Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Non-Personnel	\$24,020	\$24,020	\$24,020	\$72,060
Admin.	\$33,040	\$33,040	\$33,040	\$99,120

Sub-Recipient(s)

Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Sub-Recipient(s)	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$72,000

Grand Total				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Grand Total	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$525,000
Lawyers				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Staff Attorney	0.9	0.9	0.9	2.7
Impact Practice Group Director	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.15
	0	0	0	0
Total	0.95	0.95	0.95	2.85
Paralegals				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Total	0	0	0	0
Others				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Legal Secretary	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.75
Total	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.75

2020
BANK COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AND STABILIZATION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Inner City Law Center								
Project Name	Amount Requested	Grant Period							
Affordable Housing Strategies and Advocacy	\$750,000	Three Years							
Is this a statewide or regional project?	Regional								
Will this project serve rural communities?	Yes								
Project Abstract	<p>More than 130,000 people will be homeless in California tonight – and hundreds of thousands more are precariously housed, just one step away from the streets. To solve our disastrous homeless situation in California, we must effectively advocate for far more affordable housing. We need to build much more affordable housing than we are currently even talking about and also do much more to preserve existing affordable housing.</p> <p>Inner City Law Center's (ICLC) proposed project will use local and statewide organizing, education, and policy advocacy to promote community economic development by increasing resources and requirements for affordable housing, changing land use and zoning laws to make it easier and faster to build affordable housing, and promoting policies that help keep housing affordable for low income tenants. ICLC and our partners on this project – ACCE Institute, and Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability – are deeply committed to working with low-income residents and organizational partners to build thriving communities. We each have long histories of providing local leadership to promote affordable housing. This project will enable us to strengthen these local efforts, while also coordinating to bring local community views and expertise to bear on statewide policy deliberations.</p>								
Sub-Grantees	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Organization</th> <th>Year 1 Sub-Grant</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>ACCE Institute</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Organization	Year 1 Sub-Grant	ACCE Institute		Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability	
Organization	Year 1 Sub-Grant								
ACCE Institute									
Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability									
Community Served	<p>This project focuses on promoting housing affordability for low-income families and people experiencing homelessness, the vast majority of whom live below the poverty line and meet the State Bar's definition of indigent. Just as there are many pathways into homelessness, there are many pathways out of homelessness. But all of them have one thing in common – a stable, affordable home. Ending homelessness requires more homes. Safe and healthy homes must be accessible to all. This project brings together organizations working in rural and urban communities to promote creative, collaborative solutions that create and preserve affordable housing throughout California.</p>								
Project Outcomes	<p>Inner City Law Center's proposed project will provide legal services that revitalize and stabilize low-income communities throughout the state by promoting the creation and preservation of affordable housing.</p> <p>The goals of this project are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expand and strengthen leadership and advocacy with respect to local affordable housing policy in local communities so that more affordable housing is preserved and created. 2. Expand and strengthen relationships and collaboration, so that best affordable housing practices are shared across regions. 3. Expand and strengthen leadership and advocacy efforts with respect to statewide affordable housing policy in a way that lifts up best practices and promotes housing affordability in California's rural and urban communities. <p>Deliverables to track progress towards these goals include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct hundreds of individual and group meetings with local organizations and stakeholders in all the regions where we operate to discuss and develop the most viable and impactful housing policy solutions. • Achieve at least two local advocacy successes that can be replicated and used as models elsewhere in the state. • Convene at least two day-long gatherings of project partners and key allies to share best regional practices and to identify priority policies for statewide advocacy. 								

- Research, draft, publish, and circulate at least one Affordable Housing Report.
- Generate stories, data, and testimony to support collective advocacy efforts for policy changes for local, regional, and statewide advocacy purposes.
- Ensure that the State of California adopts at least two practices that will significantly improve affordable housing statewide.

GRANT BUDGET BY YEAR

Personnel

Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Personnel	\$88,837	\$94,167	\$97,492	\$280,496
Benefits	\$20,037	\$21,239	\$22,319	\$63,595

Non-Personnel

Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Non-Personnel	\$10,126	\$4,194	\$189	\$14,509
Admin.	\$1,000	\$400	\$0	\$1,400

Sub-Recipient(s)

Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Sub-Recipient(s)	\$130,000	\$130,000	\$130,000	\$390,000

Grand Total

Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Grand Total	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$750,000

Lawyers

Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Policy Advocate Attorney	73000	77380	82023	232403
Total	73000	77380	82023	232403

Paralegals

Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Total	0	0	0	0

Others

Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Policy Advocate (30% FTE)	15837	16787	15469	48093
Total	15837	16787	15469	48093

2020
BANK COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AND STABILIZATION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco								
Project Name	Amount Requested	Grant Period							
Know Your Rights: Intact Families, Stable Communities	\$745,452	Three Years							
Is this a statewide or regional project?	Regional								
Will this project serve rural communities?	Yes								
Project Abstract	<p>In immigrant communities, the greatest threat to stability and cohesiveness is the threat of the arrest, detention, and deportation of members of the community who lack adequate documentation of their residency or citizenship. Studies show that the detention and deportation of immigrants causes enormous harm to the financial stability, mental and physical health, and housing access for families. Often these detentions – and the harm they cause – can be prevented or greatly truncated if immigrants know their rights and available options for opposing their detention and deportation.</p> <p>The Justice & Diversity Center (JDC) proposes to partner with the Watsonville Law Center (WLC) and Central Valley Immigrant Integration Collaborative (CVIIC) to enhance and support the provision of outreach, education, and civic engagement to ensure that immigrant communities know their rights, are prepared to defend against their detention and deportation, and have the tools to advocate for their self-interests. The Know Your Rights: Intact Families, Stable Communities project will increase the capacity of Central Valley and Central Coast immigrant communities to plan for immigration enforcement actions and defend against their detention and deportation, greatly improving the stability and cohesiveness of local families and preserving thriving communities.</p>								
Sub-Grantees	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 60%;">Organization</th> <th style="width: 40%;">Year 1 Sub-Grant</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Watsonville Law Center (WLC)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Central Valley Immigrant Integration Collaborative (CVIIC)</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Organization	Year 1 Sub-Grant	Watsonville Law Center (WLC)		Central Valley Immigrant Integration Collaborative (CVIIC)	
Organization	Year 1 Sub-Grant								
Watsonville Law Center (WLC)									
Central Valley Immigrant Integration Collaborative (CVIIC)									
Community Served	<p>The Know Your Rights: Intact Families, Stable Communities project will provide resources to organizations that serve immigrant communities in the Central Valley and Central Coast regions of California. These areas are predominantly Latino/a and have a disproportionate number of undocumented immigrants compared to other areas of the state. Because these regions also lack adequate legal resources for community education and advocacy services, federal immigration officials target them for arrests, detentions, and deportations. This project will connect local immigrant-serving organizations with the resources they need to expand outreach, legal education, and resource sharing capacity to help preserve thriving immigrant communities.</p>								
Project Outcomes	<p>The overall goal of the Know Your Rights: Intact Families, Stable Communities project is to increase family and community resilience by maintaining cohesive, economically viable family units in low-income immigrant communities. Specific goals for the project are listed below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To prepare immigrants in the Central Valley and Central Coast regions of California for ICE enforcement actions and enable them to defend themselves against detention and deportation. 2) To supply vulnerable immigrants in targeted communities with skills and resources needed to advocate for themselves and mobilize their neighbors, family members, and friends. 3) To connect immigrants at risk of detention and deportation to legal service providers who can help them take pro-active steps to mitigate the risk that they will be detained and removed from their homes. <p>Measurable objectives that will lead to the achievement of the above goals include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Annually, the project will provide at least 38 Know Your Rights education sessions and workshops, with resource materials and legal information reaching at least 950 individuals. 2) Annually, the project will provide at least 16 community advocacy and empowerment sessions, reaching at least 480 individuals. 								

2) Each year, the project will refer at least 250 individuals to legal service organizations for help with immigration legal issues.

GRANT BUDGET BY YEAR

Personnel

Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Personnel	\$59,000	\$60,770	\$60,259	\$180,029
Benefits	\$16,449	\$16,943	\$16,800	\$50,192

Non-Personnel

Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Non-Personnel	\$13,310	\$13,710	\$13,597	\$40,617
Admin.	\$7,891	\$8,126	\$8,022	\$24,039

Sub-Recipient(s)

Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Sub-Recipient(s)	\$150,903	\$149,181	\$150,491	\$450,575

Grand Total

Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Grand Total	\$247,553	\$248,730	\$249,169	\$745,452

Lawyers

Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Director of Immigrant Legal Defense Programs	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.15
Immigration Staff Attorney	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.5
Total	0.55	0.55	0.55	1.65

Paralegals

Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Total	0	0	0	0

Others

Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Immigration Legal Services Coordinator	0.5	0.5	0.45	1.45
Total	0.5	0.5	0.45	1.45

2020
BANK COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AND STABILIZATION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Justice in Aging		
Project Name	Amount Requested	Grant Period	
Senior Housing Advocacy Coalition	\$750,000	Three Years	
Is this a statewide or regional project?	Statewide		
Will this project serve rural communities?	Yes		
Project Abstract	<p>This project is a collaboration between Justice in Aging, Bet Tzedek and Legal Assistance for Seniors (LAS). Together, we will build a statewide coalition of local legal services providers and support centers to identify and advocate for policy solutions to systemic barriers to housing stability for older adults, particularly barriers faced by communities of color, including those in rural areas. We will work together to pursue policy solutions at both the state and local level to increase housing stability, promote fair and affordable housing, and decrease the rate of homelessness of older adults.</p> <p>The project will have two primary goals. Goal 1 (Senior Housing Advocacy Coalition): Build and provide training and advocacy support to a statewide coalition of legal services organizations serving older adults in matters related to attaining or maintaining housing, with a particular focus on addressing systemic racial inequities. Goal 2 (Policy Advocacy & Impact Litigation): Identify and advance policy solutions to at least 3 systemic barriers to housing stability for older adults, particularly those that relate to racial inequities. Policy solutions may be advanced at the local or statewide level.</p>		
Sub-Grantees	Organization	Year 1 Sub-Grant	
	Bet Tzedek Legal Assistance for Seniors		
Community Served	<p>This statewide project is focused on identifying and addressing the housing needs of low-income older adults, particularly those whose housing insecurity is driven by or connected to systemic racial inequities.</p> <p>As housing costs continue to increase, more California seniors face eviction, predatory lending, difficulty securing affordable housing, and challenges finding housing that meets their health care and social supports needs. Communities of color, including those living in rural areas, where there is a long history of housing discrimination and where incidences of displacement are increasing, are in particular need of strong, systemic advocacy.</p>		
Project Outcomes	<p>The project will have two primary goals.</p> <p>Goal 1 (Senior Housing Advocacy Coalition): Build and provide training and advocacy support to a statewide coalition of legal services organizations serving older adults in matters related to attaining or maintaining housing, with a particular focus on addressing systemic racial inequities.</p> <p>Deliverables connected to this goal will include forming a coalition of legal providers from across the state, regular meetings of the coalition, a coalition listserv, 2 webinars each year, and development of written materials.</p> <p>Goal 2 (Policy Advocacy & Impact Litigation): Identify and advance policy solutions to at least 3 systemic barriers to housing stability for older adults, particularly those that relate to racial inequities. Policy solutions may be advanced at the local or statewide level.</p> <p>Deliverables connected to this goal will include development of tools for spotting systemic barriers, creation of issue briefs and reports summarizing systemic barriers and potential solutions, policy and legislative advocacy, and potentially impact litigation.</p>		

GRANT BUDGET BY YEAR				
Personnel				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Personnel	\$63,600	\$63,600	\$63,600	\$190,800
Benefits	\$15,900	\$15,900	\$15,900	\$47,700
Non-Personnel				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Non-Personnel	\$15,125	\$15,125	\$15,125	\$45,375
Admin.	\$5,375	\$5,375	\$5,375	\$16,125
Sub-Recipient(s)				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Sub-Recipient(s)	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$450,000
Grand Total				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Grand Total	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$750,000
Lawyers				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
New attorney with 10 years experience	0.56	0.54	0.52	1.62
Total	0.56	0.54	0.52	1.62
Paralegals				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Total	0	0	0	0
Others				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Communications Director	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.11
Communications & Admin Associate	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.11
Communications & Admin Associate	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.11
Communications & Admin Associate	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.11
Total	0.16	0.16	0.12	0.44

2020
BANK COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AND STABILIZATION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights										
Project Name	Amount Requested	Grant Period									
Collaboration for Transformative Community Redevelopment: Building Equitable Ownership of Land, Labor, Capital and Power	\$750,000	Three Years									
Is this a statewide or regional project?	Statewide										
Will this project serve rural communities?	Yes										
Project Abstract	<p>The project takes a multifaceted approach to addressing displacement, environmental injustice, and the racial wealth gap--interlinked disparities that continue to marginalize low-income households and people of color. In response to an extractive economy, the project will create opportunities for collective building of land, labor, capital, and power. Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights (LCCR), Sustainable Economies Law Center (SELC), and Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN) will advance these goals through their expertise in legal services, community organizing, policy advocacy, and institution-building.</p> <p>The first aspect of this project supports the bedrock of rural and urban low-income communities: farmers and small business owners of color. Through providing transactional legal services and advocating for worker cooperatives, community loan funds, and community farmland trusts, the partners aim to increase access to collective wealth for low-income entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs of color. The second aspect of this project centers on protecting existing livelihoods, businesses and homes through community organizing, policy advocacy and institution-building. The partners leverage community organizing and building of community land stewardship as anti-displacement strategies amidst increasingly unaffordable housing and farmland. In addition the partners will engage stakeholders in legislative advocacy--i.e., implementing public banks and preventing "green gentrification"--to support and sustain the aforementioned goals.</p>										
Sub-Grantees	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 70%;">Organization</th> <th style="width: 30%;">Year 1 Sub-Grant</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sustainable Economies Law Center</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Asian Pacific Environmental Network</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Organization	Year 1 Sub-Grant	Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area		Sustainable Economies Law Center		Asian Pacific Environmental Network	
Organization	Year 1 Sub-Grant										
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area											
Sustainable Economies Law Center											
Asian Pacific Environmental Network											
Community Served	<p>The project overall aims to uplift low- and moderate- income people of color, predominantly small business owners, farmers, and tenants from Black, Latinx, and Asian communities who do not have equitable access to wealth-building assets: land, labor, and capital. These populations are undergoing various forms of displacement, underscoring the need for free legal services and advocacy that will enable them to sustain/increase their income and wealth. The project will be a statewide endeavor that impacts the following counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Fresno, Los Angeles, Madera, Monterey, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Cruz.</p>										
Project Outcomes	<p>The project's key goals are to address the California racial wealth gap by building collective assets including businesses and land; promote climate resilience and environmental justice; and to prevent displacement of low-income communities of color.</p> <p>Deliverables:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 4 - 6 legal clinic events in San Francisco every 6 months for small business owners, with at least 4 clients served per clinic event 2. Launching a convening for California community economic development/small business transactional legal services, which will be used to organize gatherings once every 6 months, alternatingly online (through a video conference call) and offline (brown bag lunch) 3. Legal advice, business plan creation and initial formation for a cooperative for minority and women-owned business enterprises in San Francisco 4. Legal advice, business plan creation and initial formation of community land trusts and cooperative capital-building models for farmers of color and low-income residents 5. Culturally responsive education curriculum and translated materials regarding the connection between housing displacement, environmental justice, and how community ownership strategies like community land trusts can address displacement and 										

	<p>environmental justice issues</p> <p>6. 6 workshops conducted in various languages amongst each of the 3 partners, who will provide community members with knowledge/resources regarding business law basics and the basics of worker coops</p> <p>7. A public bank implementation guide that will be distributed to community partners and local governments throughout the state, ensuring public banks will serve their community development purpose</p> <p>8. 2 - 5 meetings with local government officials to discuss progress/challenges of public bank implementation</p>
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GRANT BUDGET BY YEAR					
Personnel					
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request	
Personnel	\$58,760	\$62,065	\$68,878	\$189,703	
Benefits	\$11,752	\$12,413	\$13,776	\$37,941	
Non-Personnel					
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request	
Non-Personnel	\$34,488	\$30,522	\$22,346	\$87,356	
Admin.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Sub-Recipient(s)					
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request	
Sub-Recipient(s)	\$145,000	\$145,000	\$145,000	\$435,000	
Grand Total					
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request	
Grand Total	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$750,000	
Lawyers					
Project Staff FTEs		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Legal Director		0.05	0.08	0.08	0.21
Snr Attorney, Economic Justice		0.25	0.55	0.6	1.4
Staff Attorney, Legal Services for Entrepreneurs		0.3	0.15	0.2	0.65
Total		0.6	0.78	0.88	2.26
Paralegals					
Project Staff FTEs		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Program Assistant, Economic Justice		0.3	0.1	0.1	0.5
Total		0.3	0.1	0.1	0.5
Others					
Project Staff FTEs		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Total		0	0	0	0

2020
BANK COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AND STABILIZATION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Learning Rights Law Center		
Project Name	Amount Requested	Grant Period	
Healthy Homes Education Outreach Project	\$880,215	Three Years	
Is this a statewide or regional project?	Regional		
Will this project serve rural communities?	No		
Project Abstract	<p>Research indicates that home is the most significant source of lead poisoning for most children—especially those living at or below the poverty line—as a result of substandard conditions, including peeling paint. We are not aware of any other organizations that provide outreach to the families of children at risk for lead poisoning regarding the availability, necessity and effectiveness of early educational interventions. Thus, we have been working to bridge this gap with housing and public health advocates in the Los Angeles area.</p> <p>The purpose of this specific project is to establish a process for providing targeted outreach on special education and available school resources to families living in multi-family homes at highest risk for lead poisoning in the cities of Los Angeles and Oxnard. The intent of these efforts is to increase the identification of children needing special education services and helping eligible children obtain those services. At the same time, we want to educate tenants about their housing rights, empowering them to maintain healthier homes and communities. The project is to serve as a bridge between housing, medical and educational advocates to more completely address the needs of low-income communities, especially children living below the poverty line.</p>		
Sub-Grantees	Organization	Year 1 Sub-Grant	
	Learning Rights Law Center Healthy Homes Inquilinos Unidos Coalition for Economic Survival		
Community Served	<p>To identify the target population in LA, the CBO's integrated 2013 American Community Survey Data with housing code violation data. Then, within census tracts with 50% or more households in poverty, they selected properties built before 1978, with greater density than average, which were cited for interior chipping or peeling paint. This identified 36,856 at-risk properties.</p> <p>The target area covers a four- to seven-mile radius around Downtown Los Angeles. More than 60,000 children less than six years of age live in the area.</p> <p>92% of residents are families of color: 68% Latino, 10% Black, and 14% Asian</p>		
Project Outcomes	<p>The key goals of the project are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Contact at least 1000 "units", providing outreach and education about how to maintain a healthy home and the importance and availability of special education services; 2) Generate at least 100 referrals for brief services intake at LRLC; 3) Make at least 100 habitability complaints; 4) Develop the "Healthy Homes Plus" model to include information regarding lead hazards and special education so that it can be replicated in other areas; 5) Begin developing partnerships in Ventura County so that a Healthy Homes Plus model can be implemented there, at least on a trial basis, by the third year of this project. 		

GRANT BUDGET BY YEAR						
Personnel						
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request		
Personnel	\$52,066	\$75,845	\$75,845	\$203,756		
Benefits	\$9,372	\$13,652	\$13,652	\$36,676		
Non-Personnel						
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request		
Non-Personnel	\$6,859	\$7,610	\$7,610	\$22,079		
Admin.	\$12,060	\$17,822	\$17,822	\$47,704		
Sub-Recipient(s)						
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request		
Sub-Recipient(s)	\$190,000	\$190,000	\$190,000	\$570,000		
Grand Total						
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request		
Grand Total	\$270,357	\$304,929	\$304,929	\$880,215		
Lawyers						
Project Staff FTEs			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Patsy Van Dyke			0.08	0.3	0.3	0.68
Total			0.08	0.3	0.3	0.68
Paralegals						
Project Staff FTEs			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Jacque Mahoney			0.16	0.16	0.16	0.48
Total			0.16	0.16	0.16	0.48
Others						
Project Staff FTEs			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Yaquelin Perez - Policy and Community Engagement Manager			0.5	0.5	0.5	1.5
Carmen Reynaga - TIGER Manager			0.16	0.16	0.16	0.48
Total			0.66	0.66	0.66	1.98

ATTACHMENT A

**2020 BANK COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AND STABILIZATION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE**

Organization Name	Legal Access Alameda						
Project Name	Amount Requested	Grant Period					
Community and Business Resiliency - "Start Small California"	\$525,000	Three Years					
Is this a statewide or regional project?	Regional						
Will this project serve rural communities?	No						
Project Abstract	<p>The Start Small California project (the project) will support micro-businesses and low-income entrepreneurs to reduce barriers to entrepreneurship and promote economic security by providing highly-curated legal support and technical assistance. Legal Access Alameda (Legal Access) and Start Small Think Big (SSTB) will partner to expand our successful community and business resiliency programming in the North Bay Area ("Start Small Bay Area") deeper into Santa Clara county, specifically San Jose, and to replicate the program in Los Angeles county. The project will expand an increasingly cost-effective ecosystem of private legal services designed to address the legal hurdles that prevent micro-businesses and low-income entrepreneurs from sustaining and growing wealth. It will work directly to reduce legal barriers to entrepreneurship and promote economic security for low-income communities in Los Angeles county and the larger Bay Area. Over the grant period, we will increase the number of entrepreneurs that we support in our current locations (Alameda; San Francisco; Contra Costa; San Mateo; and Santa Clara counties) by 15% annually; expand further into San Jose; and replicate our work in Los Angeles county.</p>						
Sub-Grantees	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Organization</th> <th>Year 1 Sub-Grant</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Start Small Think Big</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Organization	Year 1 Sub-Grant	Start Small Think Big			
Organization	Year 1 Sub-Grant						
Start Small Think Big							
Community Served	<p>Our target population is low-income early-stage small business owners who live or operate businesses in San Francisco, Alameda, Contra Costa, San Mateo, Santa Clara and Los Angeles counties. These small business owners possess the fundamental building blocks to create and sustain viable businesses but cannot afford or otherwise access professional legal expertise. Over the 3-year grant period, we will increase the number of small business owners in low-income metropolitan commercial corridors in the North Bay Area that we support. We will also expand further into San Jose and begin to provide services in Los Angeles county for the first time.</p>						
Project Outcomes	<p>Over the course of this 3-year project term, Legal Access Alameda, together with our sub-grantee SSTB, expect to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) increase the number of entrepreneurs that we support in our current locations (Alameda; San Francisco; Contra Costa; San Mateo; and Santa Clara counties) by 15% annually (300-350 entrepreneurs in 2020); 2) expand programming further into San Jose specifically, serving an additional 100-150 entrepreneurs in the first year, and increasing by 50% after the first year and 15% each year thereafter); 3) replicate our work in Los Angeles County, serving 30-50 entrepreneurs in the first year, increasing to serve 100-150 entrepreneurs in the 2nd year, and increasing by another 50% in the 3rd year; (4) facilitate 25-35 small business legal workshops per year, serving over 300 small business owners annually (5) increase our client's annual business revenue by 60% on average. 						

GRANT BUDGET BY YEAR						
Personnel						
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request		
Personnel	\$70,389	\$131,000	\$131,000	\$332,389		
Benefits	\$14,078	\$19,650	\$19,650	\$53,378		
Non-Personnel						
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request		
Non-Personnel	\$33,155	\$17,000	\$17,000	\$67,155		
Admin.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		
Sub-Recipient(s)						
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request		
Sub-Recipient(s)	\$57,378	\$7,350	\$7,350	\$72,078		
Grand Total						
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request		
Grand Total	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$525,000		
Lawyers						
Project Staff FTEs			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Legal Access Director			0.1	0.05	0.05	0.2
SSTB Executive Director			0.1	0.02	0.02	0.14
SSTB Legal Program Director			0.15	0.07	0.07	0.29
Total			0.35	0.14	0.14	0.63
Paralegals						
Project Staff FTEs			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Legal Access Bay Area Legal & Program Managers			0.24	0.12	0.12	0.48
Legal Access Los Angeles & San Jose Client Relations Managers			0.8	1.92	1.86	
Total			1.04	2.04	1.98	5.06
Others						
Project Staff FTEs			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
SSTB Impact Assessment Director			0.05	0	0	0.05
SSTB Impact Assessment Manager			0.15	0	0	0.15
Total			0.2	0	0	0.2

2020
BANK COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AND STABILIZATION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Legal Aid at Work												
Project Name	Amount Requested	Grant Period											
Network Against Wage Theft	\$1,200,000	Three Years											
Is this a statewide or regional project?	Statewide												
Will this project serve rural communities?	Yes												
Project Abstract	<p>We will provide Community Redevelopment Legal Assistance by creating the Network Against Wage Theft. That Network will allow LAAW to combine its existing network of clinics and helplines with expanded outreach and services to clientele in underserved areas—San Bernardino, Sonoma, Watsonville, the Central Valley, and Mendocino—to generate impact litigation and policy work to result in systemic change for all low-income Californians.</p> <p>Wage theft primarily hits the lowest-wage workers, and it alone pushes 88,000 Californians below the federal poverty threshold. While LAAW currently provides some services to workers on wage theft claims statewide, it has lacked the ability to conduct outreach, factual development, and case analysis to tee up wage-theft cases for impact litigation beyond the few cases it sees through its Bay Area Wage Claim Clinics. Lack of resources has also prevented wage-theft-specific outreach to rural and other underserved areas.</p> <p>LAAW will use existing partnerships to increase the pool of wage-theft cases it can develop for its impact litigation docket (including both law-reform and strategic-enforcement cases) and refer other cases to the Labor Commissioner to leverage its unique governmental powers to obtain systemic relief. It will also conduct legislative and administrative advocacy arising from our clients' lived experiences and needs.</p>												
Sub-Grantees	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Organization</th> <th>Year 1 Sub-Grant</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Center for Workers' Rights (CWR)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Watsonville Law Center (WLC)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino (LASSB)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Centro Laboral de Graton</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Organization	Year 1 Sub-Grant	Center for Workers' Rights (CWR)		Watsonville Law Center (WLC)		Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino (LASSB)		Centro Laboral de Graton	
Organization	Year 1 Sub-Grant												
Center for Workers' Rights (CWR)													
Watsonville Law Center (WLC)													
Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino (LASSB)													
Centro Laboral de Graton													
Community Served	<p>The target populations of the project—workers who experience wage theft—are significantly more likely to be women, to be nonwhite or Hispanic, and to have less education. [8] We especially anticipate that a large percentage of the individuals we serve will be undocumented, as undocumented workers are far more likely to experience wage-violations than those with lawful immigration status. [9]</p> <p>We will serve workers statewide, but are targeting our outreach efforts on rural and other underserved areas of the state through our street-facing clinics, including in San Bernardino, Sonoma, Mendocino, Watsonville, and the Central Valley.</p> <p>[See "Citations" attachment for numbered references.]</p>												
Project Outcomes	<p>The overall goal of the project is to foster economic redevelopment by helping secure low-income Californians' primary source of income: their full wages. Specifically, we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Develop a statewide Network Against Wage Theft through roaming in-person and virtual clinics to provide in-depth assistance to individuals currently unable to be seen at our existing Wage Claim Clinics. *Partner with the Clinical Partners and possibly others in San Bernardino, Mendocino, Sonoma, Watsonville, and the Central Valley to hold at least 20 clinics per year collectively in these locations that will develop legal cases connected to larger strategic goals around systemically combatting wage theft; *Screen over 800 potential wage theft cases per year through LAAW's statewide network of clinics and helplines; identify 1-2 cases per year for further impact litigation to be undertaken directly by LAAW. 												

*Identify, develop, and strategize on 1-2 cases per year to the Labor Commissioner's Bureau of Field Enforcement (BOFE) per year for further strategic enforcement, leveraging the unique governmental powers BOFE can employ (e.g., auditing whole workplaces beyond individual claimants we identify).

*Update and distribute LAAW's "know your rights" fact sheets, toolkits, and other self-help materials on wage-theft; disseminate those updated materials through LAAW's website and LawHelpCA.org.

*Conduct legislative advocacy to advance policies addressing wage theft in Sacramento, and administrative advocacy before the Employment Development Department, the Department of Labor Standards Enforcement (including its various district offices), and others to remove systemic barriers that workers currently face to processing their wage claims and obtaining all wages due.

GRANT BUDGET BY YEAR

Personnel

Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Personnel	\$180,656	\$190,104	\$200,107	\$570,867
Benefits	\$45,164	\$47,526	\$50,027	\$142,717

Non-Personnel

Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Non-Personnel	\$23,999	\$25,001	\$25,999	\$74,999
Admin.	\$45,181	\$32,369	\$18,867	\$96,417

Sub-Recipient(s)

Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Sub-Recipient(s)	\$105,000	\$105,000	\$105,000	\$315,000

Grand Total

Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Grand Total	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$1,200,000

Lawyers

Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Legal Directors	0.6	0.6	0.6	1.8
Staff Attorneys	1.05	1.05	1.05	3.15
Total	1.65	1.65	1.65	4.95

Paralegals

Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Language Access Coordinator	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.75
Community Outreach Coordinator	0.25	0.25	0.25	
Total	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.5

Others

Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Total	0	0	0	0

ATTACHMENT A

**2020 BANK COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AND STABILIZATION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE**

Organization Name	Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles		
Project Name	Amount Requested	Grant Period	
LAFLA-THRIVE BCSR Community Redevelopment Partnership	\$525,000	Three Years	
Is this a statewide or regional project?	Regional		
Will this project serve rural communities?	No		
Project Abstract	<p>Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA) will partner with THRIVE to cultivate legal strategies for community development designed to mitigate the housing crisis faced by low-income residents of Los Angeles and Orange Counties by supporting innovative and permanent solutions to displacement and gentrification. The cornerstone of the project is the Community Land Trust (CLT) model, a community-centered solution to affordable housing that offers an alternative to both traditional homeownership and renting by permanently restricting the resale or rental price of property and placing its management within the hands of those residing there and within the community.</p> <p>CLTs offer longer-term protections to residents and community control in planning, finance, and governance through collective ownership opportunities. In Los Angeles and Orange Counties, a growing interest in these alternatives presents an opportunity for housing rights advocates, with resident groups forming organically across the region, to explore the prospects offered by CLTs. The goal of this project is to empower low-income communities through legal education, technical assistance and transactional support. This project aims to use LAFLA's expertise in CLT formation and governance to help spread the model and support existing CLTs with issues such as land acquisition, property conversion and forming cooperatives.</p>		
Sub-Grantees	Organization Year 1 Sub-Grant Thrive		
Community Served	Los Angeles and Orange counties are home to over 2.8 million low-income individuals. Our project will provide resources and technical support to all CLTs in these two diverse counties. Currently, CLTs exist in Boyle Heights/East LA, El Sereno, East Hollywood, South LA, Santa Ana, and Irvine; each was formed to provide housing and related assistance to low-income residents of each particular community. Our project's target population is members of existing CLTs - which predominantly consist of low-income individuals eligible for our programs – and new CLTs which we plan to help establish as part of this project.		
Project Outcomes	<p>The goals of the project are (1) to equip CLTs with tools that enable them to succeed in developing permanently affordable housing and (2) to encourage and support the viability and capacity building of new and existing CLTs.</p> <p>The deliverables will be as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toolkits on topics such as how to acquire land or other issues identified by CLT partners as critical to preserving affordable housing in their communities • Build capacity for CLT formation in Long Beach in partnership with local non-profits • Regional conference on CLTs • Implementation by THRIVE Santa Ana of one or more toolkit in Orange County 		

GRANT BUDGET BY YEAR

Personnel

Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Personnel	\$94,063	\$94,063	\$83,649	\$271,775
Benefits	\$28,219	\$28,219	\$25,095	\$81,533

Non-Personnel

Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
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ATTACHMENT A

Non-Personnel	\$7,718	\$7,718	\$6,256	\$21,692
Admin.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Sub-Recipient(s)				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Sub-Recipient(s)	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$60,000	\$150,000
Grand Total				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Grand Total	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$525,000
Lawyers				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Managing Attorney	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3
Attorney - Step 2	1	1	1	3
Total	1.1	1.1	1.1	3.3
Paralegals				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Total	0	0	0	0
Others				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Legal Secretary - Step 1	0.5	0.5	0.2	1.2
Total	0.5	0.5	0.2	1.2

2020
BANK COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AND STABILIZATION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County		
Project Name	Amount Requested	Grant Period	
Central Coast Foreclosure Prevention Program	\$456,000	Three Years	
Is this a statewide or regional project?	Regional		
Will this project serve rural communities?	Yes		
Project Abstract	<p>Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County (LAFSBC) seeks to build upon seven years of Foreclosure Prevention experience and our partnership with the federal bankruptcy court through the Central Coast Foreclosure Prevention project. San Luis Obispo Legal Assistance Foundation (SLOLAF) is our project partner. During year 1, LAFSBC will be closing out its current bank grant and ramping up our regional project, while SLOLAF will hire a program attorney to begin work on the regional foreclosure prevention program. During Year 2 and Year 3, LAFSBC will host a Foreclosure Prevention hotline to provide legal advice and assistance to vulnerable residents in the central coast region who are at risk of foreclosure. SLOLAF will support the project by providing foreclosure prevention services to seniors in San Luis Obispo County, building upon its years of experience working with seniors in the region. Project partners will also provide outreach events to educate and inform central coast residents about foreclosure prevention topics, as broadly defined under the RFP for this grant. Our goal is to ensure that vulnerable central coast residents, including residents with Limited English Proficiency and seniors, have access to advice and legal assistance to avoid foreclosure.</p>		
Sub-Grantees	Organization	Year 1 Sub-Grant	
	San Luis Obispo Legal Assistance Foundation		
Community Served	<p>The project will serve a 5-county area, including: Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey and San Benito Counties. LAFSBC will host a hotline, similar in concept to the "Health Rights Hotline" operated by Legal Services of Northern California, that callers can reach for phone intake services. LAFSBC will continue to see walk-in clients served through offices in Santa Barbara, Lompoc, and Santa Maria and SLOLAF will serve senior clients through its office in San Luis Obispo. Our services will target vulnerable populations of seniors, those with limited English proficiency, and other lower income people at risk of foreclosure.</p>		
Project Outcomes	<p>Foreclosure Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To advise or represent 125 clients in foreclosure or at risk of foreclosure. For these clients where outcomes are known, 80% will avoid foreclosure. Clients who move from their home will be advised on foreclosure alternatives including voluntary sale of the home, short-sale, deed-in-lieu, and other foreclosure prevention strategies. 2. To manage the bankruptcy clinic started as a joint project with the Bankruptcy Court. LAFSBC coordinates the clinic, which is served by volunteer attorneys and law students. Most in pro per bankruptcy clinic users are at risk of foreclosure. At least 600 people will be assisted at the bankruptcy clinic. 3. To conduct at least four community outreach/education events on various foreclosure prevention topics. 		

GRANT BUDGET BY YEAR				
Personnel				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Personnel	\$22,256	\$53,645	\$55,793	\$131,694
Benefits	\$4,674	\$11,265	\$11,717	\$27,656
Non-Personnel				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Non-Personnel	\$7,820	\$21,340	\$18,740	\$47,900
Admin.	\$11,250	\$28,750	\$28,750	\$68,750
Sub-Recipient(s)				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Sub-Recipient(s)	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$180,000
Grand Total				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Grand Total	\$106,000	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$456,000
Lawyers				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
	0.13	0.5	0.5	1.13
Total	0.13	0.5	0.5	1.13
Paralegals				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
	0.25	0.5	0.5	1.25
Total	0.25	0.5	0.5	1.25
Others				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Total	0	0	0	0

2020
BANK COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AND STABILIZATION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Legal Aid of Sonoma County												
Project Name	Amount Requested	Grant Period											
North Bay Regional Housing Preservation Project	\$905,001	Three Years											
Is this a statewide or regional project?	Regional												
Will this project serve rural communities?	Yes												
Project Abstract	<p>The North Bay Regional Housing Preservation Project (NBRHPP) will create a network of legal services and grassroots-organizing organizations in the North Bay. Legal Aid of Sonoma County (LASC) will act as the Lead Agency. We will build upon previous partnerships to enable organizations in the region to meaningfully collaborate and be fully informed on housing policies that effect low-income people in the region. The Partner Agencies are Legal Aid of Marin (LAM), Bay Area Organizing Committee (BAOC), North Bay Organizing Project (NBOP), and Fair Housing Advocates Northern California (FHANC). Work will include capacity building to protect and expand affordable housing opportunities and tenants' rights for the region's public housing and subsidized housing residents, and low-income renters. Special focus will be given to the needs of people of color, families with children, and people with disabilities.</p> <p>Further, as tenant protections and other policies aimed to help the target population emerge, NBHPP will help communities and legal services agencies to share strategies and tools that enhance enforcement and spot issues. For instance, pending state legislation and protections enacted in local jurisdictions will need cohesive enforcement, including extensive community outreach to make people aware of these new laws.</p>												
Sub-Grantees	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Organization</th> <th>Year 1 Sub-Grant</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bay Area Organizing Committee</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Legal Aid of Marin</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>North Bay Organizing Project</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Organization	Year 1 Sub-Grant	Bay Area Organizing Committee		Legal Aid of Marin		Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California		North Bay Organizing Project	
Organization	Year 1 Sub-Grant												
Bay Area Organizing Committee													
Legal Aid of Marin													
Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California													
North Bay Organizing Project													
Community Served	<p>NBHPP targets low-income residents, especially tenants, including people of color, seniors, and people with disabilities, who live in the three-county region. Tenants are particularly vulnerable to housing instability and homelessness. 38% of the population or 345,000 people rent their homes. In the region, 54.8% of renters pay more than 30% of their income in rent.</p> <p>The region's main industry is agriculture, specifically dairy and wine. Agricultural workers are often recent immigrants/monolingual Spanish speakers. Seniors amount to 20% of the total population or 183,000 people. Many seniors live on a fixed income and need protections from arbitrary eviction and rent increases.</p>												
Project Outcomes	<p>NBRHPP's long-term goal is to stabilize and preserve the housing of low-income communities in the Region. The following deliverables will be achieved to further this goal:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Policy Change <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. At least three new ordinances/programs that protect tenants enacted in the region by December 2022. 2. Increase Community's Knowledge of Housing Policy and Tenant Rights <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Give Know Your Rights presentation to 100 tenants throughout the region in 2020, 2021, and 2022. b. Give two workshops for tenants each quarter on topics such as consensus building and tenant association organizing. c. Conduct door-to-door canvassing at one new apartment complex in the region each quarter. d. Create regional database of problem properties and property managers in the region. e. Meet with five elected officials in each county of the region in 2020, 2021, and 2022, to discuss low-income tenant need and housing policy issues. f. Create and circulate Housing Policy Toolkit reaching at least one legal services provider in 												

	<p>each of the nine Bay Area counties by December 2022.</p> <p>g. Grow the membership of Sonoma County Tenants Union by 20% at each quarterly meeting.</p> <p>h. Conduct one community meeting each quarter that targets Latinx residents.</p> <p>i. Attend at least two community meetings and two meetings of elected officials in the region each quarter.</p> <p>3. Increase Community Engagement and Voter Turn Out</p> <p>a. Give Know Before You Vote presentation to 50 tenants before November 2020 election in each County.</p> <p>b. Register 100 new voters who are renters in 2020, 2021, and 2022.</p>
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GRANT BUDGET BY YEAR				
Personnel				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Personnel	\$22,888	\$79,525	\$79,844	\$182,257
Benefits	\$4,609	\$15,832	\$15,958	\$36,399
Non-Personnel				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Non-Personnel	\$51,700	\$82,475	\$81,675	\$215,850
Admin.	\$804	\$7,105	\$7,460	\$15,369
Sub-Recipient(s)				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Sub-Recipient(s)	\$25,000	\$215,063	\$215,063	\$455,126
Grand Total				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Grand Total	\$105,001	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$905,001
Lawyers				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
LASC Attorneys	0.23	1.08	1.08	2.39
Subgrantee Attorneys	0	0.9	0.9	1.8
Total	0.23	1.98	1.98	4.19
Paralegals				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Subgrantee Paralegals	0	0.35	0.35	0.7
Total	0	0.35	0.35	0.7
Others				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
LASC Other Program Staff	0.12	0.18	0.18	0.48
LASC Admin Staff	0.02	0.1	0.1	0.22
Subgrantee Other Program Staff	1.3	1.57	1.57	4.44
Subgrantee Admin Staff	0	0.05	0.05	0.1
Total	1.44	1.9	1.9	5.24

2020
BANK COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AND STABILIZATION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Legal Aid Society of San Diego										
Project Name	Amount Requested	Grant Period									
Foreclosure Prevention Program	\$750,000	Three Years									
Is this a statewide or regional project?	Regional										
Will this project serve rural communities?	Yes										
Project Abstract	<p>To defend against foreclosure and combat the impending housing foreclosure crisis stemming from Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing, Legal Aid Society of San Diego, Inc. (LASSD), Elder Law and Advocacy (ELA), and Media Arts Center San Diego (Marketing Partner) (together, "Collaborators") have designed the Foreclosure Prevention Program (FPP). FPP combines direct legal services, loss mitigation assistance, bankruptcy help, and media outreach to distressed Californian homeowners.</p> <p>The innovative media component will have video "public service announcements" that may be used by organizations throughout the state. It is a regional program with statewide benefits.</p> <p>Specifically, Collaborators will provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bankruptcy assistance to avert foreclosures; • Legal assistance and representation in negotiation, arbitration, litigation, and appeals to prevent foreclosure; • Foreclosure media campaign, press conferences, and workshops; • Loss mitigation assistance; and • Reverse mortgage assistance. <p>Collaborators will also leverage their mortgage foreclosure experience and their partnerships with other community organizations to provide well-rounded and comprehensive foreclosure prevention services. Finally, Collaborators will work closely with federal, state, and local regulatory agencies, including the California Attorney General and the District Attorneys, the California Department of Business Oversight, and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to prevent foreclosures from PACE and other schemes.</p>										
Sub-Grantees	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Organization</th> <th>Year 1 Sub-Grant</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Elder Law and Advocacy</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Media Arts Center San Diego</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Legal Aid Society of San Diego, Inc.</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Organization	Year 1 Sub-Grant	Elder Law and Advocacy		Media Arts Center San Diego		Legal Aid Society of San Diego, Inc.	
Organization	Year 1 Sub-Grant										
Elder Law and Advocacy											
Media Arts Center San Diego											
Legal Aid Society of San Diego, Inc.											
Community Served	<p>FPP will target distressed homeowners who are low- to middle-income, elderly, limited English proficient, and in rural areas. These populations represent sectors most susceptible to foreclosure, particularly to foreclosure due to PACE financing.</p> <p>Services will be provided in the Southwestern California and Eastern California regions, specifically in San Diego and Imperial counties. The media, including the public service announcements, will be available statewide.</p> <p>Legal services in these counties are critical as they are ground zero for PACE loans. Renovate America is based in Rancho Bernardo and launched its efforts aggressively in these communities. The foreclosure threat is strongest here.</p>										
Project Outcomes	<p>Collaborators will accomplish the following outcomes during the grant term:</p> <p>Legal Assistance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborators will provide legal services, including legal advice and counsel, to approximately 140 homeowners confronted with foreclosure and foreclosure-related issues; • To save their homes from foreclosure threats, 50 of these distressed homeowners will receive direct legal assistance and representation, which may include extensive legal services for negotiation, litigation, trial, arbitration, and/or bankruptcy; • Collaborators will provide loss mitigation legal assistance to around 15 of these 										

	<p>homeowners, including evaluation, counsel, and assistance regarding loss mitigation options of loan modifications, short sales, refinance, short refinance, deed-in-lieu, cash-for-keys, forbearance, and partial claims; and,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reverse mortgage counsel and assistance. <p>Media Campaign and Education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborators will conduct 4 workshops each year, in English and Spanish, facilitated by LASSD to disseminate information about foreclosure prevention (including bankruptcy), loss mitigation options, and predatory lending issues; and, Collaborators will produce six one- to three-minute “public service announcement” videos on how to avoid foreclosure from PACE and home improvement schemes, three of which will be in Spanish; Collaborators will draft a one-page press release on PACE and foreclosure avoidance that will be updated on an annual basis; We will coordinate at least three press conferences with other partner agencies, law enforcement agencies, and industry allies; and, Collaborators will create a video news release, consisting of a video clip with footage and interviews with clients, attorneys, and experts for TV stations, Youtube videos, social media, and web news.
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GRANT BUDGET BY YEAR				
Personnel				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Personnel	\$126,584	\$126,584	\$126,584	\$379,752
Benefits	\$26,373	\$26,373	\$26,373	\$79,119
Non-Personnel				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Non-Personnel	\$13,872	\$13,872	\$13,872	\$41,616
Admin.	\$33,171	\$33,171	\$33,171	\$99,513
Sub-Recipient(s)				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Sub-Recipient(s)	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$150,000
Grand Total				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Grand Total	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$750,000
Lawyers				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Staff Attorney	2.09	2.09	2.09	6.27
Total	2.09	2.09	2.09	6.27
Paralegals				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Total	0	0	0	0
Others				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Accounting Staff	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.72
Total	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.72

2020
BANK COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AND STABILIZATION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Legal Services for Children		
Project Name	Amount Requested	Grant Period	
Equitable Access to Education and Opportunity	\$604,755	Three Years	
Is this a statewide or regional project?	Regional		
Will this project serve rural communities?	Yes		
Project Abstract	<p>LSC, the Bar Association of San Mateo County, and Coleman Advocates will support and promote economic development by providing legal services that stop school push-out of low-income, minority students; promoting systemic improvements of school discipline practices; and ensuring equitable access to education in districts in the Bay Area and the Central Valley.</p> <p>LSC and its partners will collaborate on creating a webinar and train-the-trainer materials to empower students, parents/caregivers, and community advocates to advocate for their educational rights; expanding legal representation resources by recruiting, training and mentoring pro bono attorneys on expulsion cases; and providing individual representation in cases that also serve to inform our systemic advocacy.</p>		
Sub-Grantees	Organization	Year 1 Sub-Grant	
	San Mateo County Bar Association Coleman Advocates for Youth		
Community Served	The project's target populations are the students, parents/caregivers, and community advocates in school districts with high rates of expulsions and racial disparity. These include low-income African American, Latino, and immigrant families; children in foster care; and youth with disabilities in Alameda, San Francisco, Contra Costa, San Mateo, and the Central Valley. In San Mateo, for example, Latino children are 38% of the school population but represent 65% of the county's expulsions. And Central Valley districts represent only 23% of all California districts with 1,000 or more students, but 53% of the top 30 highest suspending districts for Black students.		
Project Outcomes	<p>Goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce racial and ethnic disparities in school discipline and increase districts' use of alternative forms of discipline (e.g., restorative justice) 2. Increase capacity of parents, students and community members to advocate for better results for students in school discipline matters, better school discipline policies in their school districts, and better policies with regards to police in schools. 3. Expand the availability of free legal representation for low-income students facing expulsion. <p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a legal resource guide of organizations that provide education support and or representation when civil rights have been violated in the extremely under-resourced Central Valley • Conduct a statewide webinar that address students' rights in suspensions, expulsions, special education, and interactions with police on school campuses (statewide) • Conduct a Train-the-Trainer session where parents will learn about students' rights in school discipline matters. These sessions will build trainers' capacity to train other parents and stakeholders to defend their students who are experiencing school pushout. (Central Valley) • Recruit, train and place expulsion cases with pro bono attorneys. Mentor and provide technical assistance to attorneys on school discipline cases. (region-wide) • Provide direct legal representation for youth facing school expulsion in 40 full representation cases per year. (region-wide) • Work with counties on implementing reform including bringing data to County Counsel, meeting with individual District Boards or Superintendents if they are willing, and sharing innovative practices from San Francisco and Oakland. (San Mateo County, possibly others) 		

GRANT BUDGET BY YEAR				
Personnel				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Personnel	\$120,369	\$123,212	\$126,055	\$369,636
Benefits	\$29,478	\$30,175	\$30,871	\$90,524
Non-Personnel				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Non-Personnel	\$25,825	\$26,600	\$27,375	\$79,800
Admin.	\$21,081	\$21,598	\$22,116	\$64,795
Sub-Recipient(s)				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Sub-Recipient(s)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Grand Total				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Grand Total	\$196,753	\$201,585	\$206,417	\$604,755
Lawyers				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Legal Director	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.45
Staff Attorneys	0.45	0.45	0.45	1.35
Executive Director	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.45
Total	0.75	0.75	0.75	2.25
Paralegals				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Senior Education Advocate	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.24
Intake Manager	0.1	0.1	0.1	
Total	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.54
Others				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Clinical Director	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.15
Associate Clinical Director	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.27
Social Worker	0	0	0	0
Senior Social Worker	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.75
Administrative Coordinator	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3
Total	0.49	0.49	0.49	1.47

**2020 BANK COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AND STABILIZATION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE**

Organization Name	National Center for Youth Law		
Project Name	Amount Requested	Grant Period	
Community Redevelopment Through Transforming Educational Experiences of California's Most Vulnerable Youth	\$1,200,000	Three Years	
Is this a statewide or regional project?	Regional		
Will this project serve rural communities?	Yes		
Project Abstract	<p>Communities across California are struggling because their most vulnerable youth are not receiving the supports they need to graduate high school. This is particularly true of system-involved students: students in foster care, involved in the juvenile justice system, or experiencing homelessness. The National Center for Youth Law (NCYL) requests \$1.2M over three years to launch and implement a statewide community redevelopment legal services project that will transform how community-based organizations, legal service providers, and education, child welfare, juvenile justice, and homeless service agencies support the educational success of system-involved students. In five target counties, NCYL will build the capacity of youth, grassroots, and legal service organizations to lead system-integration efforts; provide legal assistance to ensure system-involved students receive the educational opportunities to which they're entitled; and facilitate the development and implementation of new, collaborative service delivery plans. Concurrently, NCYL will build the capacity of these local collaboratives to join in advancing an ambitious statewide policy agenda that will significantly increase graduation rates for system-involved students statewide. Key partners/subgrantees include Public Council, John Burton Advocates for Youth, California Collaborative for Youth, and Law Foundation of Silicon Valley's Legal Advocates for Children and Youth Program.</p>		
Sub-Grantees	Organization	Year 1 Sub-Grant	
	John Burton Advocates for Youth (JBAY) Public Council Law Foundation of Silicon Valley: Legal Advocates for Children & Youth Program (LACY) California Collaborative for Youth (CCY)		
Community Served	<p>Our target population is youth ages 11-20 in or at risk of placement in foster care and juvenile detention or experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles, Kern, Monterey, Santa Clara, and Contra Costa Counties. In California each year, 31,254 youth enter foster care, 28,000 are funneled into the justice system, and 275,448 experience homelessness. Youth of color, LGBTQ youth, and youth from low-income backgrounds are disproportionately affected. These youth need improved system responses, as their system involvement reduces their likelihood of graduating high school, attending college, finding long-term employment, and being able to contribute to the economic revitalization of their communities.</p>		
Project Outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Build the capacity of grassroots and legal services organizations by training approximately 550 professionals across the state such that they can help lead local system-integration efforts and participate in efforts to transform statewide policy. 2. Build the capacity of up to 225 low-income youth to advocate on behalf of themselves and their communities such that they can help shape the local and state policies that impact them and their communities. 3. Lead between 2-3 Community Workgroup meetings annually, in each county, with representation from young people, grassroots organizations, legal aid providers, and leaders representing education, child welfare, juvenile justice, and mental health agencies, for a total of 10-15 meetings annually. 4. Develop legal resources, tip sheets, and tools that support more effective policies and practices that ensure the rights of youth are being respected and upheld. 5. Develop between 2-4 new model policies across all of our demonstration sites each year as a result of youth-, family-, and community-led advocacy and engagement, for a total of 6-12 model policies developed throughout the course of this project. 6. Advance at least one new bill each legislative cycle by leading state-level legislative advocacy, coalition building, and policy change based on experiences and lessons from 		

deep-dive partnerships in demonstration counties.
7. Improve school enrollment, attendance, course completion, and graduation rates of system-involved students in each of our demonstration counties.

GRANT BUDGET BY YEAR

Personnel

Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Personnel	\$264,612	\$267,822	\$268,399	\$800,833
Benefits	\$74,091	\$74,993	\$75,152	\$224,236

Non-Personnel

Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Non-Personnel	\$21,297	\$17,185	\$16,449	\$54,931
Admin.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Sub-Recipient(s)

Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Sub-Recipient(s)	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$120,000

Grand Total

Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Grand Total	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$1,200,000

Lawyers

Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Daniel Senter, Jesse Hahnel, Rebecca Gudeman, Atasi Uppal. See uploaded document for details.	1.17	1.42	1.42	4.01
Total	1.17	1.42	1.42	4.01

Paralegals

Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Total	0	0	0	0

Others

Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Michelle Francois, Senior Director (.16 FTE)	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.48
Margaret Olmos, California Director (.16 FTE)	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.48
Jessica Maxwell, California Deputy Director (.16 FTE)	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.48
Program Managers: Camille Bailey, Kawena Cole, Bing Goldsworth, Joy Hernandez. See uploaded document for details.	0.85	0.85	0.85	2.55
Total	1.33	1.33	1.33	3.99

2020
BANK COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AND STABILIZATION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	National Health Law Program						
Project Name	Amount Requested	Grant Period					
Maximizing Health Insurance to Avoid Medical Debt	\$525,000	Three Years					
Is this a statewide or regional project?	Statewide						
Will this project serve rural communities?	Yes						
Project Abstract	<p>The National Health Law Program (NHeLP) will itself, and through a subcontract with Justice in Aging (JIA), address medical debt faced by low (and moderately low) income Californians by educating legal services and health advocacy organizations, policymakers and community based organizations (CBOs) about the importance of affordable health insurance programs (Medi-Cal and Covered California) in facilitating economic stability for low-income communities. Education will occur through training, written materials, outreach and technical assistance. We will also embark on joint administrative and legislative advocacy efforts to increase access to affordable, comprehensive health coverage for these Californians to help reduce the presence of medical debt across our state.</p> <p>Our organizations will do this work by leveraging the existing advocacy stakeholder meetings and committees we actively participate in with state agencies and utilizing existing avenues through which we engage in administrative policy advocacy. We will also leverage our long-standing formal statewide collaborative with existing legal services partners and support centers to provide health consumer assistance. Through our weekly advocacy meetings and statewide advocates listserv we will engage and seek feedback from our partners to support the project and get information directly into the hands of the low-income health care consumers they serve.</p>						
Sub-Grantees	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Organization</th> <th>Year 1 Sub-Grant</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Justice in Aging</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Organization	Year 1 Sub-Grant	Justice in Aging	
Organization	Year 1 Sub-Grant						
Justice in Aging							
Community Served	<p>Our target population is low-income Californians eligible for Medi-Cal and/or Medicare Savings Programs (MSPs), and Californians eligible for CovCA with Advanced Premium Tax Credits (APTCs).</p> <p>We will identify the factors that contribute to the over-representation of medical debt in rural California. For example, rural residents are less likely to be enrolled in MSPs despite being eligible, increasing their Medicare out-of-pocket costs and medical debt.</p> <p>Our target population is in particular need of our services because low and moderately low-income communities are particularly susceptible to medical debt and have the most to gain from accessing affordable, comprehensive health care.</p>						
Project Outcomes	<p>Goal #1: Educate and empower advocates and community based providers to ensure low-income Californians avoid medical debt wherever possible by maximizing insurance coverage available to them.</p> <p>Deliverables: NHeLP and JIA will produce written information and other communications for advocates who serve low-income communities. Specifically, we will produce a minimum of three factsheets in the three-year grant period. NHeLP and JIA will also conduct two webinars per year for advocates about curtailing medical debt for the target populations. The webinars will address key advocacy tools used to prevent medical debt, including dental debt. NHeLP and JIA will provide technical assistance to advocates and service providers about medical debt and how to reduce out-of-pocket costs for covered health care services, including assistance on individual cases.</p> <p>Goal #2: Obtain and advance beneficial policy change by ensuring policymakers are educated on the importance of reducing medical debt by maximizing affordability of insurance coverage and access to services.</p> <p>Deliverables: NHeLP and JIA will engage in system-level advocacy with the state, including DHCS and CovCA, to maintain, and increase, Medi-Cal and CovCA enrollment and ensure access to covered services. For example, we will elevate issues raised by our HCA partners</p>						

	<p>concerning difficulties enrolling and retaining Medi-Cal and CovCA coverage, as well as challenges transitioning between insurance coverage.</p> <p>NHeLP and JIA will write one advocates' blog per year.</p> <p>NHeLP and JIA will engage in policy and administrative advocacy with state agencies as well as work to implement legislation that maximizes Medi-Cal and CovCA enrollment for all Californians.</p>
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GRANT BUDGET BY YEAR				
Personnel				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Personnel	\$65,204	\$69,128	\$72,702	\$207,034
Benefits	\$19,561	\$20,738	\$21,811	\$62,110
Non-Personnel				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Non-Personnel	\$10,298	\$9,969	\$10,589	\$30,856
Admin.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Sub-Recipient(s)				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Sub-Recipient(s)	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$225,000
Grand Total				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Grand Total	\$170,063	\$174,835	\$180,102	\$525,000
Lawyers				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Program Attorney	0.83	0.83	0.83	2.49
Managing Attorney	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.15
Total	0.88	0.88	0.88	2.64
Paralegals				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Total	0	0	0	0
Others				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Grants Manager	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.15
Total	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.15

**2020
BANK COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AND STABILIZATION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE**

Organization Name	National Housing Law Project														
Project Name	Amount Requested	Grant Period													
California Foreclosure Prevention Collaborative	\$975,000	Three Years													
Is this a statewide or regional project?	Statewide														
Will this project serve rural communities?	Yes														
Project Abstract	<p>Low-income homeowners in California received additional legal protections following the Great Recession but still face significant threats from predatory lending practices. Poor underwriting and aggressive, often unscrupulous, door-to-door contractors under the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program have left homeowners with wildly unaffordable property tax bills, as add-ons to those tax bills serve as the financing/billing mechanisms for the PACE program. Reverse mortgages, new technology-driven products, and ongoing issues with traditional mortgages all threaten the housing security and economic well-being of low-income homeowners. The National Housing Law Project (NHLP) and the University of California Irvine Consumer Law Clinic (UCI) will collaborate to serve as a state clearinghouse and legal policy center on predatory lending practices and foreclosure prevention. The project will have a particular focus on PACE lending and reverse mortgages. Sub-grantees Public Counsel, Bet Tzedek and the Public Law Center will provide technical and policy assistance regarding the PACE program, bringing their expertise and on-the-ground experiences to inform the project's resource materials and policy proposals.</p>														
Sub-Grantees	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Organization</th> <th>Year 1 Sub-Grant</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>National Housing Law Project (LEAD)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>University of California Irvine Consumer Law Clinic</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Public Counsel</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Public Law Center</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bet Tzedek</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Organization	Year 1 Sub-Grant	National Housing Law Project (LEAD)		University of California Irvine Consumer Law Clinic		Public Counsel		Public Law Center		Bet Tzedek	
Organization	Year 1 Sub-Grant														
National Housing Law Project (LEAD)															
University of California Irvine Consumer Law Clinic															
Public Counsel															
Public Law Center															
Bet Tzedek															
Community Served	<p>Any homeowner can become a victim of predatory lending, but a disproportionate number of seniors (who often have significant equity in their homes) and people with limited English proficiency are prime victims, particularly for PACE lending.</p> <p>This project will provide extensive support to legal services, private attorneys and housing counselors providing direct services to low-income homeowners throughout California, with a specific focus on seniors, LEP homeowners, and on rural counties where foreclosure rates are double those in the rest of the state. UCI will also provide direct services to at-risk reverse mortgage borrowers in Orange and Los Angeles counties.</p>														
Project Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gather data and information about scope and impacts of PACE and other forms of predatory lending in California - Increase the capacity of legal services organizations, especially those serving rural communities, such as Riverside Legal Aid, to handle cases on these topics, including through trainings, resource materials (including PACE Toolkit, fact sheets, online info, intake forms, newsletters) and technical assistance. - Collect cases, briefs and motions related to the targeted predatory lending practices - Develop strong case law through targeted enforcement actions and supporting other legal services organizations with case consultation and amicus briefs - Generate and advocate for policy ideas for legislation and regulation to address the targeted problems - Conduct workshops for borrowers struggling with reverse mortgages and/or PACE assessments - Provide direct representation to borrowers struggling with reverse mortgages (with and without PACE assessments) in Los Angeles and Orange Counties - Generate media and public understanding of the ongoing problems of predatory lending <p>Numbers for deliverables and quantifiable measures for activities are listed on the Activities Worksheet.</p>														

GRANT BUDGET BY YEAR						
Personnel						
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request		
Personnel	\$58,722	\$58,722	\$58,722	\$176,166		
Benefits	\$8,126	\$8,126	\$8,126	\$24,378		
Non-Personnel						
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request		
Non-Personnel	\$10,759	\$10,759	\$10,759	\$32,277		
Admin.	\$22,393	\$22,393	\$22,393	\$67,179		
Sub-Recipient(s)						
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request		
Sub-Recipient(s)	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$675,000		
Grand Total						
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request		
Grand Total	\$325,000	\$325,000	\$325,000	\$975,000		
Lawyers						
Project Staff FTEs			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Attorneys- NHLP Only; Partners listed in Sub Grantee Budget Narrative			0.54	0.54	0.54	1.62
Total			0.54	0.54	0.54	1.62
Paralegals						
Project Staff FTEs			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Total			0	0	0	0
Others						
Project Staff FTEs			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Other Staff- NHLP Only; Any Partners Other Staff listed in Sub Grantee Budget Narrative Tech, Web, and Communications Support			0.23	0.23	0.23	0.69
Total			0.23	0.23	0.23	0.69

2020
BANK COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AND STABILIZATION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	OneJustice												
Project Name	Amount Requested	Grant Period											
Inland Empire Community Redevelopment Pro Bono Project	\$1,200,000	Three Years											
Is this a statewide or regional project?	Regional												
Will this project serve rural communities?	Yes												
Project Abstract	<p>Our project seeks to create a pipeline of pro bono legal assistance to emerging and struggling small business owners in the Inland Empire (IE), particularly from underserved populations, who have the building blocks for sustainable business, but lack the resources to afford legal and financial advice. We will do this by: 1) strengthening the capacity of key legal services organizations and community non-profits in the IE (partner organizations) by assessing their transactional legal needs and providing them with their own pro bono assistance to address these internal needs, and 2) helping these organizations create a pro bono clinic model targeting small businesses that will result in small business owners receiving pro bono services to resolve their transactional legal needs that can be sustained by the agencies after training and guidance from our project. Based on serving small businesses, this project will also explore serving nonprofits. By strengthening key community organizations in the IE and providing a lifeline to small businesses, this project will increase community redevelopment in this region.</p>												
Sub-Grantees	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Organization</th> <th>Year 1 Sub-Grant</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bet Tzedek</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Legal Aid of San Bernardino</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Inland Empire Latino Lawyers Association</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Catholic Charities of San Bernardino & Riverside Counties</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Organization	Year 1 Sub-Grant	Bet Tzedek		Legal Aid of San Bernardino		Inland Empire Latino Lawyers Association		Catholic Charities of San Bernardino & Riverside Counties	
Organization	Year 1 Sub-Grant												
Bet Tzedek													
Legal Aid of San Bernardino													
Inland Empire Latino Lawyers Association													
Catholic Charities of San Bernardino & Riverside Counties													
Community Served	<p>Our project will focus on the Inland Empire which includes the rural counties of Riverside and San Bernardino, where the population is 50% Hispanic, 33% White, 7% Black, 6% Asian, and 4% other. Twenty-two percent of the population is foreign born, and 71% of foreign born coming from Latin American countries. Official poverty rates in the IE range are higher than in the state and nationally. This target population can greatly benefit from greater access to legal assistance for small businesses, because the IE area has the potential for greater community development and the multiplier effects from small businesses.</p>												
Project Outcomes	<p>The project's primary goal is to increase access to legal services for small business owners in the IE so that they may be able to increase local community economic development. The target clients will be low-income individuals who want to start or develop businesses, businesses committed to investing in economically distressed communities, including hiring people with arrest and conviction records, and independent shops located in areas where gentrification is causing displacement. The partners will also explore expanding these clinics to non-profits in the region. Towards this goal, our project will develop a transactional legal clinic model that uses pro bono volunteers and train three local IE nonprofits to operate these clinics independently by the end of the grant period. The model will include a toolkit of instructions, sample forms, and lessons learned, best practices as to the placement of small business transactional cases with law firms, and a new training on the Pro Bono Training Institute (PBTI) platform for pro bono attorneys and organizations.</p> <p>Specific goals include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Teach IE partner nonprofits to run small business legal clinics and guide them as they run 13-15 clinics; -Engage 30-70 pro bono volunteers to participate in small business legal clinics; -Assist 92-175 local IE small business owners with their legal needs; -Connect to at least 200 small business owners and non-profits through outreach; -Conduct impact evaluation and achieve a 90% satisfaction rate among clinic participants and pro bono attorneys; and -Create a comprehensive tool kit for other organizations to use. 												

GRANT BUDGET BY YEAR				
Personnel				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Personnel	\$96,669	\$74,068	\$74,666	\$245,403
Benefits	\$18,367	\$14,073	\$14,187	\$46,627
Non-Personnel				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Non-Personnel	\$35,713	\$26,062	\$25,350	\$87,125
Admin.	\$14,251	\$10,797	\$10,797	\$35,845
Sub-Recipient(s)				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Sub-Recipient(s)	\$235,000	\$275,000	\$275,000	\$785,000
Grand Total				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Grand Total	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$1,200,000
Lawyers				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Director, Pro Bono Justice Program	0.2	0.07	0.07	0.34
Senior Staff Attorney, Pro Bono Justice Program	0.2	0.15	0.12	0.47
Staff Attorney, Pro Bono Justice Program	1	0.9	0.9	2.8
Total	1.4	1.12	1.09	3.61
Paralegals				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Total	0	0	0	0
Others				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Director, Innovation and Learning	0.05	0.01	0.01	0.07
Senior Manager, Research & Evaluation	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.15
Total	0.1	0.06	0.06	0.22

2020
BANK COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AND STABILIZATION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Public Advocates Inc.		
Project Name	Amount Requested	Grant Period	
Bay Area Regional Community Redevelopment Collaboration	\$1,200,000	Three Years	
Is this a statewide or regional project?	Regional		
Will this project serve rural communities?	No		
Project Abstract	<p>In January 2019, following intense advocacy by the 6 Wins Network led by four partners in this project, CASA, the blue-ribbon commission convened to develop comprehensive solutions to the Bay Area's affordable housing crisis, adopted a game-changing framework known as the 3Ps. In addition to affordable housing Production, the framework recognizes the need to address displacement and gentrification pressures by Preserving existing affordable housing and Protecting tenants.</p> <p>This project, a collaborative of three legal services providers and two organizing and policy groups, will provide community redevelopment legal services and technical assistance, develop policy solutions, engage in collaborative advocacy, and build the capacity of three regional coalitions to advocate on behalf of low-income community members. Our focus will include: (1) Tenant Opportunity to Purchase policies (first right of refusal for residential tenants) and other models for preserving existing homes of low-income residents; (2) community benefits agreements and other legal strategies that ensure private development stabilizes rather than displaces low-income communities; (3) regional protection, preservation, and affordable housing production policies; (4) regional infrastructure-building to support collaboration among legal, policy, and organizing groups; and (5) increasing the capacity of low-income Bay Area communities to engage in state policymaking.</p>		
Sub-Grantees	Organization	Year 1 Sub-Grant	
	Public Advocates Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto East Bay Community Law Center Tenants Together Urban Habitat		
Community Served	<p>The target population of this project are the more than 650,000 very low and extremely low-income renter households in the nine-county Bay Area region that pay more than 30% of their income for housing costs. This population is majority people of color and includes seniors, children, disabled people, and veterans. These low-income households and communities — and their grassroots organizations — have historically lacked access to the legal services and advocacy that would enable them to meaningfully engage in the local and regional policy making processes that impact their lives and the redevelopment of their neighborhoods.</p>		
Project Outcomes	<p>Goal 1: Regional coalition infrastructure supports successful campaigns to protect tenants, preserve affordable housing, and produce new housing for low-income households</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -5-10 region-wide coalition meetings annually, where organizers, advocates, and attorneys plan and execute campaigns, build capacity, and develop strategy -20-40 consultations with local organizations to assess community redevelopment legal needs, develop strategies, and link local campaigns to resources <p>Goal 2: Regional agencies adopt and implement policies that meet the housing needs of low-income residents within the 3Ps framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -2-5 regional policy proposals and/or legal letters annually that promote needs of low-income residents -Regional housing and transportation policies (e.g. PlanBayArea, Regional Housing Need Allocation) incorporate the 3Ps framework -Regional transportation funding and planning advances local anti-displacement and affordable housing policies <p>Goal 3: Regionally coordinated local campaigns promote housing preservation, tenant protections, and equitable community development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Campaigns in two or more jurisdictions advance and implement local Tenant Opportunity to 		

	<p>Purchase Act (TOPA) policies, with legal and technical assistance provided to 10-15 grassroots groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Legal, strategic, and/or technical assistance to 2-4 community coalitions seeking community benefits from private developments -Legal, strategic, and technical assistance to 20-30 organizations to advance other locally-identified policy goals within the 3Ps framework <p>Goal 4: Local community leaders and organizations effectively advocate for regional affordable housing and community development priorities at the state level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -3-6 briefings annually for regional coalition members on legislation and state policies. -Informed participation by 4-8 members of Bay Area coalitions in statewide equity collaborations per year.
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GRANT BUDGET BY YEAR				
Personnel				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Personnel	\$59,500	\$59,500	\$59,500	\$178,500
Benefits	\$14,300	\$14,300	\$14,300	\$42,900
Non-Personnel				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Non-Personnel	\$17,200	\$17,200	\$17,200	\$51,600
Admin.	\$19,000	\$19,000	\$19,000	\$57,000
Sub-Recipient(s)				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Sub-Recipient(s)	\$290,000	\$290,000	\$290,000	\$870,000
Grand Total				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Grand Total	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$1,200,000
Lawyers				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
President & CEO	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.03
Managing Attorney	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.18
Other Attorneys	0.42	0.42	0.42	1.26
Total	0.49	0.49	0.49	1.47
Paralegals				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Total	0	0	0	0
Others				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Policy Advocate	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.12
Program Assistant	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.24
Director of Communication	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.06
Digital Communications Specialist	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.09
Total	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.51

2020
BANK COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AND STABILIZATION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Public Counsel		
Project Name	Amount Requested	Grant Period	
Southern California Foreclosure Prevention Collaborative	\$1,200,000	Three Years	
Is this a statewide or regional project?	Regional		
Will this project serve rural communities?	Yes		
Project Abstract	<p>Lending fraud and financial elder abuse through the Property-Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program is the single greatest foreclosure-related threat facing homeowners right now, and the flood of cases we have seen in Southern California shows no sign of abating. The Southern California Foreclosure Prevention Collaborative—which includes Public Counsel, Bet Tzedek, Public Law Center, Elder Law & Advocacy, and Inland Counties Legal Services—aims to expand our capacity and coordination in providing PACE legal clinics and direct services to at-risk homeowners across Southern California.</p> <p>The collaborative consists of some of the leading PACE advocates across the state. Since 2016, Public Counsel has directly assisted more than 200 PACE-impacted homeowners with strong claims of fraud, unfair business practices, and financial elder abuse. Combined, members of the collaborative have directly assisted more than 350 victims of the PACE program.</p> <p>While we have made considerable impact, there are still thousands of Southern California homeowners who need help, or they will eventually face foreclosure due to PACE liens on their homes. The Southern California PACE Collaborative will help meet this need by providing 45 PACE clinics and serving 530 homeowners through an array of pre-litigation and comprehensive litigation legal services over three years.</p>		
Sub-Grantees	Organization	Year 1 Sub-Grant	
	Bet Tzedek Public Law Center Elder Law & Advocacy Inland Counties Legal Services		
Community Served	There are at least 50,000 homes with PACE liens throughout our service area, which includes Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, Imperial, San Bernardino, and Riverside Counties. We will target services to those most at-risk of PACE-related legal issues, including the elderly, the disabled, monolingual Spanish-speakers, low-income homeowners, and people of color. Elders are particularly at risk of PACE victimization because they are more likely to have significant equity in their homes, making them prime targets for equity-based lending programs like PACE. LA County reports that 37% of local PACE complainants are seniors, and 56% are primarily Spanish-speaking.		
Project Outcomes	<p>Goal 1: Increase Southern California homeowners' access to PACE-related outreach, legal education, and brief counsel and advice by hosting 15 clinics annually.</p> <p>Clinics will be held in Los Angeles County (6 annually, including 2 in underserved regions of the county), Orange County (4 annually), San Bernardino and Riverside Counties (3 annually), and San Diego and Imperial Counties (2 annually). Clinics will be tailored to each region and target demographics, and may include a combination of community education, ask-a-lawyer sessions during which participants can have one-on-one time to meet with an attorney, and/or intake events that evaluate cases for representation.</p> <p>Goal 2: Provide PACE-related legal services to 530 Southern California homeowners over three years. (130 in year 1, 200 in year 2, and 200 in year 3. Clients will be counted once for each year they are served.)</p> <p>We estimate that approximately 50% (265 individuals) will receive brief counsel and advice. The other approximately 50% (265 individuals) will receive limited action or extended legal services, which are likely to include one or more of the following:</p>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitting demand letters and negotiating with PACE administrators and contractors; Negotiating with mortgage servicers who pay off PACE assessments; Filing complaints with the CSLB, DBO, and local agencies; Preparing requests for administrative review; and Submitting tax or tax penalty appeals. <p>If cases are unable to be resolved through pre-litigation services, they will receive evaluation and, as capacity allows, placement for full representation with in-house or pro bono attorneys.</p>
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GRANT BUDGET BY YEAR				
Personnel				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Personnel	\$96,537	\$96,537	\$96,537	\$289,611
Benefits	\$19,133	\$19,133	\$19,133	\$57,399
Non-Personnel				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Non-Personnel	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$6,000
Admin.	\$27,030	\$27,030	\$27,030	\$81,090
Sub-Recipient(s)				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Sub-Recipient(s)	\$255,300	\$255,300	\$255,300	\$765,900
Grand Total				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Grand Total	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$1,200,000
Lawyers				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Directing Attorney	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.4
Staff Attorney	1	1.1	1.1	3.2
Total	1.2	1.2	1.2	3.6
Paralegals				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Paralegals	0.16	0.1	0.1	0.36
Total	0.16	0.1	0.1	0.36
Others				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Total	0	0	0	0

2020
BANK COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AND STABILIZATION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Public Law Center		
Project Name	Amount Requested	Grant Period	
Orange & San Diego Counties Low-Income Entrepreneurs Project	\$525,000	Three Years	
Is this a statewide or regional project?	Regional		
Will this project serve rural communities?	No		
Project Abstract	<p>Public Law Center's collaborative project with San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, Inc. builds upon both organizations' existing community redevelopment programming for low-income entrepreneurs, micro-businesses, and nonprofit organizations that serve low-income and disadvantaged individuals in Orange and San Diego Counties. Services include advice and counsel, direct representation, community presentations, advocacy and education of elected and appointed officials, coordination with business mentors, pro bono placements and legal services for nonprofit organizations working on community redevelopment in either county. One area of program expansion proposed in this project is related to California's new Microenterprise Home Kitchen Law, which is awaiting local regulations in both counties. Another area of program expansion is increasing availability of child care options, especially in Orange County. We believe home kitchen opportunities will be especially beneficial to immigrant and refugee communities, and other hard-to-reach communities in both counties. Under the proposed project, Public Law Center will further support low-income entrepreneurs to open child care businesses and begin supporting organizations in establishing child care centers for their employees and clients. Increased child care options not only provide income streams for entrepreneurs who open these types of businesses, but also allow additional families to work while their children are cared for.</p>		
Sub-Grantees	Organization	Year 1 Sub-Grant	
	San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, Inc.		
Community Served	<p>The project targets low-income communities in Orange and San Diego Counties. Special attention will be paid to groups like immigrants, refugees, women, veterans and military families. The project also provides services to nonprofit organizations serving or seeking to serve these low-income communities so they can devote more of their limited resources to programming. Finally, the project will seek to impact community redevelopment policy through advocacy and education of elected and appointed officials.</p> <p>The goal is to enable low-income entrepreneurs, and nonprofit organizations serving vulnerable individuals, to grow and thrive, so the region's underserved residents may build financially-sound and sustainable communities.</p>		
Project Outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthening and expanding existing legal services to low-income entrepreneurs and nonprofit organizations through added staff capacity and program-to-program synergies. Each organization will hire one additional attorney. 2. Expanding local business opportunities and improving economic security through workshops and other educational opportunities, as well as transactional legal assistance, to potential and existing low-income entrepreneurs. The project will provide direct services to at least 75 individuals in each county, which, through a positive ripple effect for their family members and potential employees, will result in positive economic impacts for hundreds more community members. PLC will also host monthly workshops and clinics and SDVLP will host eight to twelve workshops or clinics per year. Each group will open at least 75 cases per year. 3. Increase resident capacity to engage in community redevelopment efforts through legal guidance to community members who are seeking to advocate for low-income communities, including the formation of nonprofit tenant and neighborhood associations to advocate for affordable and environmentally friendly housing, worker cooperatives and other business collaboratives, and organizations promoting community inclusion. PLC will help in the formation or further development of at least 25 new or recently formed organizations per 		

	<p>year.</p> <p>4. Improve nonprofit capacity to serve and impact low-income residents through transactional legal advice and counsel to nonprofit organizations. We will serve 25 organizations in each county per year.</p> <p>5. Impact relevant legislation and policies through advocacy and education. Advocacy efforts will focus on ensuring that permitting processes for home kitchens are established in each county.</p>
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GRANT BUDGET BY YEAR				
Personnel				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Personnel	\$70,813	\$72,937	\$75,125	\$218,875
Benefits	\$17,703	\$18,234	\$18,781	\$54,718
Non-Personnel				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Non-Personnel	\$8,484	\$5,829	\$3,094	\$17,407
Admin.	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$9,000
Sub-Recipient(s)				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Sub-Recipient(s)	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$225,000
Grand Total				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Grand Total	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$525,000
Lawyers				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Directing Attorney	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.45
Staff Attorney	0.7	0.7	0.7	2.1
Total	0.85	0.85	0.85	2.55
Paralegals				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Paralegal	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.6
Total	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.6
Others				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Total	0	0	0	0

**2020 BANK COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AND STABILIZATION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE**

Organization Name	Western Center on Law and Poverty		
Project Name	Amount Requested	Grant Period	
California Support Center Collaborative: Increasing Affordable Housing and Protecting the Rights of Tenants	\$975,000	Three Years	
Is this a statewide or regional project?	Statewide		
Will this project serve rural communities?	Yes		
Project Abstract	<p>California's housing crisis is the result of inadequate affordable housing production and communities unwilling to plan or approve such housing despite renters overwhelmingly burdened by housing costs, the rapid increase in homelessness, and the dire need for appropriate housing for people with disabilities. The problem is exacerbated by loss of affordable units through expiring use and conversion to market-rate housing, and perpetuates increased racial and economic segregation in urban and rural areas alike.</p> <p>These challenges have also created a desire by state leaders for legislative, regulatory, and enforcement strategies to alleviate the crisis, creating tremendous opportunity as well as potential for ill-conceived policies to become law if rushed. California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, National Housing Law Project, Public Interest Law Project and Western Center on Law & Poverty will work in concert to provide clear and coordinated direction on housing policy and enforcement, and support to legal services programs and community based organizations.</p> <p>The need for coordinated and effective state support is urgent. The California Support Center Collaborative seeks to protect tenants from displacement and discrimination, increase affordable, accessible and supportive housing statewide, preserve the existing affordable housing stock, advance fair housing protections, and promote equitable planning and development.</p>		
Sub-Grantees	Organization	Year 1 Sub-Grant	
	National Housing Law Project The Public Interest Law Project California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation		
Community Served	<p>In 2018, the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) reported, "Housing costs and supply issues particularly affect certain vulnerable populations that tend to have the lowest incomes and experience additional barriers to housing access."</p> <p>HCD cites that cost burden is greater for people of color, and the Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies reports that 64% of renters identifying as African American are cost burdened as are those identifying as Latinx, at 58%.</p> <p>The Collaborative will focus on statewide and regional challenges that impact these Californians, living in both urban and rural communities.</p>		
Project Outcomes	<p>To address California's housing crisis and its disproportionate effects on the most vulnerable and unhoused individuals, we seek to ensure that all Californians have access to healthy, sustainable and affordable housing in neighborhoods of their choosing, and advocate for strong, clear, and enforceable anti-displacement protections. Our key goals include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protecting tenants from eviction and landlord abuse, and ensure access to housing. Working to ensure fair rents, good cause for eviction, procedural protections for tenants facing eviction, and eliminating incentives for investor speculation. Combating discrimination in housing. Creating ways for unhoused individuals to access the resources they need to obtain and maintain housing. Working to end unfair policies that lead to the criminalization of unhoused individuals. Responding to federal challenges that weaken protections for families such as disparate impact, excluding mixed-status families from receiving assistance, public charge, or the rollback of affirmatively furthering fair housing. 		

	<p>Preserving the existing housing stock.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Preventing older subsidized units from being converted to market-rate units. •Calling for state subsidies to allow affordable housing operators to reduce rents while maintaining quality housing. •Strengthening laws that ensure rental units and neighborhoods are healthy and habitable. <p>Promoting equitable planning and development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Eliminating local discretion to deny affordable housing projects. •Leveraging private development to create units for very low and extremely low-income families. •Securing funding for deeply affordable housing. •Creating more opportunities for community ownership and control of land and housing; ensuring public land is used for public good. •Dismantling structural racism and discrimination in land use and planning.
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GRANT BUDGET BY YEAR				
Personnel				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Personnel	\$45,382	\$45,382	\$45,382	\$136,146
Benefits	\$10,035	\$10,035	\$10,035	\$30,105
Non-Personnel				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Non-Personnel	\$18,826	\$18,826	\$18,826	\$56,478
Admin.	\$21,632	\$21,632	\$21,632	\$64,896
Sub-Recipient(s)				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Sub-Recipient(s)	\$229,125	\$229,125	\$229,125	\$687,375
Grand Total				
Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Grand Total	\$325,000	\$325,000	\$325,000	\$975,000
Lawyers				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Attorneys and Advocates	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.9
Total	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.9
Paralegals				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Senior Paralegal	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.09
Total	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.09
Others				
Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Program Support Staff	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.09
Total	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.09

2020
BANK COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AND STABILIZATION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name	Worksafe, Inc.		
Project Name	Amount Requested	Grant Period	
Sacramento Worker Advancement Project	\$525,000	Three Years	
Is this a statewide or regional project?	Regional		
Will this project serve rural communities?	No		
Project Abstract	<p>Worksafe and the Center for Workers' Rights (CWR) will partner to establish the first multi-industry worker center in the Sacramento area to focus on issues of workplace health and safety, and just wages, both of which are major determinants of individual and community success. Worksafe will help to build the capacity of CWR on occupational safety and health (OSH) and policy advocacy and together they will partner with established industry focused minority-targeted worker centers and organizing campaigns to (1) create an outpost for their work in Sacramento and (2) build their capacity to empower workers regarding improved working conditions. The Project will offer worker leadership and educational opportunities while creating a local empowered community of worker leaders who can self-advocate to remedy workplace violations. Areas of education will be occupational health and safety, minimum wage, and policy advocacy. This Project will also develop the local worker leader capacity to advocate on behalf of their community by identifying and engaging in policy reform efforts and engaging local and state-wide governments to support the workers' center and the Project's policy efforts. This project focuses on Greater Sacramento however, some clients may work or live in rural areas. This information is currently unknown.</p>		
Sub-Grantees	Organization Year 1 Sub-Grant		
Community Served	<p>Low-income and immigrant workers of color will be the primary target population. The poverty rate in Sacramento is 19.8%. Compared to the rest of California (15.1%), Sacramento has a significantly higher than average percentage of residents living below poverty and the second highest poverty rate in the nation. Greater Sacramento went from six poor neighborhoods to 18 over a six year period. We will collaborate with organizations that serve low-wage workers in: restaurant (Restaurant Opportunities Center), domestic work (California Domestic Workers Alliance), and home care (Pilipino Work Center of LA). There are no current resources for these workers in Sacramento.</p>		
Project Outcomes	<p>The Project's overarching goal is to establish the foundation for a multi-industry worker center built in partnership with successful industry specific and minority-targeted worker centers.</p> <p>Our goals and deliverables are as follows</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify statewide and national worker center partner who would benefit from a Sacramento presence. Hold meetings with at least five organizations to discuss the potential for a Sacramento-based center. Partners will evaluate the strength of the potential partnerships by willingness of the organizations to devote resources to Sacramento and the desire for long-term success of the local project. Partners will also monitor partnerships to ensure a diversity of populations. 2. Provide education and consultation to at least 50 low-wage workers on working conditions and wages. Success of these consultations will be based on a survey-tool already used by CWR. 3. Request and attend meetings with all members of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, Sacramento City Council, and other local city councils to encourage their support for a worker center for Sacramento. Establish a committee at the Sacramento Central Labor Council devoted to the establishment of the worker center with representatives from industries who represent low-wage workers. 4. Build a network of at least 25 local organizations where low-wage workers can receive 		

economic and social support that employers fail to provide

5. Promote worker engagement in advocacy efforts at the state Capitol by attending at least 3 hearings on legislation which expands workplace protections.

GRANT BUDGET BY YEAR

Personnel

Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Personnel	\$116,420	\$116,420	\$116,420	\$349,260
Benefits	\$39,142	\$39,142	\$39,142	\$117,426

Non-Personnel

Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Non-Personnel	\$11,540	\$11,540	\$11,540	\$34,620
Admin.	\$7,898	\$7,898	\$7,898	\$23,694

Sub-Recipient(s)

Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Sub-Recipient(s)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Grand Total

Budget Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Grand Total	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$525,000

Lawyers

Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Jora Trang	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.12
Nicole Marquez	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.15
Junior Attorney	1	1	1	3
Total	1.09	1.09	1.09	3.27

Paralegals

Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Total	0	0	0	0

Others

Project Staff FTEs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Grant Request
Augustine Eichwald Romero (attorney)	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.15
Joan Ulrich	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3
Thais Forneret	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.03
Mara Ortenburger	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.12
CWR Staff	1	1	1	3
Total	1.2	1.2	1.2	3.6



The State Bar of California

OPEN SESSION
AGENDA ITEM
NOVEMBER 2022
LEGAL SERVICES TRUST FUND COMMISSION 7.1

DATE: November 16, 2022

TO: Members, Legal Services Trust Fund Commission

FROM: Eric Isken, Chair, Legal Service Trust Fund Commission

SUBJECT: Proposed Revisions to Request for Proposal and Scoring Rubric for 2024 Partnership Grants

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For the past three grant administration cycles, the Partnerships Grants Committee (PG Committee) has used a scoring rubric during its review of Partnership Grant applications and determination of funding recommendations. The rubric was developed at the direction of the Board of Trustees (Board) and was based on existing grant requirements, approved policies, and office practices. Based on feedback from the 2023 cycle and in efforts to better streamline the review process and provide transparency, the PG Committee recommends that the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission (LSTFC) approve, the proposed revisions to the Request for Proposal and corresponding scoring rubric for review and evaluation of the 2024 Partnership Grant applications.

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 Partnership Grants (PG) Committee.

The State Bar and Judicial Council have approved criteria limiting eligibility for Partnership Grant funding. Applicants must be Qualified Legal Services Projects, proposals must be for joint

projects with a California court, and funding is restricted to providing assistance to self-represented civil litigants. While all projects must meet threshold eligibility requirements, the Judicial Council and LSTFC have provided general guidance to help organizations identify projects that best fulfill the goals and intention of the Partnership Grants program.

The 2024 Partnership Grants term is from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024. Staff anticipates that 2024 grant applications will be released in January and due in March 2023, with the review cycle commencing in April 2023.

DISCUSSION

The PG Committee first used a formal scoring rubric during review of the 2022 Partnership Grant applications and continued use this tool to review new and supplemental grants for additional funding received in 2022 (Partnership Grants 2.0) and the 2023 Partnership Grants. The rubric assigned point values to defined categories, based on existing selection criteria outlined in the Partnership Grants Request for Proposal (RFP) (see Attachment A). Point values were also assigned based on policies approved by the LSTFC in 2017 and 2018 in the following areas: 1) self-representation and attorney-client relationships; 2) duration of Partnership Grant funding; 3) overhead, administration, and audit; and 4) use of Partnership Grant funding as a subgrant covering wages of court staff.

With the implementation of the Partnership Grants scoring rubric, several processes were developed to ensure consistent scoring and interpretation of the rubric categories. First, all PG Committee members participated in an initial calibration session to score and review the same set of applications. The PG Committee members then reviewed the remaining applications in scoring teams in subsequent calibration sessions with staff. All scores were reviewed and discussed by the full PG Committee before developing tentative and final funding recommendations. Following application review for 2023, the PG Committee had a discussion at its July 21, 2022, meeting to provide feedback on the effectiveness of the scoring rubric with the goal to improve the grant review process moving forward. On November 3, 2022, based on this feedback, staff presented its recommended changes to the 2024 scoring rubric for the PG Committee's consideration.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE 2024 SCORING RUBRIC

In efforts to better streamline the application review process and provide transparency to all potential applicants, the PG Committee recommends the following changes for the 2024 Partnership Grants RFP and scoring rubric.

Omit Reference that Services Be Delivered At or Near the Courthouse

The intention behind this eligibility requirement is that a project be jointly developed and implemented by the applicant and partner court. However, the additional requirement that the project physically be at or near the courthouse was unintentionally restrictive, and in recent years, the PG Committee has permitted flexible service delivery models like hybrid services to

increase access to services for self-represented litigants. Therefore, the PG Committee recommends deleting this reference in the rubric.

Decrease Points for Innovation Category

During the previous review cycles, the PG Committee did not award organizations more than 5 points out of a potential 10 points for innovation. This was partially due to the trend of more projects offering remote and hybrid services to self-represented litigants in response to the pandemic-related challenges. Because this pivot in service delivery model was necessary to continue providing services, the PG Committee did not award many innovation points for this reason. Additionally, many projects offer a valuable service model without a need to add innovative features. Innovation is still of value but to better reflect the review process, the PG Committee recommends decreasing the available innovation points from 10 points to 5 points. This change would only impact the total number of possible points from 110 points to 105 points.

Remove Project Budget Category from Scoring

Whereas rubric categories such as project impact and court involvement are relatively subjective and appropriate to be evaluated as exceeding, meeting, or being below expectations, project budget is an objective metric. The requirement for project budgets is that all proposed expenses must be directly tied to the Partnership Grant project. During review of past applications, projects that were scored below expectations mainly required administrative follow up from staff to resolve issues and questions. Substantive issues regarding proposed projects were generally found in relation to the other rubric categories. The PG Committee recommends removing project budget as its own category from the 2024 rubric, and instead including reference to it under project impact to ensure appropriate proposed allocation of the requested Partnership Grant funds as follows:

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.

As for the 10 points previously allocated to this category, the PG Committee recommends re-allocating 5 additional points each to administration and evaluation, in hopes that applicants can address these categories more comprehensively.

Update Description for Continuity Planning

The main objective of this rubric category is to determine past and current efforts the applicant has taken to sustain its project with non-Partnership Grants funds. The PG Committee determined that the current description was too vague and did not provide suitable guidance to applicants, and recommends updating it as follows:

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.

Conform Current Policy Regarding Funding Priorities to Current Practice and Integrate into the RFP

The funding priorities category is derived from LSTFC policy that was approved in 2018 and is also cited in the 2023 RFP. The policy sets forth general parameters regarding funding priorities, specifically for projects seeking funding after the initial five-year period that Partnership Grants are intended to support. That policy provides for the LSTFC to consider project strength, demonstrated success, and funding availability as factors for consideration. After the fifth year, particular consideration is given to projects supporting unmet rural needs, projects that have evolved to respond to a recent emergency or disaster, and high functioning and heavily utilized projects that have been unable to secure alternate funding despite documented efforts.

While initially intended to provide clarity and guidance, the policy has become problematic for the following reasons and recommended revisions described below seek to address these concerns:

Reason #1: Ambiguity regarding seed funding and the initial five-year period

The largest issue with the current policy is the ambiguity regarding “seed funding” for new projects, and the observed practices of some applicants that are not in the spirit of this policy. To creatively meet the seed funding requirements, some grantees take a year off from reapplying in hopes to reset the initial five-year funding period. This is concerning because of the potential disruption of services and its impact on the level of services available to self-represented litigants for an otherwise high-functioning project. Other organizations also request to be considered as a new project in light of substantive changes to an existing project, such as moving to a new courthouse or taking on another area of law. As a result, new projects that have not requested nor received Partnership Grant funding are rated at the same funding priority level of an existing project. This diminishes the priority that should be enjoyed by the genuinely new project. In order to address these issues, the PG Committee should maintain discretion to decide the factors to consider what should be considered a new project. These factors could include whether the project was previously or currently funded by Partnership Grants, or if the project proposes a genuine change to an existing service delivery model.

Reason #2: Unintended overlap with new scoring rubric categories

Another notable change to grants administration is that since 2022, the PG Committee has consistently and successfully used a scoring rubric with clearly defined categories to assist in review of applications. Because there was no scoring rubric in 2018, language in the policy may have been intentionally broad to help provide guidance to the PG

Committee. However, in using that policy in conjunction with the scoring rubric, the language of the policy is now too expansive, and certain categories are at risk of being double-scored with the scoring rubric categories. In order for this category to be distinguished from other categories in the scoring rubric, it must be narrowed to focus on the major priority areas of funding new projects and rural projects.

Reason #3: Policy does not reflect changes in the funding landscape

There have also been significant changes to the funding landscape, which the policy could not have anticipated. Whereas Partnership Grants was one of two competitive discretionary grants in 2018, the State Bar has since received a substantial increase in discretionary grant funding and has administered several new competitive discretionary grants in recent years. With the increase in funding, Partnership Grants are less competitive. For example, in 2023, despite fully funding all approved projects, the total amount requested was less than the funding available. This scenario is inconsistent with current policy that sets forth an expectation that projects would receive decreased funding after its third year of funding. To address unforeseen changes in the funding landscape, the policy should be more flexible regarding expectations about funding award amounts.

Reason #4: Newer competitive grants have flexibility to modify grant requirements

Unlike the newer competitive discretionary grants, Partnership Grants is the only grant with existing policies that must be integrated into the RFP. Newer competitive discretionary grants have flexibility to modify grant needs and requirements through their RFPs, which is then approved by the LSTFC. This process allows respective LSTFC committees to debrief on the application review process and make improvements to the next grant's administration. Revising the current policy regarding funding priorities would enable the PG Committee this same level of flexibility to modify the category if needed, so that it is practicable to all applicants.

Based on PG Committee feedback and current practice of reviewing grant applications, the PG Committee recommends that the LSTFC approve revising and integrating the funding priorities policy into the 2024 Partnership Grants RFP as follows:

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 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.

This category was previously allocated 20 points. In consideration of the updates, the PG Committee recommends decreasing funding priorities to 15 points and reallocating 5 additional points to continuity planning.

Proposed 2024 Partnership Grants Scoring Rubric

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.			
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>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.			
<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.			
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.

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 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)

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:

The rubric will be presented for approval at the November 16, 2022, LSTFC meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

Should the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission concur with the Partnership Grants Committee's recommendation, passage of the following resolution is recommended:

RESOLVED, that the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission, approves the request for proposals (RFP) and scoring rubric for the 2024 Partnership Grants as described in the November 16, 2022, memorandum.

ATTACHMENT(S) LIST

- A. 2023 Partnership Grant Request for Proposals
- B. Proposed 2024 Partnership Grant Request for Proposals



The State Bar of California

OPEN SESSION

AGENDA ITEM 5.2

DECEMBER 2022

LSTFC HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION FUNDS COMMITTEE

DATE: December 1, 2022

TO: Members, Homelessness Prevention Funds Committee

FROM: James Meeker, Chair, Homelessness Prevention Funds Committee
Tammy Mahoney, Member, Homelessness Prevention Funds Committee
Jennifer Zelnick, Senior Program Analyst, Office of Access & Inclusion

SUBJECT: Scoring Team Recommendations for the 2023-2024 Homelessness Prevention Competitive Grants

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Governor Newsom signed the Budget Act of 2022 (the Budget Act) on June 27, 2022, and it allocated \$30 million for competitive awards to qualified legal services projects (QLSPs) and support centers to provide homelessness prevention legal services.¹

On August 12, 2022, the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission (Commission) approved a timeline for making 2023-2024 homelessness prevention (HP 4) grants. The Commission also delegated to the Homelessness Prevention Funds Committee (Committee) approval of the scoring rubric and request for proposals (RFP). This delegation of authority facilitates a grant period start date of January 1, 2023.

On August 31, 2022, the Committee approved the RFP for making HP 4 awards. After administrative costs of up to five percent (\$1.5 million), the amount available for grants is at least \$28.5 million. So that the competitive grant period can start by January 1, 2023, on August 12, 2022, the Commission conferred authority on State Bar staff to score applications in

¹ The Budget Act is available at
https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB179.

consultation with the Committee.²

This memo describes the process for scoring HP 4 competitive proposals and presents the scoring team's recommendations for funding. The Committee will meet on December 1, 2022, to approve the scoring team's recommendations, which will be presented to the Commission for approval at its December 13, 2022, meeting.

BACKGROUND

The Budget Act allocates \$30 million for competitive grants to provide homelessness prevention legal services. Up to five percent of that amount (\$1.5 million) is available to cover Judicial Council and State Bar of California administrative costs. This funding has an encumbrance or expenditure date of June 30, 2024.³

Similar to the 2021-2024 and 2022-2024 homelessness prevention (HP 3) grants, HP 4 awards must fund:

[E]viction defense, other tenant defense assistance in landlord-tenant rental disputes, or services to prevent foreclosure for homeowners, including pre-eviction and eviction legal services, counseling, advice, and consultation, mediation, training, renter education, and representation, and legal services to improve habitability, increasing affordable housing, ensuring receipt of eligible income or benefits to improve housing stability, legal help for persons displaced because of domestic violence, and homelessness prevention.

The Budget Act of 2022.

Past homelessness prevention grants prohibited legislative lobbying. It is staff's understanding that this remains true for the HP 4 grants.

The HP 3 competitive grants implemented a statutory preference for "qualified legal aid agencies that serve rural or underserved communities."⁴ The Budget Act contains the same language for HP 4 funding while adding preferences for:

1. [A]pplications which include partnerships with or subgrants to community-based organizations, provided the partnerships or subgrants were in effect as of June 30, 2022.

² The resolution states, "...FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission delegates authority to the Committee to approve the request for proposals, including scoring rubric, for the HP 4 grants and to a commissioner(s)-staff team to score applications in consultation with the Committee to make recommendations for final approval by the Commission."

³ The Budget Act. See footnote 1, *supra*.

⁴ The Budget Act of 2021 is available at https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB164.

2. [A]pplications which include partnerships with or subgrants to local jurisdictions, provided the partnerships or subgrants were in effect as of June 30, 2022.

Finally, the Legislature removed last year's express requirement that applicants avoid supplanting other funding with their new HP dollars.⁵

The State Bar received 46 HP 4 competitive applications, including 37 applications from QLSPs and 9 applications from support centers. None of the applications from QLSPs were law school clinical programs. The total amount requested was \$25,805,904, which is \$2,694,096 less than the total amount available. Please see Attachment D for profile sheets detailing each application.

DISCUSSION

Scoring Criteria

On August 31, 2022, the Committee adopted the following rubric to guide its deliberations:

Category	Exceeds Expectation	Meets Expectation	Below Expectation	Not Addressed
Project impact and strategies: The applicant proposes a project that significantly and directly addresses or will address a compelling need for the particular homelessness prevention intervention(s).				
Number of check marks	X21-25 points	X11-20 points	X1-10 points	X0 points
Administration: The applicant demonstrates that it has the qualifications, experience, resources, and/or partners that it needs to meet the proposal objectives.				
Serves rural populations: The applicant presents a strategy to meet the homelessness prevention legal needs of specific rural communities.				
Serves underserved populations: The applicant presents a strategy to meet the homelessness prevention legal				

⁵ The Budget Act of 2022. See footnote 1, *supra*.

needs of specific underserved communities.				
Category	Exceeds Expectation	Meets Expectation	Below Expectation	Not Addressed
Project evaluation: The applicant details an evaluation strategy to acquire data that it can use to refine the project's strategies to increase its effectiveness in addressing homelessness.				
Partnerships: The applicant would leverage partnerships with or subgrants to community-based organizations or local jurisdictions. Those partnerships or subgrants must be in effect as of June 30, 2022.				
Number of check marks	X15 points	X10 points	X5 points	X0 points

The RFP (Attachment A) states that the rubric is a tool to guide Committee and Commission discussion of projects. A comparatively high score, therefore, does not guarantee funding. The Committee and Commission may still exercise discretion to recommend/make awards that best accomplish the statewide goals of the Budget Act. For instance, the Committee can use its best efforts to distribute grants statewide and to fund a diversity of homelessness prevention interventions.

- **Project impact and strategies:** Applicants should explain how the project's strategies and goals—activities, partnerships, outputs, outcomes, etc.—will directly and significantly ameliorate homelessness. They should explain why they selected the particular intervention(s) over others. The justification for the proposed services should refer to the circumstances and needs of particular populations that the project seeks to serve.
- **Serves rural populations:** Applicants should describe the extent to which they would serve rural communities. The more the project would concentrate its efforts on rural populations, the more likely it will score a meets or exceeds expectations in this category. Applicants should also detail their strategy for serving rural Californians. The strategy should consider the challenges they face—economic, geographic, political, and otherwise—to safe and reliable housing. Likewise, it should address the likely challenges to providing services. Proposals ought to explain how the project will prioritize outreach and services to rural areas rather than just affirm their eligibility. The California Commission on Access to Justice recommends defining “rural” as areas that meet the medical service study area (MSSA) standard for “rural” or “frontier.” The California

Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development identifies MSSAs using sub-county clusters of census tracts. The California Commission on Access to Justice argues that MSSA categories of rural and frontier—as opposed to urban—are better suited than counties to classify rural areas. Rural MSSAs have 50,000 or fewer residents and population densities below 250 people per square mile. “Frontier” MSSAs have population densities of fewer than 11 people per square mile.⁶

- **Serves underserved populations:** Applicants should describe the extent to which they would serve underserved clients. Applicants should also detail their strategy for serving underserved communities. The strategy should consider the challenges they face, and it should address the likely challenges to providing services. Proposals ought to explain how the project will prioritize outreach and services to underserved communities rather than just affirm their eligibility. A project that serves such communities should explain how the latter face even higher barriers to accessing civil justice than does the low-income community generally. Since “serves rural populations” is a separate criterion, “serves underserved populations” refers to other aspects of community access.
- **Project evaluation:** Applicants should describe a strategy—frequency, diversity of approaches to collecting information, etc.—to assess the effectiveness of project services. The project should gather and analyze data in time to inform services strategy during the grant period. Dedicating financial and other resources to evaluation is relevant to this criterion.
- **Partnerships:** Applicants should describe their relevant partnerships with and subgrants to community-based organizations and/or local jurisdictions. To receive points in this category, those relationships must have been in effect as of June 30, 2022. Legislative staff has confirmed that the Budget Act confers a preference on leveraging existing partnerships, rather than creating new ones. Scores in this category may reflect, among other things, the strength to the project of the partnership(s) or subgrant(s). Be sure to check that grantees receiving points for this category uploaded the required documents, and that the date(s) corroborate the partnership’s existence as of June 30, 20022.

The following provide guidance for “not addressed,” below expectations,” “meets expectations,” and “exceeds expectations”:

- **Not Addressed:** A proposal that scores “not addressed” in a category/criterion fails to satisfy that criterion in a meaningful way or lacks the relevant nexus. A proposal might fail to satisfy a criterion in a meaningful way if it articulates only a vague intention to do so. And a response might lack the relevant nexus to “serves rural populations,” for instance, if it would serve only an urban community.

⁶ MSSA data is available on the California State Geoportal at <https://gis.data.ca.gov/datasets/CHHSAgency::medical-service-study-areas/explore?filters=eyJERUZJTklUSU90IjpbIjJ1cmFslwiRnJvbnRpZXliXX0%3D&location=36.189565%2C-118.684374%2C7.63>. This link provides data with the following filters for definition: “Rural” and “Frontier.”

- **Below expectations:** A proposal that scores “below expectations” in a category/criterion addresses that criterion but is insufficiently competitive or persuasive to justify a score of “meets expectations.” The proposal might aspire to do too little, for instance, such as only occasionally serve rural clients in “serves rural populations.” Or the proposal might lack sufficient detail, explanation, or basis in fact to demonstrate its contours or likelihood of success. Since an uncompetitive proposal might still articulate a feasible project, this score confers some points.
- **Meets expectations:** A proposal that scores “meets expectations” in a category/criterion is competitive and persuasive with respect to that row of the rubric. To be competitive, the proposal will be sufficiently ambitious and/or compelling to merit the use of competitive funds. To be persuasive, the proposal will describe circumstances sufficiently probative of the applicant’s intention and ability to accomplish its stated objectives in that criterion.
- **Exceeds expectations:** A proposal that scores “exceeds expectations” in a category/criterion satisfies the standard for “meets expectations” while standing out as particularly compelling or impressive. A project might be especially compelling, for instance, because its strategies or partnerships would be unusually impactful. Or the proposal might be exceptionally detailed, thorough, evidence-driven, or otherwise well-conceived and convincing.

Staff encourages the Committee to explore the boundaries between these scores such that a spread of total points across applications is possible.

Review Process

Given the short timeline to review submissions, the Commission delegated authority to staff to score HP 4 competitive applications in consultation with the Committee. The Committee identified at least three ways that it would advise staff:

- (Before scoring) The scoring team would observe the Committee as it applied the rubric to a cross-section of four proposals.⁷
- (During scoring) Two Committee members, including the Chair, would participate in all scoring sessions.
- (After scoring) The Committee would discuss the scoring team’s results and adjust awards as appropriate.

The scoring team consisted of the Committee Chair, James Meeker, Committee member Tammy Mahoney, and three staff members from the Office of Access & Inclusion. The team evaluated all 46 applications using the rubric and definitions above.⁸

Scores

⁷ The Committee discussed a cross-section of proposals on October 20, 2022. That selection of applications achieved a diversity of service areas, organization sizes and types, partnerships and subgrant relationships, homelessness prevention strategies, proposed budgets, and target demographics.

⁸ See “Scoring Criteria,” *supra*.

The five-member scoring team arrived at unified scores and funding figures for every proposal. The highest score was 93 out of 100 points. The lowest score was 52 points. Each proposal would contribute to funding diverse and high-impact projects throughout the state. The scoring team, therefore, recommends funding 45 out of 46 proposals with a few recommendations pending technical corrections or other clarifications as noted below. The scoring team defers to the Committee to make a recommendation about whether to fund Legal Services for Prisoners with Children's application. Scores are detailed here:

Proposals From Highest to Lowest Score

Applicant	Total Score
Inner City Law Center	93
Wage Justice Center	90
Bay Area Legal Aid	86
Public Counsel	86
Family Violence Appellate Project	85
Legal Aid of Sonoma County	84
National Housing Law Project	83
California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform	81
Neighborhood Legal Services	81
Public Advocates Inc.	81
Family Violence Law Center	80
Legal Aid at Work	80
Western Center on Law and Poverty	80
Harriett Buhai Center for Family Law	79
Legal Aid of Marin	79
Child Care Law Center	76
Riverside Legal Aid	75
Elder Law & Advocacy	74
Mental Health Advocacy Services	74
Public Interest Law Project	74
California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.	71
OneJustice	71
Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California	70
Eviction Defense Collaborative	70
Disability Rights Legal Center	69
Inland Counties Legal Services	69
Open Door Legal	69
Public Law Center	69
Veterans Legal Institute	69
Community Legal Aid SoCal	68
Law Foundation of Silicon Valley	68
Social Justice Collaborative	67
Centro Legal de la Raza	66

Applicant	Total Score
La Raza Centro Legal	66
Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco	65
AIDS Legal Referral Panel	64
Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto	64
Contra Costa Senior Legal Services	60
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund	60
Housing and Economic Rights Advocates	59
Legal Services for Seniors	59
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights	56
Legal Services for Children	56
LACBA Counsel for Justice	53
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children	53
Senior Advocacy Network	52

The scoring team recognizes that some projects that scored below 60 would normally not receive funding, however the scoring team strongly believes that these projects have the potential to make a positive impact in underserved communities. Many projects received lower scores because they do not serve rural communities and/or do not have partnerships or subgrants, while still helping to fulfill the goals of the Budget Act. Proposals include unlawful detainer representation, mobile home ownership defense, and emergency housing vouchers for domestic violence survivors. Other projects include trainings to support formerly incarcerated individuals facing homelessness, and a behavioral health-legal partnership targeting low-income undocumented tenants with disabilities. Additionally, the scoring team took an expansive view of homelessness prevention to include projects primarily focused on public benefits and employment authorization documents.

The scoring team considered an alternative recommendation to fund projects scoring 59 or above. However, given the Committee's commitment to fulfilling the goals of the Budget Act, and the available funds, we recommend funding the above mentioned 45 proposals.

Nearly all 46 proposals scored "exceeds expectations" in at least one rubric category, many of them in several. Thirty-three out of forty-six proposals (over 71 percent) scored points for serving rural communities. Those 13 proposals that did not receive points for serving rural communities scored a "meets expectations" or "exceeds expectations" in serving underserved communities. Eight of the thirteen proposals that did not receive points for serving rural communities scored an "exceeds expectations" in two or more criteria. Thirty-eight proposals (over 82 percent) scored points for partnerships or subgrants.⁹ Attachment C provides a detailed breakdown of the scores for all proposals.

⁹ The Budget Act states that "In awarding [competitive] grants...preference shall be given to qualified aid agencies that serve rural or underserved communities." The rubric provided up to 15 points each for serving rural and/or underserved communities. Additionally, preference shall also be given to qualified legal aid agencies "partnered with or subgranting to community-based organizations or local jurisdictions, provided the partnerships or

Legal Services for Children (LSC) submitted their application 17 minutes after the deadline. LSC communicated with staff about their difficulties submitting, noting technical problems uploading the project assurances to SmartSimple. LSC's application was otherwise complete by the deadline. Staff recommends accepting LSC's application, because of the abundance of available HP 4 funding, LSC's otherwise complete application, and their proactive communication.

Funding Levels

Since the total amount of funds requested for all proposals (\$25,805,904) is less than the total funding available (\$28,500,000), the scoring team recommends funding all awards fully, with the exception of nine applicants, which the scoring team may yet recommend fully funding if additional information is provided: Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California (AAAJ-SoCal), California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform (CANHR), Centro Legal de la Raza (CentroLegal), Elder Law & Advocacy (ELA), Eviction Defense Collaborative (EDC), Inner City Law Center (ICLC), Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights (LCCR), Legal Services for Prisoners with Children (LSPC), and Wage Justice Center (WJC). Below is an overview of the scoring team's concerns and recommendations regarding these applicants. Staff asked each one to provide additional information by November 21, 2022. The scoring team will provide the Committee with a spoken update on December 1, 2022, based on each applicant's response:

AAAJ-SoCal and EDC have budget items that require further consideration. The scoring team will defer to the Committee about how to fund these budget lines.

CANHR, CentroLegal, ELA, ICLC, and LCCR have pending minor technical issues with their budgets. The scoring team recommends funding these projects fully, pending resolution of these issues.

LSPC initially requested \$568,000 for their total project budget, but their budget required extensive clarification and revision. Staff worked with LSPC, and they adjusted their total project budget to \$537,200. LSPC's revised budget allocates \$510,000 to personnel, for 7.5 FTE staff members. The scoring team noted that LSPC's deliverables are relatively low (three webinars for service providers, creating one housing rights pamphlet, distributing 1,000 pamphlets, supporting 10 additional housing related organizations and qualified legal service providers, and a 10 percent increase in housing-related support calls from 2021). The scoring team is concerned that LSPC's low deliverables do not justify the project's 7.5 FTE staff members, and are not commensurate with their proposed budget. Furthermore, LSPC's application does not clearly demonstrate how each FTE position will serve HP 4. The scoring team defers to the Committee about whether to fund LSPC. The scoring team also defers to the Committee about what level of funding would be appropriate for LSPC's project.

WJC's initial total budget request was \$950,000, however, their budgeted amount was only \$800,000. Additionally, WJC's budget includes \$7,500 in capital additions. The scoring team

subgrants were in effect as of June 30, 2022." The rubric provided up to 15 points for partnerships and/or subgrants in effect as of June 30, 2022. Please see the section "Scoring Criteria," *supra*, for definitions.

asked WJC to revise the budget discrepancies and advised them that capital additions must be raised to the Committee. Rather than modifying their budget to \$800,000 or \$950,000, WJC increased their budget to \$1,320,738, including significant increases to their space, telecommunications, technology, travel, and evaluation budgets. Additionally, WJC increased all personnel allocations, employee benefits, and administrative personnel and non-personnel. The scoring team recommends WJC receive \$800,000 in the interest of fairness to other applicants.

In determining the appropriate amount of funding to award, the scoring team considered, among other factors:

- The proportionality of the project deliverables to the funding request;
- The degree of fiscal conservatism in the budget, given the narrative explanations;
- The applicant's capacity to implement an impactful project, related to organizational capacity and past project performances; and
- The sufficiency of the budget narratives and other explanations.

Award Recommendations
(From High Score to Low Score)

Applicant	Score	Request	Recommend
Inner City Law Center	93	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000**
Wage Justice Center	90	\$1,320,738	\$800,000
Bay Area Legal Aid	86	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
Public Counsel	86	\$642,781	\$642,781
Family Violence Appellate Project	85	\$525,000	\$525,000
Legal Aid of Sonoma County	84	\$491,500	\$491,500
National Housing Law Project	83	\$300,000	\$300,000
California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform	81	\$370,973	\$370,973**
Neighborhood Legal Services	81	\$1,361,289	\$1,361,289
Public Advocates Inc.	81	\$608,280	\$608,280
Family Violence Law Center	80	\$330,397	\$330,397
Legal Aid at Work	80	\$305,855	\$305,855
Western Center on Law and Poverty	80	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
Harriett Buhai Center for Family Law	79	\$500,000	\$500,000
Legal Aid of Marin	79	\$454,000	\$454,000
Child Care Law Center	76	\$361,283	\$361,283
Riverside Legal Aid	75	\$450,000	\$450,000
Elder Law & Advocacy	74	\$112,369	\$112,369**
Mental Health Advocacy Services	74	\$360,000	\$360,000
Public Interest Law Project	74	\$356,407	\$356,407
California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.	71	\$1,050,000	\$1,050,000
OneJustice	71	\$150,000	\$150,000
Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California	70	\$1,500,000	*

Applicant	Score	Request	Recommend
Eviction Defense Collaborative	70	\$1,090,700	*
Disability Rights Legal Center	69	\$270,000	\$270,000
Inland Counties Legal Services	69	\$369,752	\$369,752
Open Door Legal	69	\$450,000	\$450,000
Public Law Center	69	\$402,184	\$402,184
Veterans Legal Institute	69	\$253,044	\$253,044
Community Legal Aid SoCal	68	\$799,866	\$799,866
Law Foundation of Silicon Valley	68	\$1,060,000	\$1,060,000
Social Justice Collaborative	67	\$598,182	\$598,182
Centro Legal de la Raza	66	\$457,280	\$457,280**
La Raza Centro Legal	66	\$175,000	\$175,000
Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco	65	\$275,759	\$275,759
AIDS Legal Referral Panel	64	\$356,400	\$356,400
Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto	64	\$210,905	\$210,905
Contra Costa Senior Legal Services	60	\$82,837	\$82,837
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund	60	\$102,972	\$102,972
Housing and Economic Rights Advocates	59	\$444,400	\$444,400
Legal Services for Seniors	59	\$126,000	\$126,000
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights	56	\$687,700	\$687,700**
Legal Services for Children	56	\$500,001	\$500,001
LACBA Counsel for Justice	53	\$329,850	\$329,850
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children	53	\$537,200	***
Senior Advocacy Network	52	\$175,000	\$175,000
		Total	\$22,157,266

*The scoring team will provide oral updates about AAAJ-SoCal and EDC, and defers to the Committee about the funding level for these organizations. The total recommended funding (\$22,157,266) does not include these proposals.

**The scoring team recommends funding CANHR, CentroLegal, ELA, ICLC, and LCCR fully, pending resolution of minor technical issues.

***The scoring team defers to the committee about whether to fund LSPC.

With the exception of AAAJ-SoCal, EDC, and LSPC, the above organizations would receive, on average, over 97 percent of their budget request (\$22,678,004). Staff will follow up with each program who will receive less than 100 percent of their requested budget to see whether they would have to adjust their deliverables if they received the above amount. Attachment B compares each proposal's funding request to the scoring team's funding recommendation.

The scoring team recommends that the Committee allow HP 4 grant recipients to apply for supplemental funding with the remaining funds during the grant period. This could provide new subgrants to additional community-based organizations and local jurisdictions as appropriate.

CONCLUSION

Funding the recommended proposals would achieve the Budget Act’s policy goals for the competitive awards. As a result, these projects would fund a diversity of high-impact projects throughout the state. Every one of them describes a compelling focus on underserved communities—those that face particularly high barriers to civil justice. Projects include advocacy for foster youth with disabilities at risk of homelessness, wraparound services for veterans facing eviction, and public benefits assistance for undocumented monolingual workers at risk of homelessness. Additional projects provide direct legal assistance to low-income community college students who are survivors of domestic violence, unlawful detainer clinics targeting rural seniors, and legal assistance for tenants with COVID-19 rent debt. Thirty-three out of forty-six proposals (over 71 percent) would serve rural communities. Excluding eight projects that propose to serve the entire state, the recommended organizations would serve 33 counties.¹⁰ And thirty-eight of these projects identify partnerships and/or subgrants to enhance their efficacy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Should the Committee concur with the scoring team’s proposal, passage of the following resolution is recommended:

RESOLVED, that the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission Homelessness Prevention Funds Committee accepts the late application by Legal Services for Children.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission Homelessness Prevention Funds Committee recommends the 2023–2024 homelessness prevention competitive grant recipients and amounts as described herein.

ATTACHMENTS LIST

- A. HP 4 Competitive RFP
- B. Scores and Funding Recommendations for HP 4 Competitive Applications
- C. Breakdown of Scores for HP 4 Competitive Applications
- D. Profile Sheets of HP 4 Competitive Applications
- E. Map of Recommended HP 4 Competitive Projects

¹⁰ The 33 counties served are: Alameda, Colusa, Contra Costa, Fresno, Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, Madera, Marin, Merced, Mono, Monterey, Napa, Orange, Riverside, Sacramento, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tulare, Ventura, and Yuba. As Attachment E illustrates, the recommended projects pay careful attention to rural California.



The State Bar of California

2023 –2024 Homelessness Prevention (HP 4) Competitive Grants Request for Proposals

Background

Governor Newsom signed the Budget Act of 2022 (the Budget Act) on June 27, 2022.¹ The Budget Act allocates \$30 million for competitive awards to qualified legal services projects (QLSPs) and support centers to provide homelessness prevention legal services. Similar to the 2021-2024 and 2022-2024 homelessness prevention (HP 3) grants, these awards must fund:

[E]viction defense, other tenant defense assistance in landlord-tenant rental disputes, or services to prevent foreclosure for homeowners, including pre-eviction and eviction legal services, counseling, advice, and consultation, mediation, training, renter education, and representation, and legal services to improve habitability, increasing affordable housing, ensuring receipt of eligible income or benefits to improve housing stability, legal help for persons displaced because of domestic violence, and homelessness prevention.

The Budget Act of 2022.

On August 12, 2022, the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission (Commission) approved a process for making 2023-2024 homelessness prevention (HP 4) awards. After administrative costs of up to five percent (\$1.5 million), the amount available for grants is at least \$28.5 million.

Eligibility

HP 4 applications are due on SmartSimple by **Monday, October 10, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. (PT)**. To be eligible for an award, applicants must be a current QLSP or support center under California Business and Professions Code [section 6213](#).

Competitive Grant Parameters

1. HP 4 awards may fund only the activities that the Budget Act enumerates, above. These

¹ This version of the Budget Act is available at https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB154. On August 31, 2022, the Legislature passed language to expand the preference for these funds. The Budget Act pending this amendment is available at https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB179.

grants may not support legislative advocacy.

2. Pursuant to the authorizing legislation, the following shall receive preference:
 - a. Qualified legal aid agencies that serve rural or underserved communities.
 - b. (Reflecting language in [AB 179](#)) Qualified legal aid agencies partnered with or subgranting to community-based organizations or local jurisdictions, provided the partnerships or subgrants were in effect as of June 30, 2022.
3. There is no minimum amount of funding that programs may request. The maximum that a program may request is \$1,500,000 for the 1.5-year grant period (January 1, 2023-June 30, 2024). Since these funds have a statutory expenditure/encumbrance date of June 30, 2024, programs should plan on the possible unavailability of carryovers.
4. HP 4 funding is to serve indigent Californians and QLSPs that serve indigent Californians pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 6213.²

Award Information

The Commission seeks to fund high-impact projects that, within the scope of the Budget Act's list of authorized activities, address acute homelessness risks and harms. The Commission also seeks to fund a diversity of homelessness prevention legal services throughout the state.

Applicants may propose creative partnerships with IOLTA and non-IOLTA providers. To that end, programs may seek to subgrant a portion of their award to one or more partner organizations. Such a collaboration could enable a well-rounded suite of homelessness prevention expertise and services that the applicant alone might be unable to achieve.

The Commission plans to vote on final awards by mid-December 2022. The competitive grant period will start on January 1, 2023.

² Section 6213(d) states:

“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. With regard to a project that provides free services of attorneys in private practice without compensation, “indigent person” also means a person whose income is 75 percent or less of the maximum levels of income for lower income households as defined in Section 50079.5 of the Health and Safety Code. For the purpose of this subdivision, the income of a person who is disabled shall be determined (1) after deducting the costs of medical and other disability-related special expenses and (2) after deducting disability compensation from the United States Veterans Administration paid to a veteran with a service-related disability.

Selection Criteria

Award decisions are final and without appeal. The funding level of awards will depend on the number and quality of applications as well as proposed budgets. A successful response to the RFP will expressly and persuasively:

- Identify how the proposed project aligns with the permissible uses in the Budget Act and would meet the compelling needs of the population(s) it targets.
- Articulate the outputs (e.g. number of cases closed) and outcomes (e.g. increase in knowledge of tenant's/homeowners' rights) of services. Applicants should identify goals that are tied to the specific partnerships, activities, and deliverables they seek to achieve with this grant.
- Describe the applicant's qualifications and ability to perform the proposed work.
- (If applicable) Highlight how the project would serve clients in rural and/or particularly underserved communities.
- (If applicable) Highlight how the project would leverage existing partnerships with or subgrants to community-based organizations or local jurisdictions.

The Committee has adopted the following rubric to guide its deliberations:

Category	Exceeds Expectation	Meets Expectation	Below Expectation	Not Addressed
Project impact and strategies: The applicant proposes a project that significantly and directly addresses or will address a compelling need for the particular homelessness prevention intervention(s).				
Number of check marks	X21-25 points	X11-20 points	X1-10 points	X0 points
Subtotal				
Administration: The applicant demonstrates that it has the qualifications, experience, resources, and/or partners that it needs to meet the proposal objectives.				
Serves rural populations: The applicant presents a strategy to meet the homelessness prevention				

Category	Exceeds Expectation	Meets Expectation	Below Expectation	Not Addressed
legal needs of specific rural communities.				
Serves underserved populations: The applicant presents a strategy to meet the homelessness prevention legal needs of specific underserved communities.				
Project evaluation: The applicant details an evaluation strategy to acquire data that it can use to refine the project's strategies to increase its effectiveness in addressing homelessness.				
Partnerships: The applicant would leverage partnerships with or subgrants to community-based organizations or local jurisdictions. Those partnerships or subgrants must be in effect as of June 30, 2022.				
Number of check marks	X15 points	X10 points	X5 points	X0 points
Subtotal				
Total				

Note: The rubric is a tool to guide Committee and Commission discussion of projects. A comparatively high score, therefore, does not guarantee funding. The Committee and Commission may still exercise discretion to recommend/make awards that best accomplish the statewide goals of this funding. This could happen, for instance, if they find that a project would provide high-quality and badly-needed services to communities—geographic or otherwise—that HP 4 funding would otherwise struggle to reach.

The following explanations accompany the rubric:

- **Project impact and strategies:** Applicants should explain how the project's strategies and goals—activities, partnerships, outputs, outcomes, etc.—will directly and significantly ameliorate homelessness. They should explain why they selected the particular intervention(s) over others. The justification for the proposed services should refer to the circumstances and needs of particular populations that the project seeks to serve.
- **Administration:** Applicants should demonstrate their ability to implement and manage

the project. Signs of strong administration include sufficient staffing, leadership, project monitoring, outreach, and resources. An applicant's history of achieving deliverables and complying with the requirements—including deadlines—for other grants is relevant to this criterion.

- **Serves rural populations:** Applicants should describe the extent to which they would serve rural communities. The more the project would concentrate its efforts on rural populations, the more likely it will score a meets or exceeds expectations in this category.

Applicants should also detail their strategy for serving rural Californians. The strategy should consider the challenges they face—economic, geographic, political, and otherwise—to safe and reliable housing. Likewise, it should address the likely challenges to providing services. Proposals ought to explain how the project will prioritize outreach and services to rural areas rather than just affirm their eligibility.

The California Commission on Access to Justice recommends defining “rural” as areas that meet the medical service study area (MSSA) standard for “rural” or “frontier.” The California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development identifies MSSAs using sub-county clusters of census tracts. The California Commission on Access to Justice argues that MSSA categories of rural and frontier—as opposed to urban—are better suited than counties to classify rural areas. Rural MSSAs have 50,000 or fewer residents and population densities below 250 people per square mile. “Frontier” MSSAs have population densities of fewer than 11 people per square mile.³

- **Serves underserved populations:** Applicants should describe the extent to which they would serve underserved communities. The more the project would concentrate its efforts on underserved populations, the more likely it will score a meets or exceeds expectations in this category.

Applicants should also detail their strategy for serving underserved communities. The strategy should consider the challenges they face—economic, geographic, political, and otherwise—to safe and reliable housing. Likewise, it should address the likely challenges to providing services. Proposals ought to explain how the project will prioritize outreach and services to underserved communities rather than just affirm their eligibility.

These funds are limited to serving those who are indigent under Business and Professions Code section 6213(d). Therefore, this criterion asks how the targeted population faces even higher barriers to accessing civil justice than do indigent people

³ MSSA data is available on the California State Geoportal at <https://gis.data.ca.gov/datasets/CHHSAgency::medical-service-study-areas/explore?filters=eyJERUJZJklUSU90IjpbIlJ1cmFslwiRnJvbnRpZXliXX0%3D&location=36.206796%2C-118.684374%2C7.63>. This link provides data with the following filters for definition: “Rural” and “Frontier.”

generally. Additionally, since “serves rural populations” is a separate criterion, this row refers to other ways a population is underserved. Such populations may be defined with respect to categories including, but not limited to: Race, ethnicity, age, limited English-proficiency, disability, veteran status, and immigration status. The application should demonstrate that the targeted population is relatively underserved.

- **Project evaluation:** Applicants should describe a strategy—frequency, diversity of approaches, etc.—to assess the effectiveness of project services. The project should gather and analyze data in time to inform services strategy during the grant period. Dedicating financial and other resources to evaluation is relevant to this criterion.
- **Partnerships:** Applicants should describe their relevant partnerships with and subgrants to community-based organizations and/or local jurisdictions. To receive points in this row, those relationships must have been in effect as of June 30, 2022. Legislative staff has confirmed that the Budget Act confers a preference on leveraging existing partnerships, rather than creating new ones. Scores in this category may reflect, among other things, the strength to the project of the partnership(s) or subgrant(s).

The following provide guidance for “not addressed,” “below expectations,” “meets expectations,” and “exceeds expectations”:

- **Not addressed:** A proposal that scores “not addressed” in a category/criterion fails to satisfy that criterion in a meaningful way or lacks the relevant nexus. A proposal might fail to satisfy a criterion in a meaningful way if it articulates only a vague intention to do so. A response might lack the relevant nexus to “serves rural populations,” for instance, if it would serve only an urban community.
- **Below expectations:** A proposal that scores “below expectations” in a category/criterion addresses that criterion but is insufficiently competitive or persuasive to justify a score of “meets expectations.” The proposal might aspire to do too little, for instance, such as only occasionally serving rural clients for the “serves rural populations” criterion. Or the proposal might lack sufficient detail, explanation, or basis in fact to demonstrate its contours or likelihood of success. Since such a proposal might still articulate a feasible project, this score confers some points.
- **Meets expectations:** A proposal that scores “meets expectations” in a category/criterion is competitive and persuasive with respect to that row of the rubric. To be competitive, the proposal will be sufficiently ambitious and/or compelling to merit the use of competitive funds. To be persuasive, the proposal will describe circumstances sufficiently probative of the applicant’s intention and ability to accomplish its stated objectives in that criterion.
- **Exceeds expectations:** A proposal that scores “exceeds expectations” in a

category/criterion satisfies the standard for “meets expectations” while standing out as particularly compelling or impressive. A project might be especially compelling, for instance, because its strategies or partnerships would be unusually impactful. Or the proposal might be exceptionally detailed, thorough, evidence-driven, or otherwise well-conceived and convincing.

HP 4 Grantmaking Timeline:

Date(s)*	Activity
August 31, 2022	Committee approves RFP and scoring rubric
September 9, 2022	Staff releases application
October 10, 2022	Applications due
October 19, 2022	Committee advises the scoring team/calibrates the rubric
October 20-November 11, 2022	Commissioner-staff team scores applications
December 1, 2022	Committee recommends awards
December 13, 2022	Commission approves awards
January 1, 2023	Grant period starts

*Dates are approximate to accommodate applicant, commissioner, and staff availability and needs.

RFP Application

A complete HP 4 application will include the components below. Please see the application instructions for detailed guidance.

- Form A: Project Profile**

The project profile will include high-level information about the project such as its award request, other funding (if any), and abstract.

- Form B: Project Description**

The project description will include detailed information about the project. This includes, for instance, the project’s need, clients, partnerships/subgrants, goals, activities, deliverables, and strategies for outreach, accessibility, and evaluation. It will also ask for detailed narratives about the applicant’s qualifications and resources to perform the work effectively.

- Form C: Project Budget**

The budget will include information on how the program proposes to allocate HP 4 funds to the project for 1.5 years. Applicants will need to identify staff by their role (e.g. “Managing attorney” or “Housing attorney”) and estimate the amount of time that these roles would spend on the project. The project staff, budget, and description should be consistent with one another.

- Form D: Budget Narrative**

The budget narrative will include information about each line of the budget, noting whether the grant will directly pay for specific items or be allocated on a percentage or other basis.

5. Form E: Project Assurances

Each applicant will have to acknowledge that:

1. It agrees that it will use funds it receives from the 2023-2024 homelessness prevention (HP 4) grant only for purposes stated in its application. Should the State Bar determine in its sole discretion that the applicant is unlikely to use all funds received for these purposes within the grant period, the applicant will return funds to the State Bar as directed by the State Bar.
2. It will not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disability, age, marital or domestic partnership status, medical condition, or sexual orientation.
3. It will comply with quality control procedures adopted by the State Bar of California (State Bar).
4. It will permit reasonable site visits and will present additional information deemed reasonably necessary to determine compliance with the terms of the grant.
5. It will comply with fiscal management and control procedures adopted by the State Bar.
6. It understands that any proposal submitted for an HP 4 grant, and all documents submitted pursuant to issuance of HP 4 funding, are public documents, and may be disclosed to any person.
7. It agrees it will file regular program and financial reports, as may be required by the State Bar, and cooperate with other data collection requests by the State Bar for this grant project.
8. The State Bar is permitted, in its sole discretion, to adjust Applicant's award at any time to reflect the actual amount of funding available for HP 4 grants. Consequently, grantees shall not be guaranteed any specific dollar amount in grant funds, or any grant funds at all, if funds received are insufficient or unavailable to the State Bar.

Reporting Requirements

Demonstrating effective use of these funds is critical to supporting future funds. Grantees must,

therefore, report quantitative and qualitative data describing their clients and activities. This data includes outcomes (main and economic benefits) tied to individual characteristics that demonstrate the value of these grants.

HP 4 grants must comply with the existing framework for Equal Access Program reporting except where necessary to meet other state requirements. Reporting requirements may be subject to guidance from the Department of Finance and other agencies. As such, some requirements might become known to the State Bar at a later date.

Reporting requirements will include:

1. Annual Expenditure Reports

Grantees will have to submit annual spending reports that compare expenditures to the approved budget. Grantees will have to report budget variances exceeding 10 percent to the State Bar as soon as possible.

2. Annual Services/Case Reports

Grantees will have to submit annual reports with client-level data on:

- A. Main benefits for all cases according to those codes and definitions in the *California Legal Aid Reporting Handbook* that are relevant to HP 4 funds. Programs will specify whether or not the main benefit is verified.
- B. Geographic and demographic data, tied to verified/not verified outcomes, for all clients.
- C. (To the extent possible) Economic benefits for cases that resulted in an award for or savings to the client.
- D. Highest levels of service for all cases where there was an attorney-client relationship and aggregated data about all other services (e.g. trainings) during the grant.
- E. Any other data necessary to comply with state reporting requirements.

3. A Final Evaluation Report

In addition to the regular services reports, organizations will have to submit a final evaluation about the following outputs and outcomes, among others:

- A. Service population: How did this project impact the people it served? What changed for them, or what negative outcomes were prevented?
- B. Community impact: Describe whether and how this project has changed the

community it serves.

- C. Evaluation/Assessment: Describe the processes used to assess the effectiveness of this project and any lessons learned regarding the project itself or the community it serves.
- D. Reports: Upload any report completed regarding the evaluation or assessment of this project or demonstrating the effect of services rendered (e.g., client satisfaction survey results, pre and post test results, number of cases in which stipulations were reached, number of trials, outcome of trials, etc.).
- E. Other impacts: Will this project have any immediate or long-term impacts that are not already captured in main benefits reporting?
- F. Continuation of the project: Describe any plans to continue the project after the grant period.
- G. Publications: Describe any future publication or distribution plans for materials resulting from grant activities; provide the URL for online resources related to this project (web sites, resource libraries, etc.).
- H. Impact work and materials:
 - Overview of impact litigation cases: For any grant-funded impact cases your organization litigated as part of this project during the grant period, whether open or closed, report the case name, number of individuals estimated to be impacted, date filed, venue, and any partners or co-counsel also participating.
 - Overview of public policy advocacy activities: Describe any grant-funded public policy advocacy activities, such as regulatory advocacy, your organization engaged in during the grant period. Remember that the legislature prohibited using these funds for legislative advocacy.
 - Training and support activities: Describe any grant-funded training or other support activities not identified above. For support centers, use this space to provide quantitative and qualitative data about trainings, convenings, research, and other support for qualified legal services projects.

For Technical Support

If you have any questions, please contact Christopher McConkey, Program Supervisor, at (213) 765-1505 or Christopher.McConkey@calbar.ca.gov.

ATTACHMENT B

Scores and Funding Recommendations for HP 4 Competitive Applications

Organization	County(ies) Served	# of Partners	# of Subgrants	Amount Requested	Proposed Amount Sub-Granted	Total Score	Funding Recomm.
Inner City Law Center	Statewide	5	4	\$1,500,000	\$400,000	93	\$1,500,000**
Wage Justice Center	Kern, Los Angeles, Ventura	1	1	\$1,320,738	\$150,000	90	\$800,000
Bay Area Legal Aid	Alameda, San Mateo	9	0	\$1,500,000	\$0	86	\$1,500,000
Public Counsel	Los Angeles	12	0	\$642,781	\$0	86	\$642,781
Family Violence Appellate Project	Statewide	2	2	\$525,000	\$22,500	85	\$525,000
Legal Aid of Sonoma County	Sonoma	1	1	\$491,500	\$18,000	84	\$491,500
National Housing Law Project	Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Mono, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tulare	1	1	\$300,000	\$150,000	83	\$300,000
California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform	Statewide	1	1	\$370,973	\$154,035	81	\$370,973**
Neighborhood Legal Services	Los Angeles	9	9	\$1,361,289	\$595,000	81	\$1,361,289

Organization	County(ies) Served	# of Partners	# of Subgrants	Amount Requested	Proposed Amount Sub-Granted	Total Score	Funding Recomm.
Public Advocates Inc.	Statewide	1	1	\$608,280	\$300,000	81	\$608,280
Family Violence Law Center	Alameda	10	10	\$330,397	\$150,000	80	\$330,397
Legal Aid at Work	Statewide	1	1	\$305,855	\$15,000	80	\$305,855
Western Center on Law and Poverty	Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tulare	2	2	\$1,500,000	\$900,000	80	\$1,500,000
Harriett Buhai Center for Family Law	Los Angeles	9	0	\$500,000	\$0	79	\$500,000
Legal Aid of Marin	Marin	2	2	\$454,000	\$112,380	79	\$454,000
Child Care Law Center	Sacramento, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Stanislaus	1	1	\$361,283	\$178,424	76	\$361,283
Riverside Legal Aid	Riverside	4	0	\$450,000	\$0	75	\$450,000
Elder Law & Advocacy	Imperial, San Diego	4	0	\$112,369	\$0	74	\$112,369**
Mental Health Advocacy Services	Los Angeles	1	1	\$360,000	\$43,415	74	\$360,000

Organization	County(ies) Served	# of Partners	# of Subgrants	Amount Requested	Proposed Amount Sub-Granted	Total Score	Funding Recomm.
Public Interest Law Project	Statewide	2	0	\$356,407	\$0	74	\$356,407
California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.	Colusa, Monterey, San Benito, San Joaquin, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Stanislaus, Sutter, Ventura, Yuba	0	0	\$1,050,000	\$0	71	\$1,050,000
OneJustice	Statewide	3	0	\$150,000	\$0	71	\$150,000
Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California	Los Angeles, Orange	2	2	\$1,500,000	\$200,000	70	*
Eviction Defense Collaborative	San Francisco	2	0	\$1,090,700	\$0	70	*
Disability Rights Legal Center	Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego	1	0	\$270,000	\$0	69	\$270,000
Inland Counties Legal Services	Riverside	1	0	\$369,752	\$0	69	\$369,752
Open Door Legal	San Francisco	2	1	\$450,000	\$100,000	69	\$450,000
Public Law Center	Orange	9	0	\$402,184	\$0	69	\$402,184
Veterans Legal Institute	Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino	6	0	\$253,044	\$0	69	\$253,044

Organization	County(ies) Served	# of Partners	# of Subgrants	Amount Requested	Proposed Amount Sub-Granted	Total Score	Funding Recomm.
Community Legal Aid SoCal	Los Angeles, Orange	1	1	\$799,866	\$25,000	68	\$799,866
Law Foundation of Silicon Valley	Santa Clara	4	0	\$1,060,000	\$0	68	\$1,060,000
Social Justice Collaborative	Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Joaquin, Stanislaus	1	0	\$598,182	\$0	67	\$598,182
Centro Legal de la Raza	Contra Costa	2	0	\$457,280	\$0	66	\$457,280**
La Raza Centro Legal	San Francisco, San Mateo	1	1	\$175,000	\$75,000	66	\$175,000
Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco	San Francisco	1	1	\$275,759	\$52,500	65	\$275,759
AIDS Legal Referral Panel	Marin, San Francisco, Solano, Sonoma	2	0	\$356,400	\$0	64	\$356,400
Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto	San Mateo, Santa Clara	3	0	\$210,905	\$0	64	\$210,905
Contra Costa Senior Legal Services	Contra Costa	1	0	\$82,837	\$0	60	\$82,837

Organization	County(ies) Served	# of Partners	# of Subgrants	Amount Requested	Proposed Amount Sub-Granted	Total Score	Funding Recomm.
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund	Statewide	0	0	\$102,972	\$0	60	\$102,972
Housing and Economic Rights Advocates	Imperial, Kern, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego	0	0	\$444,400	\$0	59	\$444,400
Legal Services for Seniors	Monterey	0	0	\$126,000	\$0	59	\$126,000
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights	Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, Sonoma	0	0	\$687,700	\$0	56	\$687,700**
Legal Services for Children	Alameda, San Francisco	0	0	\$500,001	\$0	56	\$500,001
LACBA Counsel for Justice	Los Angeles	0	0	\$329,850	\$0	53	\$329,850
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children	Alameda, Fresno, Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, Ventura	0	0	\$537,200	\$0	53	***
Senior Advocacy Network	Merced, Stanislaus	0	0	\$175,000	\$0	52	\$175,000
						Total	\$22,157,266

*The scoring team will provide oral updates about AAAJ-SoCal and EDC, and defers to the committee about the funding level for these organizations. The total funding recommendation does not include these proposals.

**The scoring team recommends funding CANHR, CentroLegal, ELA, ICLC, and LCCR fully, pending resolution of minor technical issues.

***The scoring team defers to the committee about whether to fund LSPC.

ATTACHMENT C

Breakdown of Scores for HP 4 Competitive Applications

Organization	Project Impact and Strategies	Admin.	Serves Rural Pop.	Serves Underserved Pop.	Project Evaluation	Partnerships	Total Score	Funding Recomm.
Inner City Law Center	23	15	15	10	15	15	93	\$1,500,000**
Wage Justice Center	20	10	15	15	15	15	90	\$800,000
Bay Area Legal Aid	21	15	10	15	10	15	86	\$1,500,000
Public Counsel	21	15	10	15	10	15	86	\$642,781
Family Violence Appellate Project	20	10	15	15	10	15	85	\$525,000
Legal Aid of Sonoma County	19	10	10	15	15	15	84	\$491,500
National Housing Law Project	18	15	15	10	10	15	83	\$300,000
California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform	16	10	15	15	10	15	81	\$370,973**
Neighborhood Legal Services	21	10	10	15	10	15	81	\$1,361,289
Public Advocates Inc.	16	10	15	15	10	15	81	\$608,280

Organization	Project Impact and Strategies	Admin.	Serves Rural Pop.	Serves Underserved Pop.	Project Evaluation	Partnerships	Total Score	Funding Recomm.
Family Violence Law Center	20	10	10	10	15	15	80	\$330,397
Legal Aid at Work	20	15	10	15	5	15	80	\$305,855
Western Center on Law and Poverty	20	10	15	15	10	10	80	\$1,500,000
Harriett Buhai Center for Family Law	19	10	5	15	15	15	79	\$500,000
Legal Aid of Marin	19	10	10	15	10	15	79	\$454,000
Child Care Law Center	21	10	10	15	5	15	76	\$361,283
Riverside Legal Aid	20	10	15	15	5	10	75	\$450,000
Elder Law & Advocacy	19	10	15	10	10	10	74	\$112,369**
Mental Health Advocacy Services	19	10	0	15	15	15	74	\$360,000
Public Interest Law Project	19	10	15	10	10	10	74	\$356,407

California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.	21	10	15	15	10	0	71	\$1,050,000
Organization	Project Impact and Strategies	Admin.	Serves Rural Pop.	Serves Underserved Pop.	Project Evaluation	Partnerships	Total Score	Funding Recomm.
OneJustice	16	10	15	10	10	10	71	\$150,000
Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California	20	10	0	15	10	15	70	*
Eviction Defense Collaborative	20	15	0	15	10	10	70	*
Disability Rights Legal Center	19	10	10	15	5	10	69	\$270,000
Inland Counties Legal Services	19	10	10	10	10	10	69	\$369,752
Open Door Legal	19	10	0	15	10	15	69	\$450,000
Public Law Center	19	10	0	15	10	15	69	\$402,184
Veterans Legal Institute	19	10	10	15	5	10	69	\$253,044
Community Legal Aid SoCal	23	15	0	10	5	15	68	\$799,866
Law Foundation of Silicon Valley	18	10	10	10	10	10	68	\$1,060,000

Social Justice Collaborative	17	5	10	15	10	10	67	\$598,182
Centro Legal de la Raza	21	10	0	15	10	10	66	\$457,280**
Organization	Project Impact and Strategies	Admin.	Serves Rural Pop.	Serves Underserved Pop.	Project Evaluation	Partnerships	Total Score	Funding Recomm.
La Raza Centro Legal	16	10	10	10	5	15	66	\$175,000
Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco	20	10	0	10	10	15	65	\$275,759
AIDS Legal Referral Panel	19	10	5	15	5	10	64	\$356,400
Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto	19	10	0	15	10	10	64	\$210,905
Contra Costa Senior Legal Services	20	10	0	10	10	10	60	\$82,837
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund	15	10	10	15	10	0	60	\$102,972
Housing and Economic Rights Advocates	19	10	10	15	5	0	59	\$444,400

Legal Services for Seniors	19	10	15	10	5	0	59	\$126,000
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Organization	Project Impact and Strategies	Admin.	Serves Rural Pop.	Serves Underserved Pop.	Project Evaluation	Partnerships	Total Score	Funding Recomm.
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights	21	10	0	15	10	0	56	\$687,700**
Legal Services for Children	21	10	0	15	10	0	56	\$500,001
LACBA Counsel for Justice	18	10	0	15	5	5	53	\$329,850
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children	13	10	10	15	5	0	53	***
Senior Advocacy Network	17	10	10	10	5	0	52	\$175,000
Total							221	\$22,157,266

Rubric Points Awarded						
	Project Impact and Strategies	Admin.	Serves Rural Pop.	Serves Underserved Pop.	Project Evaluation	Partnerships

Exceeds Expectations	21-25	15	15	15	15	15
Meets Expectations	11-20	10	10	10	10	10
	Project Impact and Strategies	Admin.	Serves Rural Pop.	Serves Underserved Pop.	Project Evaluation	Partnerships
Below Expectations	1-10	5	5	5	5	5
Not Addressed	0	0	0	0	0	0

*The scoring team will provide oral updates about AAAJ-SoCal and EDC, and defers to the committee about the funding level for these organizations. The total funding recommendation does not include these proposals.

**The scoring team recommends funding CANHR, CentroLegal, ELA, ICLC, and LCCR fully, pending resolution of minor technical issues.

***The scoring team defers to the committee about whether to fund LSPC.

2023-2024 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (HP 4) COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION PROFILE

Organization Name	Aids Legal Referral Panel		
Project Name	AIDS Housing Advocacy Project		
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted	
	\$ 356,400	\$0	
County(ies) Served	Marin, San Francisco, Solano, Sonoma		
Project Abstract	AIDS Legal Referral Panel will assign two full-time Housing Attorneys to provide eviction defense and other housing preservation legal services to low-income people with HIV who reside in San Francisco, with a focus on people who live in supportive housing, immigrants, and seniors. Funding will also pay for outreach and educational housing preservation trainings for residents of rural areas. Over the 18-month grant period, the project will provide full-scope direct representation in 150 cases, and provide trainings for 200 clients, including 50 clients in rural areas.		
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>AHAP's goal is to preserve stable housing and prevent homelessness for vulnerable people with HIV who are facing eviction, habitability issues, accommodation issues, and other housing threats. We provide full-scope eviction defense to San Francisco residents who have been served with unlawful detainer lawsuits or formal termination notices. For residents of San Francisco and other counties, including residents of rural areas, we provide outreach and educational trainings that can help preserve housing by empowering tenants to advocate for their own fair housing rights. Our objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over the 18-month grant period, two full-time Housing Attorneys will provide direct legal services in housing matters to 120 clients in 150 cases, with an objective of helping clients retain their housing in at least 80% of cases. • Over the 18-month grant period, ALRP staff will provide educational housing preservation trainings to 200 participants, including 50 clients who live in rural areas. 		
Rural Communities	Rural portions of Marin, Solano, and Sonoma counties		
Underserved Communities (Identify the communities and explain the barriers.)	Our underserved community is low-income people with HIV. People with HIV often experience multiple legal problems at once, making barriers to civil justice even higher. In response, ALRP serves clients holistically, assisting clients with all civil legal matters, and it is not uncommon for a single client to have more than one case with us at one time. A client may come to us with a housing issue, but upon intake, we might learn that their inability to pay rent is because of an interruption in their government benefits. The breadth of our services means that we can help clients address a number of challenges to their overall health and well-being. Our only eligibility requirements are Bay Area residency and an HIV diagnosis.		
	Number of Partners	Number of Subgrants	Dates of Collaborations
	2	0	1/1/2016 1/1/2019
Collaboration Explanation (Describe how the applicant and partners will work together.)	<p>ALRP partners with the Eviction Defense Collaborative (EDC) and Legal Assistance to the Elderly (LAE).</p> <p>EDC is the lead agency contracting with the City of San Francisco to coordinate eviction defense services amongst a network of legal aid organizations. ALRP has a subcontract with EDC to provide full-scope legal representation for people living with HIV who are facing an eviction in San Francisco. When EDC determines that a client qualifies for ALRP's services, the client is referred directly to ALRP. We apprise EDC of our progress in the case,</p>		

	<p>and formally report case outcomes via a centralized portal shared by all the providers under San Francisco's Tenant Right to Counsel. Our MOU with EDC supports several staff positions in our housing team.</p> <p>Our MOU with LAE supports a Social Worker whose time is shared between LAE and ALRP. The Social Worker bolsters our eviction prevention legal services, connecting clients who are at risk of homelessness with other essential services. This partnership with LAE is especially beneficial for the growing number of ALRP clients who are over 60 years old. We collaborate through our social worker to tailor services to the particular needs of seniors living with HIV.</p>
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2023-2024 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (HP 4) COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION PROFILE

Organization Name	Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California	
Project Name	Eviction and Tenant Defense Project	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 1,500,000	\$200,000
County(ies) Served	Los Angeles, Orange	
Project Abstract	<p>Through this proposed project, AJSOCAL will cover home foreclosure prevention, tenant defense and eviction cases for underserved immigrant, LEP and/or low-income communities in Los Angeles and Orange Counties. It will focus on members of the AAPI community in LA and Orange Counties where the AAPI population is 18% and 25%, respectively, who are experiencing housing instability or are at risk of homelessness. AJSOCAL will focus on high-need cities and regions that include, but are not limited to, Pasadena, Long Beach, Norwalk, Pomona, West Covina, and Orange County (particularly Garden Grove, Westminster, Santa Ana, Fullerton, and Buena Park). The AAPI community in the abovementioned cities ranges from 12% to 52% of the population. AJSOCAL will provide community education workshops, legal clinics, and other activities. Community education workshops and legal clinics will be provided in-language by AJSOCAL attorneys and staff. AJSOCAL currently has the capacity to provide these services in 8 Asian languages (Cantonese, Mandarin, Korean, Khmer, Vietnamese, Thai, Hindi, and Tagalog). In-language legal services will include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Pre-eviction and eviction legal services which include eviction defense such as court representation and In Pro Per filings; b. Tenant defense assistance in rental disputes including counsel and advice, negotiation, and brief service including tenant rights letter to landlord regarding habitability, rent increase, rent collection, repairs, harassment, and security deposits; c. Community education regarding tenant rights; and d. Homeowner foreclosure prevention, counseling and education in collaboration with community partners. 	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>Goal 1: Provide eviction and tenant defense legal assistance serving a minimum of 203 services/cases over 18 months.</p> <p>Activity 1.1: Tenants will receive pre-eviction and eviction legal services including defense services like legal representation and In Pro Per filing.</p> <p>Activity 1.2: Tenants will receive defense assistance in rental disputes, including: counsel and advice; negotiation; and brief services including tenant rights letter to landlord regarding habitability, rent increase, rent collection, harassment, repairs, and security deposits.</p> <p>Goal 2: Develop and disseminate in-language tenant rights education materials in Korean, Thai, Tagalog, Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Hindi and Khmer.</p> <p>Activity 2.1: Create in-language fact sheets and flyers on the following topics: foreclosure prevention, tenant rights, habitability, eviction process, discrimination, rent control, and how to represent yourself in eviction trial.</p> <p>Activity 2.2: Develop in-language tenant rights messaging for dissemination through ethnic and social media platforms. Utilize AJSOCAL and community partners' social media channels and ethnic media contacts to release regular articles regarding tenant rights.</p> <p>Goal 3: Collaborate with subgrantees to strengthen partnerships and increase service visibility to increase reach in the AAPI community in need of legal services.</p>	

	<p>Activity 3.1: OCAPICA and Shalom Center will each make 135 referrals to AJSOCAL for legal issues and partner on 7-8 community outreach and education events over 18 months.</p> <p>Activity 3.2: OCAPICA and Shalom Center will provide input on the development of in-language outreach and education materials, strategize and plan for outreach events, and utilize their ethnic media contacts and social media platforms to disseminate information.</p>		
Rural Communities	None		
Underserved Communities (Identify the communities and explain the barriers.)	<p>For nearly 40 decades, ASOCAL has offered multilingual and culturally competent legal services to immigrant communities. It is the only legal service provider in the region that maintains this capacity, and thus, is an important resource for many indigent, LEP AAPIs who need assistance. For this project, AJSOCAL will serve immigrant, LEP, and/or low-income immigrant tenants, with a focus on AAPI community members who face major challenges to housing security. Over 1/5th of AAPI renters are severely housing cost-burdened. Additionally, between 2020-1, sheltered homeless individuals identifying as Asian American and Pacific Islander in the US increased by 10.2 and 12.5%, respectively. Immigrant, LEP, and low-income AAPIs are among our communities most vulnerable. Priority will be given to clients who are survivors of domestic violence, elderly, disabled, and/or those who have been a victim of illegal or frivolous actions by their landlords as these subpopulations are especially underserved and hard to reach. Such tenants often face language barriers and have a general lack of understanding and access to the legal system, thus losing their chance to properly assert their rights and ultimately losing their homes without participating in the proper process. As such, AJSOCAL and its partners will conduct in-language outreach to those in need of legal services and provide community education regarding tenant rights and housing issues and representation in the court system in 8 AAPI languages. AJSOCAL and its subgrantees will also assist homeowners in danger of losing their homes through foreclosure due to financial difficulties.</p>		
	Number of Partners	Number of Subgrants	Dates of Collaborations
	2	2	12/21/2021 12/15/2017
Collaboration Explanation (Describe how the applicant and partners will work together.)	<p>OCAPICA was established in 1997 and its program areas include mental health, health, workforce development, education, and policy, and since July 2020, a housing assistance program. OCAPICA has been a community partner of AJSOCAL for many years. AJSOCAL and OCAPICA have worked together to uplift issues of anti-Asian discrimination, domestic violence, immigration, census outreach, ethnic media coverage, and outreach and education to and referral of community members in need of legal services to AJSOCAL. Since December 2021, AJSOCAL has partnered with OCAPICA as an effective outreach and education source, by which our Eviction and Tenant Defense unit receives housing related case referrals. We have jointly educated at risk tenants in Orange County of their housing rights.</p> <p>As a subgrantee, OCAPICA will collaborate with AJSOCAL on community education and outreach, ethnic media engagement, and refer community members to AJSOCAL for legal services focused on tenant rights issues for AAPI community. OCAPICA will leverage its organizational outreach and education activities to uplift issues related to tenant rights for the AAPI community and simultaneously promote AJSOCAL's legal clinics and legal services. OCAPICA will make at 135 referrals to AJSOCAL for legal issues and partner on 7 to 8 community outreach and education events over the 18-month funding period .</p>		

	<p>OCAPICA will provide to AJSOCAL monthly expense invoices and quarterly written progress and financial reports to facilitate HP4 reporting.</p> <p>Subgrantee Shalom Center for T.R.E.E. of Life ("Shalom Center") has been serving LA and Orange County communities since it was established in 1997. For over 20 years it has been providing comprehensive housing counseling, training, and advocacy services to help low-income and/or immigrant tenants and homebuyers secure and maintain safe and affordable housing. Shalom Center is a very well-suited subgrantee to this grant as its goal is to prevent homelessness and promote long-term housing opportunities by providing families and communities with the skills and confidence necessary to gain control over their own lives and environment. It has partnered with AJSOCAL for the last 5 years on home preservation assistance to homeowners in Los Angeles and Orange Counties by providing foreclosure prevention and loan modification counseling to mutual clients.</p> <p>With the subgrant, Shalom Center will collaborate with AJSOCAL on community education and outreach, ethnic media engagement, and referring community members to AJSOCAL for legal services focused on tenant rights issues. Shalom Center will also provide homeowners with individualized foreclosure prevention and loan modification counseling. Shalom Center will make at 135 referrals to AJSOCAL for legal issues and partner on 7-8 community outreach and education events over the 18-month funding period. Shalom Center will provide monthly expense invoice to AJSOCAL and written quarterly progress and financial reports to AJSOCAL to facilitate HP4 reporting.</p>
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2023-2024 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (HP 4) COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION PROFILE

Organization Name	Bay Area Legal Aid	
Project Name	Homelessness Prevention in Alameda and San Mateo Counties	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 1,500,000	\$0
County(ies) Served	Alameda, San Mateo	
Project Abstract	<p>Bay Area Legal Aid's homelessness prevention project has two components: In Alameda County, we will provide housing advocacy to keep extremely low-income residents housed, prioritizing survivors of domestic violence and people with disabilities. Our housing advocacy will include eviction defense, fair housing advocacy, efforts to prevent wrongful terminations and denials of housing subsidies, and advocacy to enforce specific legal protections available for survivors of domestic violence and people with disabilities. In San Mateo County, we will provide domestic violence, family law and immigration services to survivors who are displaced or at risk of homelessness, to achieve greater safety and housing stability for survivors and their children.</p> <p>In both project components, we will collaborate closely with our community partners and engage in outreach efforts to ensure we are most effective in reaching our target populations. Given the disproportionate impact of homelessness on marginalized communities, we will integrate a race equity and intersectional lens throughout all facets of our advocacy and client and community engagement.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>The goal of the Alameda component is to help extremely low-income tenants maintain their housing, prioritizing survivors of domestic violence and people with disabilities. The Alameda housing team will assist a total of 360 tenants per year with a full range of legal services. The team will also provide 13 outreach events per year that target survivors of domestic violence and people with disabilities, as well as community service providers that work with these populations.</p> <p>In San Mateo, the goal of the project is to help fleeing survivors and those at risk of homelessness by achieving safety and stability for themselves and their children. We pursue these goals by helping survivors separate from their abusers, gain financial support, protect their children, access supportive services, and establish or adjust legal immigration status. The project is expected to assist 90 survivors with pro se restraining order applications. Staff will complete 52 legal cases per year, which may include help with restraining orders, child and spousal support orders, and immigration relief (including U Visa and VAWA applications) – critical steps in obtaining stability and safety. We will also conduct two outreach events per year aimed at reaching survivors in rural parts of San Mateo County. Capacity for RO services, as well as family law and immigration representation, is enhanced by closely supervised pro bono attorneys and advocates.</p>	
Rural Communities	<p>Although Alameda County is primarily urban, the southeastern quarter is MSSA-identified as a rural area. By design, our Tenants' Rights Line is accessible county-wide, making legal advice within reach for residents of rural communities. Similarly, since the pandemic necessitated implementing effective remote service models, our housing team is better able to represent clients living in the County's rural zone. That region encompasses a portion of Livermore, where we have an established relationship with Tri-Valley Haven, a domestic violence shelter, and will continue to provide outreach and legal support to their participants.</p>	

	<p>While San Mateo County includes numerous densely populated major urban areas, it also includes rural ranching and farming communities. Particularly along the western coast and southwestern portions of the county (MSSA-identified as rural), residents tend to live in much less dense communities that are isolated from major city centers by lack of public transportation. BayLegal services are accessible to survivors in these communities through a survivor-specific queue of our Legal Advice Line, as well as through phone and video appointments with attorneys in our Redwood City office. Moreover, BayLegal frequently provides help with electronic filing of restraining order petitions and other paperwork for survivors who are unable to access the court's in-person filing process.</p>		
<p>Underserved Communities (Identify the communities and explain the barriers.)</p>	<p>DV survivors in both San Mateo and Alameda counties are an underserved population. BayLegal is the only public interest law firm in San Mateo providing representation to survivors in all aspects of violence prevention, family law, and survivor-based immigration matters. Our Alameda office has long standing housing and domestic violence practices and boasts a rare depth of expertise at the intersection of DV and housing law. For survivors, attempting to access legal services presents a very real risk to their safety and the safety of their children. Moreover, BayLegal's internal Case Acceptance Guidelines emphasize providing services to survivors who are Limited English Proficient (LEP), disabled, a member of a marginalized group, or have other significant legal needs. Survivors facing these barriers are frequently unable to access resources available to others, such as the courts' self-help centers, which usually require individuals to read, write, and speak English.</p> <p>People with disabilities face higher barriers to accessing civil justice due to physical environments that are not accessible, lack of assistive technology, attitudinal barriers such as stigma and stereotyping, and lack of transportation. Someone with a cognitive disability may experience the additional barrier of navigating the legal world, which uses technical language, moves quickly, and has complex rules to follow. Beyond trying to advocate for their legal rights, a disabled person must advocate for themselves to get physical access to a courthouse or administrative office, or advocate for a form of communication that will help them file the necessary court paperwork.</p>		
	<p>Number of Partners</p> <p>9</p>	<p>Number of Subgrants</p> <p>0</p>	<p>Dates of Collaborations</p> <p>1/1/2000 * 5/25/2012 6/30/2017 6/1/2018</p>
<p>Collaboration Explanation (Describe how the applicant and partners will work together.)</p>	<p>BayLegal is in a unique position to address the housing legal issues of people with disabilities in Alameda County. We have a robust medical-legal partnership with the Community Health Center Network (CHCN), a consortium of community health clinics in Alameda County. These clinics serve people at risk of homelessness and people with severe disabilities. Well-established partnerships with the local health clinics and community health workers allow us to address the legal needs of their clients with disabilities who have barriers to accessing legal services.</p> <p>BayLegal also has a longstanding relationship spanning more than two decades with domestic violence shelters in Alameda County (Tri-Valley Haven, Building Futures with Women and Children, SAVE). For instance, we intentionally established a direct referral pipeline between BayLegal and SAVE, because SAVE is located in the south of the county where there are limited legal and social services for survivors. We also train shelter staff and clients around legal rights and present in annual trainings as part of their 40-hour DV advocate certification program. We involve attorneys from our various legal teams to provide tailored trainings on the legal rights of survivors in the areas of public benefits,</p>		

	<p>housing, and family law. We have also advocated together over the years on systemic issues impacting survivors, with homelessness and the coordinated entry system among the most important issues we are currently addressing.</p> <p>Our Tenants' Rights Line works closely with Alameda County Housing Secure, a county-wide anti-displacement collaborative led by El Centro Legal de la Raza. The coalition's Peer-to-Peer program operates as a cross-referral network among fellow legal services providers, helping firms resolve conflict issues and connecting tenants to a firm with expertise suited to their case.</p> <p>In San Mateo County, BayLegal has collaborated for many years with CORA, LASSMC, and the Superior Court. All refer survivors to BayLegal through our Legal Advice Line, pro se Domestic Violence Restraining Order clinic, and/or warm hand-offs. In addition, BayLegal frequently refers clinic participants and clients to CORA for counseling, shelter, and other supportive services. The Court helps to facilitate our restraining order filings and facilitates our ability to support pro bono attorneys during their court appearances. They have also provided a modest annual grant in support of the clinic since at least 2007. LASSMC and BayLegal frequently provide technical assistance to each other in areas where each has substantive expertise. In 2017, our four organizations created the San Mateo County Pro Bono Collaborative (PBC) to help survivors obtain protective orders and place some with pro bono representation, expanding the availability of full-scope legal assistance. PBC members recruit, train and mentor pro bono attorneys, most of whom are associates at large Silicon Valley private firms or corporate counsel offices. Finally, BayLegal has an operational agreement with San Mateo County Victim Services to provide cross referrals and training, and coordinate support for survivors of domestic violence. BayLegal has also regularly participated in outreach events held by this office.</p> <p>BayLegal's partnerships with all of the organizations who will play a role in the proposed project have been in place since well before June 2022 – most since the firm's inception in 2000. Because of the length of these relationships, documents citing the exact initiation dates are not available for all partners. Attached are the earliest examples that are readily available, with some documentation going back more than a decade.</p>
	<p>*Six partnerships began on January 1, 2000.</p>

2023-2024 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (HP 4) COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION PROFILE

Organization Name	California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform	
Project Name	HCBS Access Project	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 370,973	\$154,035
County(ies) Served	Alameda, Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Los Angeles, Madera, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Mono, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Placer, Plumas, Riverside, Sacramento, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, Ventura, Yolo, Yuba	
Project Abstract	<p>CANHR's Home and Community Based Services Access Project will increase consumer and legal services staff understanding of Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) benefits which provide housing or income to improve housing stability. CANHR will develop an HCBS Navigation Webpage, with resources for QLSP staff and consumers on benefits and advocacy strategies for receiving services which pay for needed residential or nursing care, or provide income and services to stabilize housing.</p> <p>In partnership with Legal Assistance for Seniors (LAS), CANHR will offer consumer education, along with training and technical assistance for legal services staff, to increase the number of low-income older adults and individuals with disabilities who access HCBS. CANHR and LAS will co-host workshops to increase the capacity of QLSP staff to connect clients to services, and advocate on their behalf when benefits are denied.</p> <p>The project will provide training related to programs including the Assisted Living Waiver, In Home Supportive Services, and PACE, which offer support with housing and maintenance of income. Through LAS, older adults in Alameda County will receive direct representation regarding HCBS issues, or other advocacy support needed to stabilize housing. With CANHR's support, LAS will add HCBS denials to the list of benefits for which the agency can provide direct support. The project will create education fact sheets on each HCBS program, including advocacy strategies, and sample advocacy letters. CANHR will also convene an HCBS stakeholder workgroup to engage in policy advocacy with the goal of improving access to services and service delivery.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>CANHR's goals and deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create 5 educational fact sheets on HCBS programs, translated into Spanish. Distribute to QLSPs and community-based organizations for dissemination to consumers. • Provide in depth training to LAS staff, and support LAS in answering consumer hotline calls or direct representation of consumers. • Provide training to QLSPs through 3 events for staff across California, with one longer "intensive" to build capacity in supporting clients with HCBS access and denial of benefits. Training topics will include HCBS programs, eligibility criteria, and advocacy strategies and regulations which support civil legal services. • Provide technical assistance or training to specific QLSP programs on project topics as requested. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene a statewide HCBS-Focused Workgroup with representatives of QLSPs and advocates to discuss barriers to services, highlight areas for improvement, and develop policy recommendations. • Research nationwide HCBS implementation to support the development of policy recommendations for California. • Conduct 4 educational events for social workers on project topics. • Provide 3 consumer education presentations on HCBS. <p>LAS' goals and deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host 6 educational presentations for older adults, providing an overview of HCBS and common issues that arise when seeking benefits. • Co-present QLSP training, to ensure California's legal aid community is effectively advocating for clients around HCBS benefits. • Provide direct representation to 30 older adults in Alameda County regarding HCBS access issues. LAS will also provide other legal, HICAP and case management services to meet client needs. 		
Rural Communities	<p>CANHR provides training, assistance and advocacy support to QLSPs across California serving rural communities. This project will focus on 12 specific counties regarding policy advocacy to bring available HCBS programs to those counties. These are Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Inyo, Kings, Madera, Marin, Mariposa, Merced, Mono, Napa, and Tulare. Subcontractor Legal Assistance for Seniors will serve the rural communities of Altamont, Livermore East, Midway, Mountain House and Scotts Corner in Alameda county.</p>		
Underserved Communities (Identify the communities and explain the barriers.)	<p>This project connects low income underserved populations including individuals with disabilities, those with limited English proficiency, immigrants, and older adults, particularly those living in rural areas, with needed services to prevent homelessness or improve housing stability. HCBS programs can be confusing and difficult to understand for even the most experienced, English-speaking professionals. Underserved communities identified for this project face many barriers to accessing civil justice due to lower literacy levels, a lack of information available in languages other than English, and a lack of access to the internet. Due to a lack of available policy information for some HCBS programs, such as the ALW, many QLSPs are limited in their ability to represent underserved communities in accessing civil justice, as there is little to cite when fighting to restore benefits.</p> <p>Population trends show the number of individuals over the age of 65 is expected to increase exponentially in the next decade, and that the population of homeless older adults will likely double by the year 2050 (M William Sermons and Meghan Henry, Homelessness Research Institute, Demographics of Homelessness Series: Rising Elderly Population, (April 2010). Older adults typically have greater out of pocket health care costs than the rest of the population, which coupled with rising housing costs in California, leads to greater risk of homelessness. Many seniors, living on a fixed retirement income, are paying too much for housing and health care, with little saved for unexpected incidents like hospitalizations after an accident or loss of current housing.</p>		
	Number of Partners	Number of Subgrants	Dates of Collaborations
	1	1	1/1/2020
Collaboration Explanation	<p>Legal Assistance for Seniors (LAS), a non-profit qualified legal services provider located in Alameda County, works to ensure the independence and dignity of seniors by protecting their legal rights through education, counseling, and advocacy. LAS is currently a subcontractor for CANHR's Home Equity Protection Program, funded by the State Bar. This</p>		

<p>(Describe how the applicant and partners will work together.)</p>	<p>relationship has supported our agencies in developing methods for communicating grant outcomes and data collection to meet grant requirements. LAS and CANHR regularly meet to discuss timelines, objectives, and deliverables, and will maintain this communication during the implementation of this project.</p> <p>CANHR will provide capacity building training and technical assistance to LAS staff for the first 6 months of program implementation. During the last year of the project, LAS staff will provide direct client representation related to acquisition or denial of HCBS, and may address other intersecting issues including Medicare, social security income, and other advocacy support needed to stabilize housing. The LAS Advocate and Attorney working on this project would co-host 2 training sessions with CANHR staff for QLSPs, offering valuable advocacy strategies gleaned from their direct client work.</p> <p>CANHR will meet with LAS beginning in January 2023, and then quarterly, to review timelines and deliverables, and to plan upcoming events. CANHR will also be available for case consults as needed, once LAS begins taking on clients for direct representation. As a State Bar funded QLSP, LAS is accustomed to required data collection, and would work with CANHR to complete grant reports in a timely manner.</p>
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2023-2024 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (HP 4) COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION PROFILE

Organization Name	California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.	
Project Name	Rural Eviction and Mobilehome Ownership Defense Project	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 1,050,000	\$0
County(ies) Served	Colusa, Monterey, San Benito, San Joaquin, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Stanislaus, Sutter, Ventura, Yuba	
Project Abstract	<p>CRLA will continue its existing housing helpline and further transform its eviction defense efforts to (1) expand services under the existing eviction defense project into three underserved North Valley counties, (2) continue to prioritize unlawful detainer defense and defend tenants in court, (3) expand services to more Central Coast counties, and (4) add mobilehome park residents whose homeownership is threatened by eviction under a broader Rural Eviction and Mobilehome Ownership Defense Project. The only way to keep tenants housed and prevent more families from becoming homeless is to represent clients in court when they are being unlawfully evicted – and win those cases. Providing advice or threatening bad landlords and mobilehome park owners with cease-and-desist letters, if not backed up by holding them accountable in court, is insufficient to prevent homelessness and preserve mobilehome ownership. CRLA will continue to provide pre-eviction advice and consultation to folks facing through our housing helpline services. CRLA will also expand renter and mobilehome owner education to improve housing stability through unlawful detainer answer and trial preparation workshops and Know-Your-Rights materials. Finally, CRLA will represent and defend those facing eviction through a litigation unit expanded to cover 11 Central Valley and Central Coast counties.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>CRLA's Tenant Justice program pursues three key goals: 1) to expand access to housing rights information in regions hardest hit by California's housing crisis; 2) to increase tenant defense assistance; and 3) to prevent eviction and displacement. With subsequent rounds of Homelessness Prevention funding, CRLA has been able to deepen litigation services through a regional oversight model and expand renter Know Your Rights education and workshop options, with the three goals remaining the team's primary focus. With HP 4 funding CRLA will expand into the Rural Eviction and Mobilehome Ownership Defense Project, extending full-scope representation into Yuba and Sutter counties. With a staff attorney hired in the North Valley, we estimate that we will be able to provide full representation in 25 unlawful detainer cases across the three chronically underserved rural/frontier counties.</p> <p>CRLA will add services for mobilehome park residents facing eviction and expand services to Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Monterey counties with HP 4 funds. We estimate that the expanded program could serve 120 mobilehome park residents over the 18-month performance period. CRLA expects that consistent with its existing eviction defense services for tenants in private housing, at least 10% of these clients will receive extended services including representation, with the remaining up to 90% receiving brief services or advice/counsel. Our outcome goal will be to close at least 50% of cases to the client's benefit, as demonstrated by verified main and/or economic benefits in alignment with reporting guidance in the State Bar's California Legal Aid Reporting Handbook.</p>	
Rural Communities	The existing eviction defense project serves tenants in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus counties. All five counties have substantial areas	

	<p>classified as Rural Medical Service Study Areas, with San Luis Obispo classified as entirely Rural.</p> <p>With HP 4 funding CRLA will expand into the Rural Eviction and Mobilehome Ownership Defense Project, extending full-scope representation to Yuba and Sutter counties, classified as Rural Medical Service Study Areas, and Colusa County, which is classified as Rural and Frontier. CRLA would also add services for mobilehome park residents facing eviction and expand services to Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Monterey counties with HP 4 funds. Santa Cruz and San Benito are mixed Rural-Urban counties, while Monterey is mixed Frontier-Rural-Urban.</p>		
<p>Underserved Communities (Identify the communities and explain the barriers.)</p>	<p>In addition to serving low-income individuals and families in primarily rural areas across 11 counties, CRLA will focus on particularly underserved populations within these communities. CRLA will target services to mobilehome owners and renters facing eviction. Within this population, CRLA will seek to ensure access to services for immigrants including Indigenous residents, non-dominant language users including those with limited English proficiency, people reentering communities after contact with the criminal justice system, people with disabilities, and seniors. Affordable rental housing units and mobilehome parks are predominantly occupied by members of these communities. Extremely limited housing stock and prohibitive costs particularly affect certain vulnerable populations that tend to have the lowest incomes and experience additional barriers to housing access. California has especially low vacancy rates, an inadequate and vulnerable supply of affordable homes available to low-income households, and unsustainable housing cost burdens.</p> <p>Mobilehome park residents face a wide range of issues arising under the Mobilehome Residency Law (MRL) and other state and federal laws. Despite homeownership, they contend with park eviction, title and ownership problems, utility disputes with park ownership, and harassment by park owners.</p>		
	Number of Partners	Number of Subgrants	Dates of Collaborations
	0	0	0
<p>Collaboration Explanation (Describe how the applicant and partners will work together.)</p>	<p>CRLA does not plan for formal partnerships and does not plan to subgrant funds. Our staff work extensively with community benefit organizations in the many counties we serve and engage with local government agencies as well. However, due to the breadth and scope of our project plan, we have not found a partner that would fit appropriately with this workplan.</p>		

2023-2024 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (HP 4) COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION PROFILE

Organization Name	Centro Legal de la Raza	
Project Name	Eviction Prevention for Undocumented & Underserved Communities in Contra Costa County	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 457,280	\$0
County(ies) Served	Contra Costa	
Project Abstract	<p>Centro Legal proposes expanding on our existing efforts to disrupt the insidious imbalance of power between tenants and landlords in Contra Costa County by: 1) creating a more integrated pipeline for legal representation for marginalized groups; and 2) specifically serving tenants who have historically been underserved by pre-existing services - primarily undocumented and immigrant tenants.</p> <p>Our focus is on underserved communities, specifically undocumented tenants who are often ineligible for services due to funding restrictions. Clients face language and technological barriers, complex eligibility requirements, retraumatization, and fear of immigration consequences, all of which hinder access to eviction protection services. By working with EBASE and other CBOs embedded in the community, we will receive warm referrals and strengthen the network of support. We will also receive referrals from organizations such as BayLegal that cannot assist undocumented tenants. Through these partnerships and others, as well as internal referrals from Centro's Immigrants' Rights Practice, this project will greatly strengthen the homeless prevention safety net for undocumented and other underserved communities.</p> <p>Centro will provide holistic eviction defense and anti-displacement services to underserved community members through legal representation, legal advice, and monthly know-your-rights presentations. Most cities in Contra Costa County lack strong tenant protections, and others have very new protections. This project will place an emphasis on upstream services to intervene sooner and eliminate the risk of eviction, displacement, or homelessness before the tenant is in crisis. We will also provide high-quality, full-scope representation to those tenants who need it most.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>This Project will expand existing tenant legal services to low-income tenants of underserved communities in Contra Costa County, in particular undocumented and immigrant tenants, by building upon the existing infrastructure built through Alameda County anti-displacement collaborative efforts.</p> <p>This Project would ensure that low-income tenants receive the services they need to protect their rights and stay in their homes. Efforts will be focused on increasing access to high-quality tenant legal services and tenant rights awareness in communities that have high rates of low-income tenants at risk of eviction, but historically low supply of free legal assistance. This includes both monolingual immigrant and undocumented communities throughout Contra Costa County, as well as smaller underserved geographies such as East County that do not have a well established history of tenant protections and legal service providers. Centro Legal will provide services to tenants from the greater Contra Costa County area, and target underserved extremely low-income tenants through culturally relevant and multilingual outreach efforts.</p> <p>Centro Legal will provide legal consultations, legal representation, and know your rights education to tenants. Legal services and tenant education for Spanish speakers will be provided by Centro staff. Services in other languages will be provided utilizing a translation</p>	

	service. Our approach focuses on strengthening and leveraging partnerships with other CBOs to provide a stronger support system and reach tenants early, focusing on upstream prevention to eliminate risks of homelessness and prevention before an eviction case has been filed, and preserving downstream representation for those most in need.		
Rural Communities	None		
Underserved Communities (Identify the communities and explain the barriers.)	<p>This Project specifically aims to target undocumented and immigrant communities, who face greater barriers in achieving housing stability for multiple reasons, including language barriers, fear of retaliation and immigration consequences if they report any housing issues to landlords, and as the EBASE letter of support outlines, landlords' beliefs that undocumented and immigrant tenants are powerless and thus easier to exploit than other communities. Undocumented and immigrant communities also face higher barriers to accessing civil justice due to funding restrictions of some other organizations, and a fear of immigration consequences if they seek out support. See Gonzalez, Karpman, & Caraveo, Immigrant Communities in California Faced Barriers to Accessing Safety Net Programs in 2021, but Community Organizations Helped Many Enroll (Urban Institute, August 2022). Other marginalized communities will also be served by this Project, including tenants with disabilities and survivors of domestic violence, who are less likely to seek out assistance, more likely to face harassment, and less able to effectively advocate without the assistance of an attorney.</p> <p>This Project will build power in these communities, provide high-quality legal services to these underserved communities, and keep tenants safely, stably housed.</p>		
	Number of Partners	Number of Subgrants	Dates of Collaborations
	2	0	7/1/2020 5/22/2018
Collaboration Explanation (Describe how the applicant and partners will work together.)	<p>Centro Legal will continue to collaborate with other legal and non-legal CBOs to ensure coordinated referral and service delivery for homeless prevention. Centro Legal has an established referral process with both East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy (EBASE) and Bay Area Legal Aid (BayLegal). Through these partnerships, we are able to streamline referrals and provide coordinated services to better support clients that may face barriers to accessing housing services.</p> <p>This project will leverage EBASE's strong connection to the community through its organizers to identify and lift up the representation needs of undocumented tenants and other underserved community members who might not otherwise seek out the assistance of an attorney. Centro's partnership with EBASE began in 2020, when Centro first expanded into Contra Costa County. Since then, EBASE and Centro have worked collaboratively to identify community needs and to advocate for those most impacted by the housing crisis. We work jointly on a separate grant focused on advocacy to pass strong local tenant protections. While we will not conduct any advocacy work as part of this Project, our connection to marginalized communities, particularly undocumented communities, will be greatly strengthened through that complementary work, which will help us to foster strong, trusting relationships with undocumented tenants in the community and enable us to represent more tenants who would not otherwise receive representation. We will monitor the number of referrals received by EBASE using our Salesforce system, and will check in monthly with EBASE in order to ensure that we are reaching the populations we aim to serve most and meeting our Project goals.</p> <p>This Project will also leverage our partnership with BayLegal, and their strong community presence and Legal Advice Line. BayLegal receives referrals for undocumented tenants</p>		

	<p>that they cannot serve due to funding restrictions. BayLegal and Centro have had a strong partnership for many years, but particularly since June 2018, when we launched Alameda County Housing Secure, an anti-displacement collaborative. Since then, we have worked collaboratively, attended eviction defenders meetings to strategize about eviction defense and anti-displacement efforts, and made streamlined referrals between our organizations to serve tenants in Alameda County. We extended this same model into Contra Costa County in 2021, but have not yet integrated referrals for Contra Costa County into a Salesforce hosted peer-to-peer referral system (P2P). Through this Project, we will streamline this referral process by integrating them into the P2P system, and will place particular emphasis on receiving referrals for undocumented tenants, as well as of other underserved community members, using a prioritization matrix through Salesforce. We will monitor the number of referrals received by BayLegal using our Salesforce system, and will check in monthly with BayLegal in order to ensure that we are reaching the populations we aim to serve most and meeting our Project goals.</p>
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2023-2024 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (HP 4) COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION PROFILE

Organization Name	Child Care Law Center	
Project Name	CCLC-Project Sentinel Partnership Grant	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 361,283	\$178,424
County(ies) Served	Sacramento, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Stanislaus	
Project Abstract	<p>The core aspect of this proposed activity is to conduct fair housing testing related to licensed home-based child care providers (“family child care providers”). Fair housing testing will help identify and challenge discrimination, preventing future housing discrimination of family child care providers. This activity will help prevent homelessness by targeting housing discrimination, one of the main causes of housing instability for family child care providers while applying for rental homes.</p> <p>Housing providers (i.e., landlords, property managers, homeowners’ associations, etc.) often exclude family child care providers from their local rental market when applying to live in a home and threaten them with eviction when they provide family child care from their rental homes. Many provider-tenants self-advocate or work with legal advocates to explain their California housing rights to provide licensed child care in their rental homes. However, these actions are not enough, as many housing providers disregard these housing protections with little incentive to comply with the law and family child care providers have no means to enforce their protections outside of litigation.</p> <p>Fair housing testing will help uncover housing discrimination that is often difficult to detect, and develop and litigate a fair housing case from these test results. Fair housing testing is a form of legal services to increase access to affordable housing, improve housing stability, and prevent homelessness. This project seeks to establish case precedent that will help enforce these housing protections and incentivize housing providers to comply with the law under threat of litigation.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>The goals of this project are to prevent homelessness by protecting child care providers’ sources of income, expanding their housing protections, and enforcing their housing protections.</p> <p>Key deliverables are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trained fair housing testers based off of a paired testing profile for licensed family child care providers. 2. 30-45 tests, with a target of 25-37 Audit based tests and 5 Complaint based tests over 18 months, where family child care providers will serve as the “protected-class” tester, to be paired with a “neutral” tester. 3. Quarterly reports on Project Sentinel tester team’s findings during the testing portion of the project, unless a specific audit or complaint-based test requires a written report to move the investigation forward. 4. 1 or more viable housing discrimination claims against housing providers violating the above-mentioned housing rights will be developed for future litigation by Project Sentinel, CCLC, and their legal partners. 5. Monthly partner meetings to monitor testing and program developments. 	
Rural Communities	<p>This project will directly address the risk of homelessness faced by family child care providers because of housing discrimination in the rural community of Stanislaus County. This project will also directly address the risk of homelessness faced by family child care providers because of housing discrimination in Santa Clara, Sacramento, and San Mateo</p>	

	<p>counties. This project's primary goal is to establish case law to better enforce the California housing rights of family child care providers-tenants, and protect these providers from housing discrimination. Therefore, this project will impact family child care provider-tenants statewide, including those residing in more rural communities.</p> <p>By sub-granting to Project Sentinel, CCLC and Project Sentinel believe fair housing testing will address homelessness in these counties by removing barriers to appropriate, affordable housing and by preventing eviction based upon discrimination by housing providers who are non-compliant with fair housing laws, especially as they relate to residential child care services out of their home, the loss of which means both the loss of shelter and one's livelihood.</p>		
<p>Underserved Communities (Identify the communities and explain the barriers.)</p>	<p>This project will address homelessness in the underserved community of family child care provider-tenants by addressing one main cause of their housing instability - housing discrimination. Child care providers' homes are not only their shelter but their livelihood. Without a home to provide care, they cannot work. Although these tenants have the right to provide licensed care in their homes, self-advocating for their housing rights is often unsuccessful. This underserved population faces additional challenges when there is a language barrier between them and housing providers, or when these tenants fear rapid eviction if they continue advocating for their rights.</p> <p>Fair housing testing in designated areas will identify housing providers who violate these tenants' housing rights and will develop a case for litigation to address this enforcement issue.</p> <p>Child care provider-tenants need stable housing to operate their business and support themselves and their families. The hourly mean wage for California "child care workers" was \$17.02 and the annual mean wage was \$35,390 (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2021). These tenants' low incomes make them even more fearful of facing an expensive eviction and a competitive rental market.</p> <p>Housing discrimination testing will address housing instability for this underserved community, lead to more housing opportunities for this community, and prevent providers' incomes from further stagnating since their work can only be done in their homes. CCLC also partners with family child care provider networks that are embedded in hard-to-reach communities and share our family child care housing rights resources.</p>		
	Number of Partners	Number of Subgrants	Dates of Collaborations
	1	1	5/27/2022
<p>Collaboration Explanation (Describe how the applicant and partners will work together.)</p>	<p>A. Nature of partnership: After developing a housing discrimination testing project proposal that would seek to directly address housing discrimination against family child care provider-tenants and indirectly address their housing instability, CCLC contacted Project Sentinel to propose this fair housing testing activity as part of our overall homelessness prevention project. With Project Sentinel's strong reputation in the fair housing advocacy community, its experience in conducting housing discrimination work, and its expertise in providing civil legal services to prevent homelessness and enforcing federal and fair housing state laws through litigation, CCLC believed that they would be an ideal organization to partner with to complete this project.</p> <p>B. Work Project Sentinel would do on this particular project: (i) Quantitative goals: Project Sentinel would provide an estimated 30-45 tests with 25-37 audit-based tests and 5 complaint-based tests with an investigation with potentially 1 case</p>		

	<p>that proceeds to an enforcement action or litigation (in the absence of conciliation), over 18 months.</p> <p>(ii) How you will monitor your work to ensure accurate reporting and grant compliance: CCLC and Project Sentinel will meet at least monthly to discuss the fair housing testing progress, track objectives, and address any issues that may arise. Project Sentinel will submit quarterly reports to CCLC on fair housing testing findings. Evidence collected will help lay the groundwork for one or more viable housing discrimination claims against housing providers violating their housing rights.</p>
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2023-2024 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (HP 4) COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION PROFILE

Organization Name	Community Legal Aid SoCal	
Project Name	Homelessness Prevention 4 (HP4)	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 799,867	\$25,000
County(ies) Served	Los Angeles, Orange	
Project Abstract	<p>Community Legal Aid SoCal (CLA SoCal) seeks to expand its assistance to clients facing loss or denial of housing benefits. By design, subsidized housing is focused on helping the most vulnerable in our society, which is our core constituency. However, a rapid expansion of our housing practice over the past two years has focused almost exclusively on eviction defense, so that clients calling with housing benefits problems are typically limited to advice and counsel. New supervisorial capacity means that CLA SoCal is now ready to grow the housing benefits area of practice.</p> <p>As our clients know, getting and keeping benefits can be a significant challenge. Astronomical rents, discrimination against voucher-holders, unwillingness to provide accommodations for seniors and disabled tenants, and wrongful denial of benefits mean that those who need housing benefits often can't get them, and those that have them can easily lose them. This can lead to homelessness for individuals who will face significant obstacles to finding new homes.</p> <p>An HP4 grant will help to underwrite a continuum that 1) trains our intake unit to triage these cases; 2) includes dedicated Housing Benefits team that will expand our provision of services on a range of benefits to these vulnerable clients; 3) continues systemic advocacy to address affordable housing and benefits availability to prevent homelessness, including identification of potential impact litigation cases from issues raised by the housing staff; and 4) expands a partnership to grow the number of reasonable accommodation cases handled in our region.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>The goal of the HP4 Housing Benefits project is to increase access to legal services to stabilize families in subsidized housing in order to prevent homelessness.</p> <p>OBJECTIVE #1: Expand access to legal services for clients with housing benefits issue by handling 500 cases during the grant period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > 300 of these cases will be closed as advice and counsel by Intake staff. > 175 cases will be handled by the Housing Benefits Team, including 75 limited scope cases and 50 full-scope cases. > 25 reasonable accommodation cases will be referred to ELDR. <p>OBJECTIVE #2: Remedy systemic problems affecting residents in subsidized housing by handling a minimum of one systemic impact case or advocacy. Issues could include Housing Element advocacy, housing benefits, income benefits, etc.</p> <p>OBJECTIVE #3: Educate officials (elected and/or agency) around affordable housing and homelessness reduction strategies including subsidized housing, housing elements, rent control, and new laws banning discriminatory housing practices. This could include direct advocacy or provision of technical assistance to housing advocates in our region.</p> <p>OBJECTIVE #4: Publicize the Housing Benefits program to social service providers, other legal organizations, DV providers, elected officials, etc. with the goal of finding 2 partners with which to build referral systems. Utilize social media to inform the public about this work. Leverage outreach by other units such as our Health Unit and Seniors Unit to reach critical audiences.</p>	

	OBJECTIVE #5: Evaluate impact of project to glean best practices and make course corrections when warranted.		
Rural Communities	None		
Underserved Communities (Identify the communities and explain the barriers.)	<p>This project is not focused on a single underserved demographic, because subsidized housing intersects many of the particularly vulnerable populations in California. Nationally, 42% of families with children who utilize Section 8 housing have a female head of household; 10% of households are seniors; and 43% of households have at least one disabled family member.[3]</p> <p>At CLA SoCal, underserved communities are overrepresented in our housing benefits work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + 52 % have reported a disability as opposed to 33% across all problem codes; + 30% have been served in a language other than English as opposed to 14% across all problem codes; + 73% have been women as opposed to 65% across all funding codes; + more than half are seniors as opposed to 36% across all funding codes; + 63% of housing benefits clients have been Black, Indigenous, and People of Color ("BIPOC") + one-quarter have been survivors of domestic violence.[4] <p>Cities in southern California can supply only 10% of the requests for housing vouchers; once a family has a voucher, they are faced with the immense difficulty of renting a property. Local utilization rates*: Anaheim > 57.91%; Compton > 9.43%; Norwalk > 15.22%; Southgate > 8.82%; Orange County Housing Authority > 47.76%; Los Angeles Co. Housing Authority > 51.22%.</p> <p>Supporting the families who have been able to find affordable housing to keep that housing is at the heart of this proposal.</p> <p>*Divide the number units rented using emergency housing vouchers by the total number of vouchers available in a jurisdiction.</p>		
	Number of Partners	Number of Subgrants	Dates of Collaborations
	1	1	1/1/2021
Collaboration Explanation (Describe how the applicant and partners will work together.)	<p>CLA SoCal plans to expand our work with the Elder Law and Disability Rights Center (ELDR), based in Santa Ana. CLA SoCal and ELDR bring complementary strengths to the table: CLA SoCal is the largest provider of free legal aid in Orange County. With more than 30,000 calls to its Hotline in 2021, more than 8,000 clients served, CLA SoCal brings legal muscle to its neighbors' legal problems. ELDR, in its short history, has made an outsized impact on Orange County through its homeless advocacy work and representation of vulnerable clients. Its deep relationships with community advocates, grassroots organizations, and advocacy clients allow it to challenge thorny systemic problems. We currently have a successful collaboration with ELDR through a Homelessness Prevention 2 Competitive Grant. Through that grant, we have referred three reasonable accommodation cases to them. This project would allow us to expand this number by twenty over the course of the grant.</p>		

2023-2024 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (HP 4) COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION PROFILE

Organization Name	Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto	
Project Name	HP 4 - 2023 Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 210,905	\$0
County(ies) Served	San Mateo, Santa Clara	
Project Abstract	<p>Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto (CLSEPA) has seen a tremendous surge in evictions since State rental assistance expired. We are ramping up our pro bono outreach and improving our current intake processes in order to serve more community members. With funding from HP 4, CLSEPA will assist 90 community members or more in landlord-tenant conflicts, such as pre-eviction and eviction proceedings, unaffordable rent increases, unhealthy living conditions, harassment, discrimination, and legal issues related to COVID-19 rent debt. Because we are seeing such a surge in cases, our Volunteer and Pro Bono Coordinator will maintain a docket of tenants in need of full-scope representation and place those we do not have capacity to take on with pro bono attorneys, who will be advised by our staff. CLSEPA has a strong reputation in the Silicon Valley region for providing multilingual, comprehensive housing legal services. With support from HP 4, we will contract translators to provide know-your-rights and self-help print and digital materials in new languages, including Tongan, which will expand our ability to serve our multicultural community. Our staff of expert attorneys, paralegals, and clinic & intake coordinators will partner with low-income families and communities of color to provide full-scope legal representation, education, advice, and outreach so that all tenants may exercise their full legal rights.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>The goal of this project is to expand the legal services provided by CLSEPA's Housing Program as our community faces a surge in evictions following the expiration of COVID-19 related protections. With support from HP 4, CLSEPA will assist at least 90 community members in landlord-tenant conflicts, such as pre-eviction and eviction proceedings, unaffordable rent increases, unhealthy living conditions, harassment, discrimination, and legal issues related to COVID-19 rent debt. We will also increase our community outreach by contracting out translation work on know-your-rights and self-help materials. In addition to allowing us to offer these materials in more languages, this will also free up more staff time for case work so that we can sustain a higher caseload. We will distribute multilingual self-help and know-your-rights materials in print form to other community services organizations and also begin publicizing them on our website to make them easily accessible.</p> <p>Through this project, CLSEPA will make it possible for our Housing Program to respond to the urgent eviction crisis through pre-eviction and eviction legal services while also providing services to promote housing stability and prevent homelessness for community members not facing the immediate threat of eviction. Over the summer's mass eviction surge, we have had to prioritize serving clients facing immediate eviction to the detriment of our habitability work. Thanks to external translation and pro bono support, we will be able to resume offering these services and fulfill our mission of offering holistic housing legal services to the community.</p>	
Rural Communities	None	
Underserved Communities	In 2021, 91% of our clients identified as people of color, and 60% had limited English proficiency (LEP). Communities of color and LEP community members are	

(Identify the communities and explain the barriers.)	<p>disproportionately vulnerable to actions that seek to circumvent the law and face historic, system barriers to justice. Many of our LEP clients are undocumented, and sometimes forgo their rights for fear of deportation. Those who assert their rights often encounter threats of retaliation. Eviction notices, contracts, and other materials may not always be distributed in community members' preferred language - a violation of the law - and know-your-rights materials from support centers may also not be properly translated. Last year, much of the State's own messaging around governmental rental assistance was primarily in English, leaving over half our clients unaware of their rights. The pandemic as well as the secondary economic consequences of COVID-19 have left communities of color and LEP community members especially vulnerable, and many families have experienced increased economic and housing insecurity due to job loss and are in greater danger of experiencing homelessness. Black, Latino, and Indigenous community members have faced higher rates of COVID-19; since these community members disproportionately work in low-wage hourly jobs, they have had difficulty taking paid time off to receive vaccinations and booster shots leaving them continually more vulnerable. The mental, health, and economic strain our clients face from this ongoing crisis make it more difficult to access legal aid or assert their rights.</p>		
	<p>Number of Partners</p> <p>3</p>	<p>Number of Subgrants</p> <p>0</p>	<p>Dates of Collaborations</p> <p>7/1/2018 4/1/2020 1/1/2016</p>
<p>Collaboration Explanation (Describe how the applicant and partners will work together.)</p>	<p>CLSEPA has a history of deep, sustained partnerships. Though we will not be subcontracting HP 4 funds, we will continue to work collaboratively with our partners to prevent homelessness and preserve affordable housing. We are currently a subgrantee on several eviction defense San Mateo County contracts to Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County, and we have subgranted funds through our City of East Palo Alto Measure O contract to Nuestra Casa and Youth United for Community Action (YUCA) since 2020. A renewal application that designates Nuestra Casa as subgrantee is currently pending with the City of East Palo Alto. These relationships allow us to share common struggles and insights and to conduct a coordinated response to evolving community needs. For example, staff from Nuestra Casa, YUCA, and CLSEPA meet at least once a month to discuss changing client volume and community needs; we also provide technical assistance on understanding evolving housing laws. These meetings enhance the capacity of our entire Housing Program. Now that state assistance is unavailable, we have worked with Nuestra Casa and YUCA to ensure that local residents are connected with help navigating the local rental assistance application process. These organizations also continue to refer tenants to CLSEPA for more information about their rights or legal assistance if they are facing threats of eviction or other unfair treatment.</p> <p>In addition to these established partnerships, we are available to give presentations when requested by other community organizations, such as The Primary School, OneEPA, The Multicultural Institute, LifeMoves, and the local Boys & Girls Club. Over the summer, we provided a training session hosted by partner LifeMoves to 112 staff members who work with low-income BIPOC community members facing housing insecurity. This gave our partners the tools to advise their clients on how to avail themselves of legal protections and the importance of making timely rent payments now that state protections are unavailable. We also provided information on how to refer community members to us for further assistance and have been receiving clients as a result. HP 4 support would allow us</p>		

	<p>to take more of these cases on for full-scope representation, both in-house and via pro bono referral.</p> <p>We have been in communication to provide partners with updates on changing housing law and best practices for helping tenants avoid eviction and make referrals to us. CLSEPA is a known and trusted resource for housing matters. We receive far more client referrals than we are currently able to accept, so in order to uphold our mission and continue supporting the community, we need the State Bar's support.</p>
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2023-2024 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (HP 4) COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION PROFILE

Organization Name	Contra Costa Senior Legal Services	
Project Name	Seniors Eviction Defense Program	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 82,837	\$0
County(ies) Served	Contra Costa	
Project Abstract	<p>With the surge in housing cases in Contra Costa since early in 2022, this project will allow us to add extra attorney hours to take on overflow housing cases and to supervise volunteer attorneys and legal fellows handling such cases. It will ensure we have the legal intake staff required to handle the surge in calls related to evictions and other housing matters. It will also provide funding for the outreach staff support required to collaborate with our proposed partner, Monument Crisis Center, and reach seniors about our housing and eviction defense services and educate tenants about their rights and tenant protections by city, such as Antioch's new rent stabilization ordinance. We will partner with the Monument Crisis Center to expand the project's reach and impact. Since 2021, every other month CCSLS partners with the Monument Crisis Center during one of its food distribution programs. A bilingual CCSLS staff member tables at food distribution events to inform the senior community, including the Latinx senior community about the services that CCSLS provides. The Monument Crisis Center provides food, education, assistance, referrals to families and individuals in crisis situations, and promotes community awareness of needs and available resources to at-risk and low income people in Contra Costa County, with a strong focus on LatinX communities. It has strong links to populations in need of housing legal services and its involvement will complement the core legal services CCSLS provides.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>Project key goals: At least 80 additional older adult clients facing eviction provided legal assistance each year, and 120 over the life of the project</p> <p>Project key deliverables: 500 additional housing informational flyers disseminated in English and Spanish through partner the Monument Crisis Center; 4 additional presentations on tenant rights and CCSLS services organized for low income, underserved communities organized with Monument Crisis Center; tabling at 4 additional food distribution events at the Monument Crisis Center</p>	
Rural Communities	<p>57.3% of Contra Costa County is considered rural according to Census Bureau data (see: https://stacker.com/california/most-rural-counties-california). CCSLS targets its outreach and services to isolated seniors in rural areas such as Brentwood, long an agricultural outpost at the Eastern edge of the Bay Area, and neighboring Byron which has a population density of only 171 inhabitants per square mile.</p>	
Underserved Communities (Identify the communities and explain the barriers.)	<p>CCSLS prioritizes outreach and service provision to residents of the low-income, underserved East Contra Costa County. The population of East County exploded in recent decades, and public and nonprofit services, systems, and community institutions have not caught up, resulting in critical safety net gaps, economic inequities, and vulnerabilities for lower income residents, especially for BIPOC communities. For example, eviction rates in Antioch were reported to be 22 times higher than Oakland as of March 2022 (Source: KQED report) and only recently are tenant protections such as rent stabilization policies, as exist in Richmond and other West County cities, being considered by East County's municipalities. A high rate of East County residents are severely housing burdened meaning they are living paycheck to paycheck and are extremely susceptible to</p>	

	homelessness and extreme financial and personal hardship. Many East County residents move to the area for affordable housing but need to commute over 90 minutes to jobs that pay living wages in other parts of the Bay Area. There are also limited free or low cost legal services in all of Contra Costa County.		
	Number of Partners	Number of Subgrants	Dates of Collaborations
	1	0	12/15/2021
Collaboration Explanation (Describe how the applicant and partners will work together.)	<p>Since December 15th, 2021, every other month CCSLS partners with the Monument Crisis Center during one of its food distribution programs. A bilingual CCSLS staff member tables at food distribution events to inform the senior community, including the Latinx senior community about the services that CCSLS provides. This allows CCSLS to reach underserved communities in greatest need of our services, including residents with limited English proficiency. In this Project, Monument Crisis Center will undertake targeted outreach to its beneficiaries and target populations to build awareness of CCSLS' housing law services. Outreach activities will include attorney consultations at the Crisis Center's Senior Moments events, inserting flyers in its food and other distributions, co-presenting about landlord-tenant issues at community meetings, social media outreach, and other forms of outreach. The design of outreach activities will build on the findings of a large scale community awareness survey CCSLS is completing through a California Access to Justice Commission Innovation Grant. This partnership will ensure that residents at high risk of homelessness are more aware of their rights, including new tenant protections adopted in the County - such as the City of Antioch's new rent stabilization ordinance that limits rent increases - and how to get legal help with housing related issues.</p>		

2023-2024 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (HP 4) COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION PROFILE

Organization Name	Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund	
Project Name	Prohibiting Discrimination Against Section 8 Voucher Holders	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 102,972	\$0
County(ies) Served	Alameda, Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Los Angeles, Madera, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Mono, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Placer, Plumas, Riverside, Sacramento, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, Ventura, Yolo, Yuba	
Project Abstract	<p>California law has prohibited discrimination based on an individual's receipt of assistance through the Section 8 housing choice voucher program since January 2020. See Cal Gov't Code 12955(a) and (p). Refusing tenants based on their Section 8 status is now a form of housing discrimination similar to denying someone a rental based on their race or disability. Despite this state law, discrimination against Section 8 recipients remains widespread, and disproportionately impacts people with disabilities and people from BIPOC communities. This project seeks to reduce housing discrimination based on the receipt of Section 8 benefits and ensure that individuals receiving Section 8 are able to use their vouchers to obtain and maintain safe and affordable housing. The project will focus on: (1) educating and training individuals on California's prohibition on discrimination against Section 8 recipients, and (2) enforcing the right of individuals to be free from discrimination based on Section 8 status through the provision of counsel and advice, technical assistance, limited legal assistance, and legal representation in administrative complaints and/or lawsuits.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>The key goal of the project is to raise awareness and increase enforcement of the prohibition on Section 8 discrimination through (1) outreach, education and the training of disabled people, their representatives and their advocates; (2) engagement with municipalities; (3) legal representation; and (4) and the development of self-advocacy materials.</p> <p>Deliverables include the creation of a number of educational and resource materials on Section 8 discrimination including an informational brochure, a substantive article, training materials, guidance on how to file complaints with the California Civil Rights Department, and guidance on how to utilize small claims court.</p> <p>Deliverables also include the training of QLSPs, fair housing organizations, homeless service organizations, and private attorneys regarding source of income protections and enforcement of the law prohibiting source of income discrimination, and engagement with select municipalities to advocate for increased enforcement.</p> <p>The first two quarters of the project will be spent focused on outreach and materials development. Substantive trainings will occur at least once per quarter thereafter. Through outreach we will also identify municipalities with high occurrences of Section 8 discrimination, and, in the last four quarters of the project, will reach out to those municipalities in conjunction with local advocates and organizations to advocate for increased education and local enforcement.</p>	

Rural Communities	This is a statewide Project and will serve rural communities wherever there is a need. According to the California Housing Partnership, only two rural counties across the state do NOT have a shortfall of affordable housing: Alpine and Mono. The work is needed everywhere.		
Underserved Communities (Identify the communities and explain the barriers.)	One in four (6,734,666), Californians have a disability. The Institute on Disability at the University of New Hampshire's 2020 Annual Disability Statistics Compendium shows that 22.8 percent of these disabled Californians, or roughly 1.5 million are living in poverty. According to the State Bar's 2019 California Justice Gap Study, only 27 percent of low-income Californians who needed legal help received some legal help. We know that the justice gap is significant for the majority of low-income people in the state, but additional barriers make accessing legal assistance even more challenging for many disabled people. The barriers that many disabled people face seeking any kind of assistance, including legal help, are widespread and include, but are not limited to, a lack of accessible information including websites that are not accessible to people who are blind, lack of information in plain language or that is easy to understand for people with cognitive disabilities, and failure to provide sign language interpreters or real time captioning for the Deaf and for people who are hard-of-hearing.		
	Number of Partners	Number of Subgrants	Dates of Collaborations
	0	0	—
Collaboration Explanation (Describe how the applicant and partners will work together.)	N/A		

2023-2024 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (HP 4) COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION PROFILE

Organization Name	Disability Rights Legal Center	
Project Name	Foster Youth Advocacy Program	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 270,000	\$0
County(ies) Served	Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego	
Project Abstract	<p>Building on existing advocacy, DRLC will leverage a team of four professionals, including one Supervising Attorney, two Staff Attorneys, and one Education Advocate with support from DRLC's administrative staff and law fellow over a period of 1.5 years to represent foster youth with disabilities in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego counties to gain access to essential support systems from school districts, Regional Centers, and county departments of mental health to reduce their risk of homelessness upon aging out of county dependency.</p> <p>Specifically, the Foster Youth Advocacy Program will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct outreach to target youth ages 14-18 with disabilities in the foster care system within the project's catchment area; - Coordinate with partners to advocate within the special education due process system for appropriate educational assessments, Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) (emphasizing effective transition plans for postsecondary life), appropriate educational placements, and necessary support services; and - Coordinate with partners to ensure the youth has representation for Regional Center, mental health, and other disability-related supports and services. <p>Our goal is to target youth with the highest risk of homelessness, ensure they receive access to support systems for home life and school, reduce serious risk of impending chronic homelessness, and support their access to appropriate (often therapeutic) housing through the age of 18 or, for qualified students, age 22.</p> <p>The program will combine the support of nonprofit organizations, regional centers, the Dependency Court, DCFS, school districts, and foster youth advocates.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support staff to resolve existing litigation on behalf of foster youth; - Hire Special Education Staff Attorney to join the project; - Identify 10 partners to sign MOU commitments to help identify at-risk foster youth who require advocacy in either the education or Regional Center system, focusing on youth likely to have unassessed disabilities; - Create transition plans and provide direct support services for 25 youth in Year 1, and as many in the remaining six months of the grant period; - Partner with at least 50 pro bono attorneys to provide over 300 hours of pro bono support over 1.5 years to support high-risk foster youth; - Build framework to sustain growth beyond the first 18 months. 	
Rural Communities	Targeted rural regions in areas of all 5 counties this grant will serve will overlap into rural regions. While it is not possible to specifically identify exactly which youth will need support DRLC will provide services to all of those in the DCFS system regardless of location.	
Underserved Communities (Identify the communities and explain the barriers.)	<p>Foster youth are at particular risk of homelessness due to their lack of a foundational system of support and years spent in the DCFS system.</p> <p>Every year approximately 4,000 youth age out of care in California. According to Walden Family Services, 65% leave foster care at age 18 with no place to call home. Young men in California who spent time in foster care are 82% more likely to become homeless.</p>	

	The causes of homelessness for foster youth aging out of care are often treatable. DRLC's Foster Youth Advocacy Program will aim to ensure stable housing placements, access to services, proper assessments, and ability to stay in DCFS past the age of 18 if appropriate.		
	Number of Partners	Number of Subgrants	Dates of Collaborations
	1	0	1/1/2022
Collaboration Explanation (Describe how the applicant and partners will work together.)	DRLC and A Better Childhood (ABC) are in the process of investigating the San Bernardino County foster care agency due to their astronomical level of 60 cases per social worker and various complaints received by other disability and related agencies. We believe the data and facts on the ground will support a class action lawsuit alleging substantive due process and ADA/504 violations. For this project, they would help identify violations of assessments and potential foster youth that need direct support of this program that are approaching transition ages.		

2023-2024 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (HP 4) COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION PROFILE

Organization Name	Elder Law & Advocacy	
Project Name	Senior Housing Protection Project	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 112,369	\$0
County(ies) Served	Imperial, San Diego	
Project Abstract	<p>Elder Law & Advocacy (EL&A) has been committed to providing help to older adults since its founding in 1978. This project will provide legal services to at-risk seniors in San Diego and Imperial Counties in order to keep their housing.</p> <p>This project will provide legal services to at-risk seniors in order to keep their housing. SLS attorneys will provide counsel and advice with the goal of pre-trial resolution. This assistance with help project clients resolve habitability issues, which may lead to loss of housing and homelessness, avoid Unlawful Detainer judgments and subsequent negative entries in background check databases, and secure adequate time for clients to locate appropriate housing. Vulnerable seniors become ever more vulnerable once a judgment is on their record, as they are refused access to most rental properties and may end up homeless.</p> <p>Attorneys will advise regarding tenancy rights involving notices, habitability, and unlawful detainers. Attorneys will provide advice and counsel as well as limited services in order to prevent loss of housing for these tenants. When needed, the attorneys can prepare an answer to a filed Unlawful Detainer Action. The preparation of the answer will help the tenant articulate their defenses and allow the tenant additional time to prepare for the chance of displaced housing.</p> <p>Attorneys will inform, empower, and advocate for tenants at risk.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>What Senior Housing Protection Project will do for project participants:</p> <p>Pre-eviction legal services - provide legal services on behalf of older adult tenants at risk of eviction</p> <p>Key Goal(s): Prevent eviction, mitigate the effects of eviction for older adult tenants, or mitigate the effects of habitability on potential loss of housing</p> <p>Deliverables: Legal assistance to approximately 80 clients during Grant Year One and 40 clients during Grant Year Two (depending on funding)</p>	
Rural Communities	<p>Imperial County is a rural and frontier region (MSSA-Medical Service Study Areas, California.) It is in the southernmost part of California, bordering Mexico and Arizona. Imperial County residents live in a geographically large region but have little access to low-cost or free legal services. Few nonprofit legal-aid organizations operate in this large county, making a program like this one a critical resource for the county's low-income older residents. Cities and census-designated places include: Brawley, Calexico, Calipatria, El Centro, Holtville, Imperial, Westmorland, Bombay Beach, Desert Shores, Heber, Niland, Ocotillo, Pala Verde, Salton City, Salton City Beach, Seeley and Winterhaven.</p> <p>Portions of San Diego County are rural and frontier regions (MSSA-Medical Service Study Areas, California). Cities and census-designated places include: Pala, Pauma Valley, Rincon, San Pasqual, Valley Center, Ramona, Rock Haven, Rosemont, Alpine, Blossom Valley, Crest, Descanso, Glen Oaks, Harbison Canyon, Japatul, Palo Verde, Buckman Springs, Canyon City, Jacumba, Morena Village, Tecate, Dulzura, Engineer Springs, Indian Springs, Jamacha,</p>	

	Jamul, Barona, Moreno, Borrego Springs, Cuyamaca, Julian, Kentwood in the Pines, Laguna, Ocotillo Wells, Palomar, Pine Valley, and Warner Springs.		
Underserved Communities (Identify the communities and explain the barriers.)	Elder Law & Advocacy assists exclusively the underserved population of seniors 60 and over. According to the Simmons School of Social Work, people 50+ make up over 30 percent of the homeless population. The solutions and risks to homelessness are often different for this population. Seniors are often on a fixed income, have additional barriers to accessing assistance, and have legal issues which may present differently than that of a young person. The proposed project will provide services to this particularly underserved group of seniors 60 and over.		
	Number of Partners	Number of Subgrants	Dates of Collaborations
	4	0	1/1/2016 1/7/2022 7/14/2022* 5/1/2000
Collaboration Explanation (Describe how the applicant and partners will work together.)	EL&A’s Imperial County office is located within the El Centro Courthouse. Court staff often refer potential litigants to our office for legal assistance. Additionally, EL&A has operated the Imperial County Unlawful Detainer Clinic within the El Centro Courthouse since 2016. We have met with staff quarterly and have ongoing informal discussions with staff related to the needs of the Court and the issues being presented to them. EL&A has a good relationship with Court staff. This partnership will enable outreach of the new project. EL&A’s Elder Abuse Representation Project was one of the inaugural partners with San Diego County’s One Safe Place, which opened summer of 2022. One Safe Place is San Diego’s North County Family Justice Center. It is a single location for victims of abuse to receive comprehensive help including case management, trauma therapy, medical exams, legal services, housing assistance, access to law enforcement, and access to other community partners. EL&A has an attorney on location at One Safe Place and currently and, currently, a law student intern. This partnership will enable outreach of the new project. EL&A is also involved in both San Diego County and Imperial County’s Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) Meetings. Although this collaboration does not involve a formal MOU, we have attorneys that attend these meetings in order to collaborate with Adult Protective Services and other County organizations. These partnerships will enable outreach of the new project.		
*Please note that this date is after the June 30, 2022, preference date that was established by the Budget Act of 2022.			

2023-2024 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (HP 4) COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION PROFILE

Organization Name	Eviction Defense Collaborative	
Project Name	Training and Technical Support for Black-led Tenants' Rights Counseling, Education, and Outreach Initiative	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 1,090,700	\$0
County(ies) Served	San Francisco	
Project Abstract	<p>This project seeks to build upon our existing HP III funded program, "Increasing Equitable Access to Eviction Defense Legal Services" to further increase access to eviction defense and homelessness prevention services for BIPOC, and more specifically Black tenants in San Francisco, seeking to interrupt the disproportionate impact of evictions and homelessness for this historically excluded community. Nationwide data shows that African Americans are both twice as likely to have an eviction case filed against them, and to be successfully evicted. Additionally, although African Americans comprised just 6% of the total San Francisco population in 2021, they comprise 35% of the city's homeless population (2022 PIT count report). These trends have resulted in the dramatic displacement and loss of African American residents in San Francisco with the overall African American population decreasing from 13% in 1970 to 6% in 2021.</p> <p>With HP IV funding, EDC will support the creation of a citywide, Black-led tenant counseling network by leveraging our existing partnerships with the Housing Rights Committee of San Francisco (HRCFSF) and the San Francisco Black Led Organizations Coalition (SFBLOC). EDC will provide in person training to SFBLOC member staff in the provision of tenant counseling services at our HP III funded Bayview walk-in legal clinic (located within the offices of HRCFSF). This will support SFBLOC's initiative to embed tenant counseling services within their member agencies citywide. The project will draw on HRCFSF's expertise in tenant counseling services and community organizing model and build upon SFBLOC's deep ties within the target community.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>Each Quarter:</p> <p>Partnership meetings to track progress towards deliverables.</p> <p>Provide a minimum of 250 count multilingual tenant Know Your Rights materials to SFBLOC agencies for distribution per quarter.</p> <p>Q1: Partners to co-develop training material; deliver at least one training. Begin the process of co-designing an external facing component on the SFTRC portal for SFBLOC agencies to make direct referrals into the SFTRC system for eviction defense legal services. Engage a Tech firm for the build out of this component.</p> <p>Q2: 5 referrals received from partners, 3 trainings provided to SFBLOC member organizations. Begin SFBLOC utilization of SFTRC portal for their direct referral submittal.</p> <p>Q3: 10 referrals received from partners, 2 trainings provided to SFBLOC member organizations.</p> <p>Q4: 10 referrals received from partners, 2 trainings provided to SFBLOC member organizations.</p> <p>Q5: 10 referrals received from partners, 2 trainings provided to SFBLOC member organizations. Partners explore new funding sources to ensure program continuity and expansion.</p>	

	Q6: 10 referrals received from partners, 2 trainings provided to SFBLOC member organizations. Partners discuss successes and areas requiring improvement, as well as plans for growing the program further and ensuring longevity.		
Rural Communities	None		
Underserved Communities (Identify the communities and explain the barriers.)	<p>The long-term impacts of structural racism and in particular anti-black racism—in housing, educational, and criminal justice policies have resulted in a crisis of homelessness among African Americans nationwide and also in San Francisco (SF). The SF Point in Time 2022 Count found that although African Americans comprise just 6% of the city's total population, they comprise 35% of the homeless population.</p> <p>Bayview Hunters Point, one of SF's few remaining historically Black neighborhoods, lacks sufficient and easy access to eviction defense legal services for a population who is statistically at the highest risk of eviction in the city. In order to successfully interrupt the cycle of evictions and resulting homelessness for Black San Franciscans, increased access to eviction defense legal services, as well as tenant counseling is urgently needed.</p> <p>For Bayview residents, access to safe, fair and stable housing is further complicated by the impact of environmental racism. The Naval Shipyard in the Bayview is SF's only Federal Superfund Site and its most contaminated property. In fact, the Bayview is home to more than 2/3 of San Francisco's pollution with freeways, power plants, and a sewage treatment plant. Residents suffer from disproportionate rates of illness, including asthma and cancer. The state's CalEnviroScreen ranks the area as one of the communities in the entire state most at risk from pollution and it's a well-known cancer cluster. The burden of chronic and serious illness profoundly impacts the community's ability to thrive and access justice, contributing to the longstanding poverty that plagues the area.</p>		
	Number of Partners	Number of Subgrants	Dates of Collaborations
	2	0	7/1/2000 9/21/2022*
Collaboration Explanation (Describe how the applicant and partners will work together.)	<p>The New Community Leadership Foundation (NCLF), a volunteer-based, 501(C)(3) organization established in 2015 is the fiscal sponsor for the San Francisco Black Led Organizations Coalition (SFBLOC), the first advocacy group in San Francisco created to serve local, Black-led organizations, aiming aims to revitalize BIPOC communities. Comprised of more than 50 Black-led organizations, SFBLOC strategizes, shares resources, and collaboratively advances collective impact.</p> <p>EDC's proposed HP 4 project will expand our partnership with SFBLOC supporting their recent initiative to implement the first Black-led Tenants' Rights Counseling citywide network. SFBLOC submitted a proposal for this initiative to the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development last month in response to their RFP: "Tenant's Rights Counseling for Black-led Organizations", with EDC listed as a consulting partner. EDC's HP IV proposed project will also build on existing services, adding a new dimension to our HP III funded project in the Bayview further increasing access to critical homelessness prevention services for Black tenants. With HP IV support, SFBLOC staff will receive in person training at our Bayview clinic, located within the offices of the Housing Rights Committee SF (HRCFSF). The project will leverage EDC's partnership with HRCFSF, providing SFBLOC staff access to their expertise in tenants' rights counseling, education and outreach. Training will include: Provision of Tenant Counseling services; Tenants' Rights education; access to and training on the SF Tenant Right to Counsel portal for submitting referrals. Quarterly partnership meetings to review key performance indicators for progress towards goals detailed in the activities table.</p>		

*Please note that this date is after the June 30, 2022, preference date that was established by the Budget Act of 2022.

2023-2024 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (HP 4) COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION PROFILE

Organization Name	Family Violence Appellate Project	
Project Name	Preventing Homelessness of Survivors of Gender-Based Violence	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 525,000	\$22,500
County(ies) Served	Alameda, Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Los Angeles, Madera, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Mono, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Placer, Plumas, Riverside, Sacramento, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, Ventura, Yolo, Yuba	
Project Abstract	<p>The Project “Preventing Homelessness of Survivors of Gender-Based Violence” will focus on rural and Native American communities, but help decrease all survivors’ homelessness throughout California. The Project will do this by working toward three goals: (1) increase the understanding and use of housing laws protecting survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, stalking, dating violence and elder and dependent adult abuse (hereinafter gender-based violence (GBV)); (2) strengthen legal assistance to survivors who were displaced because of domestic violence (DV) and; (3) decrease GBV, a leading cause of homelessness.</p> <p>The Project will use a multifaceted community responsive approach to achieve goals. (1) Systemic Advocacy: Provide guidance for trial courts about how the legislature intended CA’s protective housing and GBV laws to be applied, ultimately decreasing homelessness and GBV and enhancing safety for survivors and their families. The Project will do this by providing appellate representation, amicus support, requesting publication of unpublished cases and non-legislative systemic advocacy. To provide appellate representation the Project will evaluate, screen and represent clients in appellate cases, including those with the potential to positively influence trial courts’ response, and ensure that legal services available at the trial court level are as effective as possible. In addition to their systemic reach, appeals decrease homelessness and increase safety for survivors and their children when trial courts fail to uphold protective housing and GBV laws. (2) Community Support: Increase attorney and non-attorney advocates’ capacity to keep survivors safe and housed by providing training, technical assistance and written legal tools.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>Project goals: (1) increase the understanding and use of housing laws protecting GBV survivors; (2) strengthen legal assistance to survivors who were displaced because of domestic violence (DV) and; (3) decrease GBV, a leading cause of homelessness.</p> <p>The Project will meet its goals through systemic advocacy and community support, including appellate representation, case publication, and non-legislative systemic advocacy. Specifically, it will screen 100-200 cases for potential representation, and provide direct or amicus representation in 8-15 appellate cases that decrease housing insecurity or abuse during the grant period. The Project will request publication of cases that would help courts correctly apply laws which increase housing security, help survivors displaced because of GBV or help survivors escape abuse. The Project will engage in 2 non-legislative systemic advocacy matters to help decrease housing insecurity and/or abuse.</p>	

	<p>The Project will provide community support through training, TA and written legal tools. Specifically, providing attorneys and non-attorney advocates assisting GBV survivors with 6-8 trainings, 100-150 TAs, and 2 new accessible and culturally competent written legal tools. At least 50 of the TAs and 4 of the trainings will help organizations supporting rural or Native American survivors. Through its Project work, the Project will engage with at least 10 organizations that specifically support rural or Native American survivors. Project partners will meet quarterly to coordinate efforts.</p>		
Rural Communities	<p>The Project will address homelessness in rural communities throughout California. The Project will reach rural communities throughout California by relying on FVAP, CPEDV and NIJC's established connections to organizations and individuals serving rural communities throughout the state. CPEDV is a statewide coalition representing over 1,000 advocates, organizations, and allied individuals united in their commitment to safety and justice for survivors of GBV. CPEDV's members include shelter-based programs, culturally specific agencies, legal aid/law centers, tribal agencies, LGBTQ+ rights groups, and counseling centers in 7 distinct regions encompassing all rural areas in California. NIJC is connected with tribal communities and organizations throughout rural California. As a statewide support center, FVAP regularly provides technical assistance to attorney and non-attorney advocates across rural California. For example, FVAP's Housing & Employment Justice Project alone has provided assistance to organizations working in rural areas in the following 42 counties: Alpine, Amador, Butte, Butte, Colusa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Fresno, Humboldt, Inyo, Kern, King, Lake, Lassen, Madera, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Mono, Inyo, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, San Bernardino, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, Ventura, Yolo and Yuba.</p>		
Underserved Communities (Identify the communities and explain the barriers.)	<p>The Project will address homelessness for survivors of GBV, with a focus on survivors in rural and tribal communities. Survivors of GBV face higher barriers to accessing civil justice than low-income communities because abuse limits survivors' ability to safely access courts and many legal services providers do not provide DV assistance. For example, legal aid providers in much of California do not provide assistance in DV cases. As a result, survivors must rely on the knowledge of their non-attorney advocates to guide them through the restraining order process. Survivors may be reluctant to reach out to legal aid for help in housing cases after being declined assistance with a DV restraining order. Additionally, an estimated 90% of DV survivors in CA have no option but to represent themselves in trial court, making a poor trial court ruling likely.[13]</p> <p>Low-income people living in rural areas have higher barriers to accessing civil justice than low-income communities generally because they have fewer legal resources per capita and face greater geographic barriers than their urban and suburban counterparts.[14]</p> <p>The Project is focusing on Native American survivors because Native Americans experience GBV at higher rates than other populations.[15] Additionally, Native American survivors of GBV "frequently report [housing] access, habitability or sustainability issues, leading to layers of vulnerability and increased risk of new or continued victimization." [16]</p> <p>Additionally, survivors working or living on tribal lands must navigate complicated jurisdictional boundaries set forth by tribal, state and federal laws, which makes accessing justice particularly challenging.</p>		
	Number of Partners	Number of Subgrants	Dates of Collaborations
	2	2	1/1/2020 2/5/2016

<p>Collaboration Explanation (Describe how the applicant and partners will work together.)</p>	<p>The Project will continue FVAP, NIJC and CPEDV's current partnership aimed at decreasing survivor homelessness and housing insecurity. FVAP, NIJC and CPEDV will meet quarterly to strategize outreach, plan trainings and discuss areas where systemic advocacy and written legal tools could help decrease survivor housing insecurity and GBV. Quarterly meetings and as-needed communications will also allow FVAP to ensure deliverables are met and subgrantee work is coordinated and grant compliant.</p> <p>As a Project partner, NIJC will engage in community building and systemic advocacy work by providing training, systemic advocacy and cultural and legal expertise, including culturally relevant material development, distribution, and outreach strategy.</p> <p>As a Project partner, CPEDV will engage in community building and system advocacy by utilizing capacity-building team members, communications team members, and outreach specialists to provide insights vital to the development of legal written tools, trainings and advocacy strategy.</p> <p>FVAP will manage the Project and engage community building and systemic advocacy activities outlined below and throughout the grant application.</p> <p>During the grant period the Project will produce at least 2 written legal tools. FVAP will create the written legal tools with guidance from NIJC and CPEDV about what tools attorneys and non-attorney advocates need to help their clients escape abuse and obtain or maintain safe housing. During the grant period, the Project will provide at least 6 trainings. CPEDV's feedback will ensure the written legal tools and trainings are accessible to its membership, which is composed of over 1,000 attorney and non-attorney advocates at shelter-based programs, culturally specific agencies, legal aid/law centers, tribal agencies, LGBTQ+ rights groups, and counseling centers. NIJC's feedback will ensure materials and trainings are culturally competent and accessible for the tribal communities they serve across California. FVAP will also adapt materials for new audiences as necessary. FVAP, NIJC and CPEDV will work together to ensure the written legal tools and trainings reach the Project's target communities.</p> <p>During the grant period and in addition to appellate and case publication advocacy, NIJC and FVAP will each engage in at least one non-legislative systemic advocacy to help ensure survivors can escape abuse and obtain or maintain safe housing. NIJC, CPEDV and FVAP will discuss and coordinate efforts as needed and at the quarterly meetings.</p> <p>FVAP will respond to requests for technical assistance (TA) from attorneys and non-attorney advocates that serve low-income survivors, such as DV organizations, community based organizations and qualified legal service projects (QLSPs). FVAP will provide between 100-150 TAs during the grant period. If requested, NIJC will provide TA and legal expertise to FVAP for TAs implicating tribal and jurisdictional issues.</p> <p>During the grant period, FVAP will evaluate, screen and represent clients in appellate cases and provide amicus support and request publication of unpublished cases that will help decrease homelessness by decreasing housing insecurity or abuse. NIJC will provide legal expertise where needed.</p>
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2023-2024 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (HP 4) COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION PROFILE

Organization Name	Family Violence Law Center	
Project Name	A Roof of One's Own	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 330,397	\$150,000
County(ies) Served	Alameda	
Project Abstract	<p>This expansion of A Roof of One's Own will allow Family Violence Law Center (FVLC) to accept housing referrals from other survivor serving providers, including providers serving domestic violence, sexual assault, and sexual exploitation survivors, using an innovative, survivor-centered approach. Currently the volume of internal housing referrals FVLC exceeds our capacity. Our partner agencies are eager to refer clients to us and to increase the housing knowledge and capacity of their staff and the survivors they serve. By providing preventative outreach and education to partner agency clients and staff in addition to expanding to provide legal services to more individual survivors, FVLC will increase survivors' ability to remain housed. Service delivery will be survivor-centered and trauma informed because they will be provided on site at organizations where survivors have already developed trusting relationships and are receiving supportive non-legal services. FVLC knows from its experience providing legal services in conjunction with non-legal supportive services that this holistic approach works best for survivors and increases the likelihood that survivors will pursue legal assistance. Survivors have unique needs that FVLC has the expertise to address, and this innovative model could be replicable, increasing access to housing for survivors, a population that is particularly vulnerable to becoming unhoused.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>FVLC anticipates that this project will provide at least 200 survivors annually with legal information, education, and individual legal assistance regarding their housing rights. All gender-based violence providers in Alameda County will become better educated regarding survivors' housing rights. Agency staff and survivors served by the agencies will be provided with legal information, education, and technical assistance regarding survivors' housing rights.</p>	
Rural Communities	<p>Gender-based violence survivors often flee their hometowns to find safety, and rural survivors seeking shelter are often intentionally directed to urban shelters located far away from their closest connections for both safety and capacity reasons. For example, a rural shelter in a small community often has few beds and offers scant privacy from prying and connected eyes and ears, further jeopardizing rural survivors' safety. As a result, rural service providers often place survivors in urban areas, such as Alameda County, that offer additional resources and anonymity. Shelters in Alameda County house survivors who have fled rural parts of California or other states; we know this because our 24-hour Mobile Response Team regularly receives calls from such clients. The number of rural survivors served by this project will vary, based on the number who receive services in or report any connection to Alameda County. Because FVLC has prior experience partnering with rural service providers such as the Sierra Community House in order to increase access to justice for their clients, we are well positioned to provide advice and consultation to both urban and rural survivors accessing Alameda County services.</p>	

<p>Underserved Communities (Identify the communities and explain the barriers.)</p>	<p>FVLC and all of the county's survivor serving providers listed as partners on this project serve survivors who have limited language access, primarily Latinx women who speak little or no English. Additionally, survivors generally are underserved by homelessness services systems because of the separate confidentiality and safety concerns that need to be considered for survivors. By serving survivors throughout the county in coordination with gender-based violence survivors, FVLC will make it possible for survivors to receive assistance at community locations, including emergency shelters and locations that they frequent for other social services, so they can travel to the appointment location without arousing the suspicions of an abusive partner who might be closely monitoring their daily activities. The community partners included in this grant proposal develop trusting relationships with survivors so that FVLC will be able to provide legal assistance inside of that safe context, increasing the likelihood that survivors will pursue legal remedies.</p>		
	<p>Number of Partners</p>	<p>Number of Subgrants</p>	<p>Dates of Collaborations</p>
	<p>10</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>1/1/1978 * 1/1/1992 1/1/1996 1/1/2007 1/1/2014 1/1/2018 1/1/2020</p>
<p>Collaboration Explanation (Describe how the applicant and partners will work together.)</p>	<p>This project is designed to allow FVLC to accept housing referrals from other survivor serving providers, including providers serving domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking survivors; currently the volume of internal housing referrals exceeds our capacity. We can cover only a fraction of the need, but we work in close and frequent communication with other domestic violence and legal services agencies to coordinate our limited resources to provide the best possible legal assistance to domestic violence survivors most at risk. Our partner agencies are eager to refer clients to us and to increase the housing knowledge and capacity of their staff and the survivors they serve.</p> <p>With this proposed project, FVLC and other survivor-serving partner agencies will bring their respective professional skills to provide gender-based violence survivors with holistic legal services. FVLC will provide legal services and partner agency staff will support legal clients, using leveraged funds, with whatever non-legal supportive services they need, including financial assistance as available to assist with housing-related needs. FVLC also will conduct outreach / preventative education presentations for each partner agency so both staff and partner agency clients can increase their knowledge of housing law. Most partner agencies either run housing programs like shelters or conduct support groups so will have regular groups of clients for FVLC to support.</p>		

* Four subgrants began on January 1, 1978.

2023-2024 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (HP 4) COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION PROFILE

Organization Name	Harriett Buhai Center for Family Law	
Project Name	Community College Domestic Violence and Homelessness Prevention Project	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 500,000	\$0
County(ies) Served	Los Angeles	
Project Abstract	<p>This project will bring to many community college campuses in Los Angeles County the availability, resources, and knowledge of the Harriett Buhai Center to stop domestic violence and prevent or address homelessness for victims and other low-income students. Based on the credibility, relationships, and assistance it has developed over nearly two decades with campus programs serving economically disadvantaged and at-risk students, the Center will combine its basic expertise in family law with new approaches gleaned from its HP3 grant to renew and expand its reach. The HP4 funds will enable the Center to reach more students and widen the scope of work to include a greater emphasis on homelessness avoidance in addition to its existing focus on domestic violence prevention. The funding provided will permit the Center to hire staff dedicated to this project and better organize, improve, and expand the design and delivery of its services. The basic tools the Center will employ will remain 1) partnering with campus programs already engaged with students (e.g., EOPS /CARE) to provide specialized screening, intake, and initial appointments to help assure direct and expedited access to the Center's services, and 2) conducting frequent legal education workshops focused on avoidance of homelessness and cessation of domestic violence. With its foothold in many campuses, the Center will invite and collaborate with other legal aid programs to offer education and assistance on eviction and other housing-related topics. Volunteer lawyers and law students will be trained to assist Center staff as in the past.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create effective partnerships with 12 community colleges identified in this proposal in order to reach low-income students who need family law and domestic violence assistance to reduce the risk of or address homelessness; 2. Provide family law and domestic violence direct legal assistance to prevent homelessness, reduce housing insecurity and address current homelessness for low-income students at these campuses; 3. Provide legal education programs in family law and domestic violence to help low-income students understand and learn how to stop domestic violence and prevent homelessness; 4. Establish a strong referral network and pathways for low-income community college students to obtain other legal help from LSPs, including public benefits assistance and eviction defense, in order to avoid homelessness; 5. Engage volunteers in the project; 6. Secure continuation funding. 	
Rural Communities	One of the colleges the Center will partner with is Citrus College in Glendora, CA. Its Medical Service Study Areas (MSSAs) designation is rural.	
Underserved Communities (Identify the	The Center began its Community College Project in 2004 with the belief that the students, ranging in age from recent high school graduates to middle-aged persons and seniors, were underserved by the legal aid community. These individuals represent a significant part of the low-income public living in Los Angeles; by all analyses, they are primarily	

communities and explain the barriers.)	persons of color and low income. All are attending school to better their lives and those of their families. Most represent the future of the city, county, and state. By all reports, they are also lacking in support, including legal services and domestic violence assistance. Although most community college students can physically visit law offices, and some do, the many constraints in their complex lives act as obstacles to obtaining help when needed. These obstacles typically can include parenthood, work (or welfare-to-work requirements), limited income for transportation and childcare, and school demands. The multiple demands on community college students and the lack of sufficient support largely account for their significant dropout rates, which have also been well documented. The Center’s solution, which is to bring the initial legal services appointment and educational sessions to the campuses, has proven successful. One of the goals of this project is to improve the connections between the community colleges and legal aid programs in Los Angeles through stronger referrals and invited speakers.		
	Number of Partners	Number of Subgrants	Dates of Collaborations
	9	0	3/1/2004 *
Collaboration Explanation (Describe how the applicant and partners will work together.)	The above-listed partners, and additional schools with partnership responses found in the Additional Documents of this proposal, represent schools with which the Center has had working relationships within the past 18 years. There are a total of 12 schools involved, representing multiple community college districts in LA County: Cerritos, Citrus, Compton, ELAC, El Camino, LACC and Mt. SAC, as well as Rio Hondo, Santa Monica College (SMC), LA Southwest, LA Valley and College of the Canyons. The partnerships which have been the most constant are with El Camino, ELAC, and LACC. The nature of the partnerships can be briefly described as follows: For many years, the Center’s staff scheduled once-a-month appointments at these three schools with periodic workshop presentations on family law topics and the Center’s services. All of the partnerships were influenced by one or more of the following factors: 1) the capacity/ability of the campus to organize itself to plan and publicize activities with the Center; 2) the Center’s personnel resources; 3) travel distances; 4) student responses. The basic format of the program has been co-location with the EOPS/CARE and/or CalWORKs programs on each campus; pre-screening of students using a specially created form for the college departments to use followed by on-campus confidential intake and legal assessment appointments supplemented with educational presentations to explain the Center’s services and how the students could get help. In 2020, the Center switched to online presentations and telephonic screening, intake, and legal assessment appointments, which have remained to this date.		

*Nine partnerships began on March 1, 2004.

2023-2024 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (HP 4) COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION PROFILE

Organization Name	Housing and Economic Rights Advocates	
Project Name	Homelessness Prevention For Domestic Violence Survivors	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 444,400	\$0
County(ies) Served	Imperial, Kern, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego	
Project Abstract	HERA proposes to utilize this HP funding to serve domestic violence survivors in MSSA defined rural locations, focusing particularly on qualifying residents of the rural parts of the counties of San Diego, Imperial, San Bernardino, Riverside, and Kern, expanding our services in these locations. We will also disseminate our multilingual DV survivors legal rights brochures broadly, statewide, online via our website and social media, and to organizations that serve low-income residents and may have contact with DV survivors and/or are dedicated to serving DV survivors (e.g. shelters) to increase the likelihood of information on their legal rights reaching them. We will provide legal assistance to DV survivors facing displacement because of domestic violence, including financial abuse, whether they are homeless, or low-income tenants or low-income homeowners. Our legal services will address pre-Unlawful Detainer problems impacting their ability to keep their rental unit, legal services to prevent foreclosure for DV survivors who are homeowners, and legal assistance to address the plethora of debt and credit problems that abusers impose on DV survivors.	
Project Goals and Deliverables	HERA will disseminate our DV survivors multilingual legal rights information to 100 organizations that are located in and/or serve the target rural areas in our selected counties. HERA will also disseminate this information statewide more broadly through our network of former clients. Through outreach, HERA will both educate survivors and make them aware of our legal services to help them avoid homelessness and/or address abuses that prevent them from accessing housing. HERA will serve 80 DV survivors individually over the course of the grant period-- 50% via briefer service counsel and advice, and the other 50% in-depth on housing and debt concerns that threaten to displace them from housing.	
Rural Communities	DV survivors in MSSA qualifying locations statewide with a special focus on DV survivors in MSSA qualifying locations in the counties of Imperial, Kern, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego. In Imperial, 13.4% of residents are age 65 or older, 48.5% are women, 10% identify as people of color, 85.8% are Latino. (All data drawn from US Census), 75.1% of residents age 5 and older speak a language at home other than English, 30.1% of residents are foreign born, and only 15.4% have a bachelors or higher degree; 18.1% live in poverty. In Kern, 11.4% of residents are age 65+, 48.6% are female, 18.4% are people of color, 56.1% are Latino, 19.8% are foreign-born, 43.9% speak a language at home other than English, 17.1% have a bachelors' degree+, 18.3% live in poverty. In Riverside, 14.9% of residents are age 65+, 49.8% are female, 44.4% are people of color, 51.6% are Latino, 22% are foreign-born, 42.1% speak a language at home other than English, 24% have a bachelors' degree, 11.6% live in poverty. In San Bernardino, 12.1% of residents are age 65+, 50% are female, 47.8% are people of color, 53.7% are Latino, 21.3% are foreign-born, 43.7% speak a language at home other than English, 23.3% have a bachelors' degree, 13.2% live in poverty. In San Diego, 14.9% of residents are age 65+, 49.3% are female, 31.4% are people of color, 34.8% are Latino, 22.4% are foreign-born, 36.3% speak a language at home other than English, 42% have a bachelors' degree, 10.6% live in poverty.	

Underserved Communities (Identify the communities and explain the barriers.)	DV survivors as our target within underserved communities in MSSA rural parts of the counties of Imperial, Kern, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego counties face difficulties accessing information within the abusive relationship and may have been more isolated due to that relationship. They tend to have a high school degree or less, are primarily women, and they may include seniors. Limited English Proficiency residents, and foreign-born who face language and information barriers and sometimes exclusion from getting legal services based on immigration status face even higher hurdles to accessing civil justice. DV survivors bear the burden of stigmatization and fear of seeking services for fear that this will facilitate the abuser's finding them. Younger women (ages 18-29) reported the highest rates of abuse and yet often do not have access to/awareness of legal services. (See California Domestic Violence Statistics, 2015, at https://www.domestic-violence-law.com/blog/2015/may/california-domestic-violence-statistics/).		
	Number of Partners	Number of Subgrants	Dates of Collaborations
	0	0	—
Collaboration Explanation (Describe how the applicant and partners will work together.)	N/A		

2023-2024 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (HP 4) COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION PROFILE

Organization Name	Inland Counties Legal Services	
Project Name	Housing Protection Clinic (HPC)	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 369,752	\$0
County(ies) Served	Riverside	
Project Abstract	<p>Housing instability has greatly impacted low-income renters and homeowners in the rural and urban communities of Mead Valley and Western Unincorporated Riverside County. Inland Counties Legal Services ("ICLS") and Riverside County Library System's partnership will address the lack of safe, decent, and affordable housing in Western Unincorporated Riverside County through the Housing Protection Clinic. Attorneys staffing the clinic will provide onsite legal assistance to tenants and homeowners to protect them against unlawful actions of lenders and landlords. Additionally, the clinic will help low-income households access and preserve public benefits to stabilize income and increase housing affordability. This clinic is strategically located at the local library, an easily accessible and trust community resource. Through the Riverside County Library System and ICLS's partnership, residents in the surrounding rural communities will have access to legal services to protect their housing and prevent displacement.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>PROJECT GOALS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assist 300 clients in total for grant period 2. Of the 300, provide counsel and advice to 50 clients 3. Of the 300, provide brief services to 100 clients 4. Of the 300, provide extended services to 150 clients <p>MAIN BENEFITS</p> <p>It is estimated that main benefits obtained for the clients will include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. HO1: 50 clients 2. HO2: 100 clients 3. HO3: 10 clients 4. HO4: 5 clients 5. IM4: 5 clients 6. IM5: 5 clients 	
Rural Communities	Mead Valley, Glen Valley	
Underserved Communities (Identify the communities and explain the barriers.)	<p>Mead Valley / Glen Valley</p> <p>The population ICLS will serve with this project includes women, Hispanic/Latino communities, persons with limited English capacity, seniors ages 60 and over, Veterans, persons with disabilities and unhoused individuals. This population faces barriers to legal services such as lack of childcare, lack of access to highspeed internet, lower computer literacy, transportation challenges, and language barriers. Therefore, they need full legal services that are specific to their legal needs which can only be provided through meeting individually with an attorney.</p> <p>There are only a handful of court projects that would address housing legal issues in Western Riverside County. These projects are courthouse based but do not provide comprehensive extended legal services. In partnership with the Riverside County Library, Mead Valley Branch, ICLS will expand on the Library's educational foundation by providing free legal services, which will include extended services and representation in court or at administrative hearings. ICLS's community presence will reduce the transportation and</p>	

	technology barriers this population faces by providing in-depth services which will not require that underserved communities navigate forms and court rules on their own. Underserved populations will not have to complete legal documents without assistance. An onsite attorney will provide this service and provide legal representation in cases with merit.		
	Number of Partners	Number of Subgrants	Dates of Collaborations
	1	0	9/1/2021
Collaboration Explanation (Describe how the applicant and partners will work together.)	<p>The Riverside County Library System, Mead Valley Branch will be the location of the project. ICLS plans to hold legal clinics onsite at the Mead Valley Library located at 21580 Oakwood St., Mead Valley, CA 92570, once day per week from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm and subject to modification should it be needed. Clinics will be on a walk-in basis so that those needing help will not need to navigate an offsite intake system which will improve accessibility, especially for the homeless. The clinic will be staffed with an attorney and a support staff member.</p> <p>The Library will assist in advertising the project by having fliers accessible to library patrons on site and on the Riverside County Library System's website. The Library will also securely store the technological equipment needed for the project such as the printer and computer. The Mead Valley location has a large conference room which will be where the clinic is held. The Library will also provide space for community presentations by ICLS on the various legal services we offer to qualified applicants.</p> <p>ICLS will provide training to Library staff on ICLS's services and eligibility requirements. Only ICLS staff will be conducting the intake and screening individuals applying for services.</p>		

2023-2024 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (HP 4) COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION PROFILE

Organization Name	Inner City Law Center	
Project Name	Online Tool for Statewide Eviction Defense	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 1,500,000	\$400,000
County(ies) Served	Alameda, Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Los Angeles, Madera, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Mono, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Placer, Plumas, Riverside, Sacramento, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, Ventura, Yolo, Yuba	
Project Abstract	<p>The Tenant Power Toolkit that Inner City Law Center helped launch in July with support from the State Bar is even more effective than anticipated. ICLC seeks additional funding to expand and improve the tool's usefulness in Los Angeles and rural California. The tool assists tenants statewide who are facing eviction. It allows tenants with access to the internet to answer plain language questions (currently in English or Spanish) and then takes this information, applies all statewide and local law governing evictions in the tenant's jurisdiction, and generates required legal paperwork, including an Unlawful Detainer Answer and requests for fee waivers and jury trials.</p> <p>Since its launch in July of 2022, the tool has already reached over 3,000 tenants and prepared 757 Answers, including 330 Answers in September alone. As tenant protections expire and legal service providers are stretched for capacity, we anticipate use of the tool to increase.</p> <p>Additional State Bar funding will enable us to expand ongoing efforts to update, maintain, and improve the functionality of the tool as local requirements shift while continuing collaborations with existing project partners—the Debt Collective and Leadership Counsel for Justice & Accountability—and incorporating additional collaborative partners—ACCE Institute, Inland Counties Legal Services, and the Los Angeles Tenants Union—to meet the growing demand for the Toolkit throughout the state and providing additional critical funding for the most effective eviction defense mechanism: full scope representation by a qualified attorney.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>We have already exceeded our annual goal of 2,250 Toolkit users for the existing State Bar funded grant, with nearly 4,000 users in the first three quarters of the grant. Additional goals for this expanded project include:</p> <p>Conduct outreach to 50+ organizational partners, including at least 15 in rural areas throughout the state;</p> <p>Conduct outreach and education about the Toolkit to at least 700 low-income tenants facing eviction in the Inland Empire;</p> <p>File at least 1,600 Answers for tenants using the Toolkit in LA County;</p> <p>Provide one-on-one assistance to at least 480 tenants using the Toolkit;</p> <p>Refer at least 120 high priority at-risk tenants for legal services in LA County;</p> <p>Provide limited scope services for at least 180 tenants facing eviction; and</p> <p>Provide full scope legal representation to at least 100 tenants facing eviction in Los Angeles.</p> <p>With a goal to:</p>	

	<p>Reduce default judgments; Make critical legal defenses real; Empower tenants and tenant organizations to access critical entry points into the system of justice; Lesson the load for legal services; and Prevent homelessness before it happens. Fewer people being evicted means fewer people becoming homeless.</p>
Rural Communities	<p>Our project focuses on addressing homelessness in rural communities by helping low-income tenants in rural communities avoid being evicted into homelessness. While this tool is available to all tenants statewide, it is particularly useful to those in California's rural communities, where fewer legal aid attorneys are available to provide representation. The work of ICLC and our partners at the Debt Collective, and ACCE on this project ensures that the tool is up to date and reflects the local protections and rules in rural communities.</p> <p>Inner City Law Center's service area includes serving tenants in the rural communities of Los Angeles County.</p> <p>ICLC's current partner on this project, the Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability, is already working to encourage and support use of this tool in the rural communities of Riverside, Kern, Tulare, Fresno, Madera and Merced Counties.</p> <p>Our current partners at the Debt Collective are expanding use of this tool by working with partners in other rural communities throughout the state, including Legal Services of Northern California, California Rural Legal Assistance, Petaluma People Services Center, Central California Legal Services, Faith in the Valley, and Centro Legal de la Raza.</p> <p>This additional funding will enable us to bring a new partner into the collaboration. Inland Counties Legal Services, Inc. will focus on encouraging and supporting use of this tool in the rural communities of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties.</p>
Underserved Communities (Identify the communities and explain the barriers.)	<p>Everything ICLC does is designed to prevent or end homelessness. Because of our location in Skid Row, ability to serve undocumented clients, focus on serving homeless and precariously housed clients, and the dearth of legal services available to rural residents, the clients that this project serves face even higher barriers to accessing civil justice than the low-income community generally.</p> <p>Eviction risk is not distributed equally across households; it is much higher for historically underserved populations:</p> <p>The PULSE Survey estimates that at least 80% of at-risk renters have incomes below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level and 75% are BIPOC. In the LA Metro Area alone there are 647,000 at-risk tenants, of whom more than 80% are BIPOC.</p> <p>In 2020, the LA Homeless Services Authority reported that Black residents are four times more likely to experience homelessness than White residents.</p> <p>In 2018—prior to the pandemic—the Economic Roundtable reported that nearly 600,000 LA County residents were spending 90% or more of their income on housing.</p> <p>Our project will by definition assist underserved people, particularly in rural areas, as we are targeting those who would not normally file a response to an eviction notice and have limited access to legal services. The project will expand access for those facing imminent homelessness.</p> <p>Our partners also have a long history of addressing homelessness in particularly underserved communities. For example, Inland Counties Legal Services focus on providing</p>

	legal services to “residents that are low-income, senior and with disabilities in San Bernardino and Riverside County.”		
	Number of Partners	Number of Subgrants	Dates of Collaborations
	5	4	1/6/2014 6/16/2015 1/7/2019 1/6/2020 10/3/2022*
Collaboration Explanation (Describe how the applicant and partners will work together.)	<p>Everything that ICLC does is done in heavy collaboration with partner organizations. For example, ICLC leads the Provider Alliance to End Homelessness, a collaboration of 85 organizations which advocates for public policies that provide long-term solutions to homelessness and we lead the Preventing and Ending Homelessness Partnership of six different legal services organizations working together to provide holistic legal services that prevent and end homelessness throughout Los Angeles.</p> <p>This project is no different. This funding will enable us to strengthen existing partnerships with The Debt Collective, Leadership Counsel for Justice & Accountability, Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE), and the Los Angeles Tenants Union (LATU). In addition, it will enable us to build a new organizational partnership with Inland Counties Legal Services, thereby expanding use of the Tenant Power Toolkit in the rural Inland Empire.</p> <p>For decades, ICLC has partnered with UCLA Law Professor (and former ICLC Board Member) Gary Blasi. In the past couple of years, ICLC has been working closely with Gary and his UCLA colleague Professor Hannah Appel on the Tenant Power Toolkit. Hannah is on the board of the Debt Collective, which has been leading the development of the tool. ICLC has a current State Bar grant to support this work.</p> <p>ICLC partners regularly with the Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE) on various statewide tenant advocacy and organizing efforts. For example, in 2020 we partnered with ACCE on a State Bar funded grant to advocate for increasing resources and requirements for affordable housing.</p> <p>LA Tenants Union (LATU) is also a longtime partner of ICLC’s. Even without a formal contractual relationship, we have worked very closely with LATU for years through the Stay Housed and broader Right to Counsel coalition in Los Angeles. Because LATU has emerged as one of the main promoters and users of the Tenant Power Toolkit, we have been working closely with them for most of 2022. They have been particularly useful partners because of their ability to identify and support tenants who are using the tool in Los Angeles and are especially vulnerable to homelessness and landlords. We then prioritize these tenants for full-scope legal representation.</p> <p>ICLC has also partnered with the Leadership Counsel for Justice & Accountability for years on statewide policy advocacy issues. They are currently also an ICLC subgrantee on a State Bar HP3 grant. We will continue our partnership under the existing funding for this project but do not plan to expand funding for the Leadership Counsel as part of this proposal.</p> <p>Instead, we are adding a new partner to the project. In order to expand use of this online tool in the Inland Empire, we plan to subcontract with Inland Counties Legal Services. While ICLC has not recently partnered with Inland Counties Legal Services, many of our key staff have longstanding relationships with their senior staff. For example, Sharon Bashan, ICLC’s Chief Program Officer, has worked with Inland Counties’ leadership and staff directly on several large multi-year projects in the Inland Empire, including a</p>		

	<p>community redevelopment project focused on local small businesses and non-profits – funded by the State Bar's Bank Grant – as well as a pro bono innovation project (funded by the CA Access to Justice Commission).</p> <p>Current partners in the project who are reaching out to tenants statewide, including rural areas include:</p> <p>Legal Services of Northern California - Sacramento, Auburn, Woodland, Solano, Chico, Redding, Eureka and Ukiah</p> <p>California Rural Legal Assistance - Statewide</p> <p>California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation - Statewide</p> <p>Petaluma People Services Center - Petaluma</p> <p>Central California Legal Services - Fresno, Merced, Visalia</p> <p>Faith in the Valley - Fresno County, Merced County, Kern County, San Joaquin County, Stanislaus County</p> <p>Centro Legal de la Raza - Central and Northern California</p> <p>Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability - San Joaquin Valley, Sacramento, Coachella Valley</p> <p>The proposed project will allow ICLC to expand the use of the tool to the Inland Empire, an area with a high poverty rate and a dearth of services, including a low density of attorneys. The tool as well as ICLC's guidance and best practice guidance will enable Inland Counties Legal Services to reach and help more tenants in isolated rural communities.</p> <p>Project partners will report to ICLC outreach and education activities, major modifications and improvements to the Tenant Power Toolkit, successes and challenges, and also include monthly quantitative data such as total number of Toolkit users and users generating completed answers. Partners input all of this information in a monthly reporting form on Microsoft Form, and the responses are compiled on a spreadsheet that is monitored by ICLC's grant support staff and Co-Director of the Tenant Defense Project. Quarterly reports by all partners will be provided to the State Bar detailing outreach efforts, the number of Answers provided, and cases closed.</p> <p>Project goals include:</p> <p>Conduct outreach to 50+ organizational partners, including at least 15 in rural areas throughout the state;</p> <p>Conduct outreach and education about the Toolkit to at least 700 low-income tenants facing eviction in the Inland Empire;</p> <p>File at least 1,600 Answers for tenants using the Toolkit in LA County;</p> <p>Provide one-on-one assistance to at least 480 tenants using the Toolkit;</p> <p>Refer at least 120 high priority at-risk tenants for legal services in LA County;</p> <p>Provide limited scope services for at least 180 tenants facing eviction; and</p> <p>Provide full scope legal representation to at least 100 tenants facing eviction in Los Angeles.</p>
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*Please note that this date is after the June 30, 2022, preference date that was established by the Budget Act of 2022.

2023-2024 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (HP 4) COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION PROFILE

Organization Name	Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco	
Project Name	Tenant Advocacy Project	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 275,759	\$52,500
County(ies) Served	San Francisco	
Project Abstract	<p>JDC's Tenant Advocacy Project prevents eviction lawsuits from being filed by intervening in housing disputes before the conflict rises to the level of a formal eviction. JDC's Supervising Housing Attorney and Tenant Advocate step into these situations to help mediate and negotiate with landlords, property management companies, and their attorneys to resolve conflicts – making clear that tenants are not alone and have the resources to fight prospective evictions.</p> <p>This new EAF HP IV funding will enable JDC to retain this project's Tenant Advocate, who supports the Housing Attorney and provides clients with advocacy around rental assistance applications. Available rental assistance programs could be a lifeline for desperate tenants if they were better known and more readily accessible. Additionally, these applications require cooperation from the landlord to complete and submit, cooperation that landlords are frequently unwilling to provide. The new Tenant Advocate will liaise between the tenant and landlord to ensure that as many eligible rental assistance applications are submitted as possible.</p> <p>With the award of this grant, JDC also plans to expand its existing MOU partnership with Legal Link to include provision of six Legal First Aid trainings to the staff of local nonprofit service organizations that target low-income San Franciscans, educating staff on how to identify pre-eviction legal housing issues and to connect appropriate clients to JDC. Legal Link will also support implementation of an automated system for streamlining client registration for new weekly virtual Housing Clinics to be operated by JDC's Housing Attorney and Tenant Advocate.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>JDC proposes that this EAF HP IV project will support the outreach, scheduling, and provision of legal advocacy services to Housing Clinic clients – including all follow-up and full- and limited-scope representation services that may arise from these Clinic interactions. Additionally, this funding will support the Tenant Advocate position's rental assistance application advocacy activities. As such, the following outcomes will be achieved solely with EAF HP IV funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * In the first month, Legal Link and JDC will implement an automated scheduling system to enable other agencies' to book their clients for Housing Clinic sessions with JDC's Housing Attorney directly; * Legal Link will provide at least six Legal First Aid trainings to prepare community-based organizations to make warm referrals to JDC's Tenant Advocacy Project; * At least 90% of frontline staff who participate in Legal Link trainings will improve their legal capability as a result of the training; * Hold at least 60 total weekly Housing Clinics, with four available consultation appointments per Clinic; * Serve at least 120 indigent tenants at Housing Clinics who have housing conflicts that threaten to displace them; * Provide post-Clinic legal advocacy services to at least 36 indigent tenants; 	

	<p>* Complete and submit at least 60 rental assistance applications on behalf of indigent tenants; and</p> <p>* At least 90% of project clients' cases will result in a positive outcome, such as maintenance of current stable housing, securing a move-out settlement that is mutually beneficial, or another housing outcome that results in housing stability.</p>		
Rural Communities	None		
Underserved Communities (Identify the communities and explain the barriers.)	<p>This project specifically serves low-income tenants who are have housing conflicts but who have not yet received eviction notices. The legal services system in San Francisco is designed to provide representation only to tenants who have already been sued for eviction. Nonetheless, there are tenants across the city in conflict with their landlords where eviction notices may be imminent but have not yet been served; these tenants have nowhere else to turn for legal advocacy services besides the Tenant Advocacy Project. As such, these pre-eviction tenants face barriers to receiving legal advocacy services that tenants in eviction proceedings do not.</p> <p>Further, due to the overwhelming demand for its services, the Tenant Right to Counsel system does not currently have the capacity to provide representation to every single tenant facing eviction, despite the affirmative right to such counsel. This situation means that even though tenants have the right to counsel, if the system lacks the capacity to provide representation, they will be turned away. JDC's Tenant Advocacy Project relieves pressure on this system by averting eviction lawsuits before they are filed. The result of JDC's project is to reduce barriers to accessing civil justice by making the overall legal services system for tenants function more smoothly and fairly.</p>		
	Number of Partners	Number of Subgrants	Dates of Collaborations
	1	1	10/19/2019
Collaboration Explanation (Describe how the applicant and partners will work together.)	<p>JDC first formalized its partnership with Legal Link in 2019, when we launched a new Family Justice Project to provide general family law services to indigent San Franciscans. This partnership persists today, compensating Legal Link for providing in-service trainings for two community partner sites, training direct service staff on how to identify relevant family law issues among their clients and make appropriate referrals to JDC. See attached in Section 5c for the original 2019 MOU, along with the current MOU for this partnership. Upon the award of this EAF HP IV funding, JDC will expand this MOU partnership with Legal Link to include the provision of Legal First Aid trainings for the staff of local nonprofit service organizations that target low-income San Franciscans, educating service staff on how to identify pre-eviction legal housing issues and connect appropriate clients to JDC's Tenant Advocacy Project. Legal Link will provide Legal First Aid trainings to the frontline staff of six community-based organizations that serve low-income San Franciscans during the project period. These trainings will include instruction and support so that community-based organizations may enroll appropriate clients directly in new weekly JDC Housing Clinics.</p> <p>To facilitate the enrollment of individuals for a Housing Clinic, Legal Link will support implementation of a calendaring system that will allow clients to reserve time at a weekly Housing Clinic. Once community-based organization staff have answered three basic eligibility questions – around income, county of residence, and pre-eviction status – the partner staff will be able to sign up the client for one of four 30-minute clinic sessions with the Housing Attorney. Legal Link expects this system to be automated once operational, but their staff will remain available to offer technical support in case of difficulties. In total, these clinics will serve at least 120 indigent tenants during the grant term.</p>		

	<p>JDC will monitor Legal Link's completion of Legal First Aid trainings by requiring the submission of invoices that document achievement of specific deliverables in order to trigger payments, according to a payment schedule to be included in the MOU. Legal Link will measure the "legal capability" of trainees before and after the training, and will report to JDC the percentage of trainees who saw an increase in legal capability. JDC and Legal Link will work together to monitor these assessment results and adjust programming as needed. JDC will also monitor the success of Legal Link trainings by counting the number of Housing Clinic slots that are claimed each month, aiming to fill all four appointments each week.</p>
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2023-2024 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (HP 4) COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION PROFILE

Organization Name	La Raza Centro Legal	
Project Name	La Raza Centro Legal SF Homelessness Prevention Project	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 175,000	\$75,000
County(ies) Served	San Francisco, San Mateo	
Project Abstract	<p>The core aspects of La Raza Centro Legal San Francisco's proposed project are derived from years of learning several important lessons from performing this work. Specifically, this proposal suggests that a trained legal worker at our San Francisco office and an additional legal worker employed by our sub-grantee Coastside Hope, in the rural San Mateo County coastside, dedicate the vast majority of their time on:</p> <p>1) Know Your Rights Presentations, given in conjunction with local community partners, so local tenants are aware of their rights and can self-advocate;</p> <p>2) Habitability Advocacy efforts among residents and families living in apartments with multiple tenants, to ensure that these tenants, many of whom have minor children, can live in safety and peace, and are not living in substandard conditions that are not consistent with city regulations pertaining to cleanliness, space regulations, and in violation of other municipal housing laws.</p> <p>3) Shelter referrals to help connect clients to agencies that can offer them and their families shelter.</p> <p>The above priorities will be accomplished in conjunction with local San Francisco, rural San Mateo County, and other Bay Area organizations who perform this work daily, to ensure that housing workers employed by La Raza Centro Legal and subgrantee partner's workers are constantly being responsive to the key priorities in the community according to the most important needs at the moment, given local trends and developments in local ordinances, landlord behavior, and market forces.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>Our project's key goals and deliverables are as follows for the duration of the grant term:</p> <p>For each agency, LRCL and Coastside Hope:</p> <p>Monthly: At least one Know Your Rights Training will be provided to community members and/or families, in person by staff.</p> <p>Weekly: Housing resources referrals and shelter referrals will be provided to community members and/or families by phone, email and in person as needed.</p>	
Rural Communities	The rural coastside region of San Mateo County including the communities of Half Moon Bay, Montara, El Granada, Pacifica and other unincorporated areas of the rural Coastside San Mateo landscape.	
Underserved Communities (Identify the communities and explain the barriers.)	<p>At La Raza Centro Legal, San Francisco (LRCL) we are proud to partner with and serve an extremely diverse clientele, which has traditionally been under-served by access to attorneys due to language and cultural barriers, age and/or disability, and who face other barriers to access to justice. Our clients are deserving, low-income migrant families fleeing persecution, and elderly individuals who need one on one help with complex legal issues unique to senior citizens. We represent unaccompanied minors arriving at the border, women and men fleeing domestic violence, and individuals on the LGBTI spectrum who are survivors of gender-based harm. We represent workers whose rights in the workplace have been violated. We serve clients who are difficult to reach. In sum, our work is dedicated to reaching and providing free legal services to deserving, hard-working constituents. These clients are hard to reach given language and cultural barriers they</p>	

	face, and our legal team, being from the same immigrant background and similar cultural upbringing, enables us to start our work with our underserved communities from a common starting place, which forms the basis for a professional relationship based on trust and mutual respect.		
	Number of Partners	Number of Subgrants	Dates of Collaborations
	1	1	1/1/2012
Collaboration Explanation (Describe how the applicant and partners will work together.)	<p>La Raza Centro Legal SF and Coastsides Hope are partners in the CRISP collaborative. CRISP stands for "Collaborative Resources for Immigrant Services on the Peninsula", and is a collaborative project involving member 501 c 3 organizations whose shared mission is to provide free or low-cost immigration legal services to children, families, and the elderly living in Peninsula (San Mateo County) communities. CRISP partners rely on collaborative engagement and referral processes, high quality legal representation and support, and coordinated outreach efforts that enable more efficient delivery of immigration services and support in the Peninsula region. We two organizations have been partner agencies in this collaborative for 10+ years; the fiscal lead and technical support agency in charge of grant funds for CRISP is the Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC) in San Francisco. As partner agencies, LRCL and Coastsides Hope have historically referred clients back and forth in our immigration law department, with LRCL accepting client referrals for our defensive and affirmative immigration team, when we have capacity to accept new clients. In the past two fiscal years LRCL has accepted at least three families for representation in defensive Immigration Court proceedings (deportation) from Coastsides Hope. The work coastsides Hope will perform is identical to the work we will perform on the project, only they will work in San Mateo coastsides region. To ensure accurate reporting and grant compliance we will hold monthly for the first four months of the grant term, and then quarterly meetings to review and confirm that we are meeting all grant goals and metrics. The quantitative goals of the project are as follows: Monthly know your rights presentations in either small group format or one on one to community members at risk of homelessness; weekly referrals to housing referrals, shelter referrals, and tenants rights organizations to ensure at risk of homelessness community members receive the resources they need in their neighborhoods to prevent homelessness. We are proud of our productive and symbiotic relationship between LRCL and Coastsides Hope, and look forward to working together in partnership for many years to come.</p>		

2023-2024 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (HP 4) COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION PROFILE

Organization Name	LACBA Counsel for Justice	
Project Name	Homelessness Prevention Expansion Project	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 329,850	\$0
County(ies) Served	Los Angeles	
Project Abstract	<p>This proposal seeks funding to expand tenant assistance to include Unlawful Detainer defense workshops/clinics as well as financial literacy and other debt relief workshops after the successful launch of LACBA CFJ's Homelessness Prevention Advocacy Project ("HPAP"). This funding will also assist the AIDS Legal Services Project in transitioning from a general pro bono referral program into a project whose delivery is primarily, but not exclusively, focused on preserving housing and stabilizing the finances of particularly vulnerable people living with HIV and AIDS ("PLWHA").</p> <p>HPAP was created to provide tenant stabilization to the most vulnerable PLWHA and disabled veterans by resolving housing disputes before they spiral out of control and lead to possible eviction as well as improve the quality of the tenants living conditions. The project utilizes trained pro bono attorneys to provide direct advocacy to address a wide range of housing access issues that often plague tenants living with a disability, including disability related accommodation and modification requests, source of income discrimination, requests for In-Home Support workers and emotional support animals all of which improve the overall living environment and wellness for PLWHA and disabled veterans and help them to stay housed.</p> <p>The goal here is to expand HPAP services to more directly address tenant evictions, since even with the infusion of an unprecedented amount of funding to combat homelessness and evictions, the needs of low-income tenants, particularly those who are living with a disability, still far outstrip the resources.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>It is anticipated that we can provide direct assistance to at least 100 tenants facing eviction over the contract period to complete an answer and fee waiver form if applicable. After the VLSP helps veterans clear their outstanding traffic debt, fees and fines, the project wants to expand their proactive approach and provide workshops that focus on money management, including banking relationships, managing credit, and investing in order to help veterans facing homelessness get back on their feet.</p> <p>It is anticipated that at least 75 additional tenants will be assisted over the contract period and provided with consumer knowledge such as budgeting, how to read credit reports, how to work with your bank, how to rebuild credit and avoid an eviction and how your tenancy history impacts your credit score.</p>	
Rural Communities	None	
Underserved Communities (Identify the communities and explain the barriers.)	<p>Approximately 75% of CFJ's clients represent low-income communities of color and are amongst the most marginalized, including LGBTQ, the unhoused, trans and cisgender women of color, survivors of violence, undocumented immigrants and people living with HIV (PLWH). Over half of CFJ clients served are non-English speaking.</p> <p>Of the veterans who sought assistance from the Veterans Project in 2021, over 65% of the Veterans were from historically disadvantaged and underserved communities of color; 50% were homeless and/or at risk for homelessness; and 70% were disabled.</p> <p>In a 2021 Legal Needs Assessment study for PLWH multiple barriers to service were identified including the enduring stigma of the virus that prevents people from even trying</p>	

	to access services, in addition to the stigma associated with being unhoused, an immigrant and a racial minority. In addition, PLWH and veterans both report high incidences of mental health challenges and substance use, further complicating their ability to seek legal services and stay engaged throughout the legal process.		
	Number of Partners	Number of Subgrants	Dates of Collaborations
	6	0	11/1/2021* 3/1/2022 4/5/2022
Collaboration Explanation (Describe how the applicant and partners will work together.)	<p>U.S.Vets: Since 2014, the Veterans Legal Service Project and U.S.Vets at Patriotic Hall have teamed up to offer a one-stop shop for veterans needs, with the U.S.Vets providing in-office space to the Veterans Project to serve as a weekly legal resource to veteran patrons of U.S.Vets, specifically, and Bob Hope Patriotic Hall, generally. As a community partner, U.S.Vets staff was trained in fair housing rights and the referral process for the HPAP program in April 2022 and will be extended training for our expanded services under this new program to assist with the outreach and referral process. Through this partnership and more informal collaborations with case managers and social workers from the VA, PATH, Volunteers of America, TELACU and Veterans Peer Access Network, who currently assist with outreach and referrals, the goal is to assist up to 12 veteran tenants per clinic.</p> <p>UCLA School of Law: In March 2022, the HPAP program began working with the UCLA law school's Pro Bono Director to recruit and train UCLA law students interested in housing issues to help staff a new monthly HPAP clinic commencing this fall. The goal is to serve up to 12 tenants per clinic. The clinics will be held out in the community, trading off each month targeting the veteran community or the HIV community.</p> <p>Los Angeles City Department of Disability / AIDS Coordinator's Office: In November 2020, the City began providing \$20,000 of yearly funding to support homelessness prevention services for PLWH, along with outreach and referrals.</p> <p>Informal relationships also exist with APLA/Health/Alliance for Housing & Healing, The LIFE Group, Being Alive, Oasis HIV Outpatient clinic and have been in place since November 2021. HPAP has collaborated with these organizations to co-host both provider and tenant presentations.</p> <p>There will be no sub-grantees under this project.</p>		

*Four partnerships began on November 1, 2021.

2023-2024 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (HP 4) COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION PROFILE

Organization Name	Law Foundation of Silicon Valley	
Project Name	Legal Services Housing Santa Clara County	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 1,060,000	\$ 0
County(ies) Served	Santa Clara	
Project Abstract	<p>The Law Foundation's Homeless Prevention (HP4) project will provide homeless prevention legal services to low-income individuals, many of whom are disproportionately at risk of homelessness because they live in rural settings or are otherwise underserved. These services include: providing legal advice and education regarding housing issues, as well as enforcing tenants' rights through demand letters, settlement negotiations, and if necessary, litigation.</p> <p>Our Housing Program predominately serves communities that are most at-risk of homelessness and displacement by focusing on low-income people of color, individuals with disabilities, and those who have limited English proficiency. We will increase our reach and more effectively target underserved tenants by leveraging our partnerships with community organizations.</p> <p>Funds will also be used to create a new social worker position dedicated to support clients dealing with additional barriers to staying housed, providing holistic case management for clients needing additional support. Furthermore, this project will support the design and launch of a new Small Claims Pro Bono initiative to help tenants recover funds owed by landlords, like security deposits. These otherwise unrecoverable funds preclude tenants from moving on and stabilizing their housing.</p> <p>Ultimately, this project will expand stability in housing through eviction prevention or increased time to move out, prevent unlawful detainers from appearing on tenants' credit records, reduce homelessness by supporting tenants in complying with settlement agreements, and provide increased economic stability for tenants who might not otherwise be able to recover their security deposit.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>The goals of this Project are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to provide homeless prevention legal services to low-income individuals, many of whom are disproportionately at risk of homelessness because they live in rural settings or are otherwise underserved; - to create a new social worker position dedicated to support clients dealing with additional barriers to staying housed; - to design and launch a new Small Claims Pro Bono initiative to help tenants recover funds owed by landlords, like security deposits. These otherwise unrecoverable funds preclude tenants from moving on and stabilizing their housing; and - to increase our reach and more effectively target underserved tenants by leveraging our partnerships with community organizations. <p>We will serve 320 individuals with direct legal services to stabilize their living situations through limited scope and/or full scope representation with the following estimates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 275 limited scope assistance - 45 full representation - In at least 1/3 of full representation cases, a social worker will provide case management support, such as access to resources, assistance with complying with settlement 	

	<p>agreements, access to services, and if necessary, helping clients find other places to relocate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In at least 50 limited scope assistance cases, an attorney would support pro bono volunteers in helping tenants recover money owed, like security deposits, through small claims court proceedings. <p>Targeted outcomes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expand stability in housing through eviction prevention or increased time to move out - Prevent unlawful detainers from appearing on tenants' credit records - Reduce homelessness by supporting tenants in complying with settlement agreements <p>Recover security deposits after landlord's initial refusal</p>		
Rural Communities	<p>Santa Clara County's population of nearly 1.8 million is the largest of the nine Bay Area counties. The County is mixed urban-rural; a significant portion of the county's land area is unincorporated ranch and farmland. The Law Foundation serves these more rural areas in South Santa Clara County, specifically Gilroy, Morgan Hill, and San Martin.</p> <p>The experience of homelessness can often be less visible in rural areas and requires specific strategies to help serve those who are unhoused or at risk of being unhoused. The Law Foundation team partners with and accompanies the County's Valley Homeless Healthcare Program, which has mobile healthcare teams that target vulnerable populations. We also work closely with the community organizations that specifically serve the rural South County area to hold outreach tenants' rights sessions and even hold "office hours" at their sites.</p>		
Underserved Communities (Identify the communities and explain the barriers.)	<p>The Housing Program predominately serves communities that are most at-risk of homelessness and displacement by focusing on low-income people of color, individuals with disabilities, and those who have limited English proficiency. These communities experience additional barriers to accessing and successfully navigating the court system—including socioeconomic, racism, disability, language access—and are significantly more likely to remain stably housed with an attorney's assistance.</p> <p>The Housing Program works closely with grass-roots, community organizations that are designed to serve communities of color in our area. By working together with these smaller groups, we are able to leverage their strong ties to these communities in order to build trust more quickly and offer our services.</p>		
	Number of Partners	Number of Subgrants	Dates of Collaborations
	4	0	9/07/2021*
Collaboration Explanation (Describe how the applicant and partners will work together.)	<p>We have long-standing partnerships to provide housing and homeless prevention legal services with three other State Bar funded legal services organizations in Santa Clara County - BayLegal, Asian Law Alliance, and Senior Adults Legal Assistance. They are subgrantees on local and federal government contracts.</p> <p>We also have been a part of the Santa Clara County Homeless Prevention System (HPS), which assists low-income families residing in Santa Clara County who are at-risk of homelessness to stabilize their housing situation through comprehensive services including provision of case management, financial assistance, and other resources. LFSV serves as a resource to HPS clients who are in need of civil legal assistance regarding housing, homelessness prevention, subsidy preservation, and other legal issues related to family stability and homelessness prevention. All services are provided free of charge to the accepted referrals, and in multiple languages through in-house language capacity and Voiance interpretation services. In addition to client services, LFSV will engage in outreach regarding housing rights and concerns.</p>		

	<p>The HPS is composed of the following partner agencies: Amigos de Guadalupe, Asian Americans for Community Involvement, Bay Area Community Health, Community Services Agency of Mountain View and Los Altos, Community Solutions, Family Supportive Housing, HomeFirst Services, Housing Choices, International Children Assistance Network, Latinas Contra Cancer, LifeMoves, Next Door Solutions, Sacred Heart Community Service, St. Joseph's Family Center, Sunnyvale Community Services, The Salvation Army Silicon Valley, West Valley Community Services, YWCA Golden Gate Silicon Valley</p>
<p>*Four partnerships began on September 7, 2021.</p>	

2023-2024 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (HP 4) COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION PROFILE

Organization Name	Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights	
Project Name	Challenging Displacement and Dispossession: Legal Services for Entrepreneurs and Unhoused or Precariously Housed Community Members	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 687,700	\$0
County(ies) Served	Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, Sonoma	
Project Abstract	Funds will support the expansion of a) LCCRSF's work protecting clients' vehicular homes and recovering damages for illegal seizure or destruction of their vehicles and personal belongings that provided shelter and b) LCCRSF's Legal Services for Entrepreneurs program, which protects small business owned by low-income people of color facing eviction and displacement and preserves their primary income source.	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>[LSE/Legal Services for Entrepreneurs]</p> <p>Key Goal: Prevent potentially catastrophic displacement or loss of businesses that are a primary income source and source of stability for low-income clients and their families.</p> <p>Deliverables:</p> <p>a) Four workshops to help Bay Area small businesses avoid eviction/loss of business (e.g., "Know-Your-Rights" on commercial leases/negotiation and commercial Unlawful Detainer/UD process).</p> <p>b) Support for specialized contract attorneys and in-house attorneys to provide limited scope representation to 18-24 clients on 1) eviction defense (e.g., litigation and anything else related to the commercial UD process), and 2) constructive eviction defense (e.g., renegotiating commercial leases to avoid lease termination and negotiating back-rent repayment plans).</p> <p>[Challenging Poverty Tows and Sweeps, and Other Services for Unhoused Clients]</p> <p>Key Goal: Prevent further displacement of residents already facing housing instability, precarity, and inequality; ensure that low-income and homeless residents have a safe place to live and shelter-in-place</p> <p>Deliverables:</p> <p>a) Support 20–30 homeless or precariously housed clients each year in filing small claims, or otherwise demanding the return of or recompense for vehicles, tents, and other survival belongings stolen or destroyed by the City</p> <p>b) If clients' claims are appealed by the City, LCCRSF will provide them with full pro bono representation to support their hearings</p>	
Rural Communities	None	
Underserved Communities (Identify the communities and explain the barriers.)	<p>Most of our clients face multiple layers of discrimination and barriers based on gender, race, sexual orientation, income, immigration status, age, and histories of incarceration and/or abuse. This project will address homelessness in the following particularly underserved communities:</p> <p>Homeless individuals - Many of our unhoused clients are people of color and disabled, battling for daily survival as they are beset by racialized criminalization on the street. Because of instability as well as lack of transportation to offices or internet connection for remote services, it is difficult for homeless individuals to access legal support.</p> <p>Small business owners of color - Many of LCCRSF's clients are entrepreneurs with small businesses in neighborhoods harmed by decades of disinvestment and exploitation,</p>	

	where gentrification is a force for displacement. Many are also immigrants or limited English-proficient. There is a glaring dearth of legal services in the Bay Area offering linguistically and culturally responsive technical assistance that could be key to helping small business owners navigate the U.S.' labyrinthine commercial law.		
	Number of Partners	Number of Subgrants	Dates of Collaborations
	0	0	0
Collaboration Explanation (Describe how the applicant and partners will work together.)	N/A		

2023-2024 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (HP 4) COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION PROFILE

Organization Name	Legal Aid at Work	
Project Name	Helping Limited-English Proficient Spanish Speakers Avoid Homelessness and Housing Instability by Protecting their Primary Sources of Income	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 305,855	\$15,000
County(ies) Served	Alameda, Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Los Angeles, Madera, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Mono, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Placer, Plumas, Riverside, Sacramento, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, Ventura, Yolo, Yuba	
Project Abstract	<p>LAAW will fight homelessness of monolingual Spanish speakers statewide by bolstering the capacity of its Workers' Rights Clinic to serve limited-English proficient (LEP) Spanish speakers who are at elevated risk of homelessness due to disruptions in their income. It will do so by hiring a Spanish-language Community Outreach and Intake Specialist to handle the significant increase in demand for Spanish-language clinic appointments LAAW has experienced in recent years as our network of clinic sites has expanded geographically, especially in the Central Valley and Southern California.</p> <p>This Project will leverage LAAW's existing partnerships with over 13 community based organizations, 8 law schools, approximately 100 law students, and around 150 volunteer attorneys. It will also bolster LAAW's existing partnership with Watsonville Law Center (WLC) to conduct special outreach and education to rural immigrant workers, including undocumented individuals. Outreach to limited-English proficient, undocumented workers is especially important because such individuals are highly vulnerable to homelessness, poverty, and exploitation.</p> <p>We anticipate common claims will include claims for income-replacement benefits like state disability insurance, paid family leave, and unemployment insurance. In addition, we anticipate that the vast majority of clients served will have claims for wage theft.</p> <p>Preventing or remedying disruptions in monolingual Spanish speakers' primary source of income prevents homelessness by preventing a cascading series of harms that occur when workers living on the edge of financial instability lose their jobs and other income and cannot pay the rent.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>The overall goal of the project is to ensure that monolingual Spanish-speaking workers experiencing eviction, housing insecurity, or homelessness have access to a holistic range of services, including but not limited to LAAW's employment-related services, so that they can maintain income and pay rent. Specifically, we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Hire a Community Outreach and Intake Specialist to help us conduct outreach and build a network of housing providers, legal services, and other relevant groups. *Fund supervision of this new Community Outreach and Intake Specialist by senior staff attorneys who run our Workers' Rights Clinic. *Continue education and outreach on the employment rights of undocumented workers through direct training, presentation, and dissemination of information 	

	<p>*File administrative claims for income-replacement benefits (like unemployment insurance, state disability insurance, and paid family leave), as well as claims for wages and other income that can help individuals pay the rent and avoid homelessness.</p> <p>*Continue identifying and developing a vast network of partners throughout the state to help enhance the outreach efforts and refer clients to relevant services necessary to attain housing stability for monolingual Spanish speakers.</p> <p>*Continue to update and disseminate self-help materials in Spanish on employment rights.</p> <p>*Continue working with and advising undocumented persons through our clinics and helplines</p> <p>While it is difficult to predict with certainty how many additional calls from monolingual Spanish speakers we will be able to handle, we anticipate the Specialist alone will serve over 500 monolingual Spanish Speaking callers annually.</p>		
Rural Communities	<p>This project will include special outreach with WLC, which has hosted our Workers' Rights Clinic in Fresno since 2013 and has helped us provide legal services to reach workers in rural MSSAs around Watsonville and the Central Coast.</p> <p>Also, as noted under form A question 6, LAAW's Workers' Right Clinic is able to serve clients statewide through both in-person clinics at sites around California and through virtual clinics. Through this network, we are able to serve clients in rural areas statewide, and we routinely serve clients in counties with a significant number of residents in rural or frontier MSSAs, such as:</p> <table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Alpine -Butte -Calaveras -El Dorado -Humboldt -Imperial -Lake -Madera -Mariposa -Mendocino -Medced -Monterey -Napa -Nevada -Placer </td><td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Plumas -San Benito -San Luis Obispo -Shasta -Siskiyou -Solano -Sonoma -Sutter -Trinity -Tulare -Yolo -Yuba </td></tr> </tbody> </table>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Alpine -Butte -Calaveras -El Dorado -Humboldt -Imperial -Lake -Madera -Mariposa -Mendocino -Medced -Monterey -Napa -Nevada -Placer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Plumas -San Benito -San Luis Obispo -Shasta -Siskiyou -Solano -Sonoma -Sutter -Trinity -Tulare -Yolo -Yuba
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Underserved Communities (Identify the communities and explain the barriers.)	<p>This project will target monolingual Spanish speakers and will include special outreach to those who are also undocumented by leveraging LAAW's existing partnership with WLC. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, undocumented immigrants in California lived precariously, with over half living at or below 150% of the poverty line and subjected to persistent economic exploitation, wage theft, and immigration-related retaliation.[8] These already-vulnerable immigrants, who make up 10% of California's workforce, have been uniquely impacted by the pandemic, and have lost jobs at disproportionately high rates, with undocumented workers losing an estimated 360,000 jobs in California alone.[9] These worsening economic conditions push increasingly desperate</p>		

	<p>undocumented immigrants into exploitation, unemployment, eviction, and, ultimately, homelessness.</p> <p>Undocumented immigrants comprise a significant portion of the monolingual Spanish speaking population in California. Across California, 38% of households headed by someone who was undocumented were also households where individuals had limited-English proficiency.[10]</p> <p>In addition, monolingual Spanish speakers, regardless of immigration status, are themselves underserved. Their limited-English proficient status makes them at greater risk for exploitation, discrimination, and abuse on the job, and the language barrier often bars them from resources for assistance when their rights are violated.</p>		
	Number of Partners	Number of Subgrants	Dates of Collaborations
	1	1	7/1/2013
<p>Collaboration Explanation (Describe how the applicant and partners will work together.)</p>	<p>LAAW's Community Outreach and Intake Specialist will conduct intakes for monolingual Spanish Speakers that experience disruptions to their income or other employment-related legal problems. LAAW will also staff and run all of our existing clinics at the following locations: San Francisco, Berkeley/Oakland, Antioch, East Palo Alto, Watsonville, Sacramento, Fresno, San Bernardino, Ontario, Los Angeles (2 locations), Santa Ana, and San Diego</p> <p>WLC will host the Watsonville Clinic site to ensure that indigent agricultural workers near Watsonville are able to protect their primary sources of income through employment-related legal services. Many of these workers experience barriers to access because of limited-English proficiency and concerns surrounding immigration status. LAAW will staff and run this Workers' Rights Clinic site, with the Community Outreach and Intake Specialist conducting intakes for monolingual Spanish Speakers there, as well as to other Spanish-speaking clients around the state. WLC will also refer monolingual Spanish speakers to LAAW when they are experiencing disruptions in their jobs or other income. Though not directly part of this grant, LAAW will also continue fostering its strong relationships with the community partners and law schools that form the backbone of its Workers' Rights Clinic. Those partners include community based organizations such as the East Bay Community Law Center, the Center for Workers' Rights, Grace Bible Fellowship of Antioch, the Warehouse Worker Resource Center, the Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino, Central California Legal Services, and the Los Angeles Black Worker Center.</p> <p>Also instrumental to this work but not formally partners on this grant are the approximately 100 law students (and their law schools) and 150 volunteer attorneys from around the state that volunteer at our Workers' Rights Clinic to provide legal advice and counsel to people with low-wage jobs.</p>		

2023-2024 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (HP 4) COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION PROFILE

Organization Name	Legal Aid of Marin	
Project Name	Leveraging Partnerships to Support Underserved Agricultural Workers and Ranch Tenants in Marin's Rural Communities by Increasing Access to Holistic and Community-Centered Homelessness Prevention Legal Services	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 454,000	\$112,380
County(ies) Served	Marin	
Project Abstract	<p>Legal Aid of Marin's "Leveraging Partnerships to Support Underserved Agricultural Workers and Ranch Tenants in Marin's Rural Communities by Increasing Access to Holistic and Community-Centered Homelessness Prevention Legal Services" will expand access to homelessness prevention legal services for agricultural workers and ranch tenants in West Marin. This funding will grow Legal Aid of Marin's Staff by one housing staff attorney and one legal assistant, who will work in partnership with two community-based organizations to provide West Marin agricultural workers and ranch tenants with increased access to legal services including: pre-eviction advice of rights, consultation, renter and landlord education, outreach, negotiation with landlords, eviction defense, legal services to improve habitability, increasing affordable housing, and access to social services and safety net resources. Partner organizations West Marin Community Services and Bolinas Community Land Trust will support this project by dedicating staff resources to helping Legal Aid of Marin bring increase access to legal services focused on preserving, improving, and protecting housing for agricultural workers and ranch tenants in West Marin. Staff dedicated to this project will provide an estimated 500 agricultural workers and ranch tenants in West Marin with access to homelessness prevention legal services over an 18-month period. Of the estimated 500 people to be served through this project, 75% will experience increased housing stability and a greater understanding of tenants' rights.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>This project will bring increased housing stability to an estimated 500 farm workers and ranch tenants in West Marin. Our activities will bring legal education, outreach, direct representation, and holistic services to underserved immigrants living and/or working on farms and ranches in West Marin.</p>	
Rural Communities	<p>This project will address homelessness in West Marin, a rural ranching and agricultural community that includes Point Reyes Station, Inverness, Bolinas, Stinson Beach, Olema, and San Geronimo Valley. These communities have a combined estimated population of 16,000.</p>	
Underserved Communities (Identify the communities and explain the barriers.)	<p>The underserved communities Legal Aid of Marin aims to serve through this project are primarily monolingual immigrants from South and Central America without legal status who live and/or work on West Marin farms and ranches. Many live on the farms and ranches where they work as a condition of their employment or a family member's employment. This population faces many barriers that make accessing civil justice almost impossible. Firstly, housing conditioned on employment creates chronic housing instability and the constant risk of sudden displacement without external resources to secure alternative housing. Secondly, farm and ranch owners are rarely held accountable for failing to remedy dangerous and illegal habitability issues like access to running water, cooking appliances, and other necessities because this population fears retaliation and displacement if they seek legal representation to enforce their rights. Third, this population is overwhelmingly monolingual, and language barriers create extreme isolation in a</p>	

	community that is majority English speaking, white, and upper class. Fourth, immigrants face widespread discrimination and abuse in Marin because people with social and economic power take advantage of the fact that many do not understand their rights and will not seek to enforce them. Fear of deportation, distrust of law enforcement and the legal system, and unfamiliarity with available social and legal services keep many quiet when their rights are being violated. All of these factors create a culture of isolation, fear, and inaccessibility to resources that create even higher barriers to accessing civil justice for this underserved community.		
	Number of Partners	Number of Subgrants	Dates of Collaborations
	2	2	3/20/2020 2/1/2022
Collaboration Explanation (Describe how the applicant and partners will work together.)	<p>West Marin Community Services: Since March 2020, Legal Aid of Marin has partnered with West Marin Community Services to bring bilingual outreach, education, and legal intake to residents of West Marin. West Marin Community Services provides robust social services assistance to low-income residents of West Marin and has the trust and confidence of the communities they serve. This partnership helps connect low-income residents of West Marin with holistic housing and employment legal services. Under this project, West Marin Community Services will dedicate five hours of staff time per month to partnering with Legal Aid of Marin, as we bring housing legal services to farm workers and ranch tenants in West Marin. West Marin Community Services will leverage the public trust they have with the target population to build rapport with Legal Aid of Marin. Additionally, West Marin Community Services will help connect members of this target population with social services and safety net resources as needed to ensure that the holistic needs of community members are met. West Marin Community Services and Legal Aid of Marin will cross-screen members of this target population to ensure that appropriate referrals are made to bridge gaps in resources. Additionally, West Marin Community Services will attend outreach public outreach events operated by Legal Aid of Marin to cultivate trust in Legal Aid of Marin's services. An estimated 500 farm workers and ranch tenants will be served through this project.</p> <p>Bolinas Community Land Trust: Since early 2022, Bolinas Community Land Trust and Legal Aid of Marin have partnered to bring bilingual outreach, education, and legal intake to low-income residents of Bolinas in West Marin. Bolinas Community Land Trust is trusted by the target population since the organization has increased access to affordable housing for low-income community members. Legal Aid of Marin has also shared farm worker and tenants' rights materials with Bolinas Community Land Trust to support their understanding of how housing law impacts the communities they serve. Additionally, Legal Aid of Marin increased access to employment law legal services through outreach in partnership with Bolinas Community Land Trust. Under this grant, Bolinas Community Land Trust will hire a full-time staff member dedicated to partnering with Legal Aid of Marin to increase housing stability and homelessness prevention for an estimated 500 farm workers and ranch tenants in West Marin. Bolinas Community Land Trust will participate in stakeholder initiatives including negotiations with farm and ranch owners around habitability issues and housing stability. Bolinas Community Land Trust will leverage public trust in their organization to promote access to Legal Aid of Marin's services. Bolinas Community Land Trust and Legal Aid of Marin will work together regularly to bring outreach, education, legal service, case management, and access to social services and safety net resources as needed. Bolinas Community Land Trust will make warm referrals to Legal Aid of Marin for holistic housing</p>		

	<p>legal services. Bolinas Community Land Trust will be a critical thought partner in developing strategies to increase housing stability for an estimated 500 farm workers and ranch tenants in West Marin.</p> <p>Legal Aid of Marin will closely monitor West Marin Community Services and Bolinas Community Land Trust's work by holding quarterly meetings with all three executive directors to discuss progress toward quarterly deliverables and goals outlined in our proposed activities. Additionally, programmatic staff dedicated to this project will communicate regularly to coordinate efforts in line with project deliverables and goals. All three organizations will develop a shared data tracking system to share progress toward goals, log activities, and record numbers of community members served. Each subgrantee will certify that every staff member assigned to this project has read and understands the scope, requirements, and deliverables of this proposal.</p>
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2023-2024 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (HP 4) COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION PROFILE

Organization Name	Legal Aid of Sonoma County	
Project Name	Tenant Protection Program	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 491,500	\$18,000
County(ies) Served	Sonoma	
Project Abstract	<p>The Tenant Protection Program (TPP) provides access to free legal services to low-income tenants throughout Sonoma County. LASC annually assists over 600 low-income tenant households with eviction defense and other homelessness prevention legal issues, including habitability, ADA reasonable accommodation requests, and Housing Choice Voucher (formerly Section 8) issues. Services include counsel and advice, document preparation, negotiations, court/administrative hearing representation, and community outreach/legal education workshops. Though a legislative right to counsel does not yet exist in this County or State, the TPP program gives LASC the capacity to provide more expansive services to more tenants in line with a right to counsel model and thus furthers access to justice for this County's most vulnerable community members, low-income tenants, and those at risk of homelessness.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>TPP Project Goals for the grant period: Assist 500 low income tenant households with eviction defense and homelessness prevention legal services. Serve 750 adults in those households. Serve 300 children in those households. Assist 850 underserved community members through targeted outreach presentations and legal education workshops in partnership with NBOP. Deliverables: The TPP program will track these specific California Main Benefit outcomes: 1. The number of tenant households who retain their current housing (main benefit H01) 2. The number of tenant households who obtain a 'soft landing' (main benefit H02) 3. The number of Housing Choice (formerly Section 8), VASH and other subsidies we preserve (main benefit H03) 4. The number of tenant households assisted with post-disaster price gouging or other illegal behavior (main benefit H04) 5. The number of habitability complaints resolved (main benefit H05) In addition, we will track both the cumulative amount of additional time in weeks that tenant households' gain in their units because of our intervention, and the total dollar amount of money saved or funds obtained for clients. Additional time obtained and money saved for tenant clients substantially increases their ability to obtain alternate housing and avoid homelessness. We also track the number of community members assisted through outreach presentations, legal clinics and educational workshops.</p>	
Rural Communities	<p>Services are provided throughout Sonoma County which includes the following rural Medical Service Study Areas (MSSA): 269, 272, 275, 277. LASC considers low income tenants that reside in our County's rural and geographically isolated MSSA to be especially under-served and disadvantaged. Clients that live in more remote parts of the County face transportation and other access to service barriers which have been exacerbated by COVID restrictions. Before we began providing mobile services and targeted outreach to</p>	

	rural MSSA populations they were historically underserved according to our own demographic reports.		
Underserved Communities (Identify the communities and explain the barriers.)	Yes, our target population (tenants at risk of homelessness) includes, among others, underserved communities in rural MSSA and tenants with limited English proficiency (LEP). Those in rural MSSA face higher barriers to accessing civil justice than the low-income community generally due to lack of knowledge of or familiarity with our agency and due to the physical distance to our office. Spanish-speakers remain at a significant disadvantage in Sonoma County. Those with limited English proficiency face high barriers due to linguistic, cultural, and economic barriers. For example, undocumented monolingual immigrants may be less inclined to seek legal assistance based on fear of revealing their status, fear of being denied assistance and fear of lack of language capacity. However, as a non-LSC funded agency, we have no restrictions prohibiting us from assisting those without status and we have the language capacity to serve monolingual Spanish clients in their own language.		
	Number of Partners	Number of Subgrants	Dates of Collaborations
	1	1	1/1/2018
Collaboration Explanation (Describe how the applicant and partners will work together.)	<p>North Bay Organizing Project (NBOP) is a grassroots, multi-organizational and multi-issue organization that seeks to build regional power in the working class and minority communities of Sonoma County and the North Bay. LASC has partnered with NBOP since January 2018 to provide tenant outreach and education as part of our joint organizing and coalition building efforts around housing justice. Since TPP's launch in 2021, this partnership has been imperative in expanding the accessibility of our services to those who have not sought assistance from our office or were not familiar with our services. NBOP, as LASC's subgrantee, organizes and convenes community meetings with community partners and tenant groups across the County, including the rural parts of the county, at which LASC provides tenant education and Know Your Rights presentations and resources. This creates a pathway for LASC to connect with various community partners in all corners of the County through a single hub. Pursuant to this partnership, NBOP has a goal of facilitating at least 1 tenant workshop in the County each quarter and increasing membership and/or attendance at their general meetings, at which LASC attends and often presents, by 20 percent each quarter.</p> <p>Also, NBOP operates a Tenant Counseling Hotline wherein its counselors provide information to tenants across the County on their rights in English or Spanish. LASC provides ongoing training and consultation to the counselors staffing this hotline and NPOB generates referrals to LASC for callers who require additional information, advice and/or assistance. This allows LASC to reach tenants who might not access LASC directly. Pursuant to this partnership, LASC monitors this work by regularly meeting with NBOP to review aggregated data from the hotline and to provide ongoing training and consultation on issues that arise and ongoing guidance on referrals.</p>		

2023-2024 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (HP 4) COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION PROFILE

Organization Name	Legal Services for Children	
Project Name	Securing Legal Guardians for Youth	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 500,001	\$0
County(ies) Served	Alameda, San Francisco	
Project Abstract	<p>The Securing Legal Guardians for Youth (SLG4Y) Project prevents homelessness for youth who are unable to live with their parents due to immigration status, abuse, neglect, incarceration, substance use disorder, deportation, abandonment or death. These are youth who would enter foster care if not for the legal assistance we provide to secure legal guardians. Young people who cannot live with their parents are at extreme risk of homelessness and victimization, including being sexually exploited or trafficked. Unfortunately, these risks are high even if the youth enter foster care.</p> <p>This project pairs youth clients with an attorney and social worker team who will secure legal guardians, stable housing, legal immigration status access, access to school, and increased income via enrollment in benefits programs. Through legal guardianships, San Francisco and Alameda County children will find positive and nurturing homes in the care of family members or trusted adults. The project prevents immediate homelessness, avoids placing children in the foster care system, which in itself is a risk factor for homelessness when they leave care, and increases long-term stabilization by building a web of supports around each young person at a crisis point in their lives.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>To prevent homelessness among San Francisco and Alameda County youth who are unable to live with their parents, LSC's Securing Legal Guardians for Youth (SLG4Y) Project will provide healing-centered, linguistically- and culturally-competent legal and social work services. Project Goals include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide 125 children and concerned adults with crisis intervention, information, technical assistance, training, and referral to appropriate services concerning legal guardianship through our intake warmline, trainings, and other venues. 2. Provide direct legal representation and appropriate social work services to 50 children and youth in guardianship proceedings. <p>Project outcomes include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish a legal relationship with a stable, trusted adult (35 youth); 2. Ensure the youth has a secure place to live (35 youth); 3. Enroll the youth in school and/or stabilize the child's educational setting with special education advocacy and supports (as needed); 4. Connect the youth to therapy or other mental health treatments and physical healthcare services (as needed); and 5. Increase economic stability for the youth and their guardian by helping them access benefits programs for which they are eligible (as needed). 	
Rural Communities	None	
Underserved Communities (Identify the communities and explain the barriers.)	<p>SLG4Y's target population—minors (ages 12-17) and transition age youth (ages 18-21) in need of legal guardians—reside in San Francisco and Alameda Counties (predominantly in Oakland). They may be homeless or at risk of homelessness. The circumstances giving rise to their unique homelessness prevention needs are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overridingly, this project's clients are minors or transition age youth with no parents or stable guardians 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are undocumented immigrants who have more difficulty accessing services because they are often limited English proficient (LEP) and are not familiar with U.S. systems (48% of LSC's FY22 guardianship clients are immigrants) • They have more difficulty accessing services as minors (and if they are already homeless, there are fewer services for this population) • Youth who are racial or ethnic minorities (28% of LSC's FY22 guardianship clients were black/African American, a highly at-risk group; overall, 96% of LSC' guardianship clients were youth of color). • They are youth who have experienced trauma (abuse, neglect, abandonment, or death of parents; perilous journeys alone from home countries) • Youth who are LGBTQ+. LCS has handled several cases for trans youth this year where the youth was rejected by parents and needed complex interventions to secure safe and stable housing. 		
	Number of Partners	Number of Subgrants	Dates of Collaborations
	0	0	—
Collaboration Explanation (Describe how the applicant and partners will work together.)	<p>There are no formal collaborations for this project, however, LSC works extensively with government agencies and other CBOs to ensure high-quality services and that we are meeting the needs of our community. We work closely with Child Protective Services, the Probate Court, and Family Mosaic Project - SF Department of Health. We work with the ABA Center on Children and the Law and ChildFocus, who are working with legal service providers across the country to establish the National Legal Network for Kinship Families, an initiative funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. We work with the Legal Self-Help at the San Francisco Superior Court (ACCESS Center) and Seneca's Kinship Center. We work with Edgewood Family Center's Kinship Support Project and Grandparents Who Care Project. We also refer youth to Larkin Street Youth Services and Huckleberry Youth Programs for housing, healthcare, education, mentorship and employment services. We have been working actively over the past year and a half with Alliance for Children's Rights on their "Hidden Foster Care" project. The Alliance has been working on legislation to reduce the inequities between foster care and guardianships, in terms of benefits. LSC has been a critical voice in these conversations, ensuring that the ability of young people and their families are not unintentionally limited by the legislation.</p>		

2023-2024 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (HP 4) COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION PROFILE

Organization Name	Legal Services for Prisoners with Children		
Project Name	Unhoused Legal Support		
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted	
	\$ 537,200	\$0	
County(ies) Served	Alameda, Fresno, Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, Ventura		
Project Abstract	<p>The core aspect of this project is to build out infrastructure that will enable us to increase both the quantity and quality of the services (legal support) and educational materials (pamphlets, webinars, online resources, etc.) we provide to reduce homeless throughout the state of California. Through our work with a number of QLSPs and our statewide network of All of Us or None chapters, we are already providing critical support to disrupt various pipelines to homelessness. In addition, this project will allow us to further disrupt the incarcerated-to-unhoused cycle by providing expertise gained through our forty-year history of working with a population drastically overrepresented in the unhoused population to the other key driving force in said cycle. By efficiently providing our legal and population-related expertise, through both materials and services, we can provide critical support to help California abate its burgeoning unhoused persons crisis.</p>		
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>Key deliverables</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 3 free webinars for service providers 2. 1 Housing Rights for the formerly incarcerated pamphlet 3. 1,000 Pamphlets distributed 4. 10 new housing related Orgs/QLSPs supported 5. 10% increase in housing-related support calls over 2021. 		
Rural Communities	Our total support likely touches nearly every county in California. Our All of Us or None chapters operate in Kern and Fresno Counties that place us in direct contact with rural homeless and at-risk populations.		
Underserved Communities (Identify the communities and explain the barriers.)	Be it for racial, economic, or system-impacted status, LSPC has a demonstrated commitment to helping those who face the greatest barriers to civil justice. In this case the matter is straightforward. No grouping of the unhoused faces more systemic and social barriers than the formerly incarcerated man, woman, or non-binary person. The barriers are both legal (services from which they are banned) and perceived (discrimination resulting from bias and/or misinformation).		
	Number of Partners	Number of Subgrants	Dates of Collaborations
	0	0	—
Collaboration Explanation (Describe how the applicant and partners will work together.)	N/A		

2023-2024 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (HP 4) COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION PROFILE

Organization Name	Legal Services for Seniors	
Project Name	Preventing Senior Homelessness in Monterey County	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 126,000	\$0
County(ies) Served	Monterey	
Project Abstract	<p>LSS will represent seniors with direct no-cost Eviction Defense and related legal representation in fair housing, tenant and homeownership housing problems. We currently help approximately 500 low-income, underserved individuals annually. In addition to mainstay Eviction Defense - answers, writs for Stay of Execution, etc., these funds will allow us to represent clients in whatever is needed to protect our Monterey County seniors.</p> <p>We will also provide community workshops and presentations to educate seniors and family members concerning their rights before individual legal problems arise. LSS will promote these services via to seniors through our partners and print and radio bilingual media. Approximately 37% of our clients' problems directly relate to housing issues. In 2019, we provided legal assistance to 412 individuals regarding Landlord-Tenant issues. The pandemic increased the numbers of cases to 481 in 2020, and by 2021 cases rose to 493. To date (through September 30th, 2022), we have dealt with still a staggering 476 cases.</p> <p>LSS is a 12 -member (8 FTE attorney/legal advocates, 4 PT administrative/fundraising, legal advocates) non-profit law firm serving Monterey County seniors.</p> <p>Our legal representation helps seniors avoid homelessness and maintain their independence in safe, clean and stable living situations. LSS excels in using its resources to serve the maximum number of clients possible to maintain seniors' financial, physical and legal independence.</p> <p>LSS focuses its activities to assist clients living in rural and remote areas of Monterey County, including Northern and Southern Monterey County's unincorporated populated areas, home to our region's farmworker and low-income residents.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>Seniors face challenges of public and private housing, homelessness, administrative and court hearings. We will provide direct legal representation and community presentations on preventing abuse, resolving landlord-tenant issues and accessing affordable housing and earned benefits. LSS' goal is to address and correct legal harm perpetrated upon Monterey County seniors. Grant funds will provide no-cost legal representation to underserved, elderly, low-income residents. We will increase our outreach and services to the more rural, remote locations in Southern Monterey County's unincorporated regions (south of King City: Bradley, Lockwood and Parkfield).</p> <p>Goal 1: Assist Monterey County low-income and underserved Seniors with appropriate legal advice and resolution concerning landlord-tenant disputes, ensuring satisfactory conclusions to their legal problems and are able to stay in their homes.</p> <p>Outcomes: a) LSS's staff will assist approximately 750 seniors with landlord-tenant disputes, contractor/repair disputes and evictions.</p> <p>b) seniors receive appropriate, confidential full legal assistance.</p> <p>Goal 2: Provide community workshops including landlord-tenant issues with extensive outreach and confidential client meetings in rural Monterey County - including South</p>	

	<p>County areas of King City, Bradley, Lockwood, Soledad, Greenfield, Gonzales; and North County areas of Castroville, Aromas and Big Sur.</p> <p>Outcomes: a) Offer at least 8 workshops annually for a total of 16 over 2 years.</p> <p>b) Over 400 seniors and family members attend these workshops to avail themselves of our confidential services.</p> <p>Goal 3: Provide information via weekly print and radio media: "Tips of the Week."</p> <p>Examples attached.</p> <p>Outcomes: a) Seniors and the community learn of and contact us for assistance.</p>		
Rural Communities	Monterey County's southern and northern non-incorporated areas.		
Underserved Communities (Identify the communities and explain the barriers.)	<p>In Southern Monterey County especially, the population of farm workers and indigenous Mexican communities meet with cultural, social and other barriers to even the most rudimentary services. There is reliable bus transportation to the urban centers of Salinas and Monterey Peninsula, but not enough to make it convenient or useful to seniors without many transfers and long hours on the road. There are no other legal aid organizations in Monterey County who are able to reach into South and North County on a regular basis to education the community as a whole and provide direct legal representation as well. Past the City of King City, there are many smaller communities for whom reliable transportation and social services are non-existent.</p>		
	Number of Partners	Number of Subgrants	Dates of Collaborations
	0	0	0
Collaboration Explanation (Describe how the applicant and partners will work together.)	<p>We have informal collaborations with other non-profits. But no client-sharing programs or agreements. We make sure to maintain client confidentiality, since we are the only legal aid firm working in the area. We have a strong network of referrals which we can make - those same organizations send clients to us as well.</p>		

2023-2024 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (HP 4) COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION PROFILE

Organization Name	Mental Health Advocacy Services	
Project Name	Homelessness Prevention Medical-Legal Partnership Helping Extremely Vulnerable Clients with Mental Health Disabilities	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 360,000	\$43,415
County(ies) Served	Los Angeles	
Project Abstract	<p>MHAS seeks to leverage an existing relationship with a trusted community-based health organization to launch a new behavioral health-legal partnership in which legal services specifically targeting low-income tenants with mental health disabilities at risk of homelessness are holistically integrated into a healthcare setting heavily utilized by the underserved and almost entirely Latino community of East Los Angeles. Clients will be provided with tenant defense assistance in landlord-tenant rental disputes, including pre-eviction and post-eviction legal services, counseling, advice and consultation, training, renter education and representation, and advocacy to improve habitability and to ensure receipt of eligible income or benefits to improve housing stability.</p> <p>This partnership will also provide critical funding to support a new Housing Navigator position for our proposed partner, Via Care. The Housing Navigator will assist participants with obtaining housing by 1) Overseeing a tenant screening and housing assessment that identifies the participant's preferences and barriers related to successful tenancy; 2) Developing an individualized housing support plan; 3) Searching for housing and presenting options; 4) Assisting in securing housing, including the completion of housing applications and securing required documentation; and 5) Identifying and securing available resources to assist with subsidizing rent, among other tasks. The Housing Navigator will identify participants needing housing-related legal services and will refer these participants to the MHAS legal team. MHAS will provide direct legal services to at least 100 clients, will provide technical assistance to the Housing Navigator, and will offer several "know your rights" trainings to the broader Via Care community.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>The first key goal of this project is to increase access to justice for individuals with mental health disabilities facing housing insecurity.</p> <p>The second key goal of this project is to keep some of Los Angeles County's most vulnerable residents – including immigrants with mental health disabilities - safely and permanently housed.</p> <p>The Via Care Housing Navigator will oversee tenant screenings and housing assessments conducted by Via Care behavioral health case workers for at least 300 participants during the grant period. The Via Care Housing Navigator will review all screenings and identify participants needing housing supportive services and participants needing legal services. For participants needing housing supportive services, the Housing Navigator will develop individualized housing support plans that address identified barriers, include short- and long-term measurable goals for each issue, and establish the participant's plan for meeting the goal, for at least 100 participants during the grant period.</p> <p>For participants needing legal services, the Housing Navigator will refer these participants to MHAS. MHAS will serve at least 100 clients during the grant period, some receiving brief service legal assistance with others receiving extensive services and case representation. MHAS will additionally be on-call to provide technical assistance to the Via Care Housing Navigator and other staff at Via Care as needed. Finally, MHAS will provide</p>	

	five “know your rights” style trainings for Via Care participants and staff on a range of homelessness prevention issues including housing law, renter protections, and government benefits for people with disabilities.		
Rural Communities	None		
Underserved Communities (Identify the communities and explain the barriers.)	<p>All clients served through the proposed project will reside in Los Angeles County’s East Service Planning Area (SPA) 7 – an area whose population is grossly underserved and experiences some of the most concerning disparities in all of Los Angeles County. This area is comprised of five federally designated medically underserved areas (MUAs) and two federally designated medically underserved populations (MUPs). In this area, 45% of individuals have less than a high school-level education, 30.3% are uninsured, and over 98% are racial/ethnic minorities. With nearly a quarter of residents (23.9%) living below the federal poverty level and another one-third (31.6%) of the community living between 100-199% of it, the community’s access to justice is compromised by multiple socio-cultural problems in addition to poverty, such as low-levels of education, language barriers and lack of transportation, that magnify the already significant barriers.</p> <p>There are additional characteristics of this population that result in them facing even higher barriers to accessing civil justice than the low-income community generally. Nearly 9 in 10 Via Care participants are Latino and are often culturally and linguistically isolated; many are also undocumented. This population hesitates to seek legal services for fear that doing so will bring unwanted attention from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or disqualify them from future legalization effort.</p>		
	Number of Partners	Number of Subgrants	Dates of Collaborations
	1	1	4/1/2021
Collaboration Explanation (Describe how the applicant and partners will work together.)	<p>MHAS and Via Care have collaborated for many years among dozens of partners in the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services Whole Person Care program, which brings together health and social service agencies to build an integrated system that delivers coordinated services to Los Angeles County’s most vulnerable Medi-Cal beneficiaries who are high risk, high utilizers of hospital and emergency departments. MHAS attorneys regularly coordinate and communicate with the Via Care Whole Person Care program staff.</p> <p>MHAS and Via Care have further officially partnered for the past year on Project C.A.U.S.E. (Collaboration for Access and Understanding for Survivors in East L.A.), a project funded by a three-year Disability Grant Program Award from the Office on Violence Against Women. The partners have worked well together on this project and are excited at the possibility of expanding their partnership through the creation of a new behavioral health-legal partnership between the two organizations specifically targeting the housing needs of Via Care clients who are receiving mental health services at Via Care.</p> <p>Studies show a range of health and social benefits when lawyers are co-located at medical sites and work alongside medical staff to address the legal needs of their patients – such as disputes with their landlords, inhabitation of their homes, and problems securing the benefits to which they are legally entitled to pay their rent. Here, MHAS and Via Care will collaborate on a behavioral health-legal partnership wherein the MHAS legal team will be embedded into the Via Care behavioral health program to prevent homelessness most efficiently for the most vulnerable Via Care participants. Funding will be used to cover 50% of a new Housing Navigator position at Via Care and 100% of a MHAS Staff Attorney dedicated exclusively to serving Via Care participants.</p>		

	<p>The Via Care Housing Navigator will work with Via Care staff in the behavioral health program to first identify participants receiving behavioral health/mental health services who are most at risk of homelessness and who are currently experiencing housing instability. The Housing Navigator will oversee tenant screenings and housing assessments conducted by Via Care behavioral health case workers for at least 300 participants during the grant period. The Via Care Housing Navigator will review all screenings and identify participants needing housing supportive services and participants needing legal services. For participants needing housing supportive services, the Housing Navigator will then develop individualized housing support plans that address identified barriers, include short- and long-term measurable goals for each issue, and establish the participant's plan for meeting the goal, for at least 100 participants during the grant period. Each step of the project will be tracked and captured in Via Care's case management system, including the total number of tenant screenings completed and the total number of individual housing plans created.</p> <p>Staff at all levels up to and including the MHAS Executive Director and the Via Care CEO have been involved in discussing this collaboration and will be involved in its formation, launch, and evaluation. The MHAS Staff Attorney and Via Care Housing Navigator will implement and lead it. They will meet weekly in the beginning to launch the project and will thereafter meet at least quarterly to review all data collected, discuss progress made towards goals, review compliance with grant requirements and restrictions, and determine whether any program modifications are needed.</p>
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2023-2024 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (HP 4) COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION PROFILE

Organization Name	National Housing Law Project	
Project Name	Leveraging Federal and State Tools to Improve Housing in San Joaquin Valley	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 300,000	\$150,000
County(ies) Served	Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Mono, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tulare	
Project Abstract	<p>The San Joaquin Valley faces some of the most significant housing challenges in the United States with high housing costs, high poverty rates and many substandard dwelling units. The region has also faced a long history of discriminatory land use practices that have left some communities without access to basic services. This project is a collaboration between the National Housing Law Project (NHLP) and the Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability (Leadership Counsel). Leadership Counsel will engage in Housing Element and other local planning processes to encourage policies that benefits low-income tenants and homeowners. Leadership Counsel will also work to increase access to housing and prevent homelessness of displaced residents through efforts such as its work facilitating the relocation of Oasis Mobile Home Park Residents in Thermal CA. NHLP will leverage federal resources and tools to assist Leadership Counsel and will advocate for changes at the federal and state level that benefit the San Joaquin Valley. Through collaboration, the two organizations will help increase housing access and rights for low-income people in the Valley.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>The project seeks to improve tenants' rights, allay homelessness threats, improve land use planning and preserve subsidized housing in the San Joaquin Valley. The project combines the local advocacy of Leadership Counsel with the national expertise of NHLP and the combined understanding of both organizations around state policy.</p> <p>Many jurisdictions in the Valley are beginning their Housing Element planning process, one that is now combined with the state duty to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing. HUD is also finalizing their rule on the federal duty to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing. NHLP and Leadership Counsel will leverage these two processes to improve local housing policy. This will include supporting campaigns for rent regulation and right to counsel at the local levels. Leadership Counsel effectively advocated for special state funding totaling \$30mil to facilitate the relocation of Oasis mobile home park residents in Thermal, CA where contaminated water, trash build-up and sewage issues have long been the norm. Leadership Counsel will work with nonprofits and local agencies, including the Riverside Housing Authority, to identify areas where displaced residents can move. The extreme affordable housing inventory shortfall, coupled with rents at an alternative site, Mountain View Estates, that are unaffordable to some Oasis residents, have complicated the relocation process, despite the funding and thus Leader Counsel's work on this issue is ongoing.</p>	
Rural Communities	All rural areas that are part of the 10 San Joaquin Valley counties: Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Mono, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tulare Counties.	
Underserved Communities (Identify the communities and explain the barriers.)	<p>Influxes of Californians fleeing the coastal urban centers have put heightened pressure on an already inadequate housing market. In 2020 research report, Evicted in the Central Valley: The Avoidable Crisis and Systemic Injustice of Housing Displacement, the link between evictions and homelessness among underserved communities was highlighted repeatedly. A confluence of social inequality metrics, that include income gaps and wealth inequality, historic housing segregation and discriminatory local policy, gaps in education and work opportunity, and language access barriers disadvantage low income residents when their housing stability is threatened or when faced with eviction. As an example, the average renter</p>	

	<p>in Fresno County is considered house burdened, in that housing costs are 34.7% of income. In the higher poverty areas of the San Joaquin Valley, such as the rural agricultural communities, renters are severely rent-burdened, defined by HUD as spending over half the household's income on rent. Most alarmingly, in the Central Valley counties, (which includes the northern most third of the Valley region), where approximately 45 percent of households are renters, tenants experience the highest rates of evictions in California.</p> <p>Tenants typically lack an understanding of the eviction process. The research report cited above found, once faced with eviction, only 1% of tenants had legal representation, while landlords were represented by counsel over 90% of the time. Language access alone creates barriers to civil justice, and the overall population of the San Joaquin Valley has moved to LatinX majority, with LatinX and Asian-only households as significant portions overall.</p>		
	Number of Partners	Number of Subgrants	Dates of Collaborations
	1	1	1/1/2013
<p>Collaboration Explanation (Describe how the applicant and partners will work together.)</p>	<p>Leadership Counsel works in the San Joaquin Valley and the Eastern part of the Coachella Valley. They work alongside the most impacted communities to advocate for sound policy and eradicate injustice to secure equal access to opportunity regardless of wealth, race, income, and place. Through community organizing, research, legal representation, and policy advocacy, Leadership Counsel impacts land use and transportation planning, shifts public investment priorities, guides environmental policy, and promote the provision of basic infrastructure and services. NHLP has worked with Leadership Counsel since its founding in 2013 by two former staff members of California Rural Legal Assistance.</p> <p>NHLP has provided technical assistance to Leadership Counsel, collaborated on cases and consulted with them about state policy. This grant seeks to deepen that collaboration by connecting Leadership Counsel and NHLP more directly to support work around Housing Element, Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing, right to counsel and homelessness prevention measures. Leadership Council played a key role in NHLP's statewide working group dedicated to identifying LIHTC properties that presented a preservation risk in 2019. NHLP worked closely with Leadership Counsel to determine the properties most at risk, identify resident leaders, and strategize to keep the housing Affordable. NHLP and Leadership Counsel plan to meet regularly on the project work, review project deliverables and tenant resources developed by Leadership Counsel, and identify emergent needs for the project work and whether any work plan strategies need refinement or revision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -NHLP and Leadership council worked together during the multi-year roll-out of proposed fair housing regulations promulgated under the state fair housing act. The partnership is ongoing as the department of civil rights (DFEH) continues to amend and draft new regulations. - Leadership Counsel will engage in Housing Element advocacy in the San Joaquin Valley and NHLP will provide technical assistance related to Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing. -Leadership Counsel will advocate for right to counsel policies in Bakersfield and other Valley communities. NHLP will support those efforts with national models and connections to federal funding sources to support right to counsel. -Leadership Counsel will support the relocation of Oasis Mobile Home Park residents under a \$30 million award provided by the State and NHLP will provide technical and legal assistance to support the effort and families' access to new sites. 		

2023-2024 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (HP 4) COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION PROFILE

Organization Name	Neighborhood Legal Services	
Project Name	Strengthening Public Benefits Access for Immigrant Communities	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 1,361,289	\$595,000
County(ies) Served	Los Angeles	
Project Abstract	<p>The Benefits Access for Immigrants Los Angeles (BAILA) Network is a NLSLA-led collaboration of 10 organizations in Los Angeles County comprising of outreach workers, enrollers and legal aid. BAILA will prevent homelessness by maximizing immigrant enrollment in public benefits programs, seamlessly linking individuals and families to benefit enrollment assistance, legal services and other resources within a closed-loop referral network that will help lift people out of poverty and stay in housing. In particular, BAILA hopes to offset fear within the immigrant community of accessing public benefits due to public charge concerns. Through its holistic services, BAILA will empower the immigrant community in Los Angeles County with trusted information to access the services to which they are entitled but historically do not access at levels commensurate with non-immigrant households.</p> <p>In addition to identifying, educating and enrolling people in public benefits such as CalFresh, Medi-Cal, CalWorks and the California Earned Income Tax Credit, BAILA partners will conduct outreach to immigrant families and other vulnerable populations, including people unemployed due to the pandemic, those under-utilizing public benefits due to public charge and those with other misunderstandings or knowledge gaps about receiving public benefits. This project seeks funding to continue and grow the critical work of the BAILA project.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>Through creating a centralized and easily-accessible referral network for immigrants in need of benefits, as well as public charge and other legal counseling, BAILA will make a meaningful dent in the current under-enrollment of immigrant families in public benefits. The primary expected outcome is to enroll eligible immigrants in public benefits and provide legal services to those who struggle to become or remain enrolled. NLSLA has an idea of expected deliverables for these outcomes because it has been tracking data since November 2021. In the past 11 months, the BAILA database has over 1,600 entries and greater numbers are expected as the BAILA Network gains public awareness and trust. NLSLA will provide legal representation in public benefits and immigration legal matters. NLSLA will provide counsel and advice and brief legal services to 80 individuals per quarter (65 public benefits cases and 15 immigration cases) and provide extended legal services to 42 individuals per quarter (30 public benefits cases and 12 immigration cases). NLSLA will also hold 3 provider-focused trainings per quarter in which NLSLA will provide current information on new public benefits and identify common barriers to immigrant communities accessing public benefits.</p> <p>Specific partner deliverables are listed in question #5a and in question #9. In total, the project expects to provide one-on-services to approximately 3,000 individuals throughout the course of the grant period. Another outcome is increased community knowledge about the benefits available to immigrants. In total, this project plans to reach 10,000 people through community outreach.</p>	
Rural Communities	NLSLA targets several rural areas within Los Angeles County, particularly in the Antelope Valley and the rural areas of the San Fernando, San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys. All these	

	<p>areas face barriers to accessing legal services as many Los Angeles County legal service providers are focused on downtown and other centralized locations. NLSLA has a long-standing history of providing outreach in underserved areas outside of the service area of most legal aid providers.</p> <p>In particular, in recent years NLSLA has prioritized legal services, outreach and education in the rural areas of the Antelope Valley, an area known for its long history of systemic racism against low-income people of color. Outside of the cities of Lancaster and Palmdale, much of the Antelope Valley is comprised of rural communities. In the Antelope Valley, more than 30% of residents are Black and more than 60% are Latinx. The poverty rate at 22.4% is significantly higher than the 16% in Los Angeles County overall, with 4 out of 10 residents living at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.</p>			
<p>Underserved Communities (Identify the communities and explain the barriers.)</p>	<p>This project aims to help immigrant communities overcome the very high barriers to accessing public benefits, such as immigration status, language access, and domestic violence, all made significantly worse by recent increased fears related to public charge. Partners at GetCalFresh.org compiled data showing that while 93% of English speakers who are eligible for CalFresh are enrolled, only 58% of eligible Spanish speakers are enrolled, and only 18% of eligible Mandarin speakers are enrolled.</p> <p>Through the BAILA Network's extensive reach, this project will target the underserved communities of the Antelope, San Fernando and San Gabriel Valleys. The Antelope Valley is a remote region of Los Angeles County, known for its long history of systemic racism against low-income people of color. Approximately 93% of the San Fernando Valley population is comprised of the Latinx community, with over 37% of the population being foreign born. The San Gabriel Valley is one of the most diverse in the nation, home to many immigrant communities, primarily Asian and Latinx. With program offices in Pacoima, Boyle Heights, Glendale, and El Monte, and Self-Help Legal Access Centers in Van Nuys, Lancaster, Chatsworth, Pomona, Pasadena, and Downtown Los Angeles, NLSLA is physically positioned to provide access to legal services for these communities.</p>			
	Number of Partners	Number of Subgrants	Dates of Collaborations	
	9	9	5/14/2021 5/17/2021 5/28/2021 5/24/2021*	6/11/2021 6/28/2021 10/7/2021 11/15/2021
<p>Collaboration Explanation (Describe how the applicant and partners will work together.)</p>	<p>The BAILA Network is a unique, three-part collaboration between community outreach workers (promotores in Spanish), benefits enrollers, and legal aid. The BAILA partnerships were informally formed in March 2021 and signed MOU's with each partner were formalized in 2021. The original MOU's are attached for each partner. The original MOU's have an end date of June 30, 2022, however, each partner then executed an amendment with NLSLA that continued the partnership until December 31, 2022. These amendments are included at the end of each uploaded MOU to this application. In the case of grant application acceptance, additional amendments will be executed.</p> <p>There are three types of partners: 1) Enrollment Partners, 2) Legal Services Partners, 3) Outreach Partners.</p> <p>ENROLLMENT PARTNERS</p> <p>Enrollment partners are usually the first point of contact for BAILA Network clients because the system is programmed to assign referrals entered into the front-end of the website to an enrollment partner based on the applicant's address. Each of the lead 4 enroller partners are assigned to 2 respective LA County Service Planning Areas (SPA).</p>			

	<p>Enrollers screen clients using the benefits and legal assessment tools NLSLA developed for the network. The benefits assessment screens for a comprehensive suite of health, nutrition, and cash assistance programs. Depending on the results of the assessment, partners then provide direct assistance with enrollment in Medi-Cal, My Health LA, Covered California, and other critical health programs. They also assist with enrollment in CalFresh. For programs with which the partner cannot assist directly, enrollers provide clients with referral information and/or warm handoffs to organizations that can provide the assistance (i.e. WIC providers and VITA clinics).</p> <p>Throughout these processes, enrollers provide general information about the public charge rule and screen for legal issues related to benefits access. If a legal issue is identified, they will refer directly to a legal partner. Partner services are determined by SPA. LA County is divided into 8 SPA's.</p> <p>Maternal and Child Health Access (MCHA) will provide enrollment to individuals in SPAs 3 and 4. MCHA is an enrollment partner that provides additional technical expertise, including case troubleshooting services (denials, terminations or reductions in benefits), and client advocacy with benefits-granting agencies. In addition, MCHA provides trainings to the network. For this project, MCHA will also pilot a dual, or triple enrollment pilot in health, CalFresh, and CalWORKs benefits. Presently in LA County, very few community-based organizations assist in enrollment in CalWORKs. The process can be lengthy and complex, and navigation services can mean the difference between an approved application and a rejected one. With changes to the public charge rule clarifying that a child's use of cash benefits does not impact their parent's future green card application, it is more important than ever to help these families apply for cash aid along with health and CalFresh benefits.</p> <p>Over the course of the grant period, MCHA will provide 3 total community presentations focused on immigrant benefit enrollment, conduct 75 benefit enrollment and legal services screenings per quarter (450 total), enroll 144 individuals in public benefits programs per quarter (864 total). Of the 144 per quarter, 48 per quarter will be Medi-Cal enrollment, 30 per quarter will be CalFresh enrollment, 30 per quarter with CalWorks enrollment, and 36 per quarter BenefitsCal account setup and troubleshooting.</p> <p>Northeast Valley Health Corporation (NEVHC) will provide enrollment services to individuals in SPAs 1 and 2. Over the course of the grant period, NEVHC will provide public benefits screening to 60 individuals per quarter (360 total), provide enrollment services to 78 individuals per quarter (468 total) and provide public benefits information to 300 individuals per quarter at community events (1800 total). Of the 78 enrollment services per quarter, 36 per quarter will be Medi-Cal enrollment, 24 per quarter will be CalFresh enrollment, and 8 per quarter general enrollment troubleshooting.</p> <p>St. John's Community Health (St Johns) will provide enrollment services to SPAs 6 and 7. Over the course of the grant period, St. Johns will provide public benefits screening to 75 individuals per quarter (450 total), provide Medi-Cal enrollment services to 36 individuals per quarter (216 total) CalFresh enrollment services to 18 individuals per quarter (108 total), and provide outreach to 600 community members per quarter (3,600 total).</p> <p>Venice Family Clinic (VFC) will provide enrollment services to SPAs 5 and 8. Over the course of the grant period, VFC will provide public benefits screening to 45 individuals per quarter (270 total), provide enrollment services to 25 individuals per quarter (150 total), provide at least 1 social media post per quarter, provide immigration case management to 2 individuals per quarter (6 total) and provide public benefits information 300 individuals per quarter at community events (1800 total). Of the 25 enrollment services quarter, 10</p>
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	<p>per quarter will be Medi-Cal enrollment, 5 per quarter will be CalFresh enrollment, and 10 per quarter general enrollment troubleshooting.</p> <p>LEGAL SERVICES PARTNERS</p> <p>Legal Partners provide counseling related to public charge, benefits eligibility, and sponsor deeming issues. They also take on extended service cases related to benefits reductions, terminations, wrongful denials, and fraud accusations. If a legal issue is identified by an enrollment partner or from within the BAILA database, it will be referred directly to a legal partner through a back-end data transfer.</p> <p>Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights Los Angeles (CHIRLA) will provide legal services related to benefits access for clients who are undocumented or whom NLSLA cannot serve due to LSC restrictions. CHIRLA will provide legal representation to 31 clients per quarter. 25 of those clients will receive counsel and advice and brief legal services and another 6 clients per quarter will receive extended legal services. CHIRLA will also provide 1 training per quarter to community members on legal rights related to public benefits.</p> <p>OUTREACH PARTNERS</p> <p>Hunger Action Los Angeles (HALA) is a group fighting hunger in Los Angeles that will provide outreach and some enrollment services to SPAs 3 and 4. Through its presence at farmers markets and other food distribution events throughout LA County, HALA will both promote BAILA services and screen and enroll people in CalFresh throughout LA County. Over the course of the grant period, HALA will provide public benefits screening to 75 individuals per quarter (450 total), provide CalFresh enrollment services to 30 individuals per quarter (180 total), provide 3 total community trainings on CalFresh enrollment, and provide BAILA flyers and other resources at 120 community events such as farmers markets per quarter (720 total).</p> <p>Visión y Compromiso (VyC) supports a large network of public health promotores. VyC will host trainings for promotores on subjects like public charge, benefits eligibility for immigrants, and expanded Medi-Cal eligibility. VyC will also conduct community education trainings and events regarding public charge and public benefits. During the grant term VyC will conduct 1 online webinar or facebook live event quarterly (6 total), provide BAILA materials at 12 community tabling events per quarter (72 total), share 3 social media posts regarding BAILA services and events quarterly (18 total), mention BAILA services in at least 2 radio interviews total and share BAILA materials at virtual promotoras events, in-person promotoras events, LAUSD parent center events and at coalition meetings.</p> <p>Asian Resources, Inc. (ARI) will connect the BAILA Network with organizations that provide culturally competent and linguistically appropriate enrollment in languages like Mandarin, Cantonese, Thai, Vietnamese, and Korean. ARI will also coordinate outreach, education, and engagement through constituent organizations serving AAPI communities in Southern California, including API Forward Movement. ARI will provide at least 2 in-person presentations per quarter (12 total), 3 social media posts regarding BAILA services and events quarterly (18 total), and at least 2 tabling events per quarter (12 total).</p> <p>Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County (CCALAC) will connect BAILA with a large network of community clinics. They will co-host trainings on public charge and benefits eligibility for immigrants. They will also raise awareness about the services that the BAILA Network can provide. Over the course of the grant, CCALAC will share out in monthly emails BAILA trainings, referral information and any updated flyers to CCALAC network, co-host 3 provider-facing trainings and provide expertise and guidance at monthly BAILA meetings.</p>
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	<p>NLSLA will oversee partner work primarily by closely monitoring the BAILA database to ensure all referrals receive timely and effective services. NLSLA will follow-up with partners regarding any unaddressed referrals within two days. NLSLA will also conduct regular review and feedback sessions with partner organizations to determine which internal network processes need improvement. NLSLA has developed protocols, assessments, trainings, outreach materials and a website which receives web-based referrals and tracks data. Within the BAILA database, NLSLA will track an individual's personal demographics, preferred language, requested services, referrals provided, and outcomes. For outreach partners, NLSLA will collect quarterly reports from subgrantees and review progress with leadership.</p>
*Two partnerships began on May 24, 2001.	

2023-2024 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (HP 4) COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION PROFILE

Organization Name	OneJustice	
Project Name	Rural Homelessness Prevention Project	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 150,000	\$0
County(ies) Served	Alameda, Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Los Angeles, Madera, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Mono, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Placer, Plumas, Riverside, Sacramento, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, Ventura, Yolo, Yuba	
Project Abstract	<p>The California Access to Justice Commission's report Health Equity and Rural Attorney Deserts notes, "Whether provided remotely from an urban location or in-person in a rural area, pro bonos have a role to play in increasing access to justice in rural areas and we recommend building out systems to get them involved." Strong pro bono service delivery models tailor pro bono participation to community needs. But this requires knowledge of service opportunity and access to that opportunity, desire to participate, and ease of participation -- for both community members and pro bono volunteers. This is especially true for rural communities, which have greater impediments to bridging community and pro bono access due to geography. Building upon its decades of experience in bringing pro bono into rural areas, as well as lessons learned creating virtual opportunities during the pandemic, OneJustice proposes to continue its Rural Justice Project that builds out more systems to help pro bonos volunteer for rural opportunities. This project's multi-pronged approach will focus on: 1) Designing local technology needs assessments to adapt technology to community needs; 2) Assessing staffing to pro bono ratios for clinics to improve efficiency; 3) Designing a pro bono clinic and Know-Your-Rights model with processes that center the client; 4) Designing a community outreach plan to deepen awareness of available services; 5) Developing recruitment plans and marketing templates for remote opportunities to better attract pro bono; 6) Creating a pro bono training plan to streamline virtual trainings; and (7) Designing simple yet effective evaluation tools.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>Outcomes and impact will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designing local technology needs assessments will enable Partners to better incorporate the appropriate technology to the community needs, which will increase clinic participants. • Designing a community outreach plan that incorporates local trust centers will increase community awareness of clinics services, which will increase clinic participants. • Standardized pro bono clinics will help reduce burdens on staff by streamlining administrative processes. • Standardized pro bono clinics will provide a more structured and predictable experience for pro bono volunteers, which will increase volunteer satisfaction and encourage repeat volunteers. • Standardized pro bono clinics across several LSOs will make it easier for volunteers to plug in where the need is regardless of which LSO is running the clinic. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing recruitment plans and marketing templates for remote opportunities will attract more volunteers from many geographies, and save organizations time in the long run by having marketing and recruitment plug-and-play practices. • Creating a pro bono training plan, incorporating virtual PBTI trainings, will save organizations time. • Virtual trainings will save volunteers time, and will be easy to access and absorb, resulting in better trained volunteers. <p>Metrics of success will include satisfaction levels of clinic participants and volunteers, feedback from pro bono directors regarding improved pro bono service delivery, increased volunteer engagement, and increased clinic participation.</p>		
Rural Communities	<p>Rural areas served include the 23 counties in the northern part of the state served by Legal Services of Northern California, as well as the Central Coast and Central Valley as served by California Rural Legal Assistance.</p>		
Underserved Communities (Identify the communities and explain the barriers.)	<p>The underserved populations whom we anticipate serving include: survivors of trafficking, sexual assault or domestic violence, immigrants, and BIPOC community members. Those who experienced sexual assault or domestic violence report approximately 800% more civil legal problems than low-income residents in general, including in rental housing, employment, finance, and income maintenance. Among low-income Californians, immigrants are least likely to receive legal representation, and among low-income residents who can't access legal representation due to cost, 36% face immigration-related issues.</p> <p>Among BIPOC communities, members of the Latinx community report rental housing issues 220% more frequently, and Black Americans report issues with rental housing 300% more frequently than their White counterparts.</p> <p>Overall, Latinx and Black Americans report a higher frequency of legal problems in not only rental housing, but also employment, finance, and family law, even when controlling for other demographics such as income. Finally, while 54% of White Americans say that the civil legal system treats them fairly most or all of the time, only 31% of Black Americans, 36% of Latinx Americans, and 38% of other races report the same.</p>		
	Number of Partners	Number of Subgrants	Dates of Collaborations
	3	0	3/1/2022*
Collaboration Explanation (Describe how the applicant and partners will work together.)	<p>Through our Rural Justice Project, we have partnered with California Rural Legal Assistance, Inland Counties Legal Services, and Legal Services of Northern California to help create streamlined pro bono service delivery models. Our staff has been working individually with the partner organizations to provide technical assistance and support for their priority projects. While Inland Counties Legal Services and Legal Services of Northern California are currently subgrantees of the Legal Aid Infrastructure and Innovation grant we received from the California Access to Justice Commission, they will not be subgrantees going forward.</p>		

*Three partnerships began on March 1, 2022.

2023-2024 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (HP 4) COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION PROFILE

Organization Name	Open Door Legal	
Project Name	Universal Access to Legal Aid for People At-Risk of Homelessness	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 450,000	\$100,000
County(ies) Served	San Francisco	
Project Abstract	<p>We ask all clients: "If this issue were not to be solved, would you be at risk of homelessness?" Only about 50% reported housing-related issues, and only 25% are directly eviction-related. Thankfully we've built an innovative service model to ensure full-service legal representation in over 35+ areas of law and have a tremendous track record of success remedying a whole host of legal issues that could cause homelessness.</p> <p>We intend to focus this project on the following pillars: increasing our capacity for general housing cases, family law cases, immigration, and wrongful foreclosure cases - to support individuals who would fall into homelessness, if their legal issue isn't solved. For domestic violence cases, we plan to partner with the Cooperative Restraining Order Clinic (CROC), San Francisco's largest on-demand domestic violence legal service provider.</p> <p>To take on more direct service cases, we will hire a new frontline attorney to add capacity to our intake process and provide immediate legal attention to clients at risk of homelessness. This attorney will also support our existing partnership with CEMVe's mobile care outreach team, and will also work closely with CROC to provide support for clients seeking protection from abuse so victims and children can stay housed.</p> <p>Our goal is to guarantee service to everyone in the least-served parts of San Francisco who has a legal issue that could lead to homelessness, across issue areas. We hope this can be a model demonstration project for the rest of the state on cost-effective ways to dramatically prevent homelessness.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>We will take on 135 new full-scope representation cases to prevent a family or individual from becoming homeless - (housing, civil, homeowner rep, civil harassment restraining orders, immigration, family, employment).</p> <p>We will hold 180 intakes that to timely advice on issues that a guest is having related to homeless prevention - (housing, civil, homeowner rep, civil harassment restraining orders, immigration, family, employment).</p> <p>We will provide 20 guests with support services cases providing wraparound care and referrals that will prevent a family or individual from becoming homeless.</p>	
Rural Communities	None	
Underserved Communities (Identify the communities and explain the barriers.)	<p>Bayview/Hunters Point in particular needs accessible homeless prevention services. It has the second-highest unhoused population in San Francisco, but only 2 of the 20+ homeless service providers are located in the neighborhood. Historically, the overwhelming focus of San Francisco's homeless prevention and services effort have been in the Tenderloin, despite over half of San Francisco's homeless population living elsewhere. We want to remedy this imbalance by expanding services for Bayview's population.</p> <p>Not only does Bayview/Hunters Point contain few providers, it's geographically distant from the Tenderloin. Depending on where you are, it typically takes 45-90 minutes to get to downtown service providers on public transit. More than that, an investment in Bayview/Hunters Point would help further the goal of racial justice: 35% of the homeless population in SF identifies as Black, African American, or African, and Bayview is the last neighborhood in San Francisco where over 20% of the residents identify in this way. We</p>	

	<p>believe that Bayview/Hunters Point contains a highly disproportionate share of the city's black homeless population and we've developed a track record serving this population in a trauma-informed, culturally-competent manner.</p> <p>Bayview/Hunters Point also contains a high proportion of immigrant families: over 20% of our clients do not speak English as their primary language, making it even more difficult to address the myriad of legal issues that can cause homelessness. Our team has worked hard to develop language capacity and cultural competency to serve these populations, as described more below.</p>		
	Number of Partners	Number of Subgrants	Dates of Collaborations
	2	1	5/17/2022 5/19/2022
Collaboration Explanation (Describe how the applicant and partners will work together.)	<p>We will work collaboratively with two partner organizations, the Cooperative Restraining Order Clinic and the Community Economic Mobility Vehicle project sponsored by the Young Community Developers, Inc.</p> <p>We have a longstanding relationship with the Cooperative Restraining Order Clinic (CROC). CROC assists domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking survivors in San Francisco in obtaining restraining orders against the person who is abusing them.</p> <p>Since January 2021, we have referred 112 guests to CROC. Importantly, on May 19, 2022 CROC signed an agreement (see attached) with Open Door Legal for ODL to implement our Case Management System (CMS) with them. This will dramatically improve the CROC centers logistical capacity and will also enable us to process seamless cross-referrals. We believe the CMS will be a new data standard for access to justice and are excited for the possibility of a truly unified system of legal representation.</p> <p>As part of this project, we intend to subgrant \$100,000 to CROC to enable them to handle more cases domestic violence survivors at risk of homelessness.</p> <p>We will also partner with the Community Economic Mobility Vehicle (CEMVe), which is a special initiative sponsored by the Young Community Developers, Inc. CEMVe is a mobile unit that has been designed to provide connection and coordination to essential supportive services, workforce programming, and other strategies that lead to the financial wellbeing of residents of Bayview/Hunters Point in need. We have partnered with CEMVe since May of 2022 to increase our homeless outreach and plan to continue doing so under this project.</p>		

2023-2024 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (HP 4) COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION PROFILE

Organization Name	Public Advocates Inc.	
Project Name	Homelessness Prevention	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 608,280	\$300,000
County(ies) Served	Alameda, Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Los Angeles, Madera, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Mono, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Placer, Plumas, Riverside, Sacramento, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, Ventura, Yolo, Yuba	
Project Abstract	<p>Through a partnership with Tenants Together (TT), a statewide coalition of local tenant organizations and long-term advocacy partner of Public Advocates (PA), this project will provide low-income (indigent) renters throughout California with legal education on their rights as tenants with the goal of preventing eviction and homelessness. In collaboration with TT, PA will develop know-your-rights educational materials and fact sheets, written guides for tenant counselors, training curricula for tenant counselors and organizers, and model policies for enforcing and increasing renters' rights. Funding will also be used to increase TT's Statewide Tenants' Rights Hotline capacity to serve low-income rural and Spanish-speaking tenants through the addition of Spanish-speaking staff members for their tenant counseling hotline and improvements to their intake and case management systems. PA and TT will also collaborate in developing and delivering regional "bootcamp" trainings for tenant counselors and organizers. Based on patterns that emerge from TT's hotline, PA will undertake legal research and analysis to identify needs to support PA and TT's collaborative advocacy for systemic reforms and produce written materials to assist tenant counselors, attorneys, and advocates working to prevent evictions and homelessness.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>Key Goals</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Develop and distribute know-your-rights educational resources and other legal resources for renters regarding landlord-tenant rental disputes, habitability, eviction protections, and other issues essential to protecting housing stability and preventing eviction and homelessness. 2) Increase the capacity of Tenants Together's community-based tenant counseling service to serve low-income renters statewide, including renters in rural areas, immigrant communities, and Spanish monolingual renters, by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Improving legally-grounded written guides and training curricula for non-lawyer counselors b) Implementing enhancements to the CRM system to reduce staff time required for intake processing and reduce call backlogs c) Expanding capacity to serve Spanish-speaking tenants through translation services and bilingual staff d) Implementing bilingual bi-weekly virtual tenant rights clinics open to all 3) Increase capacity of TT member organizations and other tenant unions to provide tenant education and counseling services. <p>Key Deliverables</p>	

	<p>1) Know-your-rights materials for renters in English and Spanish</p> <p>2) 3-5 sample letters for tenants advocating for their rights in landlord-tenant disputes</p> <p>3) Training curricula for community-based tenant counselors</p> <p>4) Provision of community-based tenant counseling through TT's hotline and virtual tenant rights clinics</p> <p>5) Dissemination of know-your-rights materials to renters</p> <p>6) Written legal analysis about gaps in existing tenant protection laws and model policies for addressing those gaps</p> <p>7) 1-2 Know Your Rights Bootcamps in Central Valley (and potentially other regions with significant rural population) for tenant counselors and organizers of TT member organizations</p>		
Rural Communities	<p>The activities supported by this grant will provide services to rural communities throughout the state through distribution of know-your-rights and other educational materials and legal resources on the PA and TT websites tailored to the needs of low-income rural tenants; tenant rights counseling through TT's Statewide Tenant Rights Hotline; and training and technical assistance by PA and TT to tenants and tenant organizations in areas with significant rural populations. TT's Central Valley Regional Coordinator leads works with communities in several counties with predominantly rural populations, including Fresno, Madera, Tulare, and Kern, and in others with rural and frontier MSSA's, including Butte, Sacramento, Santa Cruz, San Bernardino, Ventura, Sonoma, and Santa Barbara Counties. A goal of this project is to increase the number of rural areas and tenants served through targeted outreach, including social media, texting, and robo calls.</p>		
Underserved Communities (Identify the communities and explain the barriers.)	<p>PA challenges the systemic causes of poverty and racial discrimination, and our legal services are targeted to benefit underserved and disadvantaged populations including limited English proficient immigrants and communities of color. This project will specifically target Spanish speaking residents, including undocumented immigrants. Twenty-eight percent (10,462,968) of Californians speak Spanish at home. The challenges that low-income, non-English speakers face in accessing civil justice are well-documented. Without access to Spanish-language resources and counseling, these residents are often unaware of their rights in landlord-tenant disputes. As litigants they face barriers to understanding pleadings, forms, or other legal documents. Undocumented immigrants in particular are often afraid to challenge unjust actions by landlords for fear of retaliation that could result in deportation. A recent complaint filed by a coalition of tenant advocacy groups identifies the particular challenges non-English speaking tenants have faced in accessing Covid-related rental assistance, including the need to navigate various English-only web pages before finding an application portal in their own language and poor translations from an overreliance on Google Translate. As a result, there have been significant gaps between the number of applications received by non-English speakers and the state's demographics. Only 11 percent of applicants for state rental relief identified themselves as Spanish-speakers, far below the 28 percent of residents who speak Spanish at home. To address these challenges the project will develop bilingual know-your-rights materials and guides for community-based counseling, increase bilingual staffing for the Tenant Rights Hotline, and undertake outreach to Spanish-speaking tenants.</p>		
	Number of Partners	Number of Subgrants	Dates of Collaborations
	1	1	3/31/2022

<p>Collaboration Explanation (Describe how the applicant and partners will work together.)</p>	<p>Tenants Together (TT) is a statewide coalition of 48 local tenant and advocacy organizations and 15 partners dedicated to defending and advancing the rights of tenants to safe, decent, and affordable housing. TT has been a core partner of PA's for more than five years, a subgrantee for PA's BCSR project grants in 2017, 2018–20, and 2020–22, and a collaborator in advocacy campaigns for renter rights, Covid eviction moratoria, and in the development of education resources for low-income tenants to prevent eviction and homelessness related to the Covid pandemic. TT has operated a Statewide Tenant Rights Hotline since 2009; supports emerging local tenants unions through capacity building, technical assistance, and know-your-rights resources; connects tenant groups statewide; and represents tenant groups in statewide advocacy. Tenants Together is California's largest statewide network of community-based tenant organizations, providing both training and direct assistance to tenants through its tenant hotline and distributing know-your-rights materials, and providing support and capacity building to local tenant counseling and education efforts throughout the state. Adding paid Spanish-speaking staff to their current volunteer-staffed hotline will allow them to reach more Spanish-speaking and rural tenants, and systems improvements will allow them to serve tenants more effectively and efficiently.</p> <p>In this project, PA and TT will collaborate in developing know-your-rights materials, guides for tenant counselors, and training curricula, and host regional trainings for tenant counselors and organizers in areas with significant rural and Spanish-speaking low-income tenants. PA will monitor TT's progress and outcomes and ensure compliance through quarterly project management calls which will include PA and TT staff assigned to the project. In these sessions, the teams will review and evaluate progress, identify challenges, and plan adjustments in timelines and activities as needed.</p> <p>A key goal of the project is to improve the TT Hotline infrastructure in order to position the organization for future expansion in service levels and reach. During the pandemic and its continuing impact on tenants, the Hotline experienced a dramatic increase in the numbers of calls and requests for service. It now receives more than 3,000 calls annually (19% of which come from Spanish-speakers) but a significant backlog has developed and further growth is not possible without the additional staffing and systems upgrades to be undertaken in this project. Additionally, TT's Hotline receives calls referred from state agencies without support from the state, adding to the existing backlog. TT's goal is to reduce the backlog and address the most pressing needs through a multi-prong approach:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve TT Hotline infrastructure by integrating software programs and streamlining the system. TT will measure the effectiveness of the enhancements by gathering qualitative feedback from counselors and tenants. 2. Improve the overall response to calls, excluding 3-day eviction notices, by at least 50%, via infrastructure changes to the hotline system, hiring paid tenant counselors, and implementing bilingual bi-weekly virtual tenant rights clinics open to all. 3. Create a system to prioritize calls regarding 3-day notices for response by phone or SMS with resources within 24 hours of the initial call. The goal is to triage 3-day notice calls that can quickly turn to Unlawful Detainers and reduce response time by 95% (from up to 30 days to 1 day). Responding to 3-day notice calls are critical since they include notices of non-payment for rent debt accrued during the pandemic, which landlords are issuing now that State Covid-19 eviction protections and rental assistance are no longer in place.
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2023-2024 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (HP 4) COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION PROFILE

Organization Name	Public Counsel	
Project Name	Housing Justice Project	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 642,781	\$0
County(ies) Served	Los Angeles	
Project Abstract	<p>A housing justice framework that creates new affordable housing and prevents displacement is the single most effective homelessness prevention strategy. Advancing affordable and supportive housing, protecting tenants, and advocating for land stewardship policies are essential strategies to achieve this mission. Our work equips residents, organizers, nonprofit organizations, and community-based coalitions with legal tools and policy strategies to advance a comprehensive, community-driven framework for housing justice. At the same time, we employ impact litigation to defend and advance affordable housing and prevent displacement when necessary.</p> <p>Grant funds will be used to support our unique, comprehensive approach, which combines community lawyering, technical assistance, collaborative policy analysis, community education, and impact litigation to meaningfully advance housing justice. We will support community-led initiatives to: (1) strengthen tenant protections to keep low-income residents housed and prevent homelessness; (2) remove discriminatory barriers to the development and preservation of affordable housing; (3) advance programs to increase public funding to create and preserve affordable housing; and (4) elevate low-income community priorities and expertise in shaping planning and development policies in historically disinvested and currently gentrifying neighborhoods.</p> <p>Please note that wherever we write about policy advocacy, we mean administrative advocacy or nonpartisan education of lawmakers.</p> <p>GIVEN THAT WE DESCRIBE SOME IMPACT CASES THAT WE HAVE NOT FILED YET BELOW, WE ASK THOSE READING THIS FOR THE STATE BAR TO PLEASE KEEP INFORMATION ABOUT THOSE CASES CONFIDENTIAL TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>Goal: Build the capacity of community-based organizations to lead strategies to prevent homelessness through policies that increase affordable housing and strengthen tenant protections.</p> <p>Deliverables</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provide legal support to the UNIDAD, Central City United, ACT-LA, Eastside LEADS, Our Future LA, and ACT-LA coalitions. b) Collaborate with Housing Now, Western Center on Law & Poverty, Public Interest Law Project, Tenants Together and Housing California, to elevate local priorities in state housing policy. c) Provide legal support to the Keep LA Housed coalition to strengthen tenant protections across LA County. d) Provide legal support to two coalitions working to advance local rent stabilization and eviction prevention policies. e) Represent three CBOs in affirmative litigation to strengthen tenant protections for low-income renters in LA County. <p>The desired outcomes of our impact cases are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. California tenants whose Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) applications are denied will have due process. 	

	<p>b) California tenants approved for ERAP will receive the full payments to which they are entitled.</p> <p>c) People with mental health needs incarcerated in LA County jails will be released with adequate planning to prevent them from becoming homeless.</p> <p>d) We will establish the legal principle that municipalities can act to regulate housing by preventing landlords from evicting tenants.</p> <p>e) TAY will access stable housing and will be protected from unlawful displacement, including on the basis of parenting status and disability.</p> <p>f) Homeless veterans throughout LA through will access permanent supportive housing on the West LA VA campus.</p>		
Rural Communities	<p>Our impact cases dealing with the state's Emergency Rental Assistance Program will benefit tenants and individuals throughout California, including the rural communities of San Bernardino, Kern, Imperial, Merced, Fresno, Bakersfield, Mendocino, Humboldt, Modoc, etc. Our tenant protection work in Los Angeles County will benefit unincorporated parts of the county, some of which are rural such as the East Antelope Valley.</p>		
Underserved Communities (Identify the communities and explain the barriers.)	<p>Historically, California housing policy has been a major driver of the segregation, disinvestment, criminalization, gentrification, and displacement patterns that overwhelmingly and disproportionately harm low-income communities and communities of color. Black people in particular make up 8% of L.A.'s population but over one-third of the homeless population. Community-based groups often encounter barriers such as overly technical language, lack of access, complex jurisdictional overlap, and delays that hamper public monitoring of the planning process. Often, decisions affecting housing stability are made with large institutional actors, government agencies, and private sector trade groups exerting enormous influence over the process while low-income communities and communities of color are shut out.</p> <p>We are monitoring the implementation of one impact case and developing two others that focus on homelessness prevention for especially underserved populations. The case we are monitoring involves LA County jail inmates with mental illness who are released with inadequate planning to prevent them from becoming immediately homeless.</p> <p>One case being developed focuses on homeless veterans. The West LA Veterans Administration is failing in its duty to house homeless veterans on its campus.</p> <p>The other case being developed concerns transition-age foster youth. We have learned from our direct service work with this population—especially those who have disabilities, are justice-involved, or are expecting or parenting—that they are frequently, illegally evicted or otherwise pushed out of housing, resulting in homelessness.</p>		
	Number of Partners	Number of Subgrants	Dates of Collaborations
	12	0	<p>1/1/2011</p> <p>1/1/2012</p> <p>1/1/2016</p> <p>1/1/2018</p> <p>1/1/2020*</p> <p>10/25/2021*</p> <p>5/2/2022</p>
Collaboration Explanation (Describe how the applicant and partners will work together.)	<p>Collaboration is central to our work, and Public Counsel partners with numerous coalitions to advance housing justice.</p> <p>We are a founding member of the ACT-LA coalition. In this capacity, we provide ongoing legal and technical support to the coalition and its members, and we will continue to support ACT-LA's policy development process related to community planning and equitable development in the City of Los Angeles.</p>		

	<p>We are also a founding member of the Central City United coalition. In this capacity, we provide legal and policy support to community-based organizations representing low-income families in the Little Tokyo, Chinatown, and Skid Row neighborhoods in downtown Los Angeles to advance new planning and development policies that elevate community priorities, create deeply affordable housing, and prevent displacement.</p> <p>We are on the steering committee and provide legal support to the Our Future LA coalition, a collaborative of community-based organizations and affordable housing providers working to advance regional strategies for housing justice in LA County.</p> <p>We are a founding member of the Keep LA Housed coalition. In this capacity, we provide legal analysis and policy support to low-income tenants, tenant organizers, and community-based organizations working to strengthen eviction protections and expand resources and programs to prevent displacement across LA County.</p> <p>We provide legal and policy support to the United Neighbors In Defense Against Displacement (UNIDAD) coalition, a group of community-based organizations working to advance affordable housing and equitable development programs in South Central Los Angeles.</p> <p>We are a founding member and provide legal and policy support to the Eastside LEADS coalition, a group of community-based organizations working to advance affordable housing and equitable development programs in East LA and the Boyle Heights neighborhood.</p> <p>In three impact cases dealing with emergency tenant protection laws at the state and local levels, Public Counsel is representing ACCE Action, SAJE, and Coalition for Economic Survival. Our co-counsel are Western Center on Law and Poverty, Neighborhood Legal Services, and LAFLA. In developing impact litigation on behalf of homeless veterans, we are partnering with Inner City Law Center. For the foster youth impact case, we are partnering with the local Alliance for Children's Rights as well as the national nonprofit, Children's Rights.</p> <p>We also have close relationships with numerous City Council and Board of Supervisor offices, legislators, and local, regional, and state housing and planning department staff. These offices often call upon us for technical assistance or to better understand current legal frameworks.</p> <p>Additionally, because Public Counsel has an arm that provides transactional legal assistance to nonprofit safety net providers, we maintain close relationships with nonprofits throughout Los Angeles County, including community-based health clinics, neighborhood-based community development corporations, housing developers, homeless service providers, and economic development organizations.</p> <p>Through all of these partnerships and deep collaborations built over the past 18 years, we have established a level of trust with our partners (including government partners). This trust has enabled us to effectively coordinate with others and advance our mission. We also have both the technical expertise needed to develop effective legal and policy tactics, and the community lawyering experience necessary to ensure that the legal work is done in a manner that builds the capacity for community-led movement building. As demonstrated by our policy wins and our successful, deep collaborations with grassroots CBOs, nonprofit developers, and other stakeholders, Public Counsel has a record of bringing together community stakeholders, thinking strategically about affordable housing production and anti-displacement strategies, supporting CBOs seeking sustainable and equitable economic development, and assisting nonprofit developers in advancing important projects to house low-income populations.</p>
	<p>*Two partnerships began on January 1, 2020, and five partnerships began on October 25, 2021.</p>

2023-2024 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (HP 4) COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION PROFILE

Organization Name	Public Interest Law Project	
Project Name	Making Homelessness Benefits Real to Stabilize Lives	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 356,407	\$0
County(ies) Served	Alameda, Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Los Angeles, Madera, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Mono, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Placer, Plumas, Riverside, Sacramento, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, Ventura, Yolo, Yuba	
Project Abstract	<p>California Department of Social Services (CDSS) housing/homelessness programs (HP), including CalWORKs Housing Support Program (HSP) and Homeless Assistance (HA), and the Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP), are designed to prevent homelessness among public benefits recipients. HA and HSP can cover items critical to housing stability – including first and last month’s rent, rent arrearages, rent subsidies, and security deposits. HDAP can fund critical services for unhoused people with disabilities. But HP funds are underutilized across the state.</p> <p>This project will help break down systemic barriers to the equitable disbursement of HP funds – ultimately increasing the dollars and services available to help individuals and families get and maintain stable housing. In partnership with local qualified legal services programs (QLSPs) and community-based organizations, PILP will advise and train legal advocates on the most underutilized HPs, engage in systemic advocacy to remove barriers to implementation at the state level, and support QLSPs in representing their clients and client communities, with litigation, if necessary, to access this critical assistance. As HPs both directly and indirectly affect housing choice and opportunity, PILP will work to ensure that the HPs are implemented in a manner that affirmatively furthers fair housing, and so as not to disproportionately exclude or push out communities of color, contributing to truly integrated and balanced living patterns as required by California’s affirmatively furthering fair housing (AFFH) law. We aim to make HPs more available and accessible in the fight to improve housing stability for individuals and families in poverty.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>We aim to make HP benefits real for those most in need; and in doing so, to help stabilize housing situations for families and individuals. Success means more eligible individuals and families access these funds and stabilize their lives.</p> <p>To do this, we will need to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Increase awareness of benefit programs intended to stabilize housing or secure housing among legal services advocates, community-based organizations, and low-income individuals and families; 2) Identify and remove administrative barriers to equitable allocation of program resources; 3) Monitor and enforce fair housing and homelessness assistance laws and regulations. <p>Our deliverables for this project include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Trainings to QLSPs (including people assisting tenants with housing issues) on the availability of HPs and other benefit programs to stabilize or secure housing. 	

	<p>2) Trainings to organizations serving people in poverty to increase awareness of HPs and other benefit programs to stabilize or secure housing.</p> <p>3) Online toolkit for QLSP staff and their clients to help them understand how to better access HP.</p> <p>4) With Bay Area Legal Aid, lead statewide advocacy with CDSS's Housing and Homelessness Division, including facilitating quarterly meetings with CDSS staff, stakeholder review of draft policy documents, and escalation of systemic issues in the administration of HPs, bringing litigation if necessary.</p> <p>5) With Bay Area Legal Aid and NLSLA, lead advocacy to the CDSS Civil Rights Unit to raise AFFH and other civil rights issues that arise in connection with implementation of HPs, bringing litigation if necessary.</p>		
Rural Communities	<p>We will focus on communities that are underutilizing HP funds. These tend to disproportionately be rural communities. For example, communities where zero Homeless Assistance requests were made recently include Alpine, Inyo, Mono, and Sierra—almost all of which are designated as frontier land. Communities where fewer than 11 HP requests were reported recently include: Alameda, Amador, Calaveras, Colusa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Imperial, Kern, Kings, Lake, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Modoc, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Placer, Plumas, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama, Trinity, Tuolumne, and Yuba. About 19 of these counties are designated as entirely rural or frontier. Urban counties also have within them rural/frontier areas which will be one area of attention for us.</p> <p>People living in rural counties in California live substantial distances away from courts, and governmental offices that provide access to basic benefits and services. Public transportation is sparse or nonexistent, regular internet access is often unavailable, and indigent persons generally lack the means to access courts or benefits services even when applications can be submitted virtually. These barriers make it even harder for residents in these communities to access benefits to which they are entitled.</p>		
Underserved Communities (Identify the communities and explain the barriers.)	<p>As described in Section 2(a), this project focuses specifically on the needs of underserved populations including chronically homeless people with disabilities eligible for HDAP and female-headed households, and lower income families with children that qualify for CalWORKs. CalWORKs recipients disproportionately identify as female and Black or Latina. There are many particularly underserved communities in California; but this project focuses on populations and communities that have incomes lower than the federal poverty level and are therefore in dire and precarious housing situations, living check to check, struggling with hunger and health issues, and in the case of HDAP recipients, have been chronically homeless and in need of assistance to get off the street. Black Californians are disproportionately represented in the unhoused population, as are American Indian or Alaska Native and Pacific Islander Californians. (Cal. Budget & Policy Center, Feb. 2022, Who is Experiencing Homelessness in California? see https://calbudgetcenter.org/resources/who-is-experiencing-homelessness-in-california/). Both the chronically homeless population and the population eligible for CalWORKs are disproportionately comprised of people of color that struggle from additional systemic barriers to equitable access and opportunity. As such, they face even higher barriers to access than the indigent population generally and need particular, focused assistance.</p>		
	Number of Partners	Number of Subgrants	Dates of Collaborations
	2	0	9/21/2018

			11/4/2021
Collaboration Explanation (Describe how the applicant and partners will work together.)	<p>PILP currently partners with each of these organizations, including collaboration in statewide advocacy and provision of technical assistance. We have also co-counseled with each of these organizations in impact litigation related to public benefits, housing, or both. Our partnerships with Bay Area Legal Aid and Neighborhood Legal Services of LA County, among others, have existed for many years, and allow PILP, as a statewide organization, to better understand how different counties administer HPs and the barriers to access that clients face.</p> <p>PILP and BayLegal co-lead statewide advocacy to CDSS's Housing & Homelessness Division (HHD), including quarterly meetings with HHD and stakeholder review of policy documents. PILP, BayLegal, and NLS co-facilitate meetings with CDSS's Civil Rights Unit, where civil rights issues in HPs are often discussed. And PILP and BayLegal co-host biweekly statewide meetings of public benefits advocates to discuss public benefits, generally, including HPs. Our collective work is evidenced in the uploaded attachments (1 and 2).</p> <p>There are other groups that are involved in these efforts as well, including Legal Services of Northern California, Western Center on Law & Poverty, Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations, Disability Rights California, California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc., Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County, Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, Law Foundation of Silicon Valley, and Inland Counties Legal Services, and we anticipate increased collaboration and mutual assistance as a result of this project.</p>		

2023-2024 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (HP 4) COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION PROFILE

Organization Name	Public Law Center		
Project Name	Orange County Eviction Protection and Benefits Assistance Project		
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted	
	\$ 402,184	\$0	
County(ies) Served	Orange		
Project Abstract	<p>Public Law Center's Orange Eviction Protection and Benefits Assistance Project builds upon our Affordable Housing and Homelessness Prevention Unit and our Health Law Unit to provide increased and expanded services to tenants facing housing insecurity and needing public benefits assistance to stabilize their income. The project will support renters across Orange County, and will include special outreach programs to underserved populations, including undocumented, limited English proficient, and disabled residents. Structured as an extension of PLC's Clinical program, eviction defense and benefits attorneys will provide linguistically and disability accessible and culturally appropriate legal aid to low-income Orange County renters. Our community partnerships will be key to ensuring we meet our underserved client populations where they live and receive other services.</p>		
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>PLC seeks to open at least 360 clinic cases during the 18-month project period. PLC will conduct at least one Project-focused clinic per week in collaboration with our community partners. While we believe our community education and outreach will inform and impact many more Orange County residents, PLC anticipates serving approximately five new clients per week.</p>		
Rural Communities			
Underserved Communities (Identify the communities and explain the barriers.)	<p>PLC seeks to provide a holistic solution for housing insecure residents of Orange County. Additionally, linguistically and disability accessible and culturally appropriate strategies designed to meet the unique needs of vulnerable renters will be deployed.</p> <p>In 2019, 66% of California's undocumented renters were burdened by high housing costs compared to 54% of all Californians. While pandemic-related policies had blunted some of the impact of COVID-19 on renters, undocumented Californians will be disproportionately burdened by the lifting of much of these policies and the looming economic recession. PLC is the only major civil legal aid provider in Orange County that can serve undocumented clients without any restrictions.</p> <p>Over 20% of Orange County residents identify as LEP. Studies have shown a direct correlation between LEP and increased social needs, like poor housing quality, public benefits and medical-legal assistance. A 2022 UCLA study found significant disparities linked to income class and race/ethnicity among California renters who experienced financial distress and who participated in rental relief programs. The researchers believe the disparities are due in large part to two characteristics that have been shown to be barriers to accessing safety-net programs: limited English proficiency and immigration status. The report further states that immigrants are generally mistrustful of government programs, and immigrants who are not yet naturalized may be concerned that their participation in safety-net programs may identify them as a public charge. Regardless of immigration status, undocumented Californians can access Medi-Cal and some pandemic-related benefits, with other potential benefits on the horizon.</p>		
	Number of Partners	Number of Subgrants	Dates of Collaborations
	9	0	1/1/2010 1/1/2017

			8/1/2014 11/1/2015 11/1/2016	9/1/2017 1/1/2018 * 8/1/2018
Collaboration Explanation (Describe how the applicant and partners will work together.)	<p>PLC’s Medical Legal Partnership (MLP) with CHOC was formally constituted in 2015 as part of CHOC’s Project DULCE (Developmental Understanding & Legal Collaboration for Everyone). This is a partnership where PLC works as part of an interdisciplinary team to provide support to low-income families with infants 6 months and younger. Families meet with doctors and family specialists at clinic sites in Santa Ana and Garden Grove, and their legal issues are then discussed in team meetings. PLC also receives direct referrals through this MLP. PLC trains CHOC staff on civil legal issue spotting and prioritizes the designation of a bilingual Spanish-speaking attorney to staff the MLP. CHOC designates hospital employees as Family Specialists who receive PLC training and ensure PLC is able to operate effectively at their Clinic sites. In 2020, the partnership generated nearly 100 referrals. During the pandemic-effected period of 2021 to present, PLC has received an additional 100 referrals from CHOC. Referrals may generate multiple cases for the same client.</p> <p>In partnership with Mission/Providence/St. Joseph, PLC serves South Orange County residents through legal clinics in Family Resource Centers (FRCs) located in Lake Forest and San Juan Capistrano. PLC receives approximately 600 referrals per year (12 per week) through this MLP and provides legal assistance addressing a number of different civil legal issues from evictions to divorces.</p> <p>In partnership with Hoag Hospital, PLC serves clients on a weekly basis at the Melinda Hoag Smith Center for Healthy Living. PLC also receives referrals through this MLP. Under the proposed project, all our MLP partners will continue to designate hospital staff to receive PLC housing and public benefit trainings, provide clinic space, and maintain open communication lines to ensure the project’s housing instability solutions are known and accessible to our shared client populations.</p> <p>Latino Health Access (LHA) and VietRISE are funded partners in our State Bar-funded mobile home work and will continue to be a source of referrals from the Latinx and Vietnamese community (although not in the same formalized subgrantee manner). LHA will also provide an access point for our services for individuals with differing abilities.</p> <p>Korean Community Services (KCS) is a long term partner of PLC’s Immigration Unit and a proposed subgrantee of PLC’s unfunded State Bar Foreclosure Project. They too will continue to be a key community partner to the Korean American community. Council on Aging - Southern California (COASC) is a subgrantee of PLC’s Legal Assistance Enhancement Program and will provide community education and outreach services to older adults, including immigrants and individuals with differing abilities.</p> <p>Our partnership with Bridges at Kraemer Place and Share Our Shelves will give us access to homeless individuals currently receiving shelter and services at these two Orange County shelters. We have current and planned monthly clinics at these shelters to assist underserved individuals where they are.</p> <p>During the project period, PLC anticipates assisting five new clients each week on eviction defense and benefits assistance for 360 total clients.</p>			
*Two partnerships began on January 1, 2018.				

2023-2024 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (HP 4) COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION PROFILE

Organization Name	Riverside Legal Aid	
Project Name	HP 4 Partner	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 450,000	\$0
County(ies) Served	Riverside	
Project Abstract	<p>Riverside County has long been a favorable place for housing investors. In a county known for a landlord-favorable environment and a small housing code enforcement division, the county has seen a range of tenant abuses. With little rental inventory and rents on the rise, tenants have little recourse but to endure DIY evictions and landlord-controlled housing code violations.</p> <p>In response, RLA supports underserved populations at risk of homelessness, including indigent and rural populations, through its Homelessness Prevention Project (the Project). The Project provides bilingual English-Spanish eviction defense and legal services, pre-eviction counsel, renter education and representation, and other landlord/tenant legal services, and will leverage partnerships with fair housing agencies and social workers to provide further assistance to support clients. This project will focus on reaching rural, agricultural, and undocumented workers that have limited or no access to other legal aid organization services.</p> <p>Leveraging 40 years of experience, RLA seeks funding to increase outreach, engagement, and education to underserved rural clients and the housing and social service agencies that support them as well as identify landlords, with whom it may resolve tenant disputes taking place. Staff will leverage and build partnerships with other legal aid organizations to put on outreach events. As a result of this work, RLA anticipates serving a total of 3500 clients in the 18-month grant period with a full budget (2400 with requested grant funds) which will allow it to provide additional homelessness prevention services, court representation, and litigation when appropriate.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>RLA seeks to provide free legal services to eligible individuals to prevent homelessness and illegal eviction and address tenant/landlord disputes. RLA will achieve this through the following objectives during the 18-month grant period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> **With grant funds, serve 2400 clients (3,500 with all revenue sources). **Meet weekly or regularly with 5 collaboration partners, such as Adult Protective Services, Elder Abuse Council, and Riverside County Housing Authority to collaborate on homelessness prevention measures. **Identify areas of large rural immigrant populations as well as engage in monthly outreach events to reach vulnerable populations in the east part of Riverside county, such as Mecca, Thermal, Coachella, and Blythe (date and location to be determined). **Coordinate and conduct five bilingual English/Spanish "Know Your Rights" PowerPoint presentations to select populations and disseminate information about these presentations via outreach events by June 2024. **Explore and determine if a landlord liaison is fruitful and which landlords are receptive by using staff attorneys to reach out directly to landlords to negotiate productive settlements for vulnerable tenants. This is an ongoing process that will be refined throughout the grant period. **Hire non-attorney Spanish-speaking personnel for the coordination, participation, and implementation of 18 monthly outreach events. 	

	<p>**Answer all Unlawful Detainer complaints, assist clients in the filing of their documents, as well as provide attorney limited-scope representations for 10% of clients, who are most at risk.</p> <p>**As determined through client follow up by the Executive and Program Directors, up to 90% of client's contacted were satisfied with legal services they received.</p>		
Rural Communities	Central and eastern Riverside County, including Indio (and areas east of Indio), Blythe, Thermal, Mecca, the Salton Sea, San Jacinto, Hemet, and Anza.		
Underserved Communities (Identify the communities and explain the barriers.)	<p>There are a diverse range of barriers that underserved communities face in Riverside County:</p> <p>**Undocumented individuals may fear landlords will report them to USCIS. They fear deportation, the breakup of their family, the potential that they may never see their children again. AS a result, they may suffer in housing that is not up to code.</p> <p>**Monolingual individuals may not understand the protections that prevent unlawful evictions, fear systems they do not understand, or lack access to information in their native language.</p> <p>**Seniors, disabled individuals, and veterans may have barriers to transportation or mobility issues and cannot access free legal services.</p> <p>**Survivors of domestic violence may fear batterer reprisals if they try to find services to help them.</p> <p>**Many may lack means to receive services unless they are during non-working hours; they may not be able to skip work or they may fear losing their job should they skip work. They may not have or cannot afford childcare, so any effort to obtain free legal services must involve bringing their children with them. They therefore require services during weekends and evenings and for those in fear for their safety, may ask for services to be provided in a safe, familiar place, like a church or a local park.</p> <p>**Clients also may also lack digital devices or literacy; lack access to public benefits for which they are eligible that would prevent eviction; and fear of reprisals from abusive landlords should they seek to meet with legal service advocates.</p>		
	Number of Partners	Number of Subgrants	Dates of Collaborations
	4	0	7/1/2016 2/9/2021*
Collaboration Explanation (Describe how the applicant and partners will work together.)	<p>RLA has a long history of partnering with county government departments, Board of Supervisors, senior-serving nonprofits, and other social service agencies. Working alongside its partners, RLA has been integral in the development and implementation of several working groups and programs, including United Lift, which provides rental assistance, and the Curtailing Abuse Related to the Elderly (CARE) Program, which provides services to victims of elder abuse and consumer crime in Riverside County. More detail can be found below:</p> <p>Riverside County: RLA has developed relationships with several county departments over the past many years. It has a subrecipient Agreement (effective through December 31, 2022) with the County of Riverside for use of the U.S. Department of the Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance funding under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. This fund assists eligible tenants in paying current and past due rent, utilities, and other expenses related to housing, including eviction prevention, incurred as a result of COVID-19. RLA also partners with several Riverside County departments, such as the Department of Public Services (DPS) and its Housing Authority on collaborations such as CARE and United Lift. In addition, RLA has developed relationships with local law enforcement,</p>		

	<p>including the Sheriff's Department, which helps address eviction and other tenant/landlord issues as they arise at problem properties run by abusive landlords.</p> <p>United Way: As part of its work with Riverside County, RLA partners with United Way to conduct outreach and housing services, including rent relief and rental assistance to eligible residents. In partnership with the county, United Way, and Lift to Rise, RLA refers clients to rental assistance and other housing advocacy services.</p> <p>Lift to Rise: As stated above, RLA partners with Lift to Rise to conduct United Lift, a project in coordination with United Way and the county that provides rental assistance, including emergency rent relief and utility assistance. As part of United Lift, partnering agencies share resources, cross refer clients, and support each other in their efforts to mitigate the impact and risk of homelessness for those at risk of eviction or who are experiencing housing code violations.</p> <p>Please find evidence of RLA's partnerships in the attached agreements with Riverside County, which also refers to collaboration with United Way and Lift to Rise, with which it partners to provide rental relief to eligible households (top of page 24 in the file labelled erap2.pdf).</p> <p>Elder Abuse Forensic Center (EAFC) refers clients to RLA, and RLA staff regularly attend Elder Abuse Forensic Council meetings to give advice on issues, train their social workers, and set up "Know Your Rights" presentations in English and Spanish. RLA works with EAFC as part of the county's CARE program, a multi-disciplinary group of agencies that coordinate a holistic set of services for seniors or individuals with disabilities (of any age) who are in need, including eviction prevention and tenant/landlord issues. Coordinated services may include helping seniors access public benefits, finding them housing should they be evicted / locked out of their current residence, and expedition of housing vouchers for which they are eligible to help them find new housing.</p> <p>RLA has been working consistently with EAFC and has uploaded an MOU agreement that is yet to be signed.</p> <p>In addition to these contracted partners, RLA also has developed relationships and partnerships with courts, members of the Board of Supervisors, the District Attorney, local doctors and hospitals, all in an effort to provide comprehensive, holistic services that go beyond legal and housing services.</p>
<p>*Three partnerships began on February 9, 2021.</p>	

2023-2024 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (HP 4) COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION PROFILE

Organization Name	Senior Advocacy Network	
Project Name	Legal on the Move: Housing Education and Mobile Legal Clinics	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 175,000	\$0
County(ies) Served	Merced, Stanislaus	
Project Abstract	<p>The primary goal will be to reduce elder homelessness by educating this underserved community in regards to their rights in tenancy. This will be achieved through two main avenues: monthly or bimonthly group presentations that give a broad explanation of tenants rights and duties and monthly or bimonthly mobile legal clinics that will provide an opportunity for seniors to briefly discuss their housing issue with an attorney. After the presentations, we will provide community resource referral information for seniors with non-legal housing concerns as well as gathering contact information for clients who have legal housing issues that require specific legal advice. These presentations will be held in various locations making it easier for seniors to attend and receive help if needed. For the mobile legal clinics, these events will not have a group presentation aspect. They will be designed to facilitate brief meetings with attorneys to address specific legal concerns and determine whether or not any further legal support will be needed. If so, the client will have an intake completed so the Senior Law Project can open a case.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>Housing Education goals: develop a presentation for seniors to help them understanding their tenant and home ownership rights and the resources available to them in their county should they feel those rights are being violated. We will give between 12-24 presentations annually at targeted rural locations through the two counties. Through outreach efforts, we hope to present to 15-20 seniors at each presentation.</p> <p>Mobile legal clinics: Operate between 12-24 mobile legal clinic events annually at targeted rural locations through the two counties. Through outreach efforts, we hope to be able to see between 20-30 seniors for brief legal consultations at each event.</p>	
Rural Communities	Stanislaus and Merced Counties - specifically, the cities of Patterson, Newman, Oakdale, Waterford, Empire, Gustine, Hickman, Riverbank, Keyes, Ceres, Hughson, Salida, Turlock, Atwater, Merced, Hilmar, Los Banos, Gustine, Dos Palos, Planada, Ballico and others.	
Underserved Communities (Identify the communities and explain the barriers.)	<p>SAN assists seniors with both knowing and protecting their rights. Seniors are especially at risk for being underserved. While some seniors have excellent family or friend support, many become isolated which makes them easy prey for abusive practices. Further, many seniors are less familiar and comfortable with technology which could enable them to look up their rights or connect with organizations which could help them.</p> <p>Additionally, many seniors lack adequate transportation, so mobile clinics and presentations will bypass the hurdle of finding transportation to our office. Seniors may also feel especially vulnerable because the risk of homelessness could be fatal and they are unwilling to risk homelessness in order to enforce their legitimate rights. Additionally, many seniors, especially those who do not speak English, fall prey to loan modification and foreclosure scams and face losing their homes. Providing education along with legal advice and counsel will provide them with education and services to help them retain their homes.</p> <p>We will also utilize the Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs) as defined by the Department of housing and Urban Development or the areas of high or very high ratings on the Owner Vulnerability Index (OVI) for California as defined by the UCLA Center for Neighborhood</p>	

	Knowledge tools which we have access to through our CalHFA Grant. These tools will allow us to better identify the underserved communities in our service areas.		
	Number of Partners	Number of Subgrants	Dates of Collaborations
	0	0	0
Collaboration Explanation (Describe how the applicant and partners will work together.)	N/A		

2023-2024 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (HP 4) COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION PROFILE

Organization Name	Social Justice Collaborative		
Project Name	Homelessness Prevention for Immigrants		
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted	
	\$ 598,182	\$0	
County(ies) Served	Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Joaquin, Stanislaus		
Project Abstract	<p>Immigration does not provide undocumented immigrants work authorization, millions are left out of the labor market but forced to provide for their family. Proactively seeking and apply for work authorization (EAD) is complex and riddled with administrative hassles, many immigrants are essentially forced to work without authorization and end up being vulnerable to wage theft, underpayment, discrimination, and exploitation.</p> <p>Without EAD our clients are at a high risk of becoming homeless for nonpayment of rent. They are eligible for EAD but applying for the permit is complicated and requires passing hurdles: paying a filing fee, multipage English application, providing eligibility evidence, attending an appointment and more.</p> <p>Eligibility process for EAD is complex. The agency charged with reviewing the employment authorizations is incompetent; erroneous rejections and denials are common, appeals are prohibitively costly and lengthy, taking years. Due to all this, immigrants rely on lawyers to obtain work authorization.</p> <p>California offers access to public benefits but the eligibility for these means tested benefits is also complex, and many immigrants have been discouraged to apply for benefits because of Trump's "public charge" rules: and although revoked, immigrants remain fearful.</p> <p>The work of helping SJC's vulnerable clients apply, prove eligibility, and obtain these benefits is very challenging and several full-time jobs. If clients lack stable housing, access to healthy food and medical services, they cannot fully participate in their legal defense. SJC's social work program exists to connect SJC clients with wraparound services: DV shelters, psychotherapists, food pantries, ESL classes, and more.</p>		
Project Goals and Deliverables	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. File at least 300 work authorization applications per year 2. Being able to provide social work support through all the year 3. Help applying for MediCal to 35 young (under 21 years old) individuals through our Social Work Program 4. Assist all youth under age of eighteen (18) to register for public school. 		
Rural Communities	Marin, Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties		
Underserved Communities (Identify the communities and explain the barriers.)	All immigrant communities without EAD are particularly disadvantaged because of a few key factors: one, the relatively little fluency in English and American culture makes it a challenge for them to access services. Second, the lack of social capital and networks coupled with stigma about their job status also makes them scared to access services out of a fear of reprisal. Finally, when an individual's legal status is still yet unresolved, then the question of their future remains an open one.		
	Number of Partners	Number of Subgrants	Dates of Collaborations
	1	0	1/1/2017
Collaboration Explanation	We've been partnering with Ray of Light for over 5 years. Dr. Lurkis and her impressive team provide mental health evaluations and psychological assessments for all the cases where those are needed with utmost care, and attention on the needs of trauma		

(Describe how the applicant and partners will work together.)	survivors. They won't be working directly with this project but help us obtain more resources about referral mental health support institutions.
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2023-2024 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (HP 4) COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION PROFILE

Organization Name	Veterans Legal Institute	
Project Name	Veterans Housing Stability Project	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 253,044	\$0
County(ies) Served	Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino	
Project Abstract	<p>VLI's Veterans Housing Stability Project is an essential legal stop gap for homelessness prevention in Southern California. VLI provides free, quality, Veteran-specific legal aid to indigent Veterans to prevent homelessness in this population that is already disproportionately at risk in the US. VLI also provides legal outreach through mobile legal clinics in Veteran hotspots, which are areas with high Veteran populations. Free legal services provided include advice and counsel, document preparation, limited representation, and extensive services for eviction defense or other tenant defense assistance in landlord-tenant rental disputes, including pre-eviction and eviction legal services, counseling, advice and consultation, mediation, training, renter education, representation, to improve habitability, increasing affordable housing, ensuring receipt of eligible income or benefits to improve housing stability, legal help for persons displaced because of domestic violence, and homelessness prevention. Additionally, this project includes a training component that will augment its impact in Orange, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and Riverside counties.</p> <p>This is a high impact project dovetailing with expiring COVID eviction protections, some of which have already begun to take effect. For example, post-COVID credit criteria used by California landlords can now require a monthly income of three times the monthly rent. Veteran housing subsidies, especially for students, cannot meet this criterion. Moreover, most Veterans do not qualify for aid unless already unhoused, which increases their vulnerability to homelessness. The need for VLI's services will continue to increase as COVID eviction protections continue to expire, heightening the risk of Veteran homelessness, already acute in this population.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>The key goals of the Homelessness Prevention 4 for this Veterans Housing Stability Project are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To greatly reduce Veteran homelessness 2) To increase equal access to justice by overcoming challenges due to communication, transportation, and compounding issues from the pandemic. <p>Key deliverables over the course of an eighteen month or 1.5-year grant term:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Provide free legal services that will improve housing stability for up to 250 indigent Veterans (up to 175 indigent Veterans per year) 2) Educate and train up to four (4) law students and/or attorneys in veteran-specific housing issues, advocacy, provisions of legal services. 3) Provide at least three (3) trainings to different local organizations regarding military law and veteran-specific legal issues affecting stable housing, including local bar organizations, law schools, and law firms (up to two (2) trainings per year) 	
Rural Communities	San Bernardino and Riverside counties.	
Underserved Communities (Identify the	<p>Veterans fall within the Health and Human Services Department's definition of underserved as "...a population that faces barriers in accessing and using victim services."</p> <p>The higher barriers that Veterans face accessing civil justice are the same factors that</p>	

communities and explain the barriers.)	create their elevated risk of homelessness which include increased social isolation that is unique to this population. Also, according to research, “central factors that contribute to veteran homelessness in the US include substance use disorders and mental health disorders like post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and the co-occurrence of these types of disorders.” (https://veteranaddiction.org/rehab-guide/homeless-veterans/) The prevalence of PTSD and this phenomenon of co-concurrence is also Veteran-specific. Veterans disproportionately fall into the category of persons with disabilities. Additionally, according to the US Department of Veterans Affairs “A disproportionate share of veterans live in rural America.” Other obstacles for indigent Veterans living in rural areas that can prevent access to civil justice-as well as to other social, and health care services-include fewer housing, education, employment, and transportation options, greater geographic and distance barriers, limited broadband and internet, higher uninsured rates, as well as an increased difficulty of safely aging in place in rural America. (https://www.ruralhealth.va.gov/aboutus/ruralvets.asp) The special conditions that frame and isolate a Veteran's experience make it much more likely that they are unaware of potential benefits and possible legal recourse available through civil legal services that can greatly and positively impact their lives. VLI's service delivery model is predicated upon intense outreach to meet this specific need in the Veteran population of Southern California.		
	Number of Partners	Number of Subgrants	Dates of Collaborations
	6	0	1/1/2018* 1/1/2019* 1/1/2021
Collaboration Explanation (Describe how the applicant and partners will work together.)	Child Guidance Center, Inc, refers indigent veterans on a monthly basis to VLI who require legal assistance. During this project, Child Guidance Center, Inc, would be informed of the specific objectives of the project (assistance with housing habitability), and they would refer Veterans to VLI specifically requiring that type of legal assistance. Volunteers of America Los Angeles refers numerous Veterans to VLI on a weekly basis requiring assistance with housing habitability and would continue to do so throughout this project. The OC Veterans & Military Families Collaborative holds monthly meetings with VLI and other Veteran-specific organizations within Orange County. Discussions regarding this project would take place during the monthly collaborative meetings where other organizations can contribute ideas leading to the success of the project overall. Tierney Center for Vet Services refers Veterans requiring legal issues to VLI on a consistent basis, and during this project, their office staff would be informed of the specific objectives of the project (assistance with housing habitability), and they would refer Veterans to VLI accordingly. The Saddleback College VETS Program refers student-veterans in need of legal services to VLI on a consistent basis, and during this project, their office staff would be informed of the specific objectives of the project (assistance with housing habitability), and they would refer Veterans to VLI accordingly. Lastly, VLI directly refers indigent Veterans to Patriots and Paws for assistance with obtaining free household items, such as bedding or furniture. During this project, VLI would refer Veterans in need of this service directly to Patriots and Paws to assist with their housing habitability.		

*Two partnerships began on January 1, 2018, and three partnerships began on January 1, 2019.

2023-2024 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (HP 4) COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION PROFILE

Organization Name	Wage Justice Center	
Project Name	Wages for Rent	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 1,320,738	\$150,000
County(ies) Served	Kern, Los Angeles, Ventura	
Project Abstract	<p>The “Wages for Rent” Project focuses on the tie between sudden financial loss and housing insecurity. The Wage Justice Center will provide legal services, education and conduct outreach geared toward preventing wage theft and promoting wage recovery to housing insecure and homeless individuals. Through this work, in conjunction with WJC’s current legal services, WJC will support individuals in avoiding or overcoming homelessness through education and legal services to recover unpaid wages.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>Community outreach: In person outreach to workers at multiple day laborer hiring sites providing know-your-rights information and scheduling potential clients for mobile legal clinic or in office appointments. Goal of interacting with an average of 125 workers per month.</p> <p>Mobile Legal Clinic: in-person attorney presence at day laborer hiring site offering intake and preparation of legal documents, to improve ease of access to legal services for workers, a decrease instances of no-shows. Goal of holding an average of one mobile clinic per week at a known day laborer hiring site.</p> <p>Legal Services: Direct representation of clients experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity, including in recording and negotiation of mechanic liens for unpaid wages, civil lawsuits for unpaid wages and to foreclose on mechanic liens, bond claims (against bonded employers such as licensed contractors), counsel and advice regarding wage claims. Goal of providing legal services to an average of ten workers a month</p> <p>Service provider outreach and training: Outreach, training and sharing of know your rights information directed at other organizations providing services to individuals experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity. We hope to expand the impact of our services by raising awareness of our project and the resources we offer, especially among others interacting with our target demographic. In our experience individuals are also more responsive to services offered or referred to by a trusted person, such as organizations they have a pre-existing relationship with. Goal of contacting two new services providers a month and conducting six trainings on average per year.</p>	
Rural Communities	<p>We will incorporate direct outreach at day labor hiring sites, located in or near rural areas, including near the Antelope Valley, in Ventura County and Altadena East/Angeleno, National Forest East/Azusa, North/Duarte, North/Glendora/Pasadena East.</p>	
Underserved Communities (Identify the communities and explain the barriers.)	<p>Immigrant day laborers are an underserved population because they often do not qualify for, or are fearful of using, economic assistance programs. Further, because they don't receive work on a predictable basis, any day taken to seek legal assistance or advocate for their rights is a possible missed opportunity to have found work. We have adapted our outreach model to help overcome this barrier-- we outreach and conduct training with the workers on the corners and parking lots where they wait for work so that they remain available for hire while simultaneously learning their workplace rights. One of our goals with this project is to implement a mobile clinic component where a worker identified during outreach can seek assistance that same day with a minimal amount of time away from their hiring area.</p>	

	Number of Partners	Number of Subgrants	Dates of Collaborations
	1	1	6/30/2022
Collaboration Explanation (Describe how the applicant and partners will work together.)	<p>IDEPSCA supports day laborers and domestic workers by teaching them about their rights and how to organize as a community to better their workplace conditions. IDEPSCA has an active and passionate membership of worker leaders who engage and serve the community. We currently work with them to provide know your rights wage theft trainings to their membership and to day laborers and domestic workers. As a subgrantee, WJC will collaborate and approve all materials and trainings IDEPSCA uses, and will prepare a reporting system for new and ongoing community contacts. Our organizations already have a similar system in place for our current work together.</p> <p>IDEPSCA will assist the outreach coordinators to conduct 30 outreach sessions and 30 training sessions. IDEPSCA will provide their expertise in popular education to edit, create, and review know-your-rights materials.</p> <p>IDEPSCA will provide 6 sessions to the project staff, in these sessions IDEPSCA's will provide over two decades expertise to teach the Wage Justice Center their popular education methodology to engage, teach and outreach to our target demographic. Popular Education is a people-oriented and people-guided approach to education.</p> <p>Our proposed outreach coordinators will leverage our long-standing relationships with organizations we've historically collaborated with including; 1) the Pasadena Day Labor Center, operated under the National Day Laborers Organizing Network (NDLON) 2) The Central American Resource Center's (CARECEN), Day Labor Center 3) KIWA, first and only worker center serving collectively Latinx and Korean workers in the United States. 4) Bet Tzedek, a comrade legal aid organization providing free legal services. 5) CLEAN Carwash Campaign (CLEAN): CLEAN is a joint effort between Community Labor Environmental Action Network and the Carwash Workers Organizing Committee of the United Steel Workers. It is a diverse coalition of immigrant rights, legal and labor organizations.</p> <p>We are proposing one subgrantee and outlining our long-standing collaborative relationships. These relationships are important to our work, and we seek to hire a robust team to effectively pursue the proposed project.</p>		

2023-2024 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (HP 4) COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION PROFILE

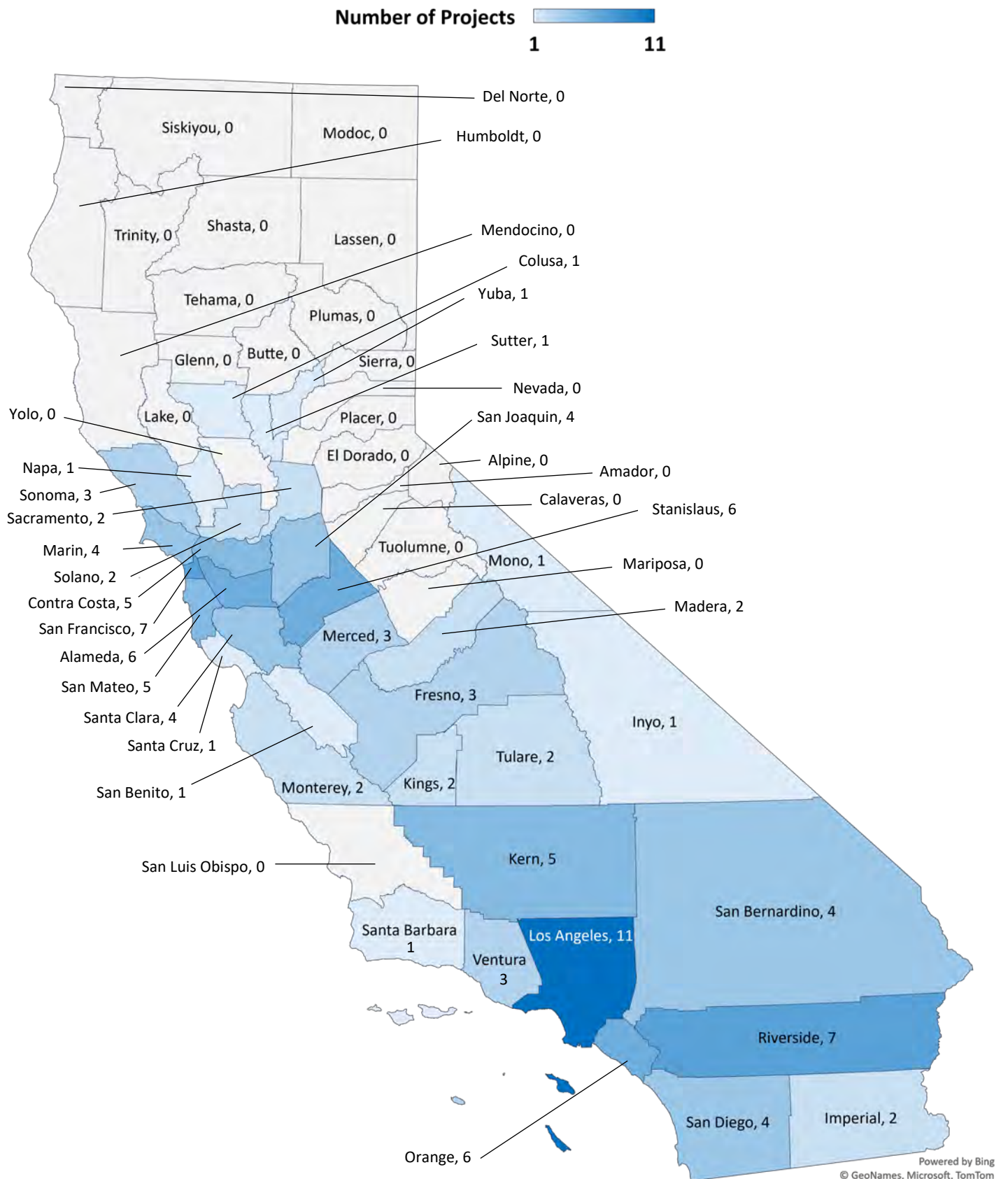
Organization Name	Western Center on Law and Poverty	
Project Name	Homelessness Prevention and Affordable Housing Preservation for Mobile Home Tenants and Residents in California's Rural Communities	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 1,500,000	\$150,000
County(ies) Served	Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tulare	
Project Abstract	<p>Western Center and its partners will build on our work to advocate for Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing in local and state-wide housing and community development planning processes. In 2019, California enacted AB 686, a Western Center-sponsored bill that embedded the AFFH mandate, required under the federal Fair Housing Act, in state law as a general obligation and in Housing Element Law. In 2021, California enacted AB 1304, a Western Center-sponsored bill that strengthens requirements for cities and counties to analyze and proactively address fair housing issues as part of their obligation to affirmatively further fair housing.</p> <p>Through community empowerment, training and education, litigation, and administrative advocacy, all focused on the intersection of civil rights and housing law, our organizations have developed a program that will apply the powers of AB 686 & AB 1301 and related civil rights laws to their fullest in order to realize greater housing access and community development in a manner that is just and equitable. Our focus on rural communities in the San Joaquin Valley will inform our systemic and statewide advocacy and litigation to increase fair housing protections for all Californians.</p> <p>Our expanded work in HP4 will create new tools and training to equip legal service providers with the information needed to navigate the complex housing laws and protections related to mobile home tenancy and residency. Through specialized trainings and the development of new resources, we will broaden the field's capacity to effectively protect mobile home tenants and residents from forced displacement and subsequent homelessness.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>The overarching goals of this project are to address the unique barriers mobile home tenants face and to prevent families from becoming homeless, keep families housed in safe and stable housing, increase the accessibility to housing, and improve the infrastructure where families live.</p> <p>The strategic long-term objectives of this project are to improve access to fair housing throughout the region, maximize resources in the rural legal services community by leveraging relationships with community organizations, assisting less experienced attorneys to develop substantive knowledge of housing laws inclusive of issues related to the California Mobilehome Residency Law, and coordinating with a broad network of community and legal services advocates who are interested and capable of representing low-income rural tenants and residents.</p> <p>Our collaborative will work with community groups to develop understanding of, and capacity to advocate for, their housing rights, and provide systemic legal assistance and advocacy that protects and implements those rights.</p> <p>The collaborative will further multiply its impact by providing attorneys and advocates from other organizations the necessary tools and information they need to advocate for the fair housing rights of their clients. At the same time, our local advocacy for specific</p>	

	communities, and partnership with other organizations, will inform our systemic and statewide work to increase fair housing protections for all California residents.		
Rural Communities	This project will target disadvantaged unincorporated areas of the San Joaquin Valley that include neighborhoods of concentrated poverty, and we will serve people of color, immigrants, farmworkers, people with disabilities, and other protected classes.		
Underserved Communities (Identify the communities and explain the barriers.)	We will expand our underserved community scope to meet the needs of low-income mobile home tenants and residents.		
	Number of Partners	Number of Subgrants	Dates of Collaborations
	2	2	1/1/2021*
Collaboration Explanation (Describe how the applicant and partners will work together.)	<p>This project will be a collaboration between Western Center on Law and Poverty (WCLP), Disability Rights California (DRC), and California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc. (CRLA). Each of our organizations has complementary expertise on fair housing law from the perspectives of statewide housing and poverty, the rights of Californians with disabilities, and the needs of low-income rural communities. The members of the collaborative will also draw from their core programs and services that include frontline legal aid, impact litigation, community empowerment and advocacy. Together, these strengths provide a bulwark against discrimination based on race, national origin, disability, and other protected classes.</p> <p>A priority of the project will be to work with community groups throughout the Valley to ensure that individuals in underserved rural communities know their rights and to inform the systemic work of the project. CRLA will provide direct eviction and injunction defense services. DRC and WCLP will work on systems change and policy advocacy to preserve affordable housing in Central California and co-lead statewide convenings and trainings on mobile tenancy and residency issues. WCLP will lead monthly training calls and will produce a Know Your Rights toolkit related to mobile home tenancy and residency for dissemination to California's housing field.</p>		

*Two partnerships began on January 1, 2021.

Map of Recommended HP 4 Projects: Number of Projects that Would Serve Each County

In addition to the projects represented on this map, eight of the recommended projects would serve the entire state. Therefore, every county stands to benefit from the funded proposals. The map below, however, plots the 38 that would focus their services on particular counties.



Organization	Counties Served	Score	Funding Requested	Funding Recomm.
Aids Legal Referral Panel	Marin, San Francisco, Solano, Sonoma	93	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000**
Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California	Los Angeles, Orange	90	\$1,320,738	\$800,000
Bay Area Legal Aid	Alameda, San Mateo	86	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform	Statewide	86	\$642,781	\$642,781
California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.	Colusa, Monterey, San Benito, San Joaquin, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Stanislaus, Sutter, Ventura, Yuba	85	\$525,000	\$525,000
Centro Legal de la Raza	Contra Costa	84	\$491,500	\$491,500
Child Care Law Center	Sacramento, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Stanislaus	83	\$300,000	\$300,000
Community Legal Aid SoCal	Los Angeles, Orange	81	\$370,973	\$370,973**
Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto	San Mateo, Santa Clara	81	\$1,361,289	\$1,361,289
Contra Costa Senior Legal Services	Contra Costa	81	\$608,280	\$608,280
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund	Statewide	80	\$330,397	\$330,397
Disability Rights Legal Center	Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego	80	\$305,855	\$305,855
Elder Law & Advocacy	Imperial, San Diego	80	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
Eviction Defense Collaborative	San Francisco	79	\$500,000	\$500,000
Family Violence Appellate Project	Statewide	79	\$454,000	\$454,000
Family Violence Law Center	Alameda	76	\$361,283	\$361,283
Harriett Buhai Center for Family Law	Los Angeles	75	\$450,000	\$450,000
Housing and Economic Rights Advocates	Imperial, Kern, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego	74	\$112,369	\$112,369**
Inland Counties Legal Services	Riverside	74	\$360,000	\$360,000
Inner City Law Center	Statewide	74	\$356,407	\$356,407
Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco	San Francisco	71	\$1,050,000	\$1,050,000

Organization	Counties Served	Score	Funding Requested	Funding Recomm.
La Raza Centro Legal	San Francisco, San Mateo	71	\$150,000	\$150,000
LACBA Counsel for Justice	Los Angeles	70	\$1,500,000	*
Law Foundation of Silicon Valley	Santa Clara	70	\$1,090,700	*
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights	Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, Sonoma	69	\$270,000	\$270,000
Legal Aid at Work	Statewide	69	\$369,752	\$369,752
Legal Aid of Marin	Marin	69	\$450,000	\$450,000
Legal Aid of Sonoma County	Sonoma	69	\$402,184	\$402,184
Legal Services for Children	Alameda, San Francisco	69	\$253,044	\$253,044
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children	Alameda, Fresno, Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, Ventura	68	\$799,866	\$799,866
Legal Services for Seniors	Monterey	68	\$1,060,000	\$1,060,000
Mental Health Advocacy Services	Los Angeles	67	\$598,182	\$598,182
National Housing Law Project	Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Mono, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tulare	66	\$457,280	\$457,280**
Neighborhood Legal Services	Los Angeles	66	\$175,000	\$175,000
One Justice	Statewide	65	\$275,759	\$275,759
Open Door Legal	San Francisco	64	\$356,400	\$356,400
Public Advocates	Statewide	64	\$210,905	\$210,905
Public Counsel	Los Angeles	60	\$82,837	\$82,837
Public Interest Law Project	Statewide	60	\$102,972	\$102,972
Public Law Center	Orange	59	\$444,400	\$444,400
Riverside Legal Aid	Riverside	59	\$126,000	\$126,000
Senior Advocacy Network	Merced, Stanislaus	56	\$687,700	\$687,700**
Social Justice Collaborative	Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Joaquin, Stanislaus	56	\$500,001	\$500,001

Organization	Counties Served	Score	Funding Requested	Funding Recomm.
Veterans Legal Institute	Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino	53	\$329,850	\$329,850
Wage Justice Center	Kern, Los Angeles, Ventura	53	\$537,200	***
Western Center on Law and Poverty	Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tulare	52	\$175,000	\$175,000

*The scoring team will provide oral updates about AAAJ-SoCal and EDC and defers to the committee about the funding levels for these organizations.

**The scoring team recommends funding CANHR, CentroLegal, ELA, ICLC, and LCCR fully, pending resolution of minor technical issues.

***The scoring team will provide an oral update defers to the committee about whether to fund LSPC.



The State Bar of California

OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEM JUNE 2022 LSTFC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE III.A

DATE: June 13, 2022

TO: Members, Executive Committee

FROM: Danielle MacRae, Senior Program Analyst

SUBJECT: Scoring Team Recommendations for the 2022-2025 CalHFA Foreclosure Prevention Grants

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA) contracted with the State Bar of California and Legal Services Trust Fund Commission (commission) to distribute \$12 million to 2022 IOLTA-funded organizations for foreclosure prevention and home retention legal services. The funds are part of a \$945 million federal allocation that CalHFA received through the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act to help Californians avoid home loss as a result of pandemic related financial hardships.

On March 11, 2022, the commission approved a timeline for making 2022-2025 CalHFA Foreclosure Prevention grant awards. So that the grant period can start by July 1, 2022, the commission delegated authority to the Executive Committee (committee) to approve the scoring rubric and request for proposals (RFP). It also delegated authority to the committee to approve award amounts.

The committee will meet on June 13, 2022, to approve CalHFA foreclosure prevention grant awards. This memo describes the process for scoring the CalHFA proposals and presents the scoring team's recommendations for funding.

BACKGROUND

CalHFA received \$945 million through the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act to launch the

California Mortgage Relief Program. CalHFA created a public benefit not-for-profit corporation called the California Homeowner Relief Corporation (CalHRC) to administer the program. The program primarily provides financial assistance to qualified homeowners who have fallen behind on housing payments due to COVID-19 pandemic-related financial hardships.

In addition to financial assistance, federal guidance on mortgage relief programs also authorizes “legal services, targeted to households eligible to be served with funding ... related to foreclosure prevention or displacement.”¹ Recognizing the importance of legal assistance, CalHFA and CalHRC reserved \$12 million for grants to qualified legal services projects (QLSPs) and support centers to provide foreclosure prevention and/or home retention legal services. CalHFA has contracted with the State Bar and the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission to administer these funds.

Of the \$12 million, up to eight percent (\$960,000) is available for administrative costs. The remaining funds (\$11,040,000), and any unspent administrative costs, will be made available to QLSPs and support centers found eligible for 2022 IOLTA funding as three-year competitive grants to fund foreclosure prevention and home retention legal services. The grant term will be July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2025; however, programs will be able to charge expenditures back one quarter, starting April 1, 2022, so that they may begin to serve clients as early as possible. CalHFA Foreclosure Prevention Grant award decisions are final and without appeal.

The State Bar received 22 CalHFA Foreclosure Prevention proposals requesting about \$26,300,000 combined. Please see Attachment C for profile sheets detailing each proposal.

DISCUSSION

Scoring Criteria

On March 23, 2022, the committee adopted the following rubric for CalHFA awards:

Category	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Below Expectations	Not Addressed
Project impact: The applicant proposes a project that significantly and directly addresses or will address a compelling need for the particular foreclosure prevention and home retention intervention(s).				
Number of check marks	X30 =	X25 =	X20 =	X0 =
Subtotal				
Administration: The applicant demonstrates that it has the qualifications, experience, resources, and/or partners that it needs to meet the proposal objectives.				
Number of check marks	X20 =	X15 =	X10 =	X0 =

¹ See U.S. Department of the Treasury, “Homeowners Assistance Fund Guidance,” dated February 24, 2022, available at <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/haf-guidance.pdf>

Subtotal				
Outreach strategy targeting low-income homeowners: The applicant details a thoughtful strategy for identifying, targeting, and educating program-eligible homeowners (those with household incomes less than or equal to 150% of the Area Median Income) about proposed legal services.				
Focus on socially disadvantaged populations: The applicant articulates a particular focus on serving socially disadvantaged communities (those located in Qualified Census Tracts or areas of “high” or “highest” vulnerability ratings on the California Owner Vulnerability Index).				
Evaluation: The applicant details an evaluation strategy to acquire data that it can use to refine the project’s strategies over the course of the grant to increase its effectiveness.				
Number of check marks	X15 =	X10 =	X5 =	X0 =
Subtotal				
Special consideration: The applicant articulates a focus on, and demonstrates a history of, serving traditionally underserved populations and/or populations disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g., people with limited English proficiency, people of color, people with disabilities, and older adults).				
	0-5 points			
Total				

The request for proposals (RFP, Attachment A) notes that the rubric is a tool to assist in discussion of proposals. The committee has the discretion to make awards that best accomplish the goals of providing foreclosure prevention and home retention interventions statewide and particularly in socially disadvantaged communities, even where that might mean funding a program or programs that scored lower on the rubric and not funding a program or programs that scored higher.

The RFP also communicated the following explanations to applicants:

- **Project impact:** Applicants should describe the needs of the targeted population and how anticipated outcomes of the proposed activities 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. They should explain why they selected the particular intervention(s) over others. The justification for the proposed services should refer to the circumstances and needs of particular populations that the project seeks to serve.

- **Administration:** Applicants should demonstrate their ability and capacity to implement and manage the proposed activities. 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 the goals from prior grants and timely reporting of results/outcomes will also be considered under this category. An applicant's prior experience providing foreclosure prevention and home retention legal services is relevant to this criterion.
- **Outreach strategy targeting low-income homeowners:** Applicants should describe strategies to meaningfully and effectively identify, target, and conduct outreach to low-income homeowners. For the purposes of this grant, low-income homeowners are those with household incomes less than or equal to 150 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI) as defined by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development. Outreach strategies may include marketing, community engagement, partnerships with housing counseling agencies or other legal aid organizations, or other outreach or educational services that are aligned with the California Mortgage Relief Program design, in a manner that is culturally and linguistically relevant to the targeted communities.
- **Focus on socially disadvantaged populations:** Applicants should describe strategies to effectively prioritize services to socially disadvantaged communities. Social disadvantaged communities are those located in either 1) Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs) or 2) areas of "high" or "highest" vulnerability ratings on the California Owner Vulnerability Index (OVI).
- **Evaluation:** Applicants should 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.
- **Special consideration:** Applicants may earn special consideration points for projects that articulate a particular focus on serving underserved populations and/or populations that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. These populations might include people of color, people with limited English proficiency, people with disabilities, and older adults. Applicants may also earn points for detailing strong experience serving these populations.

In the scoring review guide, State Bar staff proposed the following definitions for "exceeds expectations," "meets expectations," "below expectations," and "not addressed:"

- **Exceeds expectations:** A proposal that scores “exceeds expectations” in a category/criterion satisfies the standard for “meets expectations” while standing out as particularly compelling or impressive. A project might be especially compelling, for instance, because its strategies would be unusually impactful. A proposal might also be awarded “exceeds expectations” for being exceptionally detailed, thorough, evidence-driven, or otherwise well-conceived and convincing.
- **Meets expectations:** A proposal that scores “meets expectations” in a category/criterion is competitive and persuasive with respect to that row of the rubric. To be competitive, the proposal will be sufficiently ambitious and/or compelling to merit the use of competitive funds. To be persuasive, the proposal will describe circumstances sufficiently probative of the applicant’s intention and ability to accomplish its stated objectives in that criterion.
- **Below expectations:** A proposal that scores “below expectations” in a category/criterion addresses that criterion but is insufficiently competitive or persuasive to justify a score of “meets expectations.” The proposal might aspire to do too little, for instance, such as only occasionally serve socially disadvantaged communities. A proposal might lack sufficient detail, explanation, or basis in fact to demonstrate its contours or likelihood of success. For example, a proposal might score “below expectations” in evaluation if the outlined evaluation strategy lacks detail and is non-committal. Since an uncompetitive proposal might still articulate a feasible project, this score confers some points.
- **Not addressed:** A proposal that scores “not addressed” in a category/criterion fails to satisfy that criterion in a meaningful way or lacks the relevant nexus. A proposal might fail to satisfy a criterion in a meaningful way if it does not answer the relevant question or articulates only a vague intention to satisfy the criterion. A response might lack the relevant nexus to “focus on socially disadvantaged communities,” for instance, if the project proposes to serve only neighborhoods that are not in a socially disadvantaged community as defined in the RFP.

Review Process

Given the short timeline to review submissions, the commission delegated authority to staff to score CalHFA Foreclosure Prevention grant proposals in consultation with the committee. To ensure strong committee consultation, two committee members participated in all scoring sessions.

The scoring team consisted of the committee co-chair, Kim Savage, committee member Christina Vanarelli, and three staff members from the Office of Access & Inclusion. The team evaluated all 22 applications using the rubric and definitions above. Staff from CalHFA sat in on most scoring sessions; they did not act as members of scoring team but were available to provide detail and insight into CalHFA’s project goals and preferences.

Scores

The five-member scoring team arrived at unanimous scores and funding figures for every proposal. The highest score was 88 out of 100 points. The lowest score was 62 points. Given the

limited amount of funding available, the scoring team recommends funding the 11 proposals set forth in the table below. These proposals include the nine highest scoring proposals – those with scores from 82 to 88 – as well as two proposals that scored between 70 and 77 and are recommended for funding because they would serve a particularly disadvantaged or otherwise underserved area of the state.

Proposals Recommended for Funding
(From Highest Score to Lowest Score)

Applicant	Total Score
Housing and Economic Rights Advocates	88
Legal Access Alameda	87
Public Counsel	87
California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.	83
Legal Aid of Sonoma County	83
Senior Advocacy Network	83
California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform	82
Legal Assistance to the Elderly	82
National Housing Law Project	82
Legal Aid Society of San Diego	77
Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino	70

In further explanation of the recommendation to fund the two lower scoring proposals, the scoring team offers the following: Legal Aid Society of San Diego proposes to provide a wide range of foreclosure prevention legal assistance and representation and a monthly loan modification clinic in San Diego County. San Diego is the second most populous county in the state and would not otherwise be served by this grant. Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino proposes to provide direct legal services and foreclosure prevention outreach and education in San Bernardino and Riverside counties. Riverside and San Bernardino are the fourth- and fifth-most populous counties in the state, are in the inland empire, and would otherwise be minimally served by this grant.

Each of these 11 recommended proposals scored “exceeds expectations” in at least one rubric category—most of them in several. Nearly all scored at least 2 out of 5 points in “special consideration.”² Attachment B includes a breakdown of the scores for all proposals.

Funding Levels

In determining the amount of funding to recommend be awarded to each of the 11 recommended proposals, the scoring team considered, among other factors:

- The proportionality of the project deliverables to the funding request;
- the degree of fiscal conservatism in the budget, given the narrative explanation; and
- the applicant’s capacity to implement an impactful project with less than the full

² The rubric provides up to 5 points in “special consideration” for “articulat[ing] a focus on, or demonstrat[ing] a history of, serving traditionally underserved populations and/or populations disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g., people with limited English proficiency, people of color, older adults).”

amount requested.

Award Recommendations
(In Alphabetical Order)

Applicant	Recommended Three-Year Funding
California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform	\$450,000
California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.	\$1,900,000
Housing and Economic Rights Advocates	\$2,000,000
Legal Access Alameda	\$700,000
Legal Aid of Sonoma County	\$800,000
Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino	\$800,000
Legal Aid Society of San Diego	\$800,000
Legal Assistance to the Elderly	\$900,000
National Housing Law Project	\$750,000
Public Counsel	\$1,190,000
Senior Advocacy Network	\$750,000
Total	\$11,040,000

The above organizations would receive, on average, 82 percent of their budget request. Staff is following up with each program to see whether it would have to adjust its deliverables if it received the above amount. Attachment B compares each proposal's funding request to the scoring team's funding recommendation.

Grant Management Assessment

Because the CalHFA foreclosure prevention grants are supported by federal dollars, all applicants were required to complete a grant management assessment (GMA). Per Title 2 CFR § 200.332, the State Bar of California is required to evaluate the risk of noncompliance with federal statutes, regulations, and grant terms and conditions posed by each subrecipient of pass-through funding.³ The GMA was created to help the State Bar determine and provide an appropriate level of technical assistance, training, and grant oversight to grant recipients.

The GMA includes a self-assessment component comprised of several multiple-choice questions about each organization's leadership, grant management staff and policies, internal control policies, audit history, and history with federal grants. In addition to the self-assessment, State Bar staff completed an assessment of each grantee which included a review of the organization's history of late submissions, large budget revisions or carryovers, monitoring visit findings, and State Bar grant eligibility concerns. (See Attachment D for a blank GMA tool.)

After reviewing the self-assessment component and State Bar's assessment of the programs, each applicant was scored as either high, medium, or low risk of noncompliance with federal statutes, regulations, and grant terms and conditions. The higher the risk level of the

³ See U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Title 2 CFR § 200.332 at <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200/subpart-D/subject-group-ECFR031321e29ac5bbd/section-200.332>.

organization, the greater the technical assistance and oversight the State Bar intends to provide if the organization receives grant funding. There are multiple factors that contribute to a program being categorized as medium or high risk. An organization's high might be higher due to a lack of experience with federal grants or a history of requesting larger than average carryovers, rather than a history of grant noncompliance, for example.

Grant Management Assessment Results
(In Alphabetical Order)

Applicant	Risk Level	Recommended for Funding?
Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach	High	No
Bet Tzedek Legal Services	Low	No
California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform	Medium	Yes
California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.	Medium	Yes
Community Legal Aid SoCal	Medium	No
Housing and Economic Rights Advocates	High	Yes
Inland Counties Legal Services	Low	No
Law Foundation of Silicon Valley	Low	No
Legal Access Alameda	High	Yes
Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County	Low	No
Legal Aid of Sonoma County	Medium	Yes
Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino	High	Yes
Legal Aid Society of San Diego	Medium	Yes
Legal Assistance to the Elderly	High	Yes
National Housing Law Project	Low	Yes
Neighborhood Legal Services	Medium	No
Open Door Legal	High	No
Public Counsel	Low	Yes
Public Law Center	Low	No
Senior Advocacy Network	High	Yes
USD School of Law Legal Clinics	Low	No

The GMA was developed and evaluated separately from the scoring rubric. That is, the results of the GMA did not factor into the scoring team's evaluation of each proposal. However, the scoring rubric category "administration" asked the scoring team to consider, among other things, "an applicant's historical demonstration of its ability to meet the goals from prior grants and timely reporting of results/outcomes." Therefore, programs with a substantial history of grant noncompliance and/or late submissions were more likely to score lower in that rubric category. The scoring team's comfortability with programs' experience and ability to administer large federal grants was also a factor when the scoring team determined recommended funding levels for each proposal.⁴

⁴ The scoring team is recommending just one proposal that was rated high risk be awarded more than \$900,000 (or \$300,000 annually). Similarly, the scoring team is recommending just one proposal that was rated medium risk be awarded more than \$800,000 (or \$266,667 annually). The proposals – from Housing and Economic Rights

Funded programs that were rated as “medium” or “high” risk will receive additional support and oversight by State Bar staff to ensure they are able to comply with federal funding requirements. State Bar staff also plan to provide one-on-one technical assistance to those programs to address factors that contributed to their higher risk score. This might include providing sample language for necessary internal control policies, for example. The contract between CalHFA, the State Bar, and the commission affords the State Bar sufficient administrative costs (eight percent compared to five percent for most other State Bar grants) to ensure State Bar staff have the resources to provide sufficient training and technical assistance to grantees of this unique funding opportunity.

CONCLUSION

Funding the 11 recommended proposals would support a diversity of high-impact foreclosure prevention and home retention projects throughout the state, particularly in socially disadvantaged communities (See Attachment E for a map of recommended projects). The projects scored strongly against the rubric, which the committee designed to implement CalHFA’s and the California Mortgage Relief Program’s priorities. The proposals also describe a compelling focus on socially disadvantaged communities—those that face particularly high risk of foreclosure.

Taken together, these 11 proposals would provide a variety of foreclosure prevention and home retention services across the state of California. They endeavor to provide legal advice and representation on foreclosures, loan modifications, equity-stripping scams, successor-in-interest issues, and property charge issues; general education and outreach on the California Mortgage Relief Program and assistance with mortgage relief applications; counseling on reverse mortgages and Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) loans; debt collection defense; community education presentations, trainings, and publications; title clearing services; and a monthly loan modification clinic. Several projects will also seek to serve particularly unique or underserved populations, including seniors, mobile home homeowners, and survivors of natural disasters such as wildfires.

The scoring team would have recommended many of the remaining proposals for an award but for limited funding. The remaining proposals also described thoughtful and needed foreclosure prevention work. On June 13, however, the scoring team will ask the committee to prioritize funding the 11 projects detailed in this memo.

RECOMMENDATION

Should the committee concur with the scoring team’s proposal, passage of the following resolution is recommended:

Advocates and California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc. – scored 88 and 83 points on the scoring rubric, respectively. Both propose to serve several rural areas of the state.

RESOLVED, that the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission Executive Committee approves the 2022–2025 CalHFA Foreclosure Prevention grant recipients and amounts as described herein.

ATTACHMENT(S) LIST

- A. 2022 – 2025 CalHFA Foreclosure Prevention Grant Request for Proposals
- B. Scores and Funding Recommendations for CalHFA Foreclosure Prevention Grant Proposals
- C. Profile Sheets of CalHFA Foreclosure Prevention Grant Proposals
- D. Grant Management Assessment Tool
- E. Map of Recommended CalHFA Foreclosure Prevention Projects



2022-2025 CalHFA Foreclosure Prevention Grant Request for Proposals

Background

The California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA) received \$945 million through the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act to launch a California Mortgage Relief Program. CalHFA created a public benefit not-for-profit corporation called the California Homeowner Relief Corporation (CalHRC) to administer the program. The program primarily provides financial assistance to qualified homeowners who have fallen behind on housing payments due to COVID-19 pandemic-related financial hardships.

Federal guidance on mortgage relief programs also authorizes “legal services, targeted to households eligible to be served with funding...related to foreclosure prevention or displacement.” (See [U.S. Department of Treasury Homeowners Assistance Fund Guidance](#).) CalHFA and CalHRC are contracting with the State Bar and Legal Services Trust Fund Commission (commission) to administer at least \$11,040,000 in civil legal aid grants for foreclosure prevention. Grants will be awarded to qualified legal services projects (QLSPs) and support centers as three-year competitive grants to fund foreclosure prevention and home retention legal services. The grant term will be July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2025; however, programs will be able to charge expenditures back one quarter, to as early as April 1, 2022, so they may begin to serve clients as early as possible.

Permissible activities include, but are not limited to:

- Providing outreach and education on financial assistance from the California Mortgage Relief Program, the foreclosure process, arrearage payments, and homeowners’ legal options;
- Reviewing loan documents and counseling regarding the viability of loan modifications;
- Providing loan modification assistance and loan modification denial appeals;
- Negotiating, mediating, and litigating to address servicer violations and wrongful foreclosures;
- Protecting home equity from judgment liens on non-mortgage consumer debts through debt collection lawsuit defense, and addressing existing judgment liens through set

aside litigation or Chapter 7 bankruptcy (using automatic homestead exemptions that apply to California bankruptcies);

- Assisting with homestead declarations to protect equity against future judgments;
- Assisting with successor-in-interest issues, including proactive estate planning work to avoid home loss;
- Assisting mobilehome homeowners preserve ownership of their homes (including addressing issues with tenancies in mobile home parks that threaten homeownership, park and mobile home conditions, and representation in park closure or change of use cases);
- Providing reverse mortgage advice to older adults;
- Pursuing affirmative actions to restore homeowner titles;
- Addressing equity stripping schemes and scams (e.g., PACE, title theft, fraudulent inducement to sell) and foreclosure rescue scams;
- Addressing property charge issues, especially HOA delinquencies and foreclosures, forced place insurance, property tax delinquencies, and issues related to assessed value and transfers;
- Utilizing technology to facilitate mortgage relief applications with clients; and
- Providing related ancillary legal services such as consumer debt and bankruptcy legal assistance.

Eligibility

To be eligible for consideration, applicants must submit proposals for 2022-2025 CalHFA foreclosure prevention funding by **Monday, May 2, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. (PT)** through SmartSimple. To be eligible for the award, applicants must be found eligible in 2021 for 2022 funding as a QLSP or support center under California Business and Professions Code [section 6213\(a\)-\(b\)](#).

Competitive Grant Parameters

1. CalHFA foreclosure prevention awards must be used to fund foreclosure prevention and home retention legal services. These grants may not support lobbying efforts.
2. There is no minimum amount of funding that programs may request. The maximum that a program may request is \$2,400,000 for three years (payments to grantees will be made in three equal installments on or near July 1, 2022, July 1, 2023, and July 1, 2024).

3. Client income eligibility for these services is at or below 150 percent of [Area Median Income \(AMI\)](#), as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. In some counties, 150 percent of AMI may be higher than 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. Programs must nonetheless track whether clients served using CalHFA grant funds are indigent under California Business and Professions Code [section 6213\(d\)](#) so that they may accurately identify and report nonqualifying expenditures on the annual Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) and Equal Access Fund application.
4. Grantees must use at least 40 percent of grant funds to serve socially disadvantaged communities. Socially disadvantaged communities are limited to those located in either 1) [Qualified Census Tracts \(QCTs\)](#) as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, or 2) areas of "high" or "highest" vulnerability ratings on the California [Owner Vulnerability Index \(OVI\)](#) as defined by the UCLA Center for Neighborhood Knowledge.

Award Information

The commission will distribute at least \$11,040,000 in competitive funds. The competitive grant period will start on July 1, 2022, but programs may charge expenditures to the grant beginning one quarter earlier, on April 1, 2022.

The commission seeks to fund high-impact projects and a diversity of foreclosure prevention and home retention legal services throughout the state.

Selection Criteria

Award decisions are final and without appeal. The funding level of awards will depend on the number and quality of the proposals as well as proposed budgets. A successful response to this RFP will expressly and persuasively:

- Identify how the proposed project aligns with the permissible uses and would meet the compelling needs of the population(s) it targets;
- Articulate the outputs (e.g., number of cases closed) and outcomes (e.g., increase in knowledge of homeowner rights) of services. Applicants should identify goals they seek to achieve with this grant that are tied to the specific activities and deliverables proposed;
- Highlight how clients in "socially disadvantaged communities"—please see the definition below—will be effectively targeted and served; and
- Describe the applicant's qualifications and staffing to perform the proposed work.

The commission will use its best efforts to distribute grants statewide and to fund a diversity of foreclosure prevention and home retention interventions. Additionally, the Executive Committee (committee), on behalf of the commission, has adopted the following rubric to guide its deliberations:

Category	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Below Expectations	Not Addressed
Project impact: The applicant proposes a project that significantly and directly addresses or will address a compelling need for the particular foreclosure prevention and home retention intervention(s).				
Number of check marks	X30 =	X25 =	X20 =	X0 =
Subtotal				
Administration: The applicant demonstrates that it has the qualifications, experience, resources, and/or partners that it needs to meet the proposal objectives.				
Number of check marks	X20 =	X15 =	X10 =	X0 =
Subtotal				
Outreach strategy targeting low-income homeowners: The applicant details a thoughtful strategy for identifying, targeting, and educating program-eligible homeowners (those with household incomes less than or equal to 150% of the Area Median Income) about proposed legal				
Focus on socially disadvantaged populations: The applicant articulates a particular focus on serving socially disadvantaged communities (those located in Qualified Census Tracts or areas of “high” or “highest” vulnerability ratings on the California Owner Vulnerability Index).				
Evaluation: The applicant details an evaluation strategy to acquire data that it can use to refine the project’s strategies over the course of the grant to increase its effectiveness.				
Number of check marks	X15 =	X10 =	X5 =	X0 =
Subtotal				

Special consideration: The applicant articulates a focus on, and demonstrates a history of, serving traditionally underserved populations and/or populations disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g., people with limited English proficiency, people of color, people with disabilities, and older adults).	
	0-5 points
Total	

Note: The rubric is a tool to guide discussion of proposals. The committee has the discretion to recommend and make awards that best accomplish the goals of providing foreclosure prevention and home retention interventions statewide and particularly in socially disadvantaged communities, even where that might mean funding a program or programs that scored lower on the rubric and not funding a program or programs that scored higher.

The following explanations accompany the rubric:

- **Project impact:** Applicants should describe the needs of the targeted population and how anticipated outcomes of the proposed activities 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. They should explain why they selected the particular intervention(s) over others. The justification for the proposed services should refer to the circumstances and needs of particular populations that the project seeks to serve.
- **Administration:** Applicants should demonstrate their ability and capacity to implement and manage the proposed activities. 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 the goals from prior grants and timely reporting of results/outcomes will also be considered under this category. An applicant's prior experience providing foreclosure prevention and home retention legal services is relevant to this criterion.
- **Outreach strategy targeting low-income homeowners:** Applicants should describe strategies to meaningfully and effectively identify, target, and conduct outreach to low-income homeowners. For the purposes of this grant, low-income homeowners are those with household incomes less than or equal to 150 percent of the [Area Median Income \(AMI\)](#) as defined by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development. Outreach strategies may include marketing, community engagement, partnerships with housing counseling agencies or other legal aid organizations, or other outreach or educational services that are aligned

with the California Mortgage Relief Program design, in a manner that is culturally and linguistically relevant to the targeted communities.

- **Focus on socially disadvantaged populations:** Applicants should describe strategies to effectively prioritize services to socially disadvantaged communities. Social disadvantaged communities are those located in either 1) [Qualified Census Tracts \(QCTs\)](#) or 2) areas of “high” or “highest” vulnerability ratings on the California [Owner Vulnerability Index \(OVI\)](#).
- **Evaluation:** Applicants should 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.
- **Special consideration:** Applicants may earn special consideration points for projects that articulate a particular focus on serving underserved populations and/or populations that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. These populations might include people of color, people with limited English proficiency, people with disabilities, and older adults. Applicants may also earn points for detailing strong experience serving these populations.

CalHFA Foreclosure Prevention Grant Timeline

Date(s)	Activity
February 15, 2022	Preview grant opportunity to Executive Committee
February 14 – March 30	Staff drafts RFP and scoring rubric
Approximately March 11, 2022	CalHFA selects intermediary and finalizes contract
March 11, 2022	Commission meets to approve distribution timeline and delegation of authority
March 21, 2022	Informational webinar for potential applicants
March 23, 2022	Executive Committee meets to approve RFP and scoring rubric
March 30, 2022	Staff releases RFP and application on SmartSimple
May 2, 2022	Applications due
May 2-31, 2022	Application review
June 13, 2022	Executive Committee meets to approve grant awards
June 20-30, 2022	Staff sends grant agreements and processes invoices
July 1, 2022	Grant period begins

Proposal Components

A complete CalHFA foreclosure prevention proposal will include the components below. Please see the proposal instructions for detailed guidance.

1. Form A: Project Profile

The project profile collects high-level information about the project's geographic focus, budget request, and current funding (if any), as well as a project abstract.

Additionally, a Unique Entity ID (UEI) number is necessary since these grants are made possible by federal funds.² To learn more about UEI numbers and to request a free UEI number, please visit sam.gov [here](#).

2. Form B: Project Description

The project description collects detailed information about the project's needs, clients, partnerships, goals, activities, deliverables, and strategies for outreach, accessibility, and evaluation. It also asks for detailed narratives about the applicant's qualifications and resources to perform the work effectively.

3. Form C: Project Budget

The project budget collects information on how the program proposes to allocate CalHFA funds to the project over three years. Proposals will need to identify staff by their role (e.g., "managing attorney") and estimate the amount of time that these roles would spend on the project. The project staff, budget, and description should be consistent with each other.

4. Form D: Budget Narrative

The budget narrative collects information about each line of the budget, noting whether the grant will directly pay for specific items or be allocated on a percentage or other basis.

5. Form E: Project Assurance

Programs will have to acknowledge the following:

- A. Applicant will use funds it receives from the 2022-2025 CalHFA Foreclosure Prevention Grant only for purposes stated in its application.
- B. Applicant will not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disability, age, marital or domestic partnership status, medical condition, or sexual orientation.

² The federal government announced in March 2022 that it is transitioning away from the DUNS Number as the identification system for federal expenditure tracking, effective April 4, 2022.

- C. Applicant will comply with quality control procedures adopted by the State Bar of California.
- D. Applicant will permit reasonable site visits by the State Bar and will present additional information deemed reasonably necessary by the State Bar to determine compliance with the terms of the grant.
- E. Applicant will comply with fiscal management and control procedures adopted by the State Bar.
- F. Applicant agrees that it will use at least 40 percent of funds it receives from the 2022-2025 CalHFA Foreclosure Prevention Grant to serve people in socially disadvantaged communities. Socially disadvantaged communities are limited to those located in either 1) Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs) as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, or 2) areas of “high” or “highest” vulnerability ratings on the California Owner Vulnerability Index (OVI) as defined by the UCLA Center for Neighborhood Knowledge.
- G. Any proposal submitted for a CalHFA Foreclosure Prevention Grant, and all documents submitted pursuant to issuance of this funding, are public documents, and may be disclosed to any person.
- H. Applicant will file regular (e.g., quarterly) program and financial reports, as may be required by the State Bar, and cooperate with other data collection requests by the State Bar for this grant project.
- I. The State Bar is permitted, in its sole discretion, to adjust Applicant’s award at any time to reflect the actual amount of funding available for CalHFA foreclosure prevention competitive grants. Consequently, grantees shall not be guaranteed any specific dollar amount in grant funds, or any grant funds at all, if funds received are insufficient or unavailable to the State Bar.

Reporting Requirements

The 2022-2025 CalHFA Foreclosure Prevention grants are supported by federal funding and therefore have different reporting requirements than traditional IOLTA or EAF grants. These reporting requirements are set by the U.S. Treasury and CalHFA. Additionally, reporting topics and deadlines are subject to change when necessary to comply with state and federal guidance. State Bar and CalHFA staff are continuing to refine reporting requirements for these funds.

Grantees must report quantitative and qualitative data describing the clients they served and the activities they performed. This data includes outcomes (main and economic benefits) tied

to individual characteristics that demonstrate the impact/value of these grants.

Reporting requirements will include:

1. Quarterly Expenditure Reports

Organizations will have to submit quarterly spending reports that compare expenditures against the approved budget, and report how much of spending was on socially disadvantaged communities. Grantees will also need to report quarterly the total amount of delinquent mortgage payments at issue for the persons served. Grantees must report budget variances that exceed 10 percent to the State Bar as soon as possible.

2. Quarterly and Annual Services/Case Reports

Grantees will have to submit quarterly reports on the number of persons they served with grant funds. This includes the number of cases closed where there was an attorney-client relationship. It also includes participants of other—e.g., information only—services from self-help clinics, trainings, outreach events, and hotline calls. Grantees will have to submit annual reports with client-level data on the following:

- A. Main benefits for all cases according to those codes and definitions in the *California Legal Aid Reporting Handbook* that are relevant to the permissible activities of the CalHFA Foreclosure Prevention grants.
- B. Geographic and demographic data (including whether the client lives in a socially disadvantaged community), and anticipated and verified outcomes, for all clients.
- C. Economic benefits for cases that resulted in an award for or savings to the client, including mortgage delinquencies resolved.
- D. Highest levels of service for all cases where there was an attorney-client relationship and aggregated data about all other services (e.g., trainings).
- E. Any other data necessary to comply with state and federal reporting requirements.

3. Final Evaluation Report

In addition to the regular activity/services reports, organizations will have to submit a final evaluation about the following outputs and outcomes, among others:

- A. Service population: How did this project impact the people it served? What changed for them, or what negative outcomes were prevented?

- B. Community impact: Describe whether and how this project has changed the community it serves.
- C. Evaluation/Assessment: Describe the processes used to assess the effectiveness of this project and any lessons learned regarding the project itself or the community it serves.
- D. Reports: Upload any report completed regarding the evaluation or assessment of this project or demonstrating the effect of services rendered (e.g., client satisfaction survey results, pre- and post-service results, number of cases in which stipulations were reached, number of trials, outcome of trials, etc.).
- E. Other impacts: Will this project have any immediate or long-term impacts that are not captured in main benefits reporting?
- F. Continuation of the project: Describe any plans to continue the project after the grant period.
- G. Publications: Describe any future publication or distribution plans for materials resulting from grant activities; provide the URL for online resources related to this project (web sites, resource libraries, etc.).
- H. Impact work and materials:
 - Overview of impact litigation cases: For any grant-funded impact cases your organization litigated as part of this project during the grant period, whether open or closed, report the case name, number of individuals estimated to be impacted, date filed, venue, and any partners or co-counsel participating.
 - Overview of public policy advocacy activities: Describe any grant-funded public policy advocacy activities your organization engaged in during the grant period. As stated above, lobbying efforts are not permissible with these grant funds.
 - Training and support activities: Describe any grant-funded training or other support activities not identified above. For support centers, use this space to provide quantitative and qualitative data about trainings, convenings, research, and other support for QLSPs.

For Technical Support

If you have any questions, please contact Danielle MacRae, Senior Program Analyst, at (213)

765-1324 or Danielle.MacRae@calbar.ca.gov.

ATTACHMENT B

Scores and Funding Recommendations for CalHFA Grant Proposals

Organization	Counties Served	Amount Requested	Project Impact	Admin.	Outreach Strategy	Focus on Socially Disadvantaged	Eval.	Special Consideration	Total Score	Funding Recomm.
Housing and Economic Rights Advocates	Butte, Colusa, Contra Costa, Fresno, Glenn, Imperial, Kern, Lake, Los Angeles, Madera, Merced, Monterey, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Solano, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, Yolo	\$ 2,400,000	30	20	15	15	5	3	88	\$ 2,000,000
Legal Access Alameda	Alameda, Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Inyo, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Madera, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Mono, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Plumas, Sacramento, San Benito, San Francisco, San Joaquin, Santa Clara, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yuba	\$ 752,475	30	20	10	10	15	2	87	\$ 700,000

Public Counsel	Los Angeles	\$ 1,850,579	25	20	15	15	10	2	87	\$ 1,190,000
California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.	Colusa, Fresno, Imperial, Kings, Kern, Madera, Merced, Monterey, Napa, Riverside, San Benito, San Joaquin, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tulare, Ventura, Yuba	\$ 2,400,000	30	20	10	10	10	3	83	\$ 1,900,000
Legal Aid of Sonoma County	Sonoma	\$ 1,102,500	25	15	10	15	15	3	83	\$ 800,000
Senior Advocacy Network	Merced, Stanislaus	\$ 750,000	25	15	15	15	10	3	83	\$ 750,000
California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform	Statewide	\$ 451,678	25	15	15	15	10	2	82	\$ 450,000
Legal Assistance to the Elderly	San Francisco	\$ 902,791	25	15	15	15	10	2	82	\$ 900,000
National Housing Law Project	Statewide	\$ 807,750	30	20	10	10	10	2	82	\$ 750,000
Bet Tzedek Legal Services	Los Angeles	\$ 943,644	25	20	10	10	10	3	78	
Neighborhood Legal Services - Mobile Home	Los Angeles	\$ 1,350,000	30	15	10	10	10	3	78	
Legal Aid Society of San Diego	San Diego	\$ 2,400,000	25	20	10	10	10	2	77	\$ 800,000

Neighborhood Legal Services - Advance Planning	Los Angeles	\$ 795,000	30	15	10	10	10	2	77	
Open Door Legal	San Francisco	\$ 2,000,000	25	10	15	15	10	2	77	
USD School of Law Legal Clinics	San Diego	\$ 1,174,896	25	15	10	10	10	3	73	
Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County	Santa Barbara	\$ 544,181	25	15	10	10	10	2	72	
Public Law Center	Orange	\$ 961,500	25	15	10	10	10	2	72	
Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino	Riverside, San Bernardino	\$ 1,000,005	30	15	10	10	5	0	70	\$ 800,000
Inland Counties Legal Services	Riverside, San Bernardino	\$ 1,288,350	20	15	10	10	10	2	67	
Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach	Alameda, Contra Costa, San Joaquin, Solano, Stanislaus	\$ 1,134,226	25	10	10	5	10	5	65	
Community Legal Aid SoCal	Los Angeles, Orange	\$ 668,981	20	15	10	10	10	0	65	
Law Foundation of Silicon Valley	Santa Clara	\$ 720,000	20	15	10	5	10	2	62	
Total										\$ 11,040,000

Rubric Points Awarded						
	Project Impact	Admin.	Outreach Strategy	Focus on Socially Disadvantaged	Eval.	Special Consideration
Exceeds Expectations	30	20	15	15	15	1-5
Meets Expectations	25	15	10	10	10	

Below Expectations	20	10	5	5	5	1-5
Not Addressed	0	0	0	0	0	

**2022-2025 CALHFA FORECLOSURE PREVENTION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE**

Organization Name	Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach (APILO)	
Project Name	API Community Foreclosure Prevention	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 1134226	\$450000
	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budget for Administrative Costs
	11	0
County(ies) Served	Alameda, Contra Costa, San Joaquin, Solano, Stanislaus	
Project Abstract	The API Foreclosure Prevention Project (APIFPP) will provide legal services, education, and outreach to homeowners at risk of foreclosure. Bringing together the experience of Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach, the Asian American Bar Association of Solano County, the Asian American Bar Association of Northern California, Filipino Advocates for Justice, Lao Family Community Empowerment, the Bridge Community Center, and other community based organizations, the API Foreclosure Prevention Project will focus on underserved, socially disadvantaged Asian and Pacific Islanders especially those who are recent immigrants, seniors, and/or limited-English speaking.	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>Goal 1. Prevent foreclosures in the most vulnerable limited English speaking Asian and Pacific Islander communities.</p> <p>Goals 2. Building capacity among community based service providers</p> <p>Goal 3. Fill the gap for services among low-income, LEP, and immigrant homeowners by providing direct services, outreach and education materials in non-English languages and by serving as a technical assistance resource for other service providers.</p> <p>Projected annual goals:</p> <p>direct legal services to 200 annually</p> <p>consumer finance education to 360 annually</p> <p>training to 80 annually</p>	
Outreach Strategy	<p>Community outreach requires a culturally competent presence in the community served. For API Legal Outreach, this presence takes the form of strong working relationship in major service collaborations such as the API Council: partnerships with key CBO's; community clinics in Oakland Chinatown, San Francisco's South of Market and Tenderloin, Daly City, Concord, Union City, Stockton, Modesto, and at community and senior centers; workshops at temples and civic groups; informational materials at Street Fairs and cultural festivals; news updates to API language media and through APILO newsletters.</p> <p>Culturally appropriate outreach and education are essential to raising awareness among underserved communities of their rights as well as of available resources and remedies. In addition to a holistic legal approach, this project will integrate comprehensive consumer financial education and training for consumers and community agencies including resource and referral or training to strengthen a statewide network on foreclosure related issues.</p>	
Focus on Socially Disadvantaged Communities	<p>The project will only serve those who are socially disadvantaged. Culturally competent services will be provided in the language of the client's choice. The API FPP will provide services by staff that speaks (native) over 15 languages including Mandarin, Cantonese, Chiu-chow, Toisan, Taiwanese, Hindi, Hmong, Illocano, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Lao, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Punjabi, and Spanish. For other non-English speaking clients and communities, the project will utilize its partnerships with community-based service organizations.</p> <p>The project will offer all services in partnership with community based organizations in the communities it will serve. Services will be provided at community sites in Modesto, Stockton, Vallejo, Richmond and Oakland, both in person and via video conferencing.</p>	
Evaluation Strategy	As part of the reporting requirements, this project will collect the specified data required for performance measures. A process evaluation will document what happened during program implementation. This will include characteristics of all project-related activities carried on by program staff. The kind of data to be collected as part of the process evaluation will at a minimum include: 1) numbers and types of project services and activities; 2) numbers of	

	<p>recipients of different services; 3) timeliness of producing project deliverables; 4) recipients/participants' demographics, cultural affiliations; 5) recipients/participants' experiences with project; 6) numbers and types of referrals to appropriate services; 7) documentation regarding ways the interventions are culturally based; and 8) recipients/participant perceptions regarding the project and the ways it is addressing the concerns of clients.</p>
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	<p>An outcome evaluation will assess what changed as a result of the project. Using the project's objectives and expected outcomes as guide, the outcome evaluation will be designed to assess change for the following indicators: 1) increase in access to and use of coordinated services; 2) increase in knowledge and awareness about the rights and remedies available; and 3) increase in awareness about community resources available for addressing such needs; increase in foreclosure prevention; increase in housing stability. Selected clients and providers will be surveyed on a semi-annual basis. Questionnaires will be used to measure satisfaction with and impact of project presentations and activities. Review of data by project staff will be ongoing to evaluate case work, modify activities, and make service delivery improvements.</p>
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**2022-2025 CALHFA FORECLOSURE PREVENTION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE**

Organization Name	Bet Tzedek Legal Services (BetTzedek)	
Project Name	Estate Planning Program	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 943644	\$0
	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budget for Administrative Costs
	19	10
County(ies) Served	Los Angeles	
Project Abstract	<p>Bet Tzedek seeks to establish Los Angeles County's first Estate Planning Program to help low-income Black and brown homeowners in East and South Los Angeles preserve their homes, the foundational asset for intergenerational wealth and financial security. Foreclosure prevention and related services are essential to preserve homeownership during the homeowner's lifetime. However, without access to estate planning, after the homeowner's death the home will often need to be sold to pay for probate costs and Medi-Cal recovery—effectively undoing prior work to retain the home, depriving the next generation the myriad benefits of homeownership, and perpetuating inequitable and declining homeownership in socially disadvantaged communities.</p> <p>People with disposable income maintain intergenerational wealth through private estate planning services, but these are unaffordable to low-income clients, and inexpensive alternatives such as online self-help programs are rife with potential for errors and fraud. By providing free estate planning, we can equalize access, proactively safeguard homes, and in the long-term reduce the scale of home loss in vulnerable communities.</p> <p>Bet Tzedek's project will provide estate planning education and legal assistance to Black and brown homeowners in East and South Los Angeles, communities with "High" and "Highest" Owner Vulnerability Index ratings, respectively, where homeownership has been shaped by a legacy of racist practices. By embedding in these communities, leveraging partnerships with trusted institutions, and engaging expert pro bono partners, we will provide direct services 700 community members during the three-year period, including legal screening, advice and counsel, and full-scope representation to create attorney-drafted wills and simple trusts.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>With this funding Bet Tzedek will establish an Estate Planning Program focused on Black and brown low-income homeowners in the highly vulnerable communities of South and East Los Angeles. Our goals are to educate and serve these communities about the importance of estate planning and engage them in estate planning services to prevent home loss to fraud or probate, thereby preserving intergenerational wealth and improving the economic stability of households and neighborhoods. Staff will leverage and build partnerships with community institutions and pro bono firms, provide education about estate planning to the community, screen community members to identify their eligibility and needs, and provide advice and counsel and direct representation to create attorney drafted wills and simple trusts.</p> <p>Deliverables:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide 10 educational and outreach events per year to increase awareness of and engagement in our services and educate the community about the need for estate planning. 2. Provide direct services to at least 200 community members in year one, and 250 community members per year in years two and three. Direct services will include legal screenings, advice and counsel, and full scope representation. 3. Establish a foothold in new neighborhoods within our target service areas through partnerships and outreach strategies, leading to increased referrals in these areas. 4. Develop a replicable model for effective pro bono engagement in estate planning, which we will share with peer agencies who may be interested in developing estate planning programs. 	
Outreach Strategy	Especially in the project's first year, our goal will be to build institutional relationships and credibility within our target communities. We will leverage our existing community partnerships and build new partnerships with community-based housing organizations. We	

	<p>will use mainstay outreach strategies to make community members aware of our services, such as marketing in local publications and online, tabling in locations such as the local library, community fairs, and churches, and providing presentations at trusted partner institutions that serve people in our target population.</p> <p>We are also interested in learning from creative partnership models, such as that of Trap Medicine, a nonprofit that connects underserved black men with health care by leveraging the cultural capital of a uniquely trusted community institution: the barbershop. Lastly, we will endeavor to align with and build upon the momentum already created by housing organizations addressing similar issues in these communities. We know for example that in neighborhoods like Leimert Park and Boyle Heights, there are organizations already thinking about these issues, and we would capitalize on this by embedding ourselves in these communities and attempting to work in line with these partners.</p>
Focus on Socially Disadvantaged Communities	<p>East Los Angeles's OVI is "High," and the OVI of the communities comprising South Los Angeles is "Highest." East Los Angeles and South Los Angeles have comparable shares of owner-occupied housing (35% and 37%, respectively). Bet Tzedek identified these as our target service areas because they are highly vulnerable and historically underserved and because Bet Tzedek has existing partnerships and a growing track record of serving these communities.</p> <p>Effectively serving these communities will require Bet Tzedek to leverage our existing community partnerships and build meaningful new relationships with trusted community institutions to establish greater name recognition and credibility with residents. We already partner in these communities with East Los Angeles Community Corporation, Neighborhood Housing Services of LA, and the Urban League of Los Angeles. We will seek to partner with additional community organizations focused on housing and neighborhood preservation, such as LA Más and Community Coalition, to address issues of systemic racial inequities in homeownership and opportunities to build generational wealth. Our goal is to align with and build mutually supportive partnerships with organizations such as these; we will also conduct direct outreach to community members using mainstay outreach strategies and will explore creative community engagement approaches as well. Our outreach strategies are described in detail below under "Outreach Strategy."</p>
Evaluation Strategy	<p>Impact evaluation is more challenging in a project focused on preventing home loss and preserving intergenerational wealth via estate planning than in projects focused on foreclosure prevention or loan modifications. In the latter, the result and impact are relatively immediate, whereas the most important benefits of our services will usually occur many years from the date of service, when the property owner dies, probate is avoided, and the estate remains in the family. However, there are other ways we can evaluate our strategies and the effectiveness of our services, for example by surveying clients about their experiences and by quantifying the value of the assets protected and fees avoided. To address the unique evaluation challenges of this project, Bet Tzedek will work with a data science consultant to develop an evaluation plan that will employ best practices to measure outcomes and impact and refine our strategies accordingly. We have already met with a consultant (Mockingbird Analytics) regarding this project and obtained a quote.</p>

**2022-2025 CALHFA FORECLOSURE PREVENTION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE**

Organization Name	California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform (CANHR)	
Project Name	Senior Home Protection Project	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 451678	\$0
	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budget for Administrative Costs
	10	7
County(ies) Served	Statewide	
Project Abstract	<p>California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform (CANHR) proposes to increase available foreclosure prevention and home retention legal services through direct outreach to high risk homeowners, and through training and technical assistance for legal services providers. CANHR's Senior Home Protection Project (SHPP) will provide direct consumer education on avoiding Medi-Cal Recovery liens, and provide counseling on reverse mortgages, PACE loans, and estate planning strategies to avoid home loss. CANHR will conduct direct outreach to socially disadvantaged communities, with a special focus on homeowners who are over the age of 60, and individuals who are Spanish-speaking. As a legal services Support Center, CANHR will provide training and technical assistance to QLSP legal services programs throughout California on the project focus topics, increasing their capacity to support individuals in their communities with avoiding foreclosure and protecting home equity.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>CANHR's goals and deliverables for this proposal are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct outreach to senior homeowners in high risk communities on the topics of Medi-Cal Recovery, reverse mortgages, PACE loans, and foreclosure assistance resources. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Attend or host at least 8 consumer outreach events per year (resource fairs or consumer presentations), providing education on project topics, in communities listed for targeted outreach. b. Host one virtual consumer education event per year on project topics, open to consumers from across California. This event will be simultaneously offered in Spanish with a live interpreter. c. Develop at least 2 consumer postcards in English and Spanish, mailed to senior homeowners in high risk communities. At least 6,000 postcards will be distributed per year (a total of 18,000) through either direct mail to high risk communities, or through partnership with QLSPs in areas not targeted by CANHR. 2. Provide phone-based consumer counseling on project topics to at least 300 consumers per year. 3. Provide training QLSPs by hosting at least 2 webinars or in-person trainings per year for staff of QLSPs across California. Training topics will include information on predatory reverse mortgages and PACE loans, Medi-Cal Recovery, and proactive simple estate planning to avoid home loss. Provide technical assistance or training to specific QLSPs on project topics as requested. 4. Disseminate consumer education materials to QLSPs across California. 5. Conduct at least 2 educational trainings per year for social workers on project topics. 6. Develop state policy proposals related to project topics, to improve consumer protections. 	
Outreach Strategy	<p>The target population for this grant are low-income seniors aged 55 and older, with a focus on Spanish-speaking homeowners in living in communities with high or very high ratings on the Owner Vulnerability Index (OVI). CANHR will develop consumer-friendly outreach postcards in English and Spanish, and will use homeowner lists to conduct targeted mailings and phone calls to consumers regarding reverse mortgages, PACE loans and Medi-Cal Recovery. Separate targeted outreach postcards on foreclosure resources will be geared toward seniors currently listed in foreclosure.</p> <p>CANHR will hold online and in-person trainings for staff of QLSP organizations throughout California on project topics, designed to increase their capacity to serve seniors in their local community. CANHR will additionally distribute educational postcards created to interested</p>	

	<p>QLSPs who wish to conduct their own local outreach campaigns, as a way of expanding the number of communities reached through this project.</p> <p>Working with local community organizations, CANHR will attend senior resource fairs and host consumer education workshops on the project topics in the communities identified, with the goal of increasing outreach to high risk senior homeowners. CANHR's Advocacy and Outreach Coordinator has established relationships with senior centers throughout South and Southeast Los Angeles, and will begin new outreach to programs in other communities identified for targeted outreach through this proposal. The Coordinator is bilingual in Spanish, and will attend resource fairs, offering printed material, and in person consumer education. He will also schedule consumer education presentations at locations serving seniors in the target communities.</p>
Focus on Socially Disadvantaged Communities	<p>While CANHR serves the entire state of California, this project will conduct outreach to specific communities identified as having high or very high ratings on the Owner Vulnerability Index (OVI) for California as defined by the UCLA Center for Neighborhood Knowledge. CANHR has offices in Berkeley and South Pasadena, close to several communities identified as having very high and high ratings on the OVI. This project will target the communities of South Los Angeles, unincorporated LA County areas of Florence-Graham and West Athens, East Los Angeles, Maywood, Bell, Bell Gardens, Compton, South Gate, Long Beach, Paramount, Lynwood, Norwalk, Pico Rivera, Santa Ana, Oakland, Richmond, and San Pablo.</p> <p>CANHR will use lists of homeowners acquired from Property Radar, specifically senior homeowners and seniors in foreclosure, to conduct targeted outreach by mail and phone to the communities listed, providing education on resources, reverse mortgages and PACE loans, and Medi-Cal Recovery. Staff will work with established social service partners in these communities to conduct outreach at senior centers through resource fairs and through hosted in person educational presentations.</p>
Evaluation Strategy	<p>For more than a decade, CANHR has conducted an annual needs survey of QLSPs to identify top needs for training, which helps drive the planning of training and monitor trends in the legal services field. In order to evaluate the effectiveness of training provided, legal services staff are asked to complete an evaluation of each session, including open ended questions on suggestions for improvement. Feedback is also sought from legal services during technical assistance calls from QLSP staff and email inquiries sent to project staff. The organization uses a Salesforce database to track consumer calls and individuals provided direct assistance with issues related to grant outcomes. For education trainings, CANHR will utilize a feedback survey for attendees, to gain insight on their understanding of the training topic, their satisfaction with the training, and their need for additional educational training.</p>

**2022-2025 CALHFA FORECLOSURE PREVENTION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE**

Organization Name	California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc. (CRLA)	
Project Name	Stabilizing Rural Homeownership Project	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 2400000	\$0
	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budget for Administrative Costs
	10	16
County(ies) Served	Colusa, Fresno, Imperial, Kings, Kern, Madera, Merced, Monterey, Napa, Riverside, San Benito, San Joaquin, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tulare, Ventura, Yuba	
Project Abstract	California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc. (CRLA) will leverage its years of experience and deep expertise in foreclosure prevention to expand existing efforts into a housing stabilization service model. In addition to providing traditional foreclosure intervention services for distressed homeowners to address the immediate problem and prevent loss of homes and home equity, CRLA will add critical ancillary legal services to preserve or obtain public benefits, recover wages illegally withheld, and prevent consumer debt and avoid bankruptcy. These additional legal services for homeowners in jeopardy of losing their homes will address upstream financial stressors and improve longer-term housing stability.	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>CRLA's overarching goal is to ensure homeownership retention for low-income households in rural California. CRLA will serve an additional 700 households over 36 months, impacting nearly 2,500 household members.</p> <p>Approximately 49% or 345 households will receive traditional foreclosure prevention services. Loan document review, modification and denial appeals assistance and tenancy defense for mobilehome owners will comprise the bulk of services. Distressed homeowners needing servicer violation and wrongful foreclosure issues addressed; debt collection defense, judgement lien avoidance through Chapter 7 and 13 bankruptcy; or property charge issues addressed (HOA or property tax delinquencies/foreclosures, assessed value/transfers) will be served as well. The objective is to close cases to the client's benefit in least 60% or 207 of the foreclosure-focused cases. Key performance indicators include: preventing loss of current housing, obtaining reasonable loans, obtaining relief from foreclosure, and obtaining federal bankruptcy protection. CRLA expects that the majority of matters closed to the clients' benefit will also protect home equity.</p> <p>Approximately 51% or 355 vulnerable households facing income disruption will receive income stabilizing legal assistance to ensure access to public benefits and recover illegally withheld wages. The objective is to close these cases to the client's benefit in over 65% or 240 of the income-maintenance focused cases. Key performance indicators include: obtaining, preserving or increasing income maintenance and self-sufficiency benefits, and obtaining unpaid wages. CRLA expects that the majority of these matters will result in a financial recovery to clients as well.</p>	
Outreach Strategy	<p>CRLA will revise and update as needed its catalog of outreach community legal education materials to reflect services to vulnerable homeowners facing income disruption as an augment to our long-standing foreclosure prevention practice. CRLA will develop home retention materials to address financial assistance from the California Mortgage Relief Program, the foreclosure process, arrearage payments and other issues of concern to vulnerable homeowners and translate the materials into community-appropriate languages. CRLA will launch a social media campaign including these updated home retention materials on platforms including CRLA's website, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter.</p> <p>Employing the Owner Vulnerability Index GIS mapping tool, CRLA will target distribution of new home retention and traditional foreclosure prevention materials to neighborhoods within CRLA's service areas of High and Highest Owner Vulnerability Index ratings. Many of CRLA's Central Valley field offices are located in the center of broad areas of homeowner vulnerability, but the Project Coordinator and grant funded staff members will also use the</p>	

	mapping tool to plan for and facilitate outreach within designated areas of high vulnerability across the counties.
Focus on Socially Disadvantaged Communities	<p>CRLA provides services in over 20 counties from 16 field offices – 6 of which are located in the Central Valley, 5 on the Central Coast, and 3 in the Border Region. Severe housing cost burden is endemic in many of our service areas. On average, up to 1.5 times the number of residents of 3 of the 8 Central Valley counties, all 5 Central Coast counties, and 2 of the 3 Border Region counties are more severely cost burdened than the statewide average. CRLA's service population is low-income and homeownership households typically have little income left after making mortgage payments. CRLA has found that high interest rate subprime loans are commonplace among low-income homeowners with no other means to access credit and little understanding of the mechanics of high interest loans, particularly among for LEP borrowers. We have seen first-hand that many of our service areas experienced high foreclosure rates during the previous foreclosure crisis of the Great Recession.</p> <p>CRLA's rural service areas and client base naturally overlap with the criteria that define socially disadvantaged communities. CRLA will use UCLA's Owner Vulnerability Index (OVI) to help identify and target neighborhoods in our service areas with the most at-risk homeowners for outreach, education and direct services. In the OVI's companion report, The COVID-19 Pandemic Housing Crisis, the authors indicate that "the OVI is a good predictor of identifying neighborhoods with a disproportionate number of homeowners that are financially struggling and may be at risk of losing their home."</p>
Evaluation Strategy	<p>CRLA's project evaluation process includes: (1) review and revision of evaluation tools developed to track activities and outcomes; (2) continued collection, analysis, and interpretation of data by the project leads; and (3) utilization of results to improve program performance and ensure effective program management. Demonstrating effective elements of the project, determining necessary improvements in program delivery and client services, and implementing necessary improvements to enhance achievement of outcomes and objectives are the primary goals of our evaluation process.</p> <p>CRLA's evaluation system is designed to provide broad indicators of project success. Key performance indicators of improved housing stability through successfully combating foreclosure and stabilizing income for vulnerable households include preventing loss of housing/obtaining and preserving access to housing, foreclosure prevention, and preservation of home equity. Progress on the goal of improved housing stability will be tracked and reported through CRLA's outcome/main benefit data and economic benefit data captured at case closing in its client management database.</p> <p>CRLA is committed to reporting case outcomes to analyze program performance and ensure that our advocacy strategies are producing the intended results. Case outcomes are comprised of an outcome/main benefit and, in some cases, an economic benefit. The Project Coordinator will be responsible for analyzing these data points quarterly and presenting their analysis at quarterly project meetings between CRLA's Foreclosure Prevention and Rural Justice teams, allowing for timely discussion and adjustment of strategies to meet annual goals and objectives.</p>

**2022-2025 CALHFA FORECLOSURE PREVENTION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE**

Organization Name	Community Legal Aid SoCal (CLASC)	
Project Name	CalHFA Foreclosure Prevention	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 668981	\$0
	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budget for Administrative Costs
	2	9
County(ies) Served	Los Angeles, Orange	
Project Abstract	<p>Community Legal Aid SoCal (CLA SoCal) proposes to expand its foreclosure prevention services by leveraging our consumer debt practice and bankruptcy clinic to serve hundreds of clients at risk of foreclosure over the next three years. This project envisions a wide-scale screening system for all homeowners who reach out for help, regardless of their legal problem. Clients eligible for services will receive a package of resources and services ranging from brief service to extended service, depending on the severity of their case. Funding will allow us to add a foreclosure lens into our work in order to help clients in economic distress as early as possible in the foreclosure process, which is when they have the most options for a positive outcome. Our CalHFA staff will work closely with other CLA SoCal units that serve clients whose homes are at risk and develop new community partners to create cross-referral systems.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>Goal: Use consumer tools to reduce foreclosures and other loss of homeownership in vulnerable communities.</p> <p>Objective 1: Expand our existing economic stability program to address foreclosure and other issues affecting housing stability for homeowners. Provide direct consumer/foreclosure mitigation services at brief service and above to 281 clients facing pre-foreclosure, foreclosure, or potential default.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Screen 100% of homeowners who seek CLA SoCal assistance for economic distress that could lead to housing instability. + Provide 100% of interested homeowners with Homeowner's Bill of Rights. + Provide 260 clients in economic distress with a "legal checkup for homeowners". + Provide 60 clients with brief services, 100 clients with extended services, and 121 clients with bankruptcy clinic appointments, and provide 100% of interested homeowners with homestead declarations. <p>Objective 2: Expand provision of affirmative defense to five clients threatened with foreclosure due to fraud or predatory lending practices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Provide affirmative extended services on 5 cases for clients who have been impacted by scams or fraud, including PACE, fraudulent inducement to sell, and/or quiet title. CLA SoCal will work to recruit pro bono volunteers to assist with these cases. <p>Objective 3: Expand community knowledge about homeownership challenges and legal solutions through quarterly KYR workshops, social media messaging, and 3-4 new community partnerships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Hold 10 Know Your Rights events for populations that are most likely to be victimized by homeowner fraud and predatory lending practices. + Build cross-referral partnerships with 3-4 reputable organizations assisting with foreclosure counseling such as Compton Advocates, Lutheran Social Service, and the United Way. 	
Outreach Strategy	<p>One of CLA SoCal's strategic goals for 2022 is expanding our work with community-based organizations in our service area in order to facilitate outreach and ultimately provide more homelessness prevention services to homeowners in our region. Our existing partnerships with senior centers and seniors' services providers, as well as groups that work with families who face medical debt, are an excellent starting point to begin networking on homeownership/foreclosure issues. We also will leverage the work of our Community Engagement Liaisons and Case Managers to reach out to partners they are cultivating under their respective grants.</p>	

	<p>In addition, we will reach out to organizations in Orange and Los Angeles Counties who already are providing foreclosure counseling; we will seek ways to cross-refer clients who can benefit from complementary services from both our organizations.</p> <p>As we build these partnerships, we will seek to hold Know Your Rights events at our partners' sites, getting outreach support/publicity from them, building referral pathways wherein clients can be referred between agencies, and soliciting their help in building additional relationships in their communities.</p>
Focus on Socially Disadvantaged Communities	<p>Of the eighteen cities that CLA SoCal serves in southeast Los Angeles County, more than half fall under the "Highest Vulnerability" classification as defined by the UCLA Owner Vulnerability Index: Compton, East Dominguez Hills, Paramount, Lynwood, South Gate, Huntington Park, Bell, Bell Gardens, Norwalk, and Hawaiian Gardens, while Downey and Bellflower are classified as "High Vulnerability". In Orange County, Santa Ana is classified as Highest Vulnerability, and portions of Brea, Anaheim, Stanton, Westminster, Costa Mesa, Garden Grove, and Fountain Valley qualify as "High Vulnerability." Community Legal Aid SoCal's mission is to fight injustice and advocate for social, economic, and racial equity by providing compassionate, holistic, and impactful legal services. We envision a world where equity and justice are not a goal, but a given. To that end, we strive to focus our services on socially disadvantaged communities.</p> <p>In 2021-22, 53% of our clients resided in the Highest or High Vulnerability cities. 82% of LA Co. homeowners served by CLA SoCal in 2021-22 have been BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) as have 41% of Orange County homeowner clients.[5]</p> <p>Our offices are located in Anaheim, Compton, Norwalk, and Santa Ana; these are racially and linguistically diverse cities with high percentages of families who are affected by poverty. We partner with community partners and government agencies that operate in these communities, including senior centers, community centers, domestic violence shelters, Superior Court self-help centers and clinic sites, family justice centers, social welfare organizations, and housing advocacy organizations.</p>
Evaluation Strategy	<p>CLA SoCal will utilize quantitative and qualitative data to evaluate the success of this program. The Grants and Evaluation Manager and Director of Legal Services will work closely with Supervising Attorney and Directing Attorney to assess the grant-funded work and the efficacy of the program, particularly as the project is initiated, with formal quarterly meetings. Data will come from our case management system, client surveys, and anecdotal evidence brought by our project team. The team will meet to chart progress, but also to identify any problems and discuss the need for course correction or systemic changes. CLA SoCal staff often utilize the "good story" checkbox in our LegalServer case management system, which will help us to gather the stories that will show the impact of this work. CLA SoCal will also make use of its trove of quantitative data, including tracking case demographics, outputs, and main and economic benefits. CLA SoCal is training its staff to track main and economic outcomes more accurately in LegalServer. Data visualization tools help our organization better compare case demographics with regional demographics, spot service deserts, and identify trends. If CLA SoCal pursues impact litigation that affects housing stability or income maintenance, we will include it in our annual report to the State Bar.</p>

**2022-2025 CALHFA FORECLOSURE PREVENTION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE**

Organization Name	Housing and Economic Rights Advocates (HERA)	
Project Name	Cal Foreclosure Prevention Project - HERA	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 2400000	\$0
	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budget for Administrative Costs
	6	3
County(ies) Served	Butte, Colusa, Contra Costa, Fresno, Glenn, Imperial, Kern, Lake, Los Angeles, Madera, Merced, Monterey, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Solano, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, Yolo	
Project Abstract	Housing and Economic Rights Advocates proposes over the course of three years to serve 900 vulnerable, eligible California homeowners living in highest and/or high homeowner vulnerability locations per the UCLA Owner Vulnerability Index (OVI). Our services will include legal services to prevent foreclosure, address successor in interest issues including proactive estate planning, as well as reverse mortgage concerns, PACE program abuses, property charge issues (HOA, property taxes, et cetera), loan modification counsel and assistance, litigation to address servicer, PACE and other abuses, legal services to address consumer debt and credit issues affecting the ability to keep the family home, and outreach and education related to these issues. HERA outreach will focus on the top 20 locations statewide that rank the highest in terms of the OVI.	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>HERA proposes to provide in-depth, multilingual legal assistance annually to 900 vulnerable, income eligible homeowners in our target geographies one-on-one over the course of three years. We will serve approximately 90 under the project in year one, and the other 810 over the next two years. HERA will provide legal assistance, advice and counsel, advocacy and/or litigation each eligible homeowner with one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the viability of and accessing loan modification - HOA delinquencies and foreclosures - force-placed insurance, property tax delinquencies, and other entities threatening foreclosure. - mortgage servicer violations and wrongful foreclosures. - reverse mortgages and other financing options, and legal rights to avoid foreclosure - estate planning legal services to eligible, target households for free under this project, to protect the family home. - non-mortgage debt and credit problems threatening the ability of eligible homeowners to keep the family home, for example addressing judgment liens on non-mortgage consumer debts through debt collection lawsuit defense, and addressing existing judgment liens through set aside litigation. - financial help from the California Mortgage Relief Program, and any other reputable grant or financial relief programs - successor-in-interest issues, including proactive estate planning work to avoid home loss - equity stripping schemes and scams (e.g., PACE, title theft, fraudulent inducement to sell) and foreclosure rescue scams, and other litigation to restore homeowner title. <p>HERA will have prevented foreclosure and/or created an estate plan, and/or stopped non-mortgage debt collection, equity stripping or other scams for 75% of the homeowners whom we serve under this project.</p>	
Outreach Strategy	HERA proposes to use snail mail and social media outreach to target program eligible households. We will focus both on the underserved California counties listed in question 2 with homeowners living in Highest and High vulnerability locations per the UCLA modeling at https://knowledge.luskin.ucla.edu/ca-covid-19-owner-vulnerability/ In addition, we will target outreach in the top 5 languages to homeowners in the Highest and High OVI locations listed in our application who are delinquent on their mortgage, or have higher cost mortgages, Limited English Proficiency, or are seniors (using a data service for this extra layer of targeting). These communities have high numbers of residents hit particularly hard by the	

	<p>pandemic (discussed in question #1). Property Radar and our direct mail services provider is able to target for the additional characteristics listed above. We also have a mailing list of over 5000 of our former clients and service provider partners to outreach to which gives us a leg up in initial outreach. HERA will also hold at least one ethnic media news briefing to promote project services to communities of color and immigrants in our state.</p>
<p>Focus on Socially Disadvantaged Communities</p>	<p>To target our services to and prioritize Socially Disadvantaged Communities, we will use the UCLA OVI, directing outreach in the top five languages of residents in the top 20 of the Highest and High OVI locations listed in our application, most of which are in the Central Valley and Inland Empire. Within those top 20 locations, we will first target homeowners who are delinquent, or have higher cost mortgages, have Limited English Proficiency, or are seniors (using a data service for this extra layer of targeting). These communities have high numbers of residents hit particularly hard by the pandemic (discussed in question #1). In addition to snail mail to target homeowners, HERA will reach out via email and phone to local community centers, churches, community based organizations, local government including services agencies, to share project information with residents.</p> <p>We are used to providing services remotely via phone, email, text and fax to residents across California (even from pre-pandemic), and we will continue those methods of service. We will offer in-person legal rights workshops when the path of the pandemic permits (probably year two), and based on the ability of local entities in the target locations to host gatherings. One-on-one legal services are our priority, however. Workshops/in-service trainings for CBOs will serve as education and outreach.</p>
<p>Evaluation Strategy</p>	<p>Through a monthly pull of data from our AbacusLaw system, we can quickly identify where project clients are coming from, and their demographics, to determine whether our strategies are working. We can then quickly adjust outreach efforts. The initial effort will be to roll-out/outreach in swathes (not every location all at once), so that we can evaluate response rates and give ourselves a chance to complete new attorney hiring and training to be able to respond to incoming requests for help from eligible residents.</p>

**2022-2025 CALHFA FORECLOSURE PREVENTION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE**

Organization Name	Inland Counties Legal Services (ICLS)	
Project Name	HOME Protection (Home Ownership, Mortgage & Equity)	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 1288350	\$600000
	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budget for Administrative Costs
	8	7
County(ies) Served	Riverside, San Bernardino	
Project Abstract	ICLS's foreclosure prevention project will assist homeowners living in disadvantaged communities by delivering foreclosure prevention services and ancillary legal services that will assist homeowners in keeping their homes and mitigate the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Project will strategically partner with Inland Fair Housing and Mediation Board (IFHMB) and Fair Housing Council of Riverside County (FHCRC) to provide comprehensive services that include legal services, outreach and education along with foreclosure mitigation counseling. The three organizations will provide services to cities in both San Bernardino and Riverside Counties focusing on socially disadvantage communities (with high to highest homeowner vulnerability) which includes most of the cities currently served by ICLS. Three of the cities in ICLS's service area are in the top 20 most vulnerable neighborhoods in California (Coachella, Adelanto and Indio) with Coachella being rated the most vulnerable neighborhood in California.	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community Education and Outreach 2. Legal Counsel and Advice, Document Preparation 3. Negotiation, Direct Representation and Extended Services 3. 	
Outreach Strategy	<p>ICLS's outreach strategy will include in-person and virtual outreach and a marketing campaign. ICLS will conduct presentations to program-eligible homeowners in areas where they are likely to congregate such as at government buildings, church gatherings, and community centers. ICLS will set up booths at events such as job fairs and community festivals to inform potential target audiences of our services and specifically of our abilities to assist via this grant. ICLS would also distribute and post fliers in the above identified areas to ensure that people can learn about the program without having to attend a presentation. ICLS would work closely with its partner organizations, Fair Housing Council of Riverside County and Inland Fair Housing and Mediation Board to identify areas where the target population congregates and coordinate meetings either virtual or in-person at available locations throughout the Inland Empire to meet the target population where they live. Additionally, ICLS will create a targeted marketing campaign via radio, social media banners and a search engine campaign by advertising with Google Adwords to target zip codes with high homeowner vulnerability. The radio announcements will play in areas such as the High Desert and Coachella Valley.</p>	
Focus on Socially Disadvantaged Communities	<p>As the largest provider of legal services to low-income communities in the Inland Empire, ICLS has decades of expertise in identifying social disadvantaged communities and prioritizing their needs in when assisting clients with their legal matters. Most of the cities located in the Inland Empire are identified by the UCLA Center for Neighborhood Knowledge as having high and highest owner vulnerability.</p> <p>ICLS will identify in its case management data base the communities having high and highest owner vulnerability. Since those communities cover the majority of the cities that ICLS currently serves, ICLS will ensure that socially disadvantaged households are served through its eligibility screening process, which ensures that only those that are income qualified will receive services.</p> <p>ICLS will target its outreach efforts, as described in Question 9, to tailor it to socially disadvantaged communities. Lastly, ICLS's funding guidelines ensure that ICLS prioritizes vulnerable households in its service community.</p>	

Evaluation Strategy	<p>A survey will be prepared and distributed to all clients served by this project when their case is closed. Additionally the case management system (CMS) will be used to run reports on case outcomes as well as "socially disadvantaged" identified cases that will provide valuable information in meeting organizational goals of expanding services to disproportionately underserved communities and making a more equitable advancement in homeownership security. GIS mapping (currently in development) will be used to overlay with qualified census tract information to ensure project goals are met in targeting socially disadvantaged communities.</p> <p>Both partner agencies will also have a survey prepared and distributed to all clients served by them. These surveys will be reviewed at the quarterly meetings to evaluate and identify any issues or concerns that may require adjustment to the project structure.</p>
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**2022-2025 CALHFA FORECLOSURE PREVENTION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE**

Organization Name	Law Foundation of Silicon Valley (LFSV)	
Project Name	Mobile Home Park Preservation and Foreclosure Assistance	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 720000	\$0
	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budget for Administrative Costs
	17	18
County(ies) Served	Santa Clara	
Project Abstract	<p>Funding from the CalHFA will be used to primarily support tenants in mobile home parks, with issues related to preservation, and secondarily, to support low-income homeowners facing foreclosure.</p> <p>Mobile Home Park Preservation The Law Foundation of Silicon Valley has been a statewide leader of mobile home park preservation. From 2012 to 2019, we were involved in a long process involving community lawyering, administrative hearings, and ultimately a writ in Superior Court to save Palo Alto's only mobile home park, Buena Vista. The Park was 90% Latinx, and its closure would have meant a loss of 10% of the Latinx population in Palo Alto. Subsequent to that victory, we engaged in a multi-year process to amend the City of San Jose's conversion policy to promote preservation. We also engaged in a groundbreaking settlement agreement between residents at Winchester Ranch Mobile Home Park in San Jose and Pulte Homes, the developer, to keep residents in San Jose. Our team provided legal assistance to other mobile home residents facing closure, as well as supporting efforts related to rent control in cities such as Mountain View and Sunnyvale.</p> <p>With this expertise, we are planning to scale our outreach efforts to other mobile home parks, working with residents who are facing eviction and other issues, and advocate for the preservation of mobile home parks through both community organizing and policy efforts. Additionally, we will assist homeowners with other issues such as habitability, bad management practices, and rent and utility increases which could ultimately lead to displacement.</p> <p>Foreclosure During the foreclosure crisis and prior to that, the Law Foundation was one of the leading legal services agencies working on predatory lending and foreclosure prevention litigation and policy. We would like to work to provide outreach and education about the foreclosure process, and provide legal assistance to low-income homeowners facing foreclosure. While we have not seen many foreclosure cases in the past few years, we plan on providing legal services to those clients who may face such issues.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>Continue to work with the residents of current mobile home parks.</p> <p>This work includes following up on the Winchester Ranch agreement, working with residents at Buena Vista Mobile Home Park in advocating for better conditions, and monitoring developments at Westwinds Mobile Home Park.</p> <p>Outreach and organizing efforts in at least 3 mobile home parks annually.</p> <p>This work can include know your rights events at the park or via zoom, and door knocking where information is distributed to the Park. This work can also include organizing residents of mobile home parks into associations, and providing legal assistance so that homeowners can form homeowner's associations from which to build power.</p> <p>Represent at least one mobile home park association in a legal demand annually. The legal demand will be shaped by the demands of the members of the organization.</p> <p>Provide advice and counsel, and if appropriate, legal assistance, to any homeowners who are facing foreclosures who come into the Law Foundation's intake. As stated above, we have not seen a lot of foreclosure intakes in the past few years but want to be prepared to meet this need if there are such demands.</p> <p>Based on our past experience, much of this work requires long-term engagement, and can evolve and change based on the needs of the community. While we have identified mobile</p>	

	home parks that are at risk of closure or have substantial issue that need to be addressed, there could be other parks that become at risk during this time.
Outreach Strategy	<p>Due to the Law Foundation's strong reputation in the community, we receive many intakes directly to our office or through community-based organizations. For example, when Westwinds Mobile Home Park, the largest mobile home park in San Jose, was threatened with closure, we immediately received calls from residents at the Park because of our reputation in working with other mobile home park closures. Eventually, we received a call from the attorney for the Park wanting to talk about potential solutions. Additionally, we do outreach through our website and social media, and post written documents as well as short videos where we inform homeowners about their rights.</p> <p>Our Community Housing Advocate team is involved in organizing and outreach, which includes door knocking and organizing know your rights at various properties. Much of our outreach and advocacy occurs after hours and in multiple languages. For example, we used to meet monthly on a Friday evening at Buena Vista Mobile Home Park for seven years, and conducted the meeting in both English and Spanish. We also do outreach and engagement with partner community-based organizations who work also with our client groups.</p>
Focus on Socially Disadvantaged Communities	<p>The Law Foundation's housing team only serves families who meet the definition of socially disadvantaged. We only serve households who are at 80% of Area Median Income. Additionally over 50% of the families that we serve are Latinx, and around 75% are people of color.</p>
Evaluation Strategy	<p>When we close a case, we assign a main benefit and we routinely analyze data about our cases. We are currently working with a consultant to develop an impact strategy and have hired a Director of Impact & Evaluation to collect data and assess the impact of our work. Additionally, we do a qualitative analysis of our cases through a post-mortem evaluation of longer-term cases and organizing efforts.</p>

**2022-2025 CALHFA FORECLOSURE PREVENTION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE**

Organization Name	Legal Access Alameda (LAA)	
Project Name	Title Clearing Project	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 752475	\$0
	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budget for Administrative Costs
	12	0
County(ies) Served	Alameda, Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Inyo, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Madera, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Mono, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Plumas, Sacramento, San Benito, San Franci	
Project Abstract	<p>With the funds from CalFHA, we plan to implement a title clearing project aimed at disaster survivors in Northern California. The need behind this project was realized through Legal Access' disaster legal services work and the Disaster Legal Assistance Collaborative (DLAC). DLAC is a statewide collaborative that works to provide free legal assistance to disaster victims, like wildfire survivors and those impacted by COVID-19. As a disaster survivor and homeowner, having a clear title is essential when applying for public benefits post-disaster. Our goal is to educate survivors and those at risk of a disaster on the importance of title clearance as a part of preparedness and recovery work. This will be done by educational seminars both in-person and online. To assist clients with the title clearing process, we will develop accessible self-help curriculum and limited scope clinics. The overarching goal of the project is to fill the gap in legal services for those most at risk in Northern California.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>To assist disaster survivors and those at risk, we aim to focus the project deliverables on education and self-help. The attorneys hired for the project will create educational outreach seminars. We plan to present these seminars at community spaces like town halls, webinars, COAD (Community Organizations Active in Disasters) and VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters) meetings, and Cal-OES clinics, both remotely and in-person. In addition to education, the attorneys will create self-help resources - creating a self-help packet that would streamline and simplify the title clearing process. We will offer workshops and presentations (both remote and in person) to community groups. We will work with our community partners who are providing information about other kinds of disaster preparation, joining presentations by community partners including COADs/VOADs, the Red Cross, social and community groups, libraries, NERTs/CERTs (Neighborhood Emergency Response Teams/ Community Emergency Response Teams), religious institutions, and schools. At these workshops, we will provide both group and individual advice and assistance. We will also offer brief assistance and referrals for those facing other legal issues (landlord/tenant, family law, immigration, etc.) to mitigate other problems that make disaster recovery that much more challenging. We also will conduct presentations to social services organizations, helping key workers to understand the importance of legal preparation, as well as legal issues and responses after a disaster. This project will expand the tools on our website provided for social services providers to recognize legal issues and find free help for their clients.</p>	
Outreach Strategy	<p>To find our target communities, attorneys on the project will reach out to communities impacted by disasters in Northern California. We will work to make connections with community partners to disseminate information on the available resources. We will create outreach materials that are culturally and linguistically relevant to the targeted communities. Developing key partnerships with housing counseling agencies, food banks, libraries, and local government will help us to share the outreach materials with the public. This program will include working closely with our partners at Legal Services of Northern California. Legal Access has an active partnership with the Alameda County Recorder's Office and will work with this agency to reach clients. We will contact similar offices in other counties – especially those impacted by fires – to develop similar referral networks. Staff also will</p>	

	compare wildfire disaster areas with maps of underserved communities to ensure that 40% of the clients served are from designated underserved community areas.
Focus on Socially Disadvantaged Communities	<p>We plan expand our outreach efforts to ensure the public knows about DLAC's services. We will distribute outreach materials by collaborating with food banks, libraries, government offices, churches, and synagogues. In the event of a new disaster, or if impacted by a current disaster, clients will know where and how to find help.</p> <p>We plan to coordinate with other agencies to serve as tech-hubs for clients with limited internet access, increasing the number of clients attending remote clinics, and assisting with document review. Our disaster legal services are available via remote platforms, due to COVID-19 restrictions. DLAC is a collaborative, with partners located across the state, so we have partners throughout California. Our goal is to create a service delivery model aimed at vulnerable communities in Northern California. The attorneys hired will begin their work by researching the communities that are deemed qualified as "socially disadvantage communities" by the Qualified Census Tracts and areas of "high" or "highest" vulnerability ratings on the California Owner Vulnerability Index maps. Our target counties are: Alameda, Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calavera, Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Inyo, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Madera, Mariposa, Marin, Mendocino, Merced, Mono, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Plumas, Sacramento, San Benito, San Francisco, San Joaquin, Santa Clara, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yuba</p> <p>By building partnerships with community-based organizations, non-profits and government agencies in the areas listed above, we will be able to target our outreach to vulnerable communities.</p>
Evaluation Strategy	<p>We will provide surveys to clients. We will use the completed surveys to refine our services when needed. Our paralegal will contact clients four to six months after they receive services to ask whether our services were helpful and for an update on the clients' issue.</p> <p>We will use the expertise of our DLAC members - a cross section of the legal community – to tailor our project to meet the needs of Northern Californians. This project's attorneys will consult with DLAC members at least twice per month at our regularly scheduled meetings and will request feedback and assistance from these partners with deep roots in the communities we will serve.</p>

**2022-2025 CALHFA FORECLOSURE PREVENTION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE**

Organization Name	Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County (LAFSBC)	
Project Name	Foreclosure Prevention Program	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 544181	\$0
	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budget for Administrative Costs
	10	22
County(ies) Served	Santa Barbara	
Project Abstract	The Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County (LAFSBC) seeks to continue providing foreclosure prevention and home retention services through the CalFHA Foreclosure Prevention grant. LAFSBC has operated a foreclosure prevention program since 2013 and already serves socially disadvantaged communities through its offices in Santa Maria, Lompoc, and Santa Barbara. LAFSBC will provide full scope legal services to income-eligible Santa Barbara County residents, with targeted outreach to monolingual Spanish speaking communities. LAFSBC will also coordinate the federal Bankruptcy Clinic and conduct community outreach and education as part of the program. When factoring in cost of living, Santa Barbara County has the third highest rate of poverty out of all counties in the State of California (PPIC). LAFSBC is one of only two civil legal aid organizations with a physical presence in Santa Barbara County.	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advise or represent clients in at least 120 cases on home retention or foreclosure prevention matters. Of these, at least 40% of clients will live in socially disadvantaged communities. Clients will be residents of Santa Barbara County who are income eligible for program services. - Assist 450 customers through the bankruptcy clinic. - Conduct at least 4 community education or outreach events targeting socially disadvantaged communities. - Put out at least 10 radio PSAs, print advertisements, or other advertisements, with an emphasis on year-1. 	
Outreach Strategy	LAFSBC will leverage existing community partners to target program-eligible homeowners. LAFSBC receives referrals from the District Attorney's office, the court self-help centers, other legal aid organizations, other non-profits, the bankruptcy clinic, and more. Moreover, our program includes budget for Spanish/English language radio PSAs and print advertisements. In addition, LAFSBC will conduct 4 community outreach/education activities over the course of the grant period to raise awareness about the availability of the program.	
Focus on Socially Disadvantaged Communities	Santa Barbara County includes Qualified Census Tracts in each of the cities where LAFSBC has long-established offices: Santa Maria, Lompoc, and Santa Barbara. These are communities that we already serve through various programs and collaborations with local non-profits. Areas listed as Moderate or High on the OVI index includes much of Lompoc, Santa Maria, and the unincorporated region of New Cuyama. The program's advertising budget will be used to target Spanish speaking residents of these areas. LAFSBC will also leverage its existing relationships with non-profits serving New Cuyama to improve its connection to the remote and rural community and foster program referrals. LAFSBC will also use relevant technology, including phone and video conferencing services, to serve our large service area which spans 75 miles and includes many rural areas.	
Evaluation Strategy	All clients served at a level above advice and counsel will receive Client Satisfaction surveys that are focused on program goals. At the end of year one, the program attorney will seek survey feedback from community partners regarding program awareness, service, and goals. Finally, the program staff and the Executive Director will review case data and program activities at least annual and make adjustments as needed.	

**2022-2025 CALHFA FORECLOSURE PREVENTION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE**

Organization Name	Legal Aid of Sonoma County (LASC)	
Project Name	Home Keep - Foreclosure Prevention Grants	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 1102500	\$0
	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budget for Administrative Costs
	15	6
County(ies) Served	Sonoma	
Project Abstract	<p>The Home Keep Foreclosure Prevention Program (HKP) will help homeowners keep their homes and prevent foreclosures in Sonoma County by offering specific at-risk communities a range of legal services. Services will include focused outreach and education, know your rights presentations, counsel and advice, and where necessary, representation. Topics will include estate planning, debtor creditor legal services, and support for mobile homeowners. Home Keep will focus on serving two communities in Sonoma County most impacted by both prior disasters (fires) and the pandemic: Senior and Latinx homeowners.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>Home Keep will help socially disadvantaged communities in Sonoma County to preserve their homes. Home retention activities will include know your rights (KYR) presentations, community outreach and education and production of informational materials to educate homeowners about strategies they can employ to proactively protect their homes. The project will provide a range of legal services including estate planning, mobile home park advocacy, assistance with liens, homestead declarations, debt negotiation, and if necessary, bankruptcy. Home Keep will focus on low- and moderate-income seniors and the Latinx community but will also serve other at-risk homeowners.</p> <p>Quantitative Outcomes: Educate at least 300 homeowners about legal issues that can help them avoid foreclosures through community outreach events and KYR's presentations. Hold 10 Know Your Rights presentations on debtor creditor issues (for example liens, bankruptcy options) affecting home ownership. Help 20 project clients with consumer debt issues that threaten their home ownership, resolve their creditor issues. Provide individual legal services to at least 50 seniors and 100 Latinx homeowners. Help 30 mobile homeowners preserve their home ownership. Help 20 seniors with estate planning documents that will help protect them from losing their homes.</p>	
Outreach Strategy	<p>Legal Aid of Sonoma County has an extensive network of community partners who work with low-income seniors and the Latinx community, including senior centers where we already do regular intake, senior organizations that provide financial counseling, our county's elder abuse coalition, Latino focused family resource centers, Latinx small business support organizations and organizations with roots in the targeted geographic areas. The Project will leverage these relationships to ensure we reach the vulnerable homeowners we aim to serve. We will provide mobile legal services, sending our staff to these homeowners where they reside, rather than expecting them to come to our offices. We will hold off site KYR's clinics and we will train staff at our community partner agencies around Home Keep services and how to spot legal issues the project can assist with.</p> <p>Outreach will include distributing informational flyers Home Keep services and KYR's presentations. We believe the Latinx and senior communities respond best to in person outreach. Flyers will be hand delivered to small businesses in the Roseland/West Santa Rosa area. We will utilize our senior service partners to help distribute project information to those populations. We will hand deliver outreach materials at low income mobile home parks throughout the county. All materials will be translated into Spanish and other languages as necessary.</p>	

Focus on Socially Disadvantaged Communities	<p>HKP will focus on homeowners in west Santa Rosa and in the mobile home parks located within the 5 QCT's in Sonoma County. Using the OVI, western Santa Rosa, including Roseland, has a high incidence of risk combined with a demographic that is particularly disadvantaged. This is one of the most diverse and lowest income areas of Sonoma County, and there are more homes in foreclosure proceedings in this area than anywhere else in the County.</p> <p>We will obtain data from the Economic Development Board and Hispanic Chamber of Commerce to help identify potential homeowners in west Santa Rosa/Roseland who may need assistance. We will also use realtrak.com to identify properties in pre-foreclosure. We will provide monthly on-site intake and outreach in Roseland, and we will personally deliver project informational materials to local Latinx owned businesses there.</p> <p>There are mobile home parks in all the QCT's in the county. We will prioritize older adults and people with disabilities who live in these mobile home parks. Through our prior work with mobile home parks, we have a network of contacts in the mobile home community including through GSMOL, and other associations.</p>
Evaluation Strategy	<p>Home Keep will engage in a variety of evaluation techniques. All client demographics and outcomes are tracked in our client database. In addition, the program will maintain robust spreadsheets to ensure we capture all outcomes related to each client. The project will conduct surveys at the conclusion of each client matter to monitor whether clients still have remaining unmet legal needs. Home Keep will seek to adapt services and outreach strategies accordingly. We will collect narratives from willing Home Keep clients demonstrating how the project impacted their understanding of their legal rights and their ability to keep their homes. At the conclusion of years one and two of the project, we will engage a third-party contractor to assist in further program evaluation.</p>

**2022-2025 CALHFA FORECLOSURE PREVENTION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE**

Organization Name	Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino (LASSB)	
Project Name	Foreclosure Prevention Education and Advocacy (FPEAA)	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 1000005	\$0
	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budget for Administrative Costs
	20	9
County(ies) Served	Riverside, San Bernardino	
Project Abstract	<p>Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino (LASSB) will provide direct legal services as well as outreach and education to homeowners and seniors to prevent foreclosures. LASSB will use the grant funds to prevent instability created by foreclosures, pandemics, and ill-advised reverse mortgages.</p> <p>Informal negotiation will be sought in an effort to resolve the issues as efficiently as possible. As a last resort, if litigation is required LASSB intends to seek appropriate injunctive relief so that any sought-after judicial relief can be obtained in a timely fashion thus obtaining meaningful relief for the client.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evaluate clients' housing situation by reviewing the clients' lease agreements, modification agreement, mortgage contracts, promissory notes, grant deeds, a notice of defaults, a notice of trustee's sale, loan modification applications, and other relevant documents. —estimated at 10-14 clients per month. 2. Upon reviewing the client's documents, the advocate will provide the applicant a verbal assessment of the client's housing & bankruptcy issues, explicitly identifying those instances in which there have been a violation of a foreclosure statute and/or homeowners' bill rights—estimated at 10-14 clients per month. 3. The staff will assist with demand letters, modification assistance, homestead declaration, reverse mortgage review and equity stripping scams at 5-10 clients per month. 4. The advocate will follow up the demand letter with telephone calls to resolve issues informally - estimated at 5-10 clients per month. 5. If the issues cannot be resolved informally, the appropriate litigation will be reviewed with the Executive Director to determine the best course of action - dependent on need. 6. LASSB intends to target areas of high or very high ratings on the Owner Vulnerability Index. As LASSB pulls reports and if clients served are less than 40% from the areas of high or very high vulnerability areas, LASSB will design an outreach campaign, which will focus on high and very high socially disadvantaged communities. The outreach will consist of virtual/in-person presentations and collaborations with local nonprofits. The outreach will focus on the hardest hit areas. <p>There may also be instances in which eviction cases are defended and consolidated.</p>	
Outreach Strategy	<p>The community education component of this project will provide the target population with a broader and more meaningful understanding of homeownership rights and responsibilities by providing an awareness of the protections afforded and/or lending standards that must be maintained. Through the education and outreach efforts of LASSB, the general public understanding will be significantly enhanced and enable segments of the community to act proactively. Victims of past or future illegal housing practices and scams (e.g., predatory lending) will be empowered to assert their rights.</p> <p>LASSB intends to produce an informational flyer. LASSB will distribute the flyer through established community education programs to ensure widespread dissemination. LASSB intends to provide clients with informative material available through HUD and/or LAW HELP CA on reverse mortgages for seniors. LASSB further intends to reach out to organizations that focus on fair housing and other legal service organizations to partner and work together to prepare presentations, client education materials and to conduct know your rights seminars. As LASSB partners with other nonprofits, it is hoped that a boots on the ground approach will allow LASSB to reach a larger population. Currently 88% of LASSB clients consist of high and very high vulnerability areas. However, LASSB believes that by</p>	

	collaborating with other nonprofits, posting on LASSB website, posting on listservs and utilizing current social media to reach larger population, the number has a potential of increasing.
Focus on Socially Disadvantaged Communities	<p>LASSB is committed to serving socially disadvantaged communities. In 2021, LASSB served 3555 clients, of which 88% or 3107 of the clients lived in the highest or high vulnerability communities. According to California COVID-19 Owner Vulnerability, 70% or 2474 clients (7969 household members) lived in the highest vulnerability area. Of which, 36% were Hispanic, 19% were black, 12% were white, and 3% were other/unknown. 18% or 633 clients (1823 household members) lived in the high vulnerability area. Of which, 9% were Hispanic, 4% were white, 4% were black, and 1% were other or unknown. The remainder of 12% of clients lived in low-to-moderate communities.</p> <p>LASSB utilizes a comprehensive case management system (CMS) that can be tailored to meet the demands of any project. Specifically, with this project, LASSB intends to tailor the CMS to require staff members to (1) access the California COVID-19 Owner Vulnerability and (2) require staff members to enter the results of the Owner Vulnerability Index. The CMS will prevent staff members from moving forward without entering the required information. LASSB will review data every month to ensure that high and highest vulnerable areas are serviced. If LASSB determines that socially disadvantaged areas are not being served, LASSB will course-correct by expanding its outreach efforts to the highest vulnerable regions. The outreach would include local collaborations with fair housing or other nonprofits, increased presentations, and partnerships with agencies in the heaviest impacted areas.</p>
Evaluation Strategy	<p>LASSB utilizes LegalServer, a comprehensive case management system (CMS) that can be tailored to meet the demands of any project. LegalServer is effortlessly configurable and allows remote tracking and customizable filters to remove the human error component. LASSB will track the project client cases by a case number, type of legal problem, the case outcome, and the number of case hours.</p> <p>The CMS will be customized to require each client contain a QCT. Thus, it will also allow LASSB to accurately track and report the number of clients served to qualify as socially disadvantaged communities based upon the criteria defined by the Qualified Census Tracts or Owner Vulnerability Index (OVI). It will also allow accurate tracking of client demographics. Statistical data will ensure that the most disadvantaged communities are being served by refining and redirecting efforts based on statistical data.</p> <p>Specifically, with this project, the type of case would be identified as the Foreclosure Defense problem code and identified by a unique funding code. The CMS will specify the specific types of assistance through various problem codes related to foreclosure defense. Lastly, the advanced grants management module will ensure that only eligible cases are funded for this grant. The required fields will prevent staff members from proceeding without entering the required data.</p> <p>All relevant fields will be available for statistical reporting.</p>

**2022-2025 CALHFA FORECLOSURE PREVENTION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE**

Organization Name	Legal Aid Society of San Diego (LASSD)	
Project Name	Foreclosure Prevention Project	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 2400000	\$0
	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budget for Administrative Costs
	33	11
County(ies) Served	San Diego	
Project Abstract	<p>Despite the waning of the COVID-19 pandemic, distressed homeowners find themselves confronting soaring home prices, low housing stock, rising interest rates, and a historic surge in inflation. In a high cost area like San Diego County, the problems are even more acute. While there has been a degree of economic recovery (unemployment rates are decreasing), that economic recovery has been uneven, and some socially disadvantaged groups have not been able to recover fully. As banks warn of a coming recession, it will be increasingly important to aid vulnerable homeowners who may find themselves at risk of foreclosure in the next few years.</p> <p>To combat the impending housing foreclosure crisis, the Legal Aid Society of San Diego, Inc. (LASSD) has designed the Foreclosure Prevention Program (FPP). FPP combines direct legal services, loss mitigation assistance, bankruptcy help, and media outreach to distressed Californian homeowners.</p> <p>Specifically, LASSD will use the funds to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal assistance and representation in negotiation, arbitration, litigation, and appeals to prevent foreclosure; • A monthly loan modification assistance clinic; • Loss mitigation assistance; • Reverse mortgage assistance; • Public outreach and education efforts using online and/or in-person workshops and videos; and, • Assistance with ancillary issues such as debt collection and bankruptcy. <p>LASSD will leverage its mortgage foreclosure experience and its partnerships with other community organizations to provide well-rounded and comprehensive foreclosure prevention services. Through its current mortgage litigation cases, and work during the previous foreclosure crisis, LASSD has developed the expertise necessary to provide legal assistance efficiently and effectively to struggling homeowners.</p> <p>LASSD also will use the techniques and strategies learned from launching and operating its successful debt defense and bankruptcy clinics to create a loan modification clinic. Utilizing LASSD's extensive network of community partners, LASSD will provide foreclosure-related education to homeowners throughout San Diego County through virtual and in-person presentations to community groups, videos, and information sheets.</p> <p>Finally, LASSD will work closely with federal, state, and local regulatory agencies, including the California Attorney General and the District Attorneys, the California Department of Business Oversight, and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to prevent foreclosures and protect homeowners from predatory lending schemes, consumer fraud, and unfair and deceptive business practices, by sharing data on trends and patterns and sharing client stories.</p> <p>Through the FPP, LASSD aims to create a multi-faceted approach to help distressed homeowners, particularly those in socially disadvantaged communities, avoid foreclosure.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>Goal 1: Prevent foreclosures through Direct Legal Assistance:</p> <p>Deliverables during the grant period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide direct legal services ranging from advice and counsel to full scope representation to approximately 140 homeowners confronted with foreclosure and foreclosure-related issues; 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide loss mitigation legal assistance to approximately 15 of these homeowners, including evaluation, counsel, and advice regarding loss mitigation options of loan modifications, short sales, refinance, short refinance, deeds-in-lieu, cash-for-keys, forbearance, and partial claims; and, • To save their homes from foreclosure threats, at least 60 of these distressed homeowners will receive extended services and representation, which may include assistance in negotiation, litigation, trial, arbitration, and/or bankruptcy; • Provide reverse mortgage counsel and assistance and debt defense and bankruptcy assistance to distressed homeowners. <p>Goal 2: Increase knowledge of grant services and foreclosure prevention options through Outreach and Education:</p> <p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold a monthly loan modification clinic, offering self-help resources to homeowners needing assistance; • Conduct at least 4 workshops each year, for the purpose of disseminating information about foreclosure prevention, loss mitigation options, and predatory lending issues; • Produce six short “public service announcement” videos on the loan modification process, mortgage assistance programs, and how to avoid foreclosure from PACE and home improvement schemes, three of which will be in Spanish; LASSD will work with the local partners to disseminate them to the public; • Draft a one-page information sheet on foreclosure avoidance that will be updated every six months, or more frequently as needed; • Participate in coalition meetings.
Outreach Strategy	<p>To ensure the target demographic is served, LASSD will take several steps to focus its outreach efforts. While LASSD already serves many members of the target demographic, the FPP will seek to reach more eligible homeowners by leveraging our strong partnerships with local community-based organizations, holding community workshops, and attending community outreach events. Informational materials will be made available in several languages at various free legal clinics, law libraries, courthouses, and public libraries, as well as on LASSD’s website. FPP will concentrate its outreach efforts on community gathering spots in socially disadvantaged communities, such as public libraries, law libraries, local churches, and schools.</p> <p>To reach more homeowners, LASSD will notify its community partners regarding the new loan modification clinic and its foreclosure prevention related services and accept referrals for distressed homeowners who appear to qualify for services. LASSD will also identify eligible homeowners through its existing debt collection defense and bankruptcy clinics and refer them for additional services. LASSD will track the demographics of those who receive direct legal services and will conduct internal quarterly meetings to review the effectiveness of outreach strategies.</p> <p>FPP will conduct at least 4 workshops each year, in English and Spanish, for the purpose of disseminating information about foreclosure prevention (including bankruptcy), loss mitigation options, and predatory lending issues. FPP will also create a series of six public service announcement videos, 3 in English and 3 in Spanish. The public service announcement videos and other materials to other legal services organizations and community partners.</p>
Focus on Socially Disadvantaged Communities	<p>LASSD has three offices in San Diego County and has been providing legal services to indigent people for over 100 years. In 2021, LASSD provided legal services to 7,386 people. LASSD’s client population are approximately 63% people of color, approximately 47% of which are Black or Hispanic. Many of our clients live in socially disadvantaged communities and our average client’s income is around 30% of AMI.</p> <p>Over the years, LASSD has built strong relationships with community partners who work with individuals from socially disadvantaged communities, including other local non-profit organizations, law school clinics, local libraries, and the courts. FPP will leverage these existing connections to distribute information about services to low- and middle-income individuals, elderly, LEP, and communities of color, and to obtain referrals of qualifying homeowners.</p>

	<p>FPP will advertise with local entities such as community-based organizations, public libraries, public schools, and churches. Special emphasis will be placed on holding community workshops, both virtual and in-person, and attending community outreach events located in the areas identified as socially disadvantaged communities in San Diego, such as the southeastern region. Informational materials will be made available in threshold languages at various locations in the targeted areas, as well as on our website and to community partners. LASSD will track the demographics of those who receive project services and will prioritize providing extensive legal services to clients living in socially disadvantaged communities. In addition, LASSD will conduct internal quarterly meetings with grant staff and management to review the effectiveness of outreach strategies.</p>
Evaluation Strategy	<p>LASSD's staff will carefully track baseline and outcome data to evaluate project successes and challenges, make necessary changes to elements that pose challenges, and share the data in order to scale impact to other networks and regions. Baseline data will be gathered to include demographics such as household income, age, race, gender identity, and ethnicity, education level, languages spoken and preferred, military status, and household size. Data will also track the number of seniors, children, and veterans served.</p> <p>LASSD staff and volunteers will utilize their JusticeServer Database to track legal case activity and outcomes. Legal assistance milestones will be determined by: the number of cases; the results of court cases; the descriptions of positive outcomes, including quantifying money saved, money received, and debt avoided; and, the quantity of debt resolved. Activity and outcomes that will be captured include but are not limited to: resolution of consumer issues; attorney work product; counseling, credit rebuilding/debt management, and legal assistance activities and service points; and, confidential client notes.</p> <p>FPP will also track information gathered from outreach events, such as the number of people, location, feedback, and follow-up requests for assistance.</p> <p>Information that indicates patterns of predatory or malicious lending and debt collection behavior will be documented and reported to the appropriate law enforcement and regulatory agencies. Client consent will be obtained if sharing information about individual cases.</p> <p>Finally, LASSD will collect client stories that highlight the housing crisis and the value and impact of foreclosure prevention on their lives to inform regulatory agencies.</p>

**2022-2025 CALHFA FORECLOSURE PREVENTION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE**

Organization Name	Legal Assistance to the Elderly (LAE)	
Project Name	Foreclosure Prevention for Seniors and Adults with Disabilities	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 902791	\$0
	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budget for Administrative Costs
	13	13
County(ies) Served	San Francisco	
Project Abstract	<p>This project will address the needs of seniors and adults with disabilities at risk of foreclosure in San Francisco. We will reach clients who reside in Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs) by making use of our robust network of legal aid and community-based organizations to reach those most affected by the economic ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic, including BIPOC and low-income community members and families. In these QCT neighborhoods we will also represent non-disabled adults with incomes below 150% of AMI, prioritizing those who have a senior or disabled adult in the home. Our goal is to keep families and communities together and preserve our City's neighborhoods.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>This project will provide foreclosure prevention legal services that range from giving legal advice to full scope representation. This work will include defending against wrongful foreclosures, assisting with homestead declarations, estate planning, defending against financial abuse that could result in foreclosure, and other related consumer debt defense. We expect that this project will provide support on 75 matters over the course of one year. We plan to provide multiple levels of service, including:</p> <p>20 clients will receive Advice and Counsel on foreclosure prevention, consumer debt, financial elder abuse or estate planning in those matters where the client's issue is very easily addressed, advice is provided, and the case is closed.</p> <p>20 clients will receive Brief Services on foreclosure prevention, consumer debt, financial elder abuse or estate planning in those matters where the client needs assistance to prepare legal correspondence, fill out an official form, or review legal documents, for example preparing homestead declarations.</p> <p>10 clients will receive Estate Plans</p> <p>25 will receive Case Acceptance: full scope representation in foreclosure prevention, consumer debt defense or financial elder abuse in cases that warrant more extensive legal representation</p>	
Outreach Strategy	<p>Our detailed outreach plan includes:</p> <p>We will develop a brief brochure describing this project's services and how to access them. Homeownership SF, a citywide collaboration of experienced, nonprofit housing agencies that serves as a centralized hub for foreclosure prevention counseling and advocacy, will assist us in publicizing this project and will serve as a primary referral resource for clients who need legal interventions, counseling and/or representation. This will be a "warm referral" system: Homeownership SF will, with the client's permission, share case information and documents and make an appointment for the client with an LAE attorney.</p> <p>Through ELC, we will conduct outreach to community partners in southeast neighborhoods of San Francisco to promote this project and distribute our brochure. The ELC outreach workers will also distribute information about this project directly to community members at community centers, schools, churches and in the neighborhoods.</p> <p>We will conduct outreach to our extensive network of partner senior centers, such as IT Bookman Community Center or Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center Senior program, and community-based social service agencies, such as Self-Help to the Elderly.</p> <p>We will conduct outreach to city agencies, such as Adult Protective Services and Department of Disability and Aging Services' community programs staff.</p> <p>We will conduct outreach to District Supervisors' staff.</p> <p>We conduct outreach to San Francisco Legal Services Organizations and inform them of these services.</p>	

	This will facilitate “warm-referrals” for clients who are partner agencies are not able to assist.
Focus on Socially Disadvantaged Communities	<p>Our project will target the socially disadvantaged communities in QCTs in San Francisco that overlap with higher homeownership rates in the southeast San Francisco neighborhoods of Excelsior, Bayview, Mission, Excelsior, Portola and the OMI. We will target these neighborhoods through:</p> <p>1) Excelsior Legal Collaborative (ELC) which is a partnership between LAE, Asian Law Caucus, Jubilee Immigration Advocates and community based organizations Excelsior Works!, and PODER. ELC. With offices in the Excelsior, ELC provides services including eviction defense/housing preservation in these southeast QCT neighborhoods. Neighborhood residents are linked to ELC’s services by on the ground outreach workers who live in these communities and reach out to community members at community events, schools, churches. Outreach workers also work with community-based organizations to reach those most isolated community members. This collaboration also provides services to non-disabled adults, primarily BIPOC and/or immigrants. This project will provide services to non-disabled adults below 150% AMI through this collaboration, prioritizing households with seniors and/or adults with disabilities.</p> <p>2) Working relationships with other community service providers and San Francisco District Supervisors’ offices in these neighborhoods. Our ties to these providers were strengthened during the pandemic, when LAE/ELC provided eviction defense legal services at the Latino Task Force’s COVID Response hubs in the Mission, the Excelsior and the Bayview.</p> <p>3) Working relationships with community-based social service organizations, senior centers and City agencies such as Adult Protective Services, established through LAE’s 40+ year history of serving the City’s seniors., that are in these communities and work with them extensively.</p>
Evaluation Strategy	<p>LAE evaluates our programs by reviewing quantitative data from our program outcomes and service objectives, as well as client input, to improve program design and delivery. On a monthly basis, we prepare deliverable reports for each program, which are reviewed by program leads. Quarterly, program leads and management meet to evaluate the effectiveness of our programs and our progress towards achieving our goals and objectives. We look at how many unduplicated clients we served, who they are; whether we are we meeting our deliverables; and which program areas new clients are using. We assess whether we have sufficient capacity to serve all those in need.</p> <p>We also look at outcomes: did we achieve the client’s goals? Were those goals realistic? Did we meet our own expectations? Additionally, we look at our approach: how can we do our jobs better? Are there new legal approaches we can use, or more efficient staffing models? Are there seniors in need who are not able to access legal services?</p> <p>We review completed Client Comment Forms, which ask how we can improve our services, and if the services rendered appropriately and accurately reflected the consumer’s desires. We incorporate client comments into our evaluation.</p>

**2022-2025 CALHFA FORECLOSURE PREVENTION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE**

Organization Name	National Housing Law Project (NHLP)	
Project Name	NHLP Foreclosure Prevention Project	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 807750	\$0
	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budget for Administrative Costs
	13	13
County(ies) Served	Statewide	
Project Abstract	NHLP will increase the capacity of legal services organizations and housing counselors to assist low-income homeowners that are at risk of home loss or displacement. NHLP will provide advocates with trainings, publications, technical assistance and litigation support on loss mitigation, the Homeowner Assistance Fund, predatory lending and real estate scams. Drawing on deep expertise in homeownership preservation and foreclosure prevention, NHLP will train advocates on strategies to reach the most vulnerable and disadvantaged homeowners, and on how to access the programs and tools that can preserve homeownership and stabilize communities.	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>I. Increase the capacity of legal services organizations and housing counselors to assist low-income homeowners and families at risk of home loss or displacement. The skills developed and resources provided will include the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Assessing options for a homeowner at risk of home loss b. Resolving delinquencies in mortgages and property charges through loss mitigation and HAF assistance c. Conducting outreach to and working with especially vulnerable homeowners, including seniors, homeowners of color, and other socially disadvantaged individuals d. Understanding the foreclosure process, including borrower's rights under the California Homeowner Bill of Rights and the federal Real Estate Settlement and Procedures Act/Regulation X e. Advising and representing borrowers with reverse mortgages f. Identifying and addressing equity stripping schemes and scams (e.g., title theft, fraudulent inducement to sell, and predatory home-secured financing such as PACE) <p>II. Improve the implementation of the Homeowner Assistance Fund by communicating the experiences of advocates to California's HAF administrator and to the Treasury Department.</p> <p>III. Build collaborative working relationships between legal services organizations and housing counseling agencies to better serve homeowners.</p> <p>IV. Bring attention to the threats facing low-income homeowners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. collaborate with partners to gather and analyze data and information and generate articles/commentary/white papers about threats to homeownership for low-income and socially disadvantaged homeowners and their families, b. Focus on PACE lending, reverse mortgages and newly-emerging shared equity financing products. 	
Outreach Strategy	NHLP's outreach will be conducted on two levels- we will draw from our email lists of CA QLSPs, CA based members of our Housing Justice Network (which totals over 1,000 contacts), will post the availability of our services in the LAAC directory and on our website. We will ask our working partner organizations to also forward announcements of NHLP's project, as well as training notifications and the availability of resources. A second level of outreach will involve outreach to homeowners who are at risk of foreclosure and we will draw on our partnership with Sierra Health Foundation to reach those contacts.	
Focus on Socially Disadvantaged Communities	As a support center, NHLP will be serving other grantees that are subject to this requirement. We rely in part on the targeting of the legal aid agencies that we support. NHLP will also provide technical assistance and support to help these agencies reach homeowners in socially disadvantaged communities. In addition, the focus on the project on the most at-risk homeowners and geographic areas targeted by predatory lending and scams will ensure that grant activities meet the 40 percent guideline.	

<p>Evaluation Strategy</p>	<p>Our evaluations will attempt to determine NHLP's effectiveness in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building the capacity of legal services and other allied organizations to understand the new programs and interface of federal and state laws targeted at foreclosure prevention in order to effectively preserve client's homes; • Educating advocates, housing counselors and homeowners and providing resources; • Helping attorneys create effective strategies for individual client cases, and • Successful litigation to enforce homeowners' rights and defend predatory lending practices. <p>The tools we employ to acquire evaluation data include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Surveys to those organizations and individuals who have utilized our services to find out how our services have impacted or benefited them. 2.) Soliciting feedback from participants in our trainings and teleconferences through evaluation forms. 3.) Ongoing informal feedback from those to whom we have provided legal and technical assistance. 4.) Monitoring local, regional, and national policy changes and their impact on housing opportunities for low- income households. 5.) Collecting quantitative activity data such as training attendance and participants, numbers of resources distributed, surveying advocates and residents for the effectiveness of the materials and training, and documenting successes of the activities and outcomes of any litigation. <p>Additionally, NHLP has budgeted for an annual foreclosure database and analysis and will use this quantitative data both to guide our efforts, and where possible, review progress.</p>
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**2022-2025 CALHFA FORECLOSURE PREVENTION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE**

Organization Name	Neighborhood Legal Services (NLS)	
Project Name	Preventing Foreclosures and Home Loss Through Advance Planning and Debt Relief	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 1350000	\$0
	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budget for Administrative Costs
	11	13
County(ies) Served	Los Angeles	
Project Abstract	<p>NLSLA will take an innovative approach to prevent foreclosure and home loss for Los Angeles County homeowners by creating a project that collaborates between estate planning and debt relief advocacy. Through direct representation, community clinics and community education events, NLSLA will assist on a range of legal issues to preserve the home. The advocacy includes, but is not limited to, proactive estate planning services, such as the drafting of wills, trusts, financial powers of attorney and advanced healthcare directives; counseling on the probate specific implications of inheriting a property already in or on the verge of foreclosure; providing Chapter 7 assistance to prevent foreclosure on homes where the equity is less than the homestead exemption; and providing consumer debt legal advocacy to allow homeowners to potentially avoid judgment liens being recorded against the home through debt collection lawsuit defense and addressing existing judgment liens through set aside litigation.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>The project will serve Los Angeles County homeowners to prevent foreclosure and home loss through the collaboration between estate planning and debt relief advocacy. It will target the geographical areas of the Antelope, San Fernando, San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys, and underserved homeowners who are people of color, people who are disabled, older adults and/or limited English proficient. Through direct representation, community clinics and community education events, NLSLA will assist on a range of legal issues to preserve the home. The advocacy includes proactive estate planning, such as drafting wills, trusts, financial powers of attorney and advanced healthcare directives; counseling on probate specific implications of inheriting a property already in or on the verge of foreclosure; providing Chapter 7 assistance; and providing consumer debt legal advocacy to allow homeowners to avoid judgment liens being recorded against the home through debt collection lawsuit defense and addressing existing judgment liens through set aside litigation. The project will conduct monthly clinics and engage in at least one community education event per quarter and reach 1,000+ individuals. The project will provide legal representation in at least 15 bankruptcy and/or consumer debt cases the first year and increase to at least 24 per year in the subsequent years. It will assist with at least 450 non-representation extended services, brief services and/or counsel and advice matters per year, which may include, but is not limited to, drafting estate planning documents, probate counsel and advice, and services in Chapter 7 proceedings, consumer litigation defense and set aside.</p>	
Outreach Strategy	<p>The project will engage in community education and community clinics. It will partner with local community-based organizations and trust centers to help with cross-referrals, as well as promote or cosponsor the community education events and/or clinics. Outreach efforts will include Senior Centers, offices of elected officials in the relevant service areas (including socially disadvantaged communities), pro bono partners, and referral partners (such as Little Tokyo Service Center, Chinatown Service Center, Thai Community Service Center, other legal aids, and local bar associations - including specific substantive sections such as trusts and estates, consumer and bankruptcy). The project will also leverage established relationships with the Courts to promote the project. Additionally, NLSLA's Development and Marketing department will be available as needed to support outreach to targeted homeowners under this project through its various social media platforms, as well as the development of outreach materials.</p>	

Focus on Socially Disadvantaged Communities	<p>NLSLA serves all of Los Angeles County with a special emphasis on the poverty communities of the Antelope, San Fernando, San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys, including the central cities of Glendale, Burbank and Pasadena. NLSLA staff members are housed in four regional offices located in Pacoima, El Monte, Boyle Heights and Glendale. In addition, NLSLA advocates are co-located in courthouses in Van Nuys, Lancaster, Chatsworth, Pomona, Pasadena and Downtown Los Angeles, as well as hospitals and health centers in Sylmar, Van Nuys, North Hollywood and El Monte. NLSLA's traditional service areas already encompass socially disadvantaged communities as defined by the grant guidelines. Nevertheless, the project will ensure that at least 40% of grant funds are used to serve homeowners from socially disadvantaged communities by engaging in targeted outreach, including conducting community education events, partnering with local community-based organizations and trust centers to help with cross-referrals, as well as providing services through community clinics. The project will also leverage NLSLA's Development and Marketing department as needed to support outreach to targeted homeowners under this project through its various social media platforms, as well as the development of outreach materials. The project will regularly monitor the data of the clients served under the project by running reports on its case management system, LegalServer, to ensure that at least 40% of grant funds are used to serve socially disadvantaged communities.</p>
Evaluation Strategy	<p>NLSLA includes an evaluation and outcome component for all of its projects. The evaluation plan helps the supervisor determine what data should be collected and monitored through NLSLA's case management system, LegalServer. A project management report will be created to track any data points that will effectively inform project staff of the overall status of the project outcomes. The supervisor of this project, Ms. Garcia, in collaboration with Mr. Koenig, will regularly review the data, assess progress and make adjustments as necessary to ensure the project is operating in an efficient and effective manner and meeting the project's goals. The data points include case outcome, level of service, demographic information and monetary benefits. For example, the estate planning work saves litigants approximately \$2,500 per person or \$3,400 per couple in legal fees and an average of \$20,000 to \$40,000 per family by avoiding probate.</p> <p>NLSLA has over 50 years of experience in managing complex grants and leveraging technology to track multiple funding sources and expenditures. LegalServer also supports fiscal oversight of the project to ensure compliance and efficient use of program funds. A unique funding code is created for each new project or funding source. Each time slip is associated with the appropriate funding source for that activity. Management utilizes LegalServer to produce detailed reports on all time and cases billed to a project and reviews the time slips to ensure appropriate billing.</p> <p>Additionally, the project will use anonymous surveys sent to clients served under the project for evaluation purposes.</p>

**2022-2025 CALHFA FORECLOSURE PREVENTION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE**

Organization Name	Neighborhood Legal Services (NLS)	
Project Name	Home Preservation Through Mobile Home Advocacy	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 795000	\$0
	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budget for Administrative Costs
	11	13
County(ies) Served	Los Angeles	
Project Abstract	<p>Mobile homes are the last form of affordable housing in California, where home values have skyrocketed in the last two years, amid the Covid-19 pandemic. Through this project, NLSLA will serve mobile home owners in Los Angeles County to preserve their housing. It will target the geographical areas of the Antelope Valley and San Gabriel Valley, and underserved mobile home owners who are older adults, people who are disabled, people of color and/or limited English proficient. Through direct representation and community outreach and education, NLSLA will assist on a range of legal issues to preserve the home. The legal issues to be addressed include laws and protections available to mobile home owners in preserving their home, including rent control laws for their space rent, tenancies in mobile home parks that threaten homeownership, park and mobile home conditions, and representation in park closure or change of use cases.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>The project will serve mobile home owners in Los Angeles County to preserve their affordable housing. It will target the geographical areas of the Antelope Valley and San Gabriel Valley, and underserved mobile home owners who are older adults, people who are disabled, people of color and/or limited English proficient. Through direct representation and community outreach and education, NLSLA will assist on a range of legal issues to preserve the home. The legal issues to be addressed include laws and protections available to mobile home owners in preserving their home, including rent control laws for their space rent, tenancies in mobile home parks that threaten homeownership, park and mobile home conditions, and representation in park closure or change of use cases. The project will conduct at least one community outreach and education event per quarter, reaching at least 400 mobile home owners per year. The project will also provide legal representation, brief services and/or counsel and advice on 250 matters per year in the area of mobile home preservation.</p>	
Outreach Strategy	<p>The project will engage in community education and outreach. It will partner with local community-based organizations and trust centers to help with cross-referrals, as well as promote or co-sponsor the community education events, including Coalition for Economic Survival, Inland Communities Organizing Network (ICON) in Pomona, Antelope Valley Partners for Health and El Nido. Additionally, NLSLA's Development and Marketing department will be available as needed to support outreach to targeted homeowners through its various social media platforms, as well as the development of outreach materials.</p>	
Focus on Socially Disadvantaged Communities	<p>NLSLA serves all of Los Angeles County with a special emphasis on the poverty communities of the Antelope, San Fernando, San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys, including the central cities of Glendale, Burbank and Pasadena. NLSLA staff members are housed in four regional offices located in Pacoima, El Monte, Boyle Heights and Glendale. Additionally, NLSLA advocates are co-located in courthouses in Van Nuys, Lancaster, Chatsworth, Pomona, Pasadena and Downtown Los Angeles, as well as hospitals and health centers in Sylmar, Van Nuys, North Hollywood and El Monte. NLSLA's traditional service areas already encompass socially disadvantaged communities as defined by the grant guidelines. Moreover, this project will specifically target the Antelope and San Gabriel Valleys – both of which encompass areas that fall within socially disadvantaged communities. Nevertheless, the project will ensure that at least 40% of grant funds are used to serve mobile home owners from socially disadvantaged communities by engaging in targeted outreach, including conducting community education events, and partnering with local community-based organizations and trust centers to help with cross-referrals. The project will</p>	

	leverage NLSLA's Development and Marketing department as needed to support outreach to targeted homeowners under this project through its various social media platforms, as well as the development of outreach materials. The project will regularly monitor the data of the clients served under this project by running reports on its case management system, LegalServer, to ensure that at least 40% of grant funds are used to serve socially disadvantaged communities.
Evaluation Strategy	<p>NLSLA includes an evaluation and outcome component for all of its projects. The evaluation plan helps the supervisor determine what data should be collected and monitored through NLSLA's case management system, LegalServer. A project management report will be created to track any data points that will effectively inform project staff of the overall status of the project outcomes. The supervisor of this project, Ms. Ocampo, will regularly review the data, assess progress and make adjustments as necessary to ensure the project is operating in an efficient and effective manner and meeting the project's goals. The data points include case outcome, level of service, demographic information and monetary benefits.</p> <p>NLSLA has over 50 years of experience in managing complex grants and leveraging technology to track multiple funding sources and expenditures. LegalServer also supports fiscal oversight of the project to ensure compliance and efficient use of program funds. A unique funding code is created for each new project or funding source. Each time slip is associated with the appropriate funding source for that activity. Management utilizes LegalServer to produce detailed reports on all time and cases billed to the project and reviews the time slips to ensure appropriate billing.</p> <p>Additionally, the project will distribute and collect surveys during the outreach and community education events to obtain feedback about the services provided and effectiveness of the information shared.</p>

**2022-2025 CALHFA FORECLOSURE PREVENTION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE**

Organization Name	Open Door Legal (ODL)	
Project Name	Preventing Foreclosures in San Francisco's Low-Income Communities	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 2000000	\$0
	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budget for Administrative Costs
	20	15
County(ies) Served	San Francisco	
Project Abstract	<p>This project aims to prevent the displacement of homeowners and Successors In Interest due to foreclosure in our low-income priority areas. These people often encounter steep barriers in accessing help when their homes are foreclosed upon, and their foreclosures are often caused by several compounding factors.</p> <p>We at Open Door Legal provide legal support in multiple areas, ensuring that we can tackle even the most complicated foreclosure cases. We can prevent home loss using legal work to stop foreclosures, assistance around refinancing mortgages, and the creation of estate plans that prevent our clients' families from having to go through the probate process.</p> <p>We can help anyone who walks in our doors with a foreclosure looming as a result of a judgment against them. We do this holistically, providing legal support in multiple areas like family law, employment law, and more, because foreclosure cases are often legally complex. With the support of CalHFA, we will be able to offer our services to more clients than ever before.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>In the first year, we will focus on hiring, training and onboarding our new Financial Paralegal, Senior Foreclosure Attorney, and Estate Planning attorney. In the first year we also aim to complete 50 advice only intakes and work on 50 cases for homeowners and Successors In Interest. We believe that we will execute 20 trusts and close one case in which we save a home from foreclosure.</p> <p>In the second year we aim to complete 70 advice-only intakes and work on 80 cases for homeowners and Successors In Interest. We believe that we will execute 40 trusts and close three cases in which we save a home from foreclosure.</p> <p>In the third year we aim to complete 70 advice only intakes, and work on 90 cases for homeowners and Successors In Interest. We believe that we will execute 40 trusts and close 6 cases in which we save a home from foreclosure.</p>	
Outreach Strategy	<p>In our outreach work, we will focus on connecting with social workers and financial counseling groups so they know to refer clients in need to us. This is historically our most successful outreach method. In 2021, we worked closely with another group called Daybreak that did door knocking, flyering, and calling to reach out to renters and tell them about our eviction defense services and rental assistance. We reached over 4,600 households and identified hundreds of people in need, many of whom came in for brief services, clinics, or intakes that resulted in open cases. We plan to do this kind of outreach again, only this time, targeting homeowners.</p>	
Focus on Socially Disadvantaged Communities	<p>Our team is especially focused on serving the Bayview, a socially disadvantaged community in San Francisco which also happens to be where we opened our first office. In 2020, The Bayview had the second-highest homeless population in San Francisco and had the highest percentage increase in neighborhood housing values. According to both HUD and the UCLA Center for Neighborhood Knowledge, the Bayview has been determined to be a QCT and has a high OVI rating.</p> <p>Open Door Legal started in Bayview in 2013 and has continued to serve as a pillar in the community as an advocate for justice. Through our relationship with the San Francisco Housing Development Corporation we are already participating in city efforts to financially support people who can't pay their mortgage, by providing free estate planning services. While we have recently expanded our reach into other low-income neighborhoods of San Francisco, such as the Excelsior and Western Addition Neighborhoods, a majority of our casework still takes place in the Bayview. We are already familiar with the needs of this</p>	

	community, and have built trust with its members so much so that Open Door Legal can show that we have served a neighbor on every residential block of the neighborhood in some capacity.
Evaluation Strategy	We will use several metrics in order to evaluate the effectiveness of our program. First, we systematically collect client feedback. 30 days after a case is opened and 7 days after a case is closed we survey clients using a text message method. For clients who do not respond, we have volunteers who call to collect feedback. The answers to several questions are benchmarked, including our client net promoter score and the % of clients that we've made an "extreme" difference in their lives. Additionally, we directly track outcomes such as number of homes preserved, estate plans completed, and amount of debt canceled - all in our custom-build case management system. When you combine this data with data on throughput and time, we can build a full picture of our effectiveness.

**2022-2025 CALHFA FORECLOSURE PREVENTION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE**

Organization Name	Public Counsel (PublicCounsel)	
Project Name	CalHFA Foreclosure Prevention Grant	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 1800000	\$537000
	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budget for Administrative Costs
	23	13
County(ies) Served	Los Angeles	
Project Abstract	<p>This proposal consists of four components: outreach, community legal education and empowerment, direct legal services, and social work support for low-income homeowners dealing with the panoply of issues that affect housing security. We will leverage the longstanding relationships with community groups and well-established track record of organizing homeowners of our subgrantee partner, the Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE), in tandem with Public Counsel's experience of providing legal services and case management support to low-income consumers, homeowners, and debtors to serve community members in neighborhoods at risk of foreclosure in Los Angeles County.</p> <p>In addition to a massive outreach campaign, we will provide community presentations and workshops on a range of topics, including applying for the Homeowner Assistance Fund, the foreclosure process, homeowners' options for addressing mortgage arrears, avoiding scams, bankruptcy, reverse mortgages, student loan counseling, and consumer debt defense. We will hold these events in neighborhoods that have been identified as having increased foreclosure risk. Presentations will be given by attorneys, organizers, and/or social workers as appropriate.</p> <p>The goal of these events will be to proactively educate homeowners about their rights and ways to avoid common issues (e.g., title or equity-stripping scams) and to empower homeowners to protect their interests in their homes.</p> <p>Homeowners with specific legal issues that are affecting or have the potential to affect their home will be eligible to receive individual legal assistance. The legal issues we can address include foreclosure prevention (including for reverse mortgages), real estate fraud (including title and equity-stripping schemes), Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) lien issues, debt collection defense against judgment liens on property, and financial elder abuse. In addition, Public Counsel attorneys will advise and assist with bankruptcy-related matters for homeowners as they arise. Legal assistance may include counsel and advice, advocacy with mortgage servicers (including addressing servicer errors), negotiations, provision of pro per materials and assistance with litigation in pro per, and representation in litigation.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>Available data suggests that there are many homeowners with mortgage arrears, but we have not yet seen a large influx of clients nor have substantial numbers sought assistance through California's mortgage assistance project. This suggests many homeowners do not know the options available to them.</p> <p>This project will complement Public Counsel's HPIII Homeownership Preservation grant by implementing a large outreach and community education component, which will in turn help us identify homeowners with specific legal needs. By partnering with ACCE, we will engage in direct community outreach and establish connections with homeowners, community centers, and other local organizations, to educate homeowners and decrease the displacement of vulnerable communities.</p> <p>Specifically, we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reach 2,000 at-risk homeowners via direct community outreach with ACCE; • Conduct 1-3 community presentations monthly on the topics of applying for the Homeowner Assistance Fund, the foreclosure process, homeowners' options for addressing mortgage arrears, avoiding scams, bankruptcy, reverse mortgages, and consumer debt defense—beginning in the second quarter of the grant 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct 3 large-scale community education presentations yearly to educate homeowners about their rights and ways to avoid common issues and to empower homeowners to protect their interests in their homes, beginning in the second quarter of the grant; • Provide social work services at all community presentations and workshops; and • Provide direct legal services to at least 100 clients and social work services to at least 50 clients to improve or maintain their ability to preserve their home.
Outreach Strategy	<p>We will conduct outreach to low-income homeowners in historically underserved neighborhoods at high risk of foreclosure, as identified on the Owner Vulnerability Index. We will do outreach through both digital methods and door-to-door canvassing. ACCE has experience using these strategies, and intends to deploy at least two community organizers to conduct outreach year-round. In addition, in the weeks leading up to one of the larger-scale community education events held through this grant, ACCE will deploy an additional canvass team to engage in concentrated outreach for the event and to staff the event. ACCE will leverage its existing internal groups, including its Education Chapter, which is comprised of parents, some of whom are homeowners. ACCE's organizers and canvass teams operate non-traditional hours to ensure they can meet homeowners when they are at home on evenings and on weekends. Public Counsel will complement ACCE's outreach efforts through its relationships with other community institutions, such as the Los Angeles Public Libraries.</p> <p>All staff will have resources to provide to homeowners on the spot about further legal assistance they can access.</p> <p>We also will utilize digital tools, including databases listing properties in the foreclosure process so that we can specifically target resources to homeowners who are most at risk of losing their homes at a foreclosure sale in the near future. By affirmatively contacting homeowners who may recently have received a notice of default, we hope to educate them about the legitimate options available to them and help them avoid scams.</p>
Focus on Socially Disadvantaged Communities	<p>Public Counsel and ACCE will conduct targeted outreach to low-income homeowners in historically underserved neighborhoods and neighborhoods at high risk of foreclosure, as identified on the Owner Vulnerability Index. We will conduct this outreach through both digital methods (including access to a database that will allow us to identify specific properties in foreclosure) and door to door canvassing. ACCE has experience conducting outreach using these strategies, and intends to deploy at least two community organizers to conduct outreach year-round. In addition, in the weeks leading up to one of the larger-scale community education events held through this grant, ACCE will deploy an additional canvass team to engage in concentrated outreach for and staff the event. Finally, ACCE will use its established home defender group to reach homeowners in their own communities, particularly in South and Southeast Los Angeles. Special emphasis will be placed on reaching homeowners with limited English proficiency, homeowners who are elders, and homeowners with disabilities in socially disadvantaged communities.</p> <p>Community presentations and workshops provided under this grant will be targeted to these socially disadvantaged homeowners as well. By holding events in places these homeowners already visit or are familiar with (e.g., nonprofits, churches, senior centers), we can encourage engagement and attendance.</p>
Evaluation Strategy	<p>Public Counsel will track the number of clients served, client demographic data, and main and economic benefits achieved. Routine review of this data will ensure the efficacy of our legal services model and allow us to adjust our program plan as necessary to ensure the quality of legal services for homeowners facing foreclosure. All partners will track the number of participants in attendance at workshops, clinics, and community outreach events. In addition to the service and outcome data described above, we will remain in regular contact with ACCE and gather written and oral feedback from them at the project's monthly meetings to ensure that community needs are addressed and to identify any emerging issue impacting homeowners facing foreclosure in Los Angeles County.</p>

**2022-2025 CALHFA FORECLOSURE PREVENTION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE**

Organization Name	Public Law Center (PLC)	
Project Name	Orange County Foreclosure Prevention Project	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 961500	\$120000
	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budget for Administrative Costs
	6	4
County(ies) Served	Orange	
Project Abstract	Public Law Center's Orange County Foreclosure Prevention Project builds upon our Affordable Housing and Homelessness Prevention Unit and our Consumer Law Unit to provide increased and expanded services to homeowners facing housing insecurity due to consumer debt and related legal issues. The project will support homeowners across Orange County, and will include a special outreach program for low-income Korean American homeowners and other socially disadvantaged communities.	
Project Goals and Deliverables	Project goals will be to provide low-income homeowners in Orange County with assistance with maintaining their housing. This will primarily be accomplished by defending debt collection lawsuits (that could threaten someone's home with a lien), assisting homeowners with home equity and home improvement scams, assisting with HOA issues, and advising on bankruptcy issues. We expect we will screen 100 people over the course of the year, assisting at least 50 with some level of assistance, and taking on 25 for some level of representation. PLC and KCS will provide six know-your-rights presentations per year. We expect three to five referrals per month from KCS to PLC for legal assistance.	
Outreach Strategy	In addition to our over 40 years of experience with and engagement of Orange County low-income communities, we will conduct ongoing outreach at headquarter, clinic and community partner-based spaces, with traditional, ethnic, digital and social media outlets, and through targeted event-based outreach in key socially disadvantaged areas. We will conduct outreach through various sources, but will prioritize our partnership with KCS by coordinating know your rights presentations to KCS constituents (six per year with KCS). We expect three to five referrals per month from KCS to PLC for legal assistance.	
Focus on Socially Disadvantaged Communities	PLC's existing client population distribution already tracks within both Qualified Census Tracts and High and Highest Owner Vulnerability areas within Orange County. For the proposed project, our outreach and engagement starts with the are immediately surrounding our headquarters in Santa Ana (both a QCT and Highest OV area) and extends northwestward toward Buena Park. While Santa Ana and its surrounding areas have a high population of Latinx community members, Buena Park and its surrounding areas include a high population of Korean Americans. While PLC also serves socially disadvantaged members of the Vietnamese American community residing in and around Little Saigon, this community will not be a primary target for this project. Due to PLC's extensive connection to and outreach to socially disadvantaged Latinx communities throughout Orange County and especially in Santa Ana, we are confident at least 40 percent of grant funds will serve socially disadvantaged communities. Furthermore, PLC designed this project with an expanded role for a longstanding community partner in mind and secured the commitment of Korean Community Service (KCS), which is headquartered in and serves large numbers of clients in Buena Park.	
Evaluation Strategy	The Director of Legal Services, a Directing Attorney or a Supervising Attorney review all closed cases to ensure compliance with project goals and PLC policies. The Director of Legal Services meets at least weekly with the Executive Director as an additional layer of supervision and evaluation. PLC's staff will have grant-funded objectives built into their work plans and tied to their performance evaluations. In addition to regularly reviewing advocates work, PLC will regularly review data in PLC's case management system to determine the demographic information of those served by the project. This information from our case management system will be reviewed at monthly check-in meetings of staff on this project, including the Executive Director. To the extent we learn through these regular reviews that	

	<p>we need to adjust our efforts to ensure we are achieving the goals and objectives stated above, we will be able to develop a corrective plan in these meetings and monitor that plan's success.</p>
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	<p>Subgranted project activities will be evaluated during regular check-ins with Project and Organizational leads. Outreach and training materials will also be reviewed by PLC staff with relevant legal, programmatic, and language skills. Formal and informal training participant evaluations may also be utilized depending on initial stakeholder and staff feedback. Due to historically low rates of responses for formal surveys for consumer cases, PLC does not anticipate utilizing surveys. However, case data, including monetary results, will provide a very effective evaluative tool.</p>
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**2022-2025 CALHFA FORECLOSURE PREVENTION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE**

Organization Name	Senior Advocacy Network (SAN)	
Project Name	CALHFA Mortgage Assistance for Central Valley Older Adults	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 750000	\$0
	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budget for Administrative Costs
	14	0
County(ies) Served	Merced, Stanislaus	
Project Abstract	<p>Senior Advocacy Network (SAN) will assist older adult (OA) home owners with information and legal advice on issues regarding home retention. This will include helping them preserve their homes after loss of income caused by unemployment or loss of a spouse, especially those affected by Covid-19.</p> <p>We will provide counseling and advice on reverse mortgages, and review and provide advice on loan modifications. We will prepare title transfers and assist with homestead declarations to protect the OA's equity against future judgments.</p> <p>We will provide assistance with affirmative actions to restore homeowner titles, assist with mortgage relief applications and provide related ancillary legal services such as consumer debt and bankruptcy legal assistance. This advocacy and assistance will allow us to help our most vulnerable and needy OAs retain and remain in their homes as long as they are able to.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct total of 8 or more outreach events annually in Stanislaus and Merced Counties in settings were OAs frequent to increase awareness of the California Mortgage Relief program AND the legal services provided by SAN. 2. Improve collaboration among OA providers/legal partners and facilitate a minimum of 3 learning collaboratives and/or trainings annually to increase capacity and skills re legal housing issues in Stanislaus and Merced Counties among OA providers. 3. Develop and maintain a bilingual, bicultural SAN CALHFA web page on the existing SAN-SLP website for potential clients and provider organizations that will track the number of visitors to the site. Aim is for 100 views per month. 4. Develop informational hand-outs/brochures to disseminate at all outreach, educational and legal clinic events and hand out 500 informational packets per year. 5. Provide confidential legal intake clinics in remote areas of counties to meet the client in their home by scheduling 8 intake clinics per quarter at churches, senior centers, restaurant meeting rooms. 6. Accept at least 20 new clients per month with foreclosure/home retention services. 7. Close at least 50% of all cases per year with a 60% positive resolution rate the first year, increasing to 70% in years 2 and 3. 	
Outreach Strategy	<p>SAN has provided legal services in Stanislaus County for 12 years. Merced County is a new geographic area for SAN but the targeted population of both counties is basically the same. (see 2. Target Population discussion). Central California Legal Services staff has agreed to support SAN by referring OAs to us who may benefit from these services. They also agreed to distribute informational/educational resources through their regular channels and we will seek their assistance in finding suitable locations for our presentations.</p> <p>Outreach will begin with press releases to local Spanish and English news media and Radio stations broadcasting in both counties. We will continue our regular outreach through promoting our OA services through community engagement with churches senior centers and at OA events. We will provide OAs with promotional material we have developed. We will visit local flea markets and farmers' markets to hand out presentation announcements and post announcements in neighborhood grocery stores.</p> <p>We will provide information to leaders in communities with people of color to endorse our program and encourage their constituents to attend our presentations in their neighborhoods. We will ask these leaders and elected officials of color to attend these meetings and support us to help us gain the trust of communities who are not aware of our services or our new program that may help them retain their homes.</p>	

	However, word of mouth is the best endorsement: we will reach out to past clients to spread the word and bring a friend to our events.
Focus on Socially Disadvantaged Communities	<p>SAN will target populations in Stanislaus and Merced Counties which are smack in the middle of the Central Valley and contain the highest numbers of socially disadvantaged communities (SDC). According to the COVID-19 Pandemic Housing Crisis: Identifying Owner Vulnerable Neighborhoods in California, UCLA May, 2021, geographic areas with the highest OVI are in the agriculture counties, including Stanislaus and Merced Counties. In their study, UCLA researchers identified the Top 20 Most Vulnerable Neighborhoods in California by the OVI. Empire, CA which is in Stanislaus County, was number 5 of 20 of those neighborhoods and is only a few miles from SAN's office. SAN will utilize the QCT and OVI databases to reach out to eligible OAs and to verify they are members of a SDC.</p> <p>Many OAs facing loss of their homes have barriers to obtaining help: language, education, transportation, understanding and lack of knowledge of available resources are all reasons why many OAs of color do not seek legal help and end up losing their homes. Through outreach, education, community forums, bilingual-publications, SAN's web page, podcasts, local newspapers and radio programs, we will target those areas in those counties to inform the population of the services we will provide them to help them retain their homes.</p> <p>Stanislaus County's senior centers in the heart of these mainly rural, socially disadvantaged communities will serve as our primary outreach locations to provide education on the offered services. Enhancing home retention services will offer more hope for those facing loss of their homes.</p>
Evaluation Strategy	<p>SAN must hold educational presentations to the targeted populations for the program's success. At the end of each presentation, attendees are given a questionnaire/evaluation form which holds a 2-fold purpose: the short questionnaire asks 4 questions to test their understanding of the information we provided. The evaluation form asks about the usefulness of the presentation itself and whether they will seek our assistance. It may also provide a space for them to leave their name and phone number for a follow-up intake. The information provided on these forms is valuable as it will allow us to evaluate the information we provide, the way we present it, the effectiveness of the presenter and whether the client will seek further assistance from our program. Based on the responses, we can revise the information and its delivery so we can assist more OAs.</p> <p>In addition to these forms, SAN will closely monitor goals and deliverables throughout the project to insure the program is on-track. We will use both quantitative and qualitative methods to evaluate project objectives and use the information to make any changes that are necessary.</p> <p>For instance if we receive feedback for housing assistance for a service we are not providing, e.g., litigation against MH parks, we will decide whether it makes sense to add those services to the program, possibly involving private attorneys to co-counsel with SAN.</p>

**2022-2025 CALHFA FORECLOSURE PREVENTION GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE**

Organization Name	USD School of Law Legal Clinics (USD)	
Project Name	Housing Rights Project - Foreclosure	
	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Sub-Granted
	\$ 1174896	\$0
	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budget for Administrative Costs
	21	3
County(ies) Served	San Diego	
Project Abstract	<p>The University of San Diego's Housing Rights Project—Foreclosure ("HRPF") helps homeowners save their homes and avoid foreclosure through a three-pronged approach. First, the HRPF will assist homeowners avail themselves of COVID-related relief and loss mitigation assistance. Second, HRPF will focus on outreach and education regarding housing retention strategies and foreclosure prevention. Third, HRPF will provide direct legal representation to low-income homeowners in socially disadvantaged communities.</p>	
Project Goals and Deliverables	<p>The HRPF's key goals include: (1) educating and training certified law students to assist homeowners in socially disadvantaged communities avoid foreclosure; (2) help struggling homeowners obtain COVID-19 related relief and loss mitigation assistance; and, (3) provide direct legal assistance to homeowners to defend against foreclosure and enforce their housing rights.</p> <p>The HRPF will strive for the following outcomes during the grant term:</p> <p>COVID-19 Relief and Loss Mitigation Assistance: During the grant term, will assist homeowners apply for COVID-19 relief available and loss mitigation assistance to 71 homeowners.</p> <p>Outreach and Education: The HRPF will participate in at least 4 presentations each year to homeowners, offered in English and Spanish, about COVID-19-related assistance and loss mitigation options, predatory lending and fraud issues related to housing, and foreclosure defense and prevention. There will be a total of 12 presentations over the duration of the project. The HRPF will track legislative updates and activities impacting housing retention and foreclosure prevention and provide updates to homeowners.</p> <p>Legal Assistance: Over the course of three years, the HRPF will provide legal services, including legal advice and counsel, to 30 of these distressed homeowners.</p>	
Outreach Strategy	<p>USD's outreach strategy to identify, target, and educate eligible homeowners about HRPF's legal services starts with mapping the Qualified Census Tracts within San Diego County. USD will overlay that map with community- and faith-based organizations that have a presence in those communities. USD will then reach out and coordinate with those groups to present to homeowners regarding loss mitigation assistance and foreclosure prevention. Intake will also screen and prioritize people in socially disadvantaged communities and those of low income.</p> <p>In addition to targeting socially disadvantaged communities and indigent clients, the information, presentations, and services will be available in Spanish, as well. As the Hispanic population is the majority in these tracts, all presentations and materials will be available in Spanish and English.</p>	
Focus on Socially Disadvantaged Communities	<p>HRPF will target and prioritize delivery of services to socially disadvantaged communities in San Diego County. To intentionally provide services to these regions, HRPF will: (1) partner with other organizations in the targeted areas to conduct outreach and education; (2) provide services in Spanish; and, (3) prioritize intakes from these areas.</p> <p>HRPF will also leverage and build relationships with community- and faith-based organizations, local libraries, and real estate professionals within these targeted areas. Together, HRPF and these organizations will provide both virtual and in-person outreach and education to the community within the Qualified Census Tract areas.</p> <p>A critical component of delivering services to people within the Qualified Census Tracts is the provision of assistance in Spanish. In California, Hispanic/Latino households make up just over 60 percent of the Qualified Census Tract and around 57 percent of the Owner</p>	

	<p>Vulnerability Index. Hispanic families are overrepresented in socially disadvantaged communities. For this reason, the project will hire Spanish speaking staff, conduct outreach and education in Spanish, and provide legal services in Spanish. Materials will be available in English and Spanish, as well.</p> <p>Finally, the project will prioritize intakes from people living within the Qualified Census Tracts. As potential clients call in for legal assistance, the project will collect address information and identify whether the potential client lives within the targeted areas. If the potential client is within a Qualified Census Tract, then that application for services will be given priority for legal services.</p>
Evaluation Strategy	<p>The Housing Rights Project will create customized surveys and case evaluations for closed cases to refine the project's strategies to increase its effectiveness in addressing foreclosure prevention. The surveys will be sent electronically as emails or text messages using Legal Server, the Legal Clinics' cloud-based case management software. The Legal Clinics' staff members will also conduct telephone follow up surveys with former clients to complete any outstanding surveys and obtain additional data as needed. The telephone survey information will also be input into the Legal Server case management system, which has advanced reporting capabilities to generate regular and ad hoc reports for the Project's professors of practice and the Legal Clinics' administrative & faculty directors to determine the effectiveness of the program</p>

ATTACHMENT D

**The State Bar of California
Grant Management Assessment
for 2022 CalHFA Foreclosure Prevention Applicants**

Name of Organization

Name of Person Completing the Form

Date Form is Completed

Per Title 2 CFR § 200.332, The State Bar of California is required to evaluate the risk of noncompliance with federal statutes, regulations and grant terms and conditions posed by each subrecipient of pass-through funding. This assessment is made in order to determine and provide an appropriate level of technical assistance, training, and grant oversight. The following are questions related to your organization's experience in the management of federal grant awards.

For purposes of completing this questionnaire, executive leadership means the individual(s) who has primary responsibility for the organization as a whole, grant manager is the individual who has primary responsibility for day-to-day administration of the grant, bookkeeper/accounting staff means the individual who has responsibility for reviewing and determining expenditures to be charged to the grant award, and organization refers to the subrecipient applying for the award.

Assessment Factors		Assessment Response
1	Has the organization had a change in executive leadership in the last three years?	
2	How many years of experience does the current grant manager have managing grants?	
3	How many years of experience does the current bookkeeper/accounting staff have managing grants?	
4	Are individual staff members assigned to work on multiple grants?	
5	How many federal grants does the organization currently receive?	
6	What is the approximate total dollar amount of all grants the organization receives?	
7	What is the approximate total dollar amount of all grants the organization receives from federal grant sources?	
8	Does the organization receive any funding directly from the federal government?	
9	Does the organization use timesheets to track the time staff spend working on specific activities/projects?	
10	How often does the organization have a financial audit?	

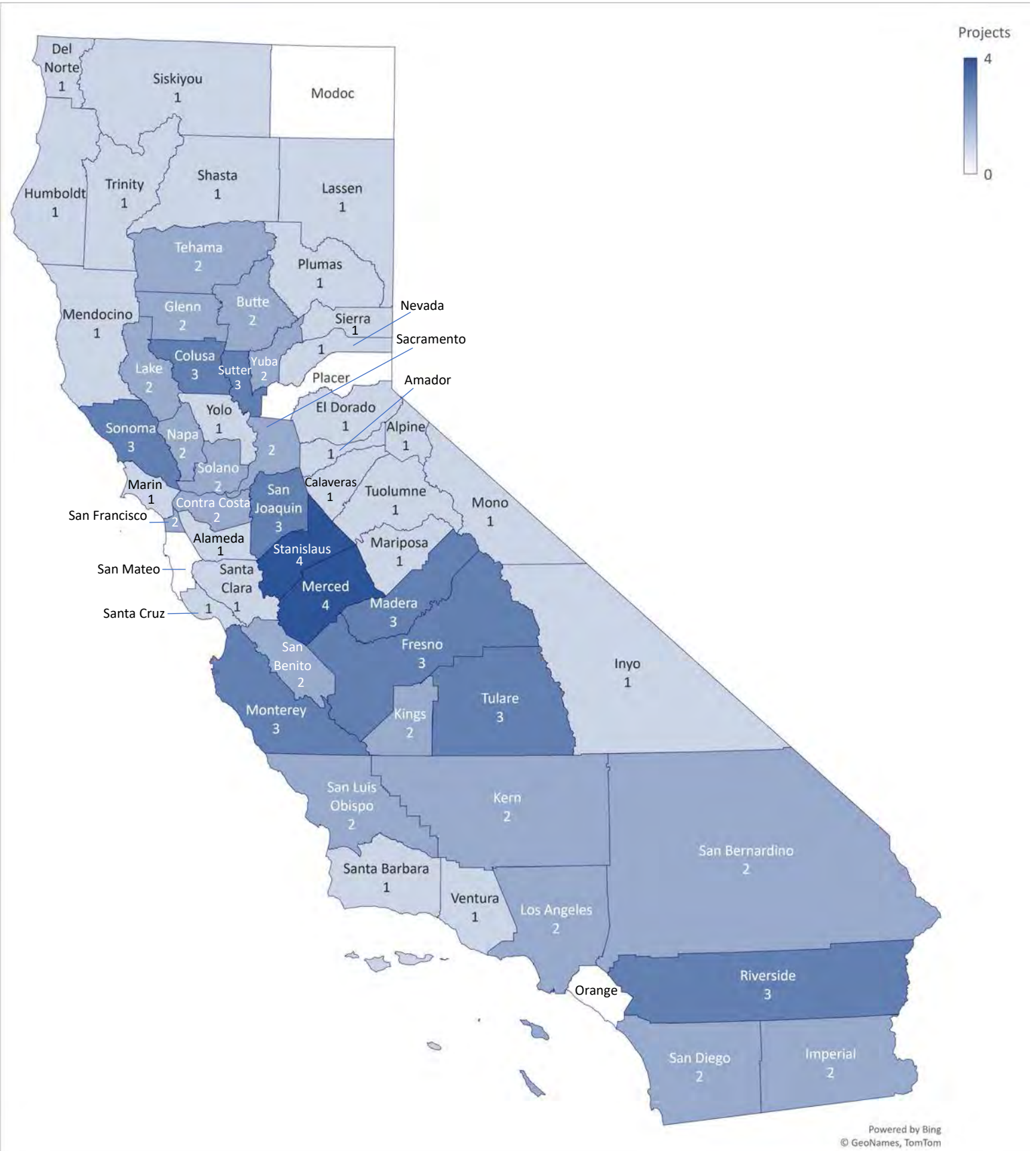
11	Has the organization received any audit findings in the last three years?	
12	How many Single Audits has the organization had in the last 5 years?	
13	Does the organization maintain policies which include procedures for assuring compliance with the terms of grant awards?	
14	Does the organization have a written policy to charge costs to grants?	
15	Does the organization have an accounting system that will allow it to completely and accurately track the receipt and disbursements of funds by award?	
16	Does the organization have written procurement policies?	
17	Does the organization get multiple quotes or bids when buying items or services?	
18	Does the organization maintain policies which include segregation of fiscal duties?	
19	Does the organization have a whistle blower policy?	
20	How many years does the organization maintain receipts, deposits, cancelled checks, invoices, etc.?	
21	Does the organization have procedures to monitor sub-grants to other entities?	
Certification: This is to certify that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the data furnished above is accurate, complete and current.		
Signature: (Authorized Agent)		Date
Print Name and Title		Phone Number

Part 2 - State Bar Staff Assessment		
State Bar Risk Assessment of Grantee		Response
1	Number of times the to organization has had late audit submissions in the last 3 years	
2	Number of times the organization has had late report submissions in the last 3 years.	
3	Number of times the organization requested a budget revision or carryover over 50% during the last 3 years.	
4	Did the grantee have any program findings from their last State Bar monitoring visit.	
5	How many fiscal findings did the grantee have at their last State Bar monitoring visit with the State Bar?	
6	How long has the organization been a State Bar grantee?	
7	Has the organization experienced a substantial increase (25%) in qualified expenditures over the last fiscal year?	
8	Has the organization been asked to appear before LSTFC	

9	Has the organization been asked to appear before the Eligibility and Budget Review Committee?	
10	Has the organization been asked to appear before the Eligibility Review Conference during the past three years?	
11	Are there any other factors that would indicate the organization may be a high risk organization?	
Total State Bar Assessment Score		

Map of Recommended CalHFA Proposals: Number of Projects that Would Serve Each County

In addition to the organizations represented on this map, two of the recommended proposals would serve the entire state. Therefore, every county stands to benefit from the 11 organizations that the scoring team has recommended to receive funding. The map below, however, plots the 9 organizations that would focus their services on particular counties.



Organizations that Propose to Serve Specific Counties:**ATTACHMENT B**

Organization	Counties Served	Score	Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
Housing and Economic Rights Advocates	Butte, Colusa, Contra Costa, Fresno, Glenn, Imperial, Kern, Lake, Los Angeles, Madera, Merced, Monterey, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Solano, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, Yolo	88	\$2,400,000	\$2,000,000
Legal Access Alameda	Alameda, Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Inyo, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Madera, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Mono, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Plumas, Sacramento, San Benito, San Francisco, San Joaquin, Santa Clara, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yuba	87	\$752,475	\$700,000
Public Counsel	Los Angeles	87	\$1,850,579	\$1,190,000
California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.	Colusa, Fresno, Imperial, Kings, Kern, Madera, Merced, Monterey, Napa, Riverside, San Benito, San Joaquin, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tulare, Ventura, Yuba	83	\$2,400,000	\$1,900,000
Legal Aid of Sonoma County	Sonoma	83	\$1,102,500	\$800,000
Senior Advocacy Network	Merced, Stanislaus	83	\$750,000	\$750,000
Legal Assistance to the Elderly	San Francisco	82	\$902,791	\$900,000
Legal Aid Society of San Diego	San Diego	77	\$2,400,000	\$800,000
Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino	Riverside, San Bernardino	70	\$1,000,005	\$800,000

Organizations that Propose to Offer Statewide Services:

California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform	Statewide	82	\$451,678	\$450,000
National Housing Law Project	Statewide	82	\$807,750	\$750,000



The State Bar of California

**OPEN SESSION
AGENDA ITEM
DECEMBER 2022
LEGAL SERVICES TRUST FUND COMMISSION 4.1**

DATE: December 13, 2022

TO: Members, Legal Services Trust Fund Commission

FROM: Members, LSTFC Executive Committee
Danielle MacRae, Senior Program Analyst

SUBJECT: Executive Committee Recommendations for the 2023-2025 Consumer Debt Grants

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Governor Newsom signed the amended Budget Act of 2022 (the Budget Act) on September 6, 2022. The Budget Act allocates \$15 million in Equal Access Fund dollars for grants to qualified legal services projects (QLSPs) and support centers to provide consumer debt legal services to indigent Californians. These funds must be distributed through a competitive grant process and are available for encumbrance or expenditure through December 31, 2025.

On August 12, 2022, the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission (commission) approved a timeline for making 2023-2025 Consumer Debt competitive awards. So that the grant period can start by January 1, 2023, the commission delegated authority to the Executive Committee (committee) to approve the scoring rubric and request for proposals (RFP). It also delegated authority to a commissioner-staff team to score proposals and to the committee to recommend award amounts for commission approval.

The committee met on November 30, 2022, to recommend consumer debt grant awards to the commission. The commission will then meet on December 13, 2022, to approve award amounts. This memo describes the process used for scoring the consumer debt proposals and presents the committee's funding recommendations for the commission's consideration.

BACKGROUND

The Budget Act allocates \$15 million for grants to QLSPs and support centers to provide “civil legal services for indigent persons related to consumer debt matters affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.” The Budget Act did not define “consumer debt matters.” However, the Request for Proposals (RFP, Attachment A), as approved by the Executive Committee, stated:

“Consumer debt grant funds may be used to provide civil legal services related to:

- Debt collection, wage garnishment, or bank account levy defense,
- Financial abuse related to consumer debt,
- Protection against unfair debt collection practices,
- Protection against unfair or predatory lending and consumer scams,
- Credit reporting and credit discrimination,
- Bankruptcy, and
- Other debt matters including those related to student loan, auto loan, credit card, and medical debt.”

These consumer debt grant funds may not be used to supplant existing resources, and the funds have an encumbrance or expenditure date of December 31, 2025. The grants will have a three-year grant period, from January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2025.

Of the \$15 million, up to 5 percent (\$750,000) is available for State Bar and Judicial Council administrative costs. The remaining funds (at least \$14,250,000) are to be allocated through a competitive grant process. The Budget Act required the competitive grant process give preference to QLSPs and support centers that serve rural or underserved communities.

The State Bar received 30 consumer debt grant proposals requesting about \$22,500,000 combined. The 30 proposals were submitted by 26 QLSPs and four support centers. See Attachment C for profile sheets detailing each proposal.

DISCUSSION

Scoring Criteria

On September 28, 2022, the committee adopted the following rubric for consumer debt awards:

Category	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Below Expectations	Not Addressed
Project impact and strategies: The applicant proposes a project that significantly and directly addresses or will address a compelling need for the particular consumer debt legal services.				
Number of check marks	X25-21 points	X20-11 points	X10 points	X0 points
Subtotal				
Administration: The applicant demonstrates that it has the				

qualifications, experience, resources, and/or partners that it needs to meet the proposal objectives.				
Number of check marks	X20 points	X15 points	X10 points	X0 points
Subtotal				
Serves rural populations: The applicant presents a strategy targeting the consumer debt legal needs of specific rural communities.				
Serves underserved populations: The applicant presents a strategy targeting the consumer debt legal needs of specific underserved communities.				
Project evaluation: The applicant details an evaluation strategy to acquire data that it can use to refine the project's strategies to increase effectiveness in addressing consumer debt matters.				
Number of check marks	X15 points	X10 points	X5 points	X0 points
Subtotal				
Special consideration: Factors including, but not limited to, the applicant proposes a project that is i) replicable, ii) sustainable after the grant period, and/or iii) provides consumer debt legal services that promote the long-term economic health and stability of individuals served.				
	0-10 points			
Total				

The RFP notes that the rubric is a tool to assist in the discussion of proposals. The commission has the discretion to make awards that best accomplish the goals of the Budget Act, even where that might mean funding a program or programs that scored lower on the rubric and not funding a program or programs that scored higher.

The RFP communicated the following explanations to applicants:

- **Project impact and strategies:** Applicants should explain how the project's strategies and goals – activities, partnerships, outputs, outcomes, etc. – will directly and significantly address consumer debt matters impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Applicants should explain why they selected the particular intervention(s) over others and how the interventions will address consumer debt matters particularly affected by the pandemic and resulting economic crisis. The justification for the proposed services should refer to the circumstances and needs of particular populations that the project seeks to serve.
- **Administration:** Applicants should demonstrate their ability to implement and manage

the proposed project. Signs of strong administration includes sufficient staffing, leadership, project monitoring, outreach, and resources. An applicant's history achieving deliverables and complying with the requirements – including deadlines – for other grants is relevant to this criterion.

- **Serves rural populations:** Applicants should describe the extent to which they would serve rural communities. The more the project would concentrate its efforts on rural populations, the more likely it will score a meets or exceeds expectations in this category.

Applicants should also detail their strategy for serving rural Californians. The strategy should consider the challenges they face – economic, geographic, political, and otherwise – to securing effective legal services. Likewise, it should address the likely challenges to providing services. Proposals ought to explain how the project will prioritize outreach and services to rural areas rather than just affirm their eligibility.

The California Commission on Access to Justice recommends defining “rural” as areas that meet the medical service study area (MSSA) standard for “rural” or “frontier.” The California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development identifies MSSA using sub-county clusters of census tracts. The California Commission on Access to Justice argues that MSSA categories of rural and frontier – as opposed to urban – are better suited than counties to classify as rural areas. “Rural” MSSAs have 50,000 or fewer residents and population densities below 250 people per square mile. “Frontier” MSSAs have population densities of fewer than 11 people per square mile.

- **Serves underserved populations:** Applicants should describe the extent to which they would serve underserved communities. The more the project would concentrate its efforts on underserved populations, the more likely it will score a meets or exceeds expectations in this category.

Applicants should also detail their strategy for serving underserved communities. The strategy should consider the challenges they face – economic, geographic, political, and otherwise – to securing effective legal services. Likewise, it should address the likely challenges to providing services. Proposals ought to explain how the project will prioritize outreach and services to underserved communities rather than just affirm their eligibility.

These funds are limited to serving those who are statutorily indigent. Therefore, this criterion asks how the targeted population faces even higher barriers to accessing civil justice than do indigent people generally. Since “serves rural populations” is a separate criterion, “serves underserved populations” refers to serving other populations that are underserved relative to the indigent generally. Such populations may be defined with respect to categories including but not limited to race, ethnicity, age, limited English-proficiency, disability status, veteran status, and immigration status, but the application must demonstrate that the targeted population is relatively underserved.

- **Project evaluation:** Applicants should describe a strategy – frequency, diversity of

approaches, etc. – to assess the effectiveness of project services. At least some evaluation data should be gathered and analyzed in time to allow project refinements during the grant. Dedicating financial and other resources to evaluation is relevant to this criterion.

- **Special consideration:** Applicants may receive additional points for proposing a project that is replicable and/or sustainable beyond the grant period. Applicants may also receive additional points for proposing to provide consumer debt legal services and strategies that promote long-term economic health and stability for individuals served. The applicant should explain how services promote or support long-term financial health in addition to the immediate consumer debt legal issue. The commission may award special consideration points for other convincing or unique project features. If any project receives special consideration points for a factor or factors not listed in the rubric, an explanation will accompany the project's score.

The RFP also provided the following definitions for “not addressed,” “below expectations,” “meets expectations,” and “exceeds expectations:”

- **Not addressed:** A proposal that scores “not addressed” in a category/criterion fails to satisfy that criterion in a meaningful way or lacks the relevant nexus. A proposal might fail to satisfy a criterion in a meaningful way if it articulates only a vague intention to do so. A response might lack the relevant nexus to “serves rural populations,” for instance, if it would serve only an urban community.
- **Below expectations:** A proposal that scores “below expectations” in a category/criterion addresses that criterion but is insufficiently competitive or persuasive to justify a score of “meets expectations.” The proposal might aspire to do too little, for instance, such as only occasionally serve rural clients for the “serves rural populations” criterion. Or the proposal might lack sufficient detail, explanation, or basis in fact to demonstrate its contours or likelihood of success. Since such a proposal might still articulate a feasible project, this score confers some points.
- **Meets expectations:** A proposal that scores “meets expectations” in a category/criterion is competitive and persuasive with respect to that row of the rubric. To be competitive, the proposal will be sufficiently ambitious and/or compelling to merit the use of competitive funds. To be persuasive, the proposal will describe circumstances sufficiently probative of the applicant's intention and ability to accomplish its stated objectives in that criterion.
- **Exceeds expectations:** A proposal that scores “exceeds expectations” in a category/criterion satisfies the standard for “meets expectations” while standing out as particularly compelling or impressive. A project might be especially compelling, for instance, because its strategies would be unusually impactful. Or the proposal might be exceptionally detailed, thorough, evidence-driven, or otherwise well-conceived and convincing.

Review Process

The commission delegated authority to a commissioner-staff scoring team to score consumer debt grant proposals. The scoring team consisted of committee member Erica Connolly, commissioner Catherine Blakemore, and two staff members from the Office of Access & Inclusion. Over the course of five sessions, the scoring team evaluated all 30 proposals using the rubric and definitions above. In a sixth, the scoring team reached recommended funding amounts for each proposal.

Scores

The four-member scoring team arrived at unanimous scores and funding figures for every proposal. The highest score was 89 out of a possible 100 points. The lowest score was 52 points. Given the limited amount of funding available, the scoring team and committee recommend funding the 20 proposals set forth in the table below. These proposals include 20 of the 22 highest scoring proposals – those with scores from 65.5 to 89.¹

Proposals Recommended for Funding (From Highest Score to Lowest Score)

Applicant	Total Score
Inland Counties Legal Services	89
Legal Access Alameda	85
Legal Aid Society of San Diego	84
San Luis Obispo Legal Assistance Foundation	83
Senior Advocacy Network	82
Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice	81
Public Counsel	81
California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.	79
Bay Area Legal Aid	78
Capital Pro Bono Inc.	77
Neighborhood Legal Services	77
Public Law Center	74
OneJustice	73
Senior Citizens Legal Services	73
Western Center on Law and Poverty	71
Legal Assistance to the Elderly	68.5
USD School of Law Legal Clinics	67.5
Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County	67
Santa Clara University Alexander Law School	66
Legal Aid of Marin	65.5

¹ Two proposals, from East Bay Community Law Center and Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, scored highly (72.5 and 70 points, respectively), but State Bar staff believe the proposals would use grant funds to supplant existing resources. Both organizations are currently using unrestricted and/or general operating support funds to provide the work outlined in their grant applications and would propose to use grant funds to reallocate that unrestricted and general operating funding elsewhere. Therefore, the proposals do not meet the grant requirements outlined in the Budget Act and RFP, as State Bar staff interpret the legislative language.

Nearly all of these 20 recommended proposals scored “exceeds expectations” in at least one rubric category—most of them in several. All scored at least 4 out of 10 points in “special consideration.”² Attachment B includes a breakdown of the scores for all proposals.

Funding Levels

Based on the strength of their proposals, the scoring team and committee recommend fully funding most (14 out of 20) of the recommended projects.

For four proposals – those from Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice, Neighborhood Legal Services, Senior Citizens Legal Services, and Western Center on Law and Poverty –, the scoring team recommended reducing their budgets to remove a project feature or set of services that the scoring team found less aligned with the permissible activities or grant requirements as outlined in the RFP.

Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice and Senior Citizens Legal Services both incorporated “financial literacy” or “financial counseling” services as part of their proposed projects. While the scoring team values the importance of these services, a clear link between the financial services and “civil legal services” as defined in the commission’s proposed revised definition was not apparent.³

Neighborhood Legal Services proposed to provide estate planning legal services in addition to traditional consumer debt legal services. While the proposal argued this estate planning work would help to avoid consumer debt in the first place, the scoring team felt this did not clearly align with the permissible activities as outlined in the RFP, which prioritize assisting clients with existing consumer debts.

Finally, the Western Center on Law and Poverty (Western Center) proposes to subgrant some of its project budget to Inland Counties Legal Services (ICLS). ICLS also applied for, and was recommended for, funding in a separate project proposal. Given the limited funding available, the scoring team and committee preferred ICLS not receive funding as both a primary grantee and a subgrantee, particularly since ICLS’s proposal requested and was recommended for funding at the maximum grant award amount of \$1,200,000.

The scoring team originally recommended \$360,000 – the amount to be subgranted to ICLS – be removed from Western Center’s proposed budget. At its November 30, 2022, meeting, the committee passed a resolution with the same funding recommendation. However, the committee asked State Bar staff to follow up with ICLS to inquire whether ICLS would prefer

² The rubric provides up to 10 points in “special consideration” for “[f]actors including, but not limited to, the applicant proposes a project that is i) replicable, ii) sustainable after the grant period, and/or iii) provides consumer debt legal services that promote the long-term economic health and stability of individuals served.”

³ The Budget Act allocates these consumer debt grant funds for “civil legal services for indigent persons related to consumer debt matters affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.” On August 12, 2022, The Legal Services Trust Fund Commission voted to amend State Bar Rule 3.672 to adopt new definitions of “civil” and “legal services.” The new definitions find that financial literacy and education that supports legal rights trainings for consumers is included in legal services, but information that does not support know-your-rights trainings is excluded. It was not clearly apparent to the scoring team that the financial literacy and training proposed in these consumer debt proposals supported know-your-rights trainings.

some of the \$1,200,000 be allocated to the work proposed under the Western Center subgrant instead. ICLS indicated that they would prefer to reduce their own proposal's budget by \$360,000 and fund their subgrant work under the Western Center proposal. The commission may therefore wish to consider awarding \$840,000 to ICLS and \$1,200,000 to Western Center, given this update.

Due to the limited remaining funding available, the two lowest-scoring proposals still recommended for funding – from Santa Clara University Alexander Law School and Legal Aid of Marin – are recommended to receive approximately 60 percent of their budget request.

For any proposals receiving less than their full budget request, State Bar staff will require budget modifications that confirm any grant funds received will not be spent on non-qualifying activities (or in a way that would result in ICLS receiving more than \$1,200,000 in total grant funding).

Award Recommendations
(From Highest Score to Lowest Score)

Applicant	Score	Recommended Three-Year Grant Amount, as Approved at November 30, 2022 Committee Meeting
Inland Counties Legal Services	89	\$1,200,000*
Legal Access Alameda	85	\$273,270
Legal Aid Society of San Diego	84	\$1,200,000
San Luis Obispo Legal Assistance Foundation	83	\$322,950
Senior Advocacy Network	82	\$712,200
Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice	81	\$1,102,500
Public Counsel	81	\$1,199,382
California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.	79	\$715,221
Bay Area Legal Aid	78	\$1,200,000
Capital Pro Bono Inc.	77	\$330,000
Neighborhood Legal Services	77	\$816,458
Public Law Center	74	\$948,828
OneJustice	73	\$750,000
Senior Citizens Legal Services	73	\$400,500
Western Center on Law and Poverty	73	\$840,000*
Legal Assistance to the Elderly	68.5	\$966,606
USD School of Law Legal Clinics	67.5	\$265,791
Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County	67	\$281,775
Santa Clara University Alexander Law School	66	\$269,871
Legal Aid of Marin	65.5	\$454,648
Total		\$14,250,000

*State Bar staff conducted follow-up with Inland Counties Legal Services (ICLS) to determine whether the organization preferred to receive full funding of their proposal or divert some funds to their proposed subgrant under Western Center on Law and Poverty's (Western Center) proposal. ICLS indicated they would prefer to reduce their own proposed budget by

\$360,000 and fully fund their subgrant work under Western Center’s proposal. If the commission agrees, this would result in an award amount of \$840,000 to ICLS and \$1,200,000 to Western Center.

The above organizations would receive, on average, 92 percent of their budget request. State Bar staff has followed up with each program recommended to receive less than requested to see how each would have to adjust its deliverables. Deliverables would be reduced, at most, proportional to the recommended budget reduction. Attachment B compares each proposal’s funding request to the committee’s funding recommendation.

CONCLUSION

Funding the 20 recommended proposals would support a diversity of high-impact consumer debt projects throughout the state and would particularly serve rural and underserved communities. The projects scored strongly against the rubric, which the committee designed to implement the Budget Act’s priorities and requirements.

Taken together, these 20 proposals would provide a variety of consumer debt legal services across the state of California (See Attachment D for a map of recommended projects). They endeavor to provide legal advice and representation, as well as clinic services for pro se litigants, on all types of consumer debt including credit card debt, student debt, and medical debt. They propose to assist with bank account levy defense, wage garnishment defense, and bankruptcy. Several projects also seek to serve particularly unique or underserved populations, including undocumented workers, victims of domestic violence, and individuals eligible for hospital charity care programs.

The scoring team and committee would have recommended many of the remaining proposals for an award but for limited funding. The remaining proposals also described thoughtful and needed consumer debt legal services work. On December 13, however, the committee will ask the commission to award funding to the 20 projects detailed in this memo.

RECOMMENDATION

Should the commission concur with the committee’s proposal, and State Bar staff’s update given ICLS’s response to follow up requested by the committee, passage of the following resolution is recommended:

RESOLVED, that the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission Executive Committee approves the following 2023–2025 consumer debt grant recipients and amounts:

Applicant	Score	Three-Year Grant Amount
Inland Counties Legal Services	89	\$840,000
Legal Access Alameda	85	\$273,270
Legal Aid Society of San Diego	84	\$1,200,000
San Luis Obispo Legal Assistance Foundation	83	\$322,950

ATTACHMENT E

Senior Advocacy Network	82	\$712,200
Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice	81	\$1,102,500
Public Counsel	81	\$1,199,382
California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.	79	\$715,221
Bay Area Legal Aid	78	\$1,200,000
Capital Pro Bono Inc.	77	\$330,000
Neighborhood Legal Services	77	\$816,458
Public Law Center	74	\$948,828
OneJustice	73	\$750,000
Senior Citizens Legal Services	73	\$400,500
Western Center on Law and Poverty	73	\$1,200,000
Legal Assistance to the Elderly	68.5	\$966,606
USD School of Law Legal Clinics	67.5	\$265,791
Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County	67	\$281,775
Santa Clara University Alexander Law School	66	\$269,871
Legal Aid of Marin	65.5	\$454,648
Total		\$14,250,000

ATTACHMENT(S) LIST

- A. 2023 – 2025 Consumer Debt Grant Request for Proposals
- B. Scores and Funding Recommendations for Consumer Debt Grant Proposals
- C. Profile Sheets of Consumer Debt Grant Proposals
- D. Map of Recommended Consumer Debt Projects



2023-2025 Consumer Debt Grant

Request for Proposals

Updated November 7, 2022

Background

In June 2022, Governor Newsom signed the Budget Act of 2022 allocating \$15 million in Equal Access Fund dollars for grants to qualified legal services projects (QLSPs) and support centers to provide consumer debt legal services. The Budget Act requires these funds be used “to provide civil legal services for indigent persons related to consumer debt matters affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.” After deductions for administrative costs, the consumer debt funds are to be distributed through a competitive grant process.¹

Consumer debt grant funds may be used to provide civil legal services related to:

- Debt collection, wage garnishment, or bank account levy defense,
- Financial abuse related to consumer debt,
- Protection against unfair debt collection practices,
- Protection against unfair or predatory lending and consumer scams,
- Credit reporting and credit discrimination,
- Bankruptcy, and
- Other debt matters including those related to student loan, auto loan, credit card, and medical debt.

Eligibility

To be eligible for consideration, applicants must submit proposals for 2023-2025 Consumer Debt Grant funding by **Friday, October 14, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. (PT)** through SmartSimple. No extensions will be granted. To be eligible for the award, applicants must be a QLSP or support center under California Business and Professions Code [section 6213\(a\)-\(b\)](#).

Competitive Grant Parameters

¹ Any funds not allocated pursuant to the competitive grant process (due to too few applicants, for example) shall be distributed to QLSPs and support centers pursuant to the IOLTA/EAF formula.

1. Consumer debt grant awards must be used to provide civil legal services related to consumer debt matters affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. For the purposes of this grant, consumer debt does not include government debt other than student loan debt (i.e., fines and fees) or child support debt; however, services related to these debts can be covered by the grant if the client is also receiving the services listed above. Consumer debt matters in small claims court are permissible.²
2. Grant funds must be used to provide services to indigent Californians, as defined by California Business and Professions Code [section 6213\(d\)](#).
3. There is no minimum amount of funding that programs may request. The maximum that a program may request is \$1,200,000 for three years (payments to grantees will be made in three equal installments on or near January 1, 2023, January 1, 2024, and January 1, 2025). Applicants must budget for equal amounts in each year of grant when proposing their budget.
4. Grant funds may not supplant existing resources. Applicants will need to explain how they will avoid doing so.
5. Applicants that serve rural or underserved communities shall receive preference, as required by the Budget Act of 2022.

Award Information

The commission will distribute at least \$14,250,000 in competitive funds.³ It plans to vote on final award amounts in December 2022. The competitive grant period will start on January 1, 2023, and end on December 31, 2025. The commission seeks to fund high-impact projects and a diversity of consumer debt legal services throughout the state.

Selection Criteria

Award decisions are final and without appeal. The funding level of awards will depend on the number and quality of the proposals as well as proposed budgets. A successful response to this RFP will expressly and persuasively:

² Housing-related debt services, such as those related to home loans and back rent, are also permissible; however, State Bar staff strongly recommend programs pursue a 2023-2024 homelessness prevention (HP 4) grant award to provide those services instead.

³ The initially chaptered version of the Budget Act of 2022, SB 154, made 2.5 percent (\$375,000) available for administrative costs. An amended version of the Budget Act, AB 179, later increased the amount available for administrative costs to 5 percent (\$750,000).

- Identify how the proposed project aligns with the permissible uses and would meet the compelling needs of the population(s) it targets;
- Articulate the estimated outputs (e.g., number of cases closed) and outcomes (e.g., increase in knowledge of lender’s rights) of services. Applicants should identify goals they seek to achieve with this grant that are tied to the specific activities and deliverables proposed;
- Highlight how clients in “rural or underserved communities”—please see definitions below—will be effectively targeted and served, if applicable; and
- Describe the applicant’s qualifications and staffing to perform the proposed work.

The commission will use its best efforts to distribute grants statewide and to fund a diversity of consumer debt interventions. Additionally, the Executive Committee (committee), on behalf of the commission, has adopted the following rubric to guide its deliberations:

Category	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Below Expectations	Not Addressed
Project impact and strategies: The applicant proposes a project that significantly and directly addresses or will address a compelling need for the particular consumer debt legal services.				
Number of check marks	X25-21 points	X20-11 points	X10 points	X0 points
Subtotal				
Administration: The applicant demonstrates that it has the qualifications, experience, resources, and/or partners that it needs to meet the proposal objectives.				
Number of check marks	X20 points	X15 points	X10 points	X0 points
Subtotal				
Serves rural populations: The applicant presents a strategy targeting the consumer debt legal needs of specific rural communities.				
Serves underserved populations: The applicant presents a strategy targeting the consumer debt legal needs of specific underserved communities.				
Project evaluation: The applicant details an evaluation strategy to acquire data that it can use to refine the project’s strategies to increase				

effectiveness in addressing consumer debt matters.				
Number of check marks	X15 points	X10 points	X5 points	X0 points
Subtotal				
Special consideration: Factors including, but not limited to, the applicant proposes a project that is i) replicable, ii) sustainable after the grant period, and/or iii) provides consumer debt legal services that promote the long-term economic health and stability of individuals served.				
	0-10 points			
Total				

Note: The rubric is a tool to guide discussion of proposals. The commission has the discretion to make awards that best accomplish the goals of the Budget Act of 2022, even where that might mean funding a program or programs that scored lower on the rubric and not funding a program or programs that scored higher.

The following explanations accompany the rubric's core criteria:

- **Project impact and strategies:** Applicants should explain how the project's strategies and goals – activities, partnerships, outputs, outcomes, etc. – will directly and significantly address consumer debt matters impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Applicants should explain why they selected the particular intervention(s) over others and how the interventions will address consumer debt matters particularly affected by the pandemic and resulting economic crisis. The justification for the proposed services should refer to the circumstances and needs of particular populations that the project seeks to serve.
- **Administration:** Applicants should demonstrate their ability to implement and manage the proposed project. Signs of strong administration includes sufficient staffing, leadership, project monitoring, outreach, and resources. An applicant's history achieving deliverables and complying with the requirements – including deadlines – for other grants is relevant to this criterion.
- **Serves rural populations:** Applicants should describe the extent to which they would serve rural communities. The more the project would concentrate its efforts on rural populations, the more likely it will score a meets or exceeds expectations in this category.

Applicants should also detail their strategy for serving rural Californians. The strategy should consider the challenges they face – economic, geographic, political, and otherwise – to securing effective legal services. Likewise, it should address the likely challenges to providing services. Proposals ought to explain how the project will prioritize outreach and services to rural areas rather than just affirm their eligibility.

The California Commission on Access to Justice recommends defining “rural” as areas that meet the medical service study area (MSSA) standard for “rural” or “frontier.” The California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development identifies MSSA using sub-county clusters of census tracts. The California Commission on Access to Justice argues that MSSA categories of rural and frontier – as opposed to urban – are better suited than counties to classify as rural areas. “Rural” MSSAs have 50,000 or fewer residents and population densities below 250 people per square mile. “Frontier” MSSAs have population densities of fewer than 11 people per square mile.

- **Serves underserved populations:** Applicants should describe the extent to which they would serve underserved communities. The more the project would concentrate its efforts on underserved populations, the more likely it will score a meets or exceeds expectations in this category.

Applicants should also detail their strategy for serving underserved communities. The strategy should consider the challenges they face – economic, geographic, political, and otherwise – to securing effective legal services. Likewise, it should address the likely challenges to providing services. Proposals ought to explain how the project will prioritize outreach and services to underserved communities rather than just affirm their eligibility.

These funds are limited to serving those who are statutorily indigent. Therefore, this criterion asks how the targeted population faces even higher barriers to accessing civil justice than do indigent people generally. Since “serves rural populations” is a separate criterion, “serves underserved populations” refers to serving other populations that are underserved relative to the indigent generally. Such populations may be defined with respect to categories including but not limited to race, ethnicity, age, limited English-proficiency, disability status, veteran status, and immigration status, but the application must demonstrate that the targeted population is relatively underserved.

- **Project evaluation:** Applicants should describe a strategy – frequency, diversity of approaches, etc. – to assess the effectiveness of project services. At least some evaluation data should be gathered and analyzed in time to allow project refinements during the grant. Dedicating financial and other resources to evaluation is relevant to

this criterion.

- **Special consideration:** Applicants may receive additional points for proposing a project that is replicable and/or sustainable beyond the grant period. Applicants may also receive additional points for proposing to provide consumer debt legal services and strategies that promote long-term economic health and stability for individuals served. The applicant should explain how services promote or support long-term financial health in addition to the immediate consumer debt legal issue. The commission may award special consideration points for other convincing or unique project features. If any project receives special consideration points for a factor or factors not listed in the rubric, an explanation will accompany the project's score.

The following provide guidance for “not addressed,” “below expectations,” “meets expectations,” and “exceeds expectations:”

- **Not addressed:** A proposal that scores “not addressed” in a category/criterion fails to satisfy that criterion in a meaningful way or lacks the relevant nexus. A proposal might fail to satisfy a criterion in a meaningful way if it articulates only a vague intention to do so. A response might lack the relevant nexus to “serves rural populations,” for instance, if it would serve only an urban community.
- **Below expectations:** A proposal that scores “below expectations” in a category/criterion addresses that criterion but is insufficiently competitive or persuasive to justify a score of “meets expectations.” The proposal might aspire to do too little, for instance, such as only occasionally serve rural clients for the “serves rural populations” criterion. Or the proposal might lack sufficient detail, explanation, or basis in fact to demonstrate its contours or likelihood of success. Since such a proposal might still articulate a feasible project, this score confers some points.
- **Meets expectations:** A proposal that scores “meets expectations” in a category/criterion is competitive and persuasive with respect to that row of the rubric. To be competitive, the proposal will be sufficiently ambitious and/or compelling to merit the use of competitive funds. To be persuasive, the proposal will describe circumstances sufficiently probative of the applicant's intention and ability to accomplish its stated objectives in that criterion.
- **Exceeds expectations:** A proposal that scores “exceeds expectations” in a category/criterion satisfies the standard for “meets expectations” while standing out as particularly compelling or impressive. A project might be especially compelling, for instance, because its strategies would be unusually impactful. Or the proposal might be exceptionally detailed, thorough, evidence-driven, or otherwise well-conceived and convincing.

2022-2025 Consumer Debt Grant-making Timeline

Date(s)	Activity
July 11 – August 25, 2022	Staff drafts RFP and scoring rubric
August 2, 2022	Executive Committee recommends distribution timeline and delegation of authority
August 12, 2022	Commission approves distribution timeline and delegation of authority
September 1, 2022	Executive Committee approves RFP and scoring rubric
September 12, 2022	Staff releases RFP and application on SmartSimple
October 14, 2022	Applications due
October 17 – November 18, 2022	Application review
November 30, 2022	Executive Committee recommends grant awards
~December 13, 2022	Commission approves grant awards
December 14 – 28, 2022	Staff sends grant agreements and processes invoices
January 1, 2023	Grant period begins

Application Components

A complete Consumer Debt grant application will include the components below. Please see the application instructions for detailed guidance.

1. Form A: Project Profile

The project⁴ profile collects high-level information about the project’s geographic focus, budget request, partnerships, current funding (if any), and abstract.

2. Form B: Project Description

The project description collects detailed information about the project’s needs, clients, partnerships, goals, activities, deliverables, and strategies for outreach, accessibility, and evaluation. It also asks for detailed narratives about the applicant’s qualifications and resources to perform the work effectively, and the project’s replicability and sustainability beyond the grant period.

3. Form C: Project Budget

The project budget collects information on how the program proposes to allocate Consumer Debt funds to the project over three years. Proposals will need to identify staff by their role (e.g., “managing attorney”) and estimate the amount of time that these roles would spend on the project. The project staff, budget, and description should be consistent with each other.

⁴ “Project” here refers to the specific project for which the applicant (which may itself be in its entirety a Qualified Legal Services Project) seeks funding.

4. Form D: Budget Narrative

The budget narrative collects information about each line of the budget, noting whether the grant will directly pay for specific items or be allocated on a percentage or other basis.

5. Form E: Project Assurances

Programs will have to acknowledge the following:

- A. Applicant will use funds it receives from the 2023-2025 Consumer Debt Grant only for purposes stated in its application. Should the State Bar of California (State Bar) determine in its sole discretion that applicant is not likely to use all funds received for these purposes within the grant period, Applicant will return funds to the State Bar as directed to the State Bar.
- B. Applicant will not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disability, age, marital or domestic partnership status, medical condition, or sexual orientation.
- C. Applicant will comply with quality control procedures adopted by the State Bar.
- D. Applicant will permit reasonable site visits by the State Bar and will present additional information deemed reasonably necessary by the State Bar to determine compliance with the terms of the grant.
- E. Applicant will comply with fiscal management and control procedures adopted by the State Bar.
- F. Any proposal submitted for a Consumer Debt Grant, and all documents submitted pursuant to issuance of this funding, are public documents, and may be disclosed to any person.
- G. Applicant assures that, to the extent this grant is being sought for an existing project, the funds will be used for services in addition to those already funded by other funds and will not supplant current funding committed to that project.
- H. Applicant will file regular program and financial reports, as may be required by the State Bar, and cooperate with other data collection requests by the State Bar for this grant project.

- I. The State Bar is permitted, in its sole discretion, to adjust Applicant's award at any time to reflect the actual amount of funding available for Consumer Debt competitive grants. Consequently, grantees shall not be guaranteed any specific dollar amount in grant funds, or any grant funds at all, if funds received are insufficient or unavailable to the State Bar.

Reporting Requirements

Grantees must report quantitative and qualitative data describing the clients they served and the activities they performed.

Consumer Debt grants must comply with the existing framework for Equal Access Program reporting except where necessary to meet other state requirements. Reporting requirements may be subject to guidance from the Department of Finance and other agencies. As such, some requirements might become known to the State Bar at a later date.

Reporting requirements will likely include:

1. **Expenditure Reports**

Grantees will have to submit at least annual spending reports that compare expenditures to the approved budget. Grantees would have to report budget variances exceeding 10 percent to the State Bar.

2. **Mid-Year and Annual Evaluation Reports**

Grantees will have to submit mid-year and annual reports with data on the target population(s) served by the grant activities:

- A. Main benefits for all cases according to those codes and definitions in the California Legal Aid Reporting Handbook that are relevant to the permissible activities of the Consumer Debt grants.
- B. Geographic and demographic data of clients.
- C. Economic benefits for cases that resulted in an award for or savings to the client.
- D. Highest levels of service provided where there was an attorney-client relationship and aggregated data about all other services (e.g., trainings).
- E. Any other data necessary to comply with reporting requirements.

3. **Final Evaluation Report**

In addition to the mid-year and annual services reports, grantees will have to submit a final evaluation about the following outputs and outcomes, among others:

- A. Service population: How did this project impact the people it served? What changed for them, or what negative outcomes were prevented?
- B. Community impact: Describe whether and how this project has changed the community it serves.
- C. Evaluation/Assessment: Describe the processes used to assess the effectiveness of this project and any lessons learned regarding the project itself or the community it serves.
- D. Reports: Upload any report completed regarding the evaluation or assessment of this project or demonstrating the effect of services rendered (e.g., client satisfaction survey results, pre- and post-service results, number of cases in which stipulations were reached, number of trials, outcome of trials, etc.).
- E. Other impacts: Will this project have any immediate or long-term impacts that are not captured in main benefits reporting?
- F. Continuation of the project: Describe any plans to continue the project after the grant period.
- G. Publications: Describe any future publication or distribution plans for materials resulting from grant activities; provide the URL for online resources related to this project (web sites, resource libraries, etc.).
- H. Impact work and materials:
 - Overview of impact litigation cases: For any grant-funded impact cases your organization litigated as part of this project during the grant period, whether open or closed, report the case name, number of individuals estimated to be impacted, date filed, venue, and any partners or co-counsel participating.
 - Overview of public policy advocacy activities: Describe any grant-funded public policy advocacy activities your organization engaged in during the grant period.
 - Training and support activities: Describe any grant-funded training or other support activities not identified above. For support centers, use this space to provide quantitative and qualitative data about trainings, convenings, research, and other support for QLSPs.

For Technical Support

If you have any questions, please contact Danielle MacRae, Senior Program Analyst, at (213) 765-1324 or Danielle.MacRae@calbar.ca.gov.

Scores and Funding Recommendations for Consumer Debt Grant Proposals, as Recommended at November 30, 2022 Executive Committee Meeting

Rubric Points Awarded						
	Project Impact	Admin.	Serves Rural	Serves Underserved	Eval.	Special Consideration
Exceeds Expectations	25-21	20	15	15	15	1-10
Meets Expectations	20-11	15	10	10	10	
Below Expectations	10	10	5	5	5	
Not Addressed	0	0	0	0	0	

Organization	Counties Served	Amount Requested	Project Impact	Admin.	Serves Rural	Serves Underserved	Eval.	Special Consideration	Total Score	Funding Recomm.
Inland Counties Legal Services*	Riverside, San Bernardino	\$1,200,000	23	20	10	15	15	6	89	\$ 1,200,000
Legal Access Alameda	Alameda, Contra Costa, Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, San Benito, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sonoma	\$273,270	24	20	15	10	10	6	85	\$ 273,270
Legal Aid Society of San Diego	San Diego	\$1,200,000	22	20	10	15	10	7	84	\$ 1,200,000
San Luis Obispo Legal Assistance Foundation	San Luis Obispo	\$322,950	22	15	15	15	10	6	83	\$ 322,950
Senior Advocacy Network	Merced, Stanislaus	\$712,200	21	15	15	15	10	6	82	\$ 712,200
Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice	Los Angeles	\$1,200,000	15	20	10	15	15	6	81	\$ 1,102,500

Public Counsel	Los Angeles	\$1,199,382	20	20	10	15	10	6	81	\$ 1,199,382
California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.	Colusa, Fresno, Imperial, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Monterey, San Diego, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tulare, Ventura, Yuba	\$715,221	19	15	15	15	10	5	79	\$ 715,221
Bay Area Legal Aid	Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Clara	\$1,200,000	22	20	5	15	10	6	78	\$ 1,200,000
Capital Pro Bono Inc.	Butte, Nevada, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama, Yuba	\$330,000	23	15	15	10	10	4	77	\$ 330,000
Neighborhood Legal Services	Los Angeles	\$1,200,000	20	20	10	10	10	7	77	\$ 816,458
Public Law Center	Orange	\$948,828	22	20	0	15	10	7	74	\$ 948,828
OneJustice	Statewide	\$750,000	20	15	5	10	15	8	73	\$ 750,000
Senior Citizens Legal Services	San Benito, Santa Cruz	\$460,500	18	20	10	10	10	5	73	\$ 400,500
East Bay Community Law Center	Alameda	\$1,200,000	20	17.5	0	15	15	5	72.5	
Western Center on Law and Poverty*	Statewide	\$1,200,000	20	10	10	15	10	6	71	\$ 840,000

Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights	Alameda, Contra Costa, Los Angeles, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, Sonoma	\$265,500	21	15	5	15	10	4	70	
Legal Assistance to the Elderly	San Francisco	\$966,606	21	17.5	0	15	10	5	68.5	\$ 966,606
USD School of Law Legal Clinics	San Diego	\$265,791	20	15	7.5	10	10	5	67.5	\$ 265,791
Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County	San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura	\$281,775	18	15	10	10	10	4	67	\$ 281,775
Santa Clara University Alexander Law Center	San Mateo, Santa Clara	\$450,000	20	15	5	10	10	6	66	\$ 269,871
Legal Aid of Marin	Marin	\$758,115	19	15	7.5	10	10	4	65.5	\$ 454,648
Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County	San Mateo	\$300,000	20	15	10	10	5	5	65	
Open Door Legal	San Francisco	\$900,000	20	15	0	10	15	5	65	
Community Legal Aid SoCal	Los Angeles, Orange	\$639,990	20	15	0	15	5	5	60	
Housing and Economic Rights Advocates	Butte, Fresno, Kings, Madera, Tulare, Yolo	\$1,200,000	18	15	10	5	5	6	59	
National Health Law Program	Statewide	\$225,000	13	16.3	5	10	10	4	58.3	
California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform	Statewide	\$467,586	16	15	5	10	5	5	56	
Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino	Riverside, San Bernardino	\$1,200,000	18	15	7.5	5	5	3	53.5	

Riverside Legal Aid	Riverside	\$450,000	10	15	10	10	5	2	52	
									Total	\$ 14,250,000

*After the November 30, 2022, Executive Committee meeting, State Bar staff conducted follow-up with Inland Counties Legal Services (ICLS) to determine whether the organization preferred to receive full funding of their proposal or divert some funds to their proposed subgrant under Western Center on Law and Poverty's (Western Center) proposal. ICLS indicated they would prefer to reduce their own proposed budget by \$360,000 and fully fund their subgrant work under Western Center's proposal. If the commission agrees, this would result in an award amount of \$840,000 to ICLS and \$1,200,000 to Western Center.

2023-2025 CONSUMER DEBT GRANT PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name		Project Title	
Bay Area Legal Aid		Legal Assistance to Consumers Impacted by the Pandemic	
Amount Requested	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Administrative Costs	
\$1,200,000	9.19%	14.6%	
Partner Organizations			
SparkPoint Contra Costa, SparkPoint Fremont, Mission Economic Development Agency, San Mateo County Law Library			
County(ies) Served			
Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Clara			
Project Abstract			
<p>Bay Area Legal Aid's (BayLegal) Consumer Rights Unit (CRU) currently serves approximately 800 Bay Area consumers each year. The vast majority of these consumers receive services limited to pro se assistance at our clinics; BayLegal lacks the capacity to provide more in-depth legal services to all clinic participants who need it. This project's goal is to increase our capacity to accept greater numbers of clinic participants as clients (and accept additional client referrals), providing legal counsel and limited and full-scope representation on issues critical to their ability to avoid extreme financial distress and achieve long term stability. This project will serve indigent consumers in six of the seven counties that comprise BayLegal's service area: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Mateo, and Santa Clara. The project will emphasize reaching elderly, disabled, and limited English proficient (LEP) consumers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic who are at risk of financial catastrophe.</p> <p>Each year the CRU will provide legal services to 60 (55 in year one) clients. These services will include legal advice and limited and full-scope representation to defend debt collection actions, negotiate debt collection hardship dismissals and affordable settlements, remove credit reporting barriers and related affirmative litigation, file complaints with federal and state enforcement agencies, and resolve consumer debt issues related to identity theft and scams targeting vulnerable consumers. Staff will also engage in impact litigation and outreach to non-profit CBOs to strengthen the project's impact and efficacy.</p>			
Target Population			
<p>This project will serve indigent consumers in six of the seven counties that comprise BayLegal's service area: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Mateo, and Santa Clara. (Funding is secured to provide consumer legal services for residents of San Francisco.) Census data show that 19% of the combined populations of our target counties live at or below 200% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL), and 49% pay more than 30% of their income toward rent -- indicators of potential consumer difficulties. Our project will target people over age 60, individuals with disabilities, and people who have limited English proficiency, given their short- and long-term financial stability is most at risk without expert legal assistance.</p> <p>The CRU's pro per Consumer Rights Clinics are our primary source for identifying potential clients. Since January 2021, 30% of clinic participants were over 60, while 27% primarily spoke a language other than English, and 30% had disabilities. Members of our priority populations are largely unable to represent themselves in court or negotiations, lacking understanding of how to navigate the technological and procedural processes for appearing in court or disputing debts under credit reporting laws. In order to defend themselves, most LEP consumers must pay for their own interpreters in courts that handle small dollar collection cases. BayLegal currently lacks capacity to provide advice or limited and full scope representation to all clinic participants who need more in-depth assistance, and this project's goal is to increase capacity for these services.</p>			
Will this project address consumer debt matters in rural communities?			Yes
Will this project address consumer debt matters in particularly underserved communities?			Yes
Project Goals and Deliverables			
The project's is to improve the financial stability of highly vulnerable Bay Area residents by increasing the number of consumers who receive legal counsel and representation services from the CRU, helping them resolve immediate			

issues and lay a path for long-term security. Each year the CRU will open new cases for 60 (55 in year one) indigent elderly, disabled, and LEP consumers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic who are at risk of financial catastrophe. To strengthen referral streams from target communities and empower consumers, CRU staff will conduct 14 outreach efforts during the grant period to communities and CBOs serving them. Project activities will include:

- Legal advice on a range of consumer legal services that grew out of, or were exacerbated by, the pandemic.
- Full scope representation in defending debt collection actions by “debt buyers” in Superior Court.
- Limited scope representation in debt collection actions to negotiate hardship dismissals and affordable settlements.
- Full scope assistance with credit reporting disputes of debts – with an emphasis on tenancy related debts – impacting a consumer’s access to affordable housing and related affirmative litigation under state and federal consumer protection laws.
- Affirmative “impact” litigation to address unfair, systemic collection and credit reporting practices.
- Full and limited scope assistance with filing complaints to federal and state enforcement agencies and resolving consumer debt issues related to identity theft and scams targeting elderly, disabled and LEP consumers.
- Outreach to target populations and CBOs, including development and distribution of multilingual know-your-rights (KYR) materials and videos.

Evaluation

To measure and evaluate the project’s effectiveness, BayLegal program staff will capture data at intake (updated throughout the course of services) including the number, type, and level of services provided; client/participant demographics; legal issues addressed; case outcomes; and main and economic benefits achieved. This information is stored in Justice Server, our case management system, and will be queried and analyzed by grants staff to prepare reports and help program managers assess progress. Collected data will be compared against proposed goals and deliverables to assess the strength of our approach, quality of services, and effectiveness at reaching target populations. The Managing Attorney will also gather qualitative impressions to evaluate project effectiveness through weekly internal case reviews, assessment of advocates’ work, regular communications with partners, and anecdotes from staff and clients. BayLegal has begun collecting satisfaction data from clients as their cases are closed. Surveys are transmitted via text message, and responses received are stored in Justice Server, so that data can be pulled and analyzed. Using data and qualitative measures, we will evaluate the project strategies and goals and adjust as needed.

How might the work of the proposed project be replicable and/or sustainable beyond the grant period?

The proposed project will provide a model for other legal services organizations to leverage existing services available to consumers, such as pro per clinics and legal advice hotlines run by legal services organizations or court self-help centers. Through screening and referral from these sources, the project will maximize the impact of limited legal resources by identifying and assisting those consumers who are least able to represent themselves. The KYR videos will provide key consumer rights information that will benefit BayLegal and other legal service organizations’ consumer protection practices well beyond the grant period. The consumer collection defense manual will systematize CRU’s experience effectively representing consumers, with input from other consumer advocates, and help BayLegal and other legal service organizations to develop and maintain their programs.

BayLegal is committed to sustaining the work of the Consumer Rights Unit as key to our core goals of advancing housing and income stability for people in poverty. The firm has a successful track record of securing funds from a variety of sources to support this team and will allocate agency resources including unrestricted funding, staffing, and fundraising efforts to ensure continuity.

2023-2025 CONSUMER DEBT GRANT PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name		Project Title	
California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform		Long Term Care Consumer Debt Project	
Amount Requested	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Administrative Costs	
\$467,586	5.81%	4.49%	
Partner Organizations			
N/A			
County(ies) Served			
Statewide			
Project Abstract			
<p>Through the Nursing Home Debt Prevention project, CANHR will improve the capacity of legal services staff to help clients prevent and address nursing home debt, educate consumers about their rights in avoiding debt, and support individuals in resolving unfair debt issues. CANHR will create training and education materials outlining the rights to which residents of skilled nursing homes are entitled. Many rights exist which can help residents avoid debt, such as the right to receive monthly itemized statements, however, nursing homes frequently violate these rights, and often engage in illegal debt collection practices.</p> <p>CANHR will offer training and technical assistance to QLSP staff, Ombudsman, and advocates who help residents resolve issues with quality of care in nursing homes, and work to resolve complaints. The project will create a “Know Your Rights” postcard outlining relevant residents’ rights, and resources to prevent debt. Postcard will be distributed to residents through partnership with QLSP and Ombudsman programs.</p> <p>To support individuals who have incurred debt after their rights were violated, or when debt is unjustly applied, CANHR will develop sample letters for use by QLSPs. These include demand and dispute letters, and templates for individuals who are “judgment proof.” CANHR will also create fact sheets about laws preventing nursing homes from collecting from families of nursing home residents. CANHR will conduct administrative advocacy with the Department of Public Health which regulates nursing homes, to encourage them to pursue illegal actions, and the Division of Medi-Cal Fraud and Elder Abuse to pursue fraudulent debt collections.</p>			
Target Population			
<p>The target population for this project is staff of qualified legal services programs across California and low-income older adults and individuals with disabilities residing in skilled nursing facilities. The geographic area to be served is the entire state of California, with a particular emphasis on rural counties. This target population is vulnerable to unscrupulous practices of facilities who engage in unlawful violations of their rights which can result in unnecessary debt.</p> <p>It is estimated that 62 percent of residents of nursing homes are on Medi-Cal, but many individuals who come into facilities for short stays are not provided with information about available Medi-Cal insurance, accruing high debt, even though they may be eligible for long term care coverage. Families and friends of people being admitted to nursing homes are often under high stress, forced to make a placement decision after an unexpected health emergency, and are signing admission agreements that are long and complicated, often without a knowledgeable facility staff to explain their options for staying and paying beyond Medicare coverage, or their own right to be free from their loved ones’ debt.</p>			
Will this project address consumer debt matters in rural communities?			Yes
Will this project address consumer debt matters in particularly underserved communities?			Yes
Project Goals and Deliverables			
CANHR’s goals and deliverables include:			

- Develop training materials for QLSP and professionals, develop template letters challenging illegal debt collection related to nursing home admission agreements.
- Hosting 3 trainings for QLSPs across California.
- Provide technical assistance or training to individual QLSPs on topics as requested.
- Develop a “Know Your Rights” informational postcard, translated into Spanish. Distribute 12,000 postcards across the entire project to residents of nursing homes, utilizing partnerships with QLSPs and Ombudsman, particularly in rural areas or communities with high populations of immigrants and/or LEP individuals.
- Develop consumer education fact sheet on nursing home debt, with information on resident rights, the rights of family and friends to avoid debt responsibilities, and links to CANHR resources on Medi-Cal for long term care.
- Distribute consumer education materials to consumer groups including Family and Resident Councils.
- Hold at least 6 educational trainings throughout the project for Ombudsman and other advocates on residents rights to prevent debt, and remedies resolving unjust debt.
- Engage in administrative advocacy with the Department of Public Health Licensing & Certification Program to develop policy or regulations around the monitoring of admission agreements to prevent the use of illegal clauses such as "responsible party" provisions.
- Work with the California Attorney General's Division of Medi-Cal Fraud and Elder Abuse to pursue legal remedies against fraudulent debt collection practices.
- Provide a hotline offering consumer counseling, and file formal complaints against facilities which violate residents' rights.

Evaluation

CANHR conducts an annual survey of QLSP staff to identify top needs for training, which helps drive the planning of training and monitors trends in the legal services field. In order to evaluate the effectiveness of training provided, legal services staff are asked to complete an evaluation of each session, including open ended feedback sections. The organization uses a Salesforce database to track hotline calls and individuals provided direct representation with issues related to grant outcomes.

CANHR tracks the number of unique visitors who download consumer fact sheets to determine the topics that receive the most web traffic. For planned consumer education sessions, CANHR will utilize a feedback survey for attendees, to gain insight on their understanding of the training topic, their satisfaction with the training, and their need for additional educational training.

How might the work of the proposed project be replicable and/or sustainable beyond the grant period?

CANHR will continue to advocate for long term care resident rights regarding illegal debt practices, and continue to partner with legal services organizations for training, technical assistance and advocacy support. This project will create lasting educational and advocacy tools which will support future training and consumer education beyond the grant period. It is expected that administrative advocacy conducted through this project will strengthen protections for nursing home consumers and enhance the enforcement system that regulates facilities.

2023-2025 CONSUMER DEBT GRANT PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name		Project Title	
California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.		Addressing the impact of COVID-19 on medical debt in rural California	
Amount Requested	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Administrative Costs	
\$715,221	11.74%	14.53%	
Partner Organizations			
N/A			
County(ies) Served			
Colusa, Fresno, Imperial, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Monterey, San Diego, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tulare, Ventura, Yuba			
Project Abstract			
<p>CRLA will reduce the impact of medical debt on underserved, rural Californians by increasing access to legal services to address medical debt and related health insurance coverage matters. This will be accomplished by expanding the geographic scope of CRLA's Health Consumer Program, which has historically limited services to Imperial County. The goal of this project will be to decrease medical debt for low-income individuals and families living in rural and semi-rural California counties – a population facing medical debt burden due to the negative economic impacts of COVID-19 on low-income Californians, as well as its widespread disruption of the healthcare industry. Medical debt direct services will be sustained in Imperial County and expanded to an additional 18 rural and semi-rural counties (Colusa, Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Monterey, San Diego, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tulare, Ventura, Yuba) with the addition of a full-time Staff Attorney to provide full-scope representation, advocacy, and advice. CRLA will also increase the capacity of service providers and other stakeholder groups (e.g., federally qualified health centers, local governments, HICAPs, etc.) across the state to support individuals facing medical debt by providing community education presentations on medical debt, matters impacting medical debt, and CRLA resources to address the issue. Finally, the full-time Staff Attorney will ensure the sustainability of the project by building CRLA's institutional knowledge and capacity to provide statewide medical debt advocacy through the provision of internal training and resources.</p>			
Target Population			
<p>While project services will be available to all low-income individuals within the 19-county service area (i.e., Imperial, Colusa, Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Monterey, San Diego, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tulare, Ventura, Yuba), services will target seniors, individuals living with disabilities, individuals with Limited English Proficiency (LEP), and farmworkers as these populations are particularly vulnerable to accumulating medical debt and are the primary groups served by CRLA's Health Consumer Program. Health Consumer Program client demographics are approximately: 40% live with a disability, 60% are seniors, 5% are farmworkers, and 75% have LEP. These populations face worse health outcomes than the general population, causing them to be more susceptible to medical debt as they seek more frequent medical care. Further, these communities face language, transportation, and technology barriers that make it difficult to navigate medical billing or health insurance enrollment systems or advocate for their health rights independently, all of which are exacerbated in under-resourced rural communities.</p> <p>CRLA's Health Consumer Program has historically targeted and will continue to serve Imperial County as this semi-rural, semi-frontier region has a high need for civil legal assistance to defend residents' health rights. The county has been classified as a legal desert with only one attorney for every 1,060 residents (California Commission on Access to Justice, California's Attorney Deserts). Further, residents have faced higher rates of diabetes, asthma, and COVID-19 infections than the state average. Approximately 30% of casework (55% FTE) will be dedicated to Imperial County.</p>			
Will this project address consumer debt matters in rural communities?			Yes
Will this project address consumer debt matters in particularly underserved communities?			Yes
Project Goals and Deliverables			

The primary goal of the project is to decrease medical debt for low-income Californians. CRLA will serve 300 households over 36 months, impacting over 1,000 household members.

100% or 300 households served will receive at least counsel and advice or brief services focused solely on resolving their medical debt. Medical debt collection defense and medical debt assigned to collection agencies will be served as well. The key performance indicators for medical debt cases will be (1) ending or reducing debt collection or wage garnishment and enforcement of fair debt collection; (2) obtained relief from fraudulent sales practices or unlawful, unfair, or deceptive acts or practices; or (3) obtained or preserved credit or resolved credit reporting errors.

17% or 50 households will receive limited or extended representation to defend their right to health insurance coverage when it is determined to contribute to their medical debt issue. Key performance indicators for medical insurance coverage cases closed will be (1) obtained or preserved eligibility under publicly funded health insurance; (2) obtained or preserved eligibility under private health insurance; (3) increased access to health services; (4) obtained or preserved eligibility for long-term health care services; or (5) increased access to long-term care services.

The objective is to close 60% or 210 cases over the grant period with outcomes reflecting the key indicators described above. CRLA anticipates that the majority of cases closed with a successful outcome will result in financial relief or recovery or an improved credit rating for the client as well.

Evaluation

CRLA's project evaluation process includes: (1) review and revision of evaluation tools developed to track activities and outcomes; (2) continued collection, analysis, and interpretation of data by the project leads; and (3) utilization of results to improve program performance and ensure effective program management. Demonstrating effective elements of the project, determining necessary improvements in program delivery and client services, and implementing necessary improvements to enhance achievement of outcomes and objectives are the primary goals of our evaluation process.

CRLA's evaluation system is designed to provide broad indicators of project success upon case closure. Progress on the goal of decreasing the medical debt burden faced by indigent, rural Californians will be tracked and reported through CRLA's outcome/main benefit data and economic benefit data captured at case closing in its client management database.

CRLA is committed to reporting case outcomes to analyze program performance and ensure that our advocacy strategies are producing the intended results. Case outcomes are comprised of a main benefit or benefits achieved and, in some cases, an economic benefit secured. The Managing Attorney will analyze these data points twice annually and use her analysis to adjust strategies to meet annual goals and objectives.

How might the work of the proposed project be replicable and/or sustainable beyond the grant period?

This project will partially replicate the work of the Health Consumer Program in Imperial County across CRLA's statewide service area. The project will help CRLA better understand which regions within our service area have a greater need for medical debt, health insurance coverage, and other health-related advocacy. The project may demonstrate to CRLA that there is a need for more region-focused health consumer work that could be replicated using the Imperial County model in other counties or regions with additional Health Consumer Program staff dedicated to those geographic areas, however, this project will allow us to assess those needs.

CRLA will use lessons learned from the project to create a fundraising plan during the final year of the grant period. The goal of the fundraising plan will be to identify sustainable funding sources for the project.

Finally, the Staff Attorney will train CRLA advocates and share resources on how to provide civil legal assistance for medical debt relief, increasing institutional knowledge of medical debt advocacy to ensure that services can continue in some capacity beyond State Bar Consumer Debt grant funding.

2023-2025 CONSUMER DEBT GRANT PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name		Project Title	
Capital Pro Bono Inc.		Consumer Rights Clinic	
Amount Requested	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Administrative Costs	
\$330,000	22.41%	5%	
Partner Organizations			
N/A			
County(ies) Served			
Butte, Nevada, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama, Yuba			
Project Abstract			
<p>Capital Pro Bono (CPB) is the premier pro bono legal aid nonprofit in the Sacramento area where volunteer attorneys can donate their time and expertise. CPB's mission is to secure access to justice for low income people through the use of volunteers and by educating clients about the law to increase their knowledge and self-sufficiency. CPB's proposed Consumer Rights Clinic seeks to significantly expand its existing Debt Collection Defense/Bankruptcy Clinic from its current five county service area (Sacramento, Placer, Yolo, San Joaquin and El Dorado) to the rural and frontier counties of Butte, Nevada, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama, and Yuba. The Consumer Rights Clinic will assist and advise indigent individuals of these counties with their debt-related problems such as credit reporting errors, general debt advice and dispute resolution strategies, identity theft resolution, creditor harassment, negotiation and settlement of debts, debt collection lawsuit defense, and as resources allow, the drafting of Chapter 7 bankruptcy petitions. By helping them more efficiently and effectively resolve their debt-related problems, clients should be able to focus on and improve other concerns in their lives, including health, housing, and employment.</p>			
Target Population			
<p>Capital Pro Bono serves the legal needs of indigent individuals age 18 and older of any gender or ethnicity. Our clientele is notable for a relatively high percentage of people who identify as having a disability. CPB's Consumer Rights Clinic will target indigent individuals in the primarily rural and frontier counties of Butte, Nevada, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama, and Yuba. "Indigent" person means a person whose income is 75% or less of the maximum levels of income for lower income households as defined in Section 50079.5 of the Health and Safety Code. We have been informed by individuals in these rural and frontier counties over the past year that there are no free legal services available to them for consumer law or debt collection defense/bankruptcy matters.</p>			
Will this project address consumer debt matters in rural communities?			Yes
Will this project address consumer debt matters in particularly underserved communities?			Yes
Project Goals and Deliverables			
<p>By educating indigent debtors about their rights and responsibilities under the law, and by providing them with legal assistance as appropriate, Capital Pro Bono's Consumer Rights Clinic (CRC) will help its clients more efficiently and effectively resolve their debt-related problems. This should allow them to focus on other issues in their lives, including health, housing, and employment. The CRC will assist clients with the following debt-related legal matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Evaluating and, where appropriate, responding to debt collection lawsuits, wage garnishments, and bank levies * Requesting and reviewing credit reports for accuracy as well as requesting investigations and disputing inaccurate information on credit reports * Providing general debt advice and dispute resolution strategies * Negotiation and settlement of debts * Resolution of identity theft issues * As resources allow, if filing for Chapter 7 bankruptcy protection is their best option and will allow them to move on successfully with their lives, the preparation and filing of the necessary paperwork with the Bankruptcy Court * In-person legal education workshops on debt-related matters 			
Evaluation			

Questionnaires will be provided to Consumer Rights Clinic clients to allow them to evaluate the services they received. Clients will be given the opportunity to make suggestions on additional desired services as well as indicating whether or not their debt-related matters were resolved through services provided at the Clinic. Volunteers will also provide information regarding their cases when they have completed their volunteer work on a case. This information will be reviewed by the Staff of the Consumer Rights Clinic as well as the Managing Attorney to determine the Clinic's effectiveness in addressing consumer debt matters affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

How might the work of the proposed project be replicable and/or sustainable beyond the grant period?

The current dire financial straits of many indigent Californians has been caused and/or exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. This economic crisis has also highlighted the increased need for debt collection defense/consumer rights services in the rural and frontier counties of Northern California. Capital Pro Bono's proposed Consumer Rights Clinic is a replication/significant expansion of one of Capital Pro Bono's long-standing and successful Clinics. Thus, we are very confident in the sustainability of the Consumer Rights Clinic beyond the grant period, provided there is funding for staff and overhead costs. We have found our clinic model to be very effective in leveraging limited resources, including staff time, volunteer availability, and client capabilities.

2023-2025 CONSUMER DEBT GRANT PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name		Project Title	
Community Legal Aid SoCal		Consumer Debt Expansion	
Amount Requested	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Administrative Costs	
\$639,990	12.77%	9.2%	
Partner Organizations			
N/A			
County(ies) Served			
Los Angeles, Orange			
Project Abstract			
<p>The goal of our consumer debt program is to provide clients with the right strategies to avoid judgement and/or reduce collections in order to help them gain or maintain financial stability. Towards that end, CLA SoCal recently created an autonomous Consumer Defense Unit (CDU) in response to clients' needs for help beyond advice and counsel. SBOC Consumer Debt funding would allow us to expand the unit with new Staff Attorney and Paralegal positions to ensure that we can effectively serve communities in both Los Angeles and Orange Counties.</p> <p>With increased capacity, our CDU staff would be able to serve more clients with personalized legal help, including brief service and full-scope representation. Extended services may include assisting client with case analysis, answers, discovery and discovery motions, pre-hearing motions, exhibits preparation, representation at trial, settlement, post-judgement motions, protection of assets/claims of exemption, and/or reversal of defaults.</p> <p>In order to set this Unit up for success, this grant would also help us effectively publicize its services to neighbors in need. It would leverage our new debt workshops with the Courts so that eligible clients with complex problems will be aware of our services. It would also support outreach activities including community education regarding rights, responsibilities, and availability of legal aid services via workshops and outreach campaigns. We envision a community where residents are well-versed in understanding the risks and benefits of consumer debt litigation and are empowered to seek legal assistance should they need it.</p>			
Target Population			
<p>CLA SoCal proposes to serve Los Angeles County and Orange County through the State Bar Consumer Debt project. Focus clientele will include communities of color and individuals with limited English proficiency (LEP). Low-income people of color are at greatest risk from rising debt, inflation, and higher interest rates, as they have less disposable income to weather expenses; as a group they are at greater danger of being laid off and have a higher debt-to-asset ratio than the white population. CLA SoCal already focuses on serving a highly diverse region and will increase our efforts to reach into communities disproportionately hard hit by debt.</p> <p>Low English Proficient (LEP) consumers comprise approximately 25.5 million of the US population and face substantial barriers in the consumer financial marketplace. In January 2021, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) published a "Statement Regarding the Provision of Financial Products and Services to Consumers with Limited English Proficiency." In an effort to foster an inclusive financial system. Some of the most significant language access barriers for LEP consumers include difficulty comprehending key financial document and inability to read English-only documents.</p>			
Will this project address consumer debt matters in rural communities?			No
Will this project address consumer debt matters in particularly underserved communities?			Yes
Project Goals and Deliverables			
<p>The Consumer Debt project seeks to expand the provision of a full range of legal services to clients with consumer debt issues, including credit card debt, medical debt, and vehicle debt.</p> <p>GOAL #1: Expand access to legal services for clients facing consumer debt issues by handling 325 cases during the 3-year grant period. More than fifty percent of cases would be handled at brief service or above.</p> <p>This would increase the number of debt cases handled by CDU by more than 50% over 2021-2022 baseline in Year 1, and more than 100% in years 2 and 3.</p>			

(Baseline is 115 cases/year. Between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022, 1 FTE Staff Attorney and .5 FTE Paralegal closed 115 debt cases (51 Advice and Counsel, 32 brief service, 30 extended service.))

GOAL #2: Educate members of the community about their rights and responsibilities surrounding consumer debt issues, and the availability of legal aid services.

> Provide 48 Know Your Rights presentations during the 3-year grant period.

> Hire a media consultant in Year 1 who is knowledgeable in marketing to diverse communities. Develop and implement a strategic marketing and outreach plan that utilizes multilingual social media (including targeted ads), community networking, and multilingual advertising; investigate implementation of Google AdWords.

Evaluation

CLA SoCal will utilize quantitative and qualitative data to evaluate the success of this program. On a regular basis, the Grants and Evaluation Manager and Director of Legal Services will work closely with Supervising Attorneys, Directing Attorneys, and Staff Attorney's to assess the grant funded work and the efficacy of the program. CLA SoCal will also make use of its trove of quantitative data, including tracking case demographics, outputs, surveys, and main and economic benefits for closed cases. CLA SoCal is training its staff to track main and economic outcomes more accurately in Legal Server.

How might the work of the proposed project be replicable and/or sustainable beyond the grant period?

Consumer law is a core service of CLA SoCal, and the organization is currently expanding services within this focus area through the recent development of a standalone Consumer Defense Unit. CLA SoCal intends to use this grant to continue to grow the practice into a robust unit on par with our Economic Maintenance Unit, to be sustained in perpetuity.

In addition to supporting this project with existing funds from Legal Services Corporation and State Bar in the future, CLA SoCal is diversifying its revenue to include funds from private foundations as well as unrestricted contributions from donors and events to support our services.

2023-2025 CONSUMER DEBT GRANT PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name		Project Title	
East Bay Community Law Center		Economic Safety Net Project	
Amount Requested	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Administrative Costs	
\$1,200,000	8.7%	9.84%	
Partner Organizations			
N/A			
County(ies) Served			
Alameda			
Project Abstract			
<p>The East Bay Community Law Center's (EBCLC) Consumer Justice Clinic (CJC) assists consumers facing serious consumer debt issues as a result of the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The CJC is committed to protecting and restoring consumer rights, defending against predatory lending practices and debt lawsuits, and providing community education to inform consumers of their rights, with a specific focus on underserved and BIPOC communities. We are grounded in our Women of Color-Centered (WOCC) Platform which launched in January of 2021 and emphasize uncompromisingly supporting women of color, who are our largest client base. We believe that in centering women of color, inclusive of not only the unique systemic barriers they face, but also their fears and aspirations, we can uplift whole communities. The Consumer Debt grant funds will allow CJC to continue providing holistic legal services to low-income and BIPOC consumers affected by consumer debt issues, including debt collection, errors on credit reports, identity theft, predatory loans and contracts, student loans, car repossession, and consumer scams and fraud. Services include phone consultations; information and referrals; limited scope services consisting of advice and counsel, review of legal documents; assistance with obtaining documents or completing applications; and writing demand letters or advocating on behalf of clients; direct representation regarding their legal matter(s); and policy advocacy. These funds will also allow an expansion of services to include bankruptcy filing assistance. Lastly, we plan to provide educational workshops and self-help materials in order to protect them from scams and fraudulent services.</p>			
Target Population			
<p>EBCLC's primary goal is to provide legal services at no cost for underserved communities in Alameda County facing consumer debt, with a focus on BIPOC women. The CJC mostly serves low-income communities of color and seniors, who are prime targets for predatory lending practices and consumer scams. Many families we serve were hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic and continue to struggle. With inflation caused by the pandemic and the looming recession, consumers are and will continue to struggle with staying financially afloat. In a national Making Ends Meet Survey conducted by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau published in December 2021, they found that 62% of consumers who reported difficulty paying their rent did not receive rent flexibility and only 20% of consumers reporting difficulty paying a credit card received credit card flexibility. At this time, there is no reliable data available that reflects similar information for Alameda County; however, our internal data collected during the last fiscal year demonstrates a great need. CJC served a total of 403 unique clients, of which 89% identified as a person of color. Of that 89%, 50% identified as BIPOC cisgender female and Black (24%) and Latinx (18%) were the largest groups served. Consumers sought our assistance in fighting debt collection, inaccurate credit reporting (which jeopardized housing and employment opportunities), student loans, unscrupulous lending and contract transactions, and scams and fraud.</p>			
Will this project address consumer debt matters in rural communities?			No
Will this project address consumer debt matters in particularly underserved communities?			Yes
Project Goals and Deliverables			
<p>The goals of this project are multi-pronged and include mitigating the harmful impact on consumers without recourse to resolve their legal issue, ensuring consumers' rights are protected or restored, and educating consumers on their options regarding debt issues. Through policy advocacy, EBCLC will safeguard systemic policies that protect consumer rights. Our direct services will assist clients in addressing their immediate crises, either in an affirmative way, such as</p>			

representation in a debt collection lawsuit, or by helping consumers create plans of least harm when there are no greater options available. Through workshops, we will provide information regarding consumer rights, so that consumers can spot potential scams and fraud and understand their legal options. We believe in providing services that tackle consumer debt issues from multiple angles, in order to promote holistic and long-term economic wellbeing for the most vulnerable consumers.

In order to achieve these goals, CJC will provide a wide array of legal services each over the term of the grant as follows: 1) 150 phone consultations to consumers that include financial consultations, legal information about their rights and options, and/or referrals; 2) 240 consumers will receive limited scope and/or extended legal services to include but not limited to document review, advice and counsel, representation in court, direct advocacy with creditors/lenders for debt collection cases, or assistance with settlement negotiations; 3) file bankruptcy for four clients; 4) six workshops to provide consumer protection information and individual assistance with legal issues; and 5) policy advocacy that protects consumer rights.

Evaluation

We will use tailored evaluation strategies to assess the different deliverables included our project. For self-help resources, we will conduct user testing with at least three community members to check whether any adjustments are needed for people to understand the content and take relevant action on debt matters. For phone consultations and limited services, we will invite feedback via an SMS/email survey immediately after the service is provided to gauge client satisfaction and perceptions of the usefulness of the service provided. We will also complete a one-month follow-up survey with a random sample of 50 clients to assess how effective our service is in enabling clients to navigate their debt matters. This will provide an important window into how self-represented litigants progress and identify any barriers they encounter. For extended services, we will record full case outcomes and invite feedback via an SMS/email survey. All bankruptcy clients will also be invited to participate in interviews to help us understand how clients experience this new addition to our service model and identify any areas for improvement. For workshops, we will solicit feedback from participants after the session to gauge the perceived relevant and usefulness of information provided; the staff running the workshops will also complete a short debrief after each workshop. For policy advocacy, we will track EBCLC's involvement in policy initiatives on debt matters and conduct an annual internal review to assess whether our time is invested on issues most impacting low-income consumers.

How might the work of the proposed project be replicable and/or sustainable beyond the grant period?

The proposed services are not new to EBCLC, with the exception of bankruptcy assistance, as we are committed to preserving income and protecting consumer rights for marginalized populations. Over the years, EBCLC has sustained and expanded the level of services we provide through active prospecting and applying for both private and public funding opportunities that fit our mission and values. Aspects of our work that we feel is replicable is our education component, which includes self-help materials that are both written and on video to post on our website and social media accounts. This is an effective way to reach a wider span of clients who may not want to fully engage in services, struggle with transportation barriers, are in danger of exposure to communicable diseases, or live outside of Alameda County and do not have free legal services accessible within their community.

Like all EBCLC activities, CJC utilizes a multimodal, collaborative, and holistic approach to its services. It is our goal to ultimately leave all clients more informed than when they first entered our organization. CJC clients are often sharing knowledge across their own networks and communities, thus creating a long term and collaborative community-based spread of consumer justice education.

2023-2025 CONSUMER DEBT GRANT PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name		Project Title	
Housing and Economic Rights Advocates		Consumer Debt and Credit Legal Services - Rural	
Amount Requested	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Administrative Costs	
\$1,200,000	0%	2.5%	
Partner Organizations			
N/A			
County(ies) Served			
Butte, Fresno, Kings, Madera, Tulare, Yolo			
Project Abstract			
<p>This project will provide direct legal services regarding non-government consumer debt and credit problems to residents of rural parts of California (as defined by this RFP) Statewide, with a particular focus on eligible residents of the counties of Butte, Fresno, Kings, Madera, Tulare and Yolo. HERA's legal services will include advice and counsel, as well as full-scale representation to defend against debt collection, which is frequently wrongful or abusive and often in service of predatory loans or other credit offerings. HERA's legal services will address the broad swath of concerns vulnerable residents commonly have, from credit card, small dollar and auto collections concerns, to medical debt and more, at every phase of collections, including civil lawsuits related to their debt, and we'll defend clients from wage garnishment and bank account levies. We will also provide legal assistance to address the legal rights of residents to make their lawfully obtained debt more manageable or to achieve full or partial discharge, as in the case of student loans. Each type of debt has its own set of governing laws which can provide protections and opportunities for residents, but they need legal help to know about and access those options. HERA will also protect/extricate vulnerable, eligible residents from predatory lending, financial scams and credit reporting errors and abuses, including related abuses such as debt settlement companies. HERA attorneys are highly experienced in these practice areas. This project represents a significant expansion of our services.</p>			
Target Population			
<p>The target populations in Butte, Fresno, Kings, Madera, Tulare, and Yolo counties have high percentages of elderly residents, women, people of color, Latinx people, people living in poverty, people who speak a language other than English, foreign-born residents, and people without bachelor's degrees. Across all of the target counties, the percentage of people living in poverty ranges from 15% to 21.8%, and the percentage of residents 65+ ranges from 10.7% to 18.4%. In all of these counties, no more than 45% of residents have a bachelor's degree, with most counties having only 11.2% to 32.3%. Each of the target counties has close to 50% women, with approximately 30% to 40% of each county identified as people of color. Across all counties, there are also significant proportions of non-English speakers and foreign-born residents.</p>			
Will this project address consumer debt matters in rural communities?			Yes
Will this project address consumer debt matters in particularly underserved communities?			Yes
Project Goals and Deliverables			
<p>Through outreach, HERA will both educate Californians with debt and make them aware of our legal services. HERA will serve 90 clients per year individually over the course of the grant period-- 50% via briefer service counsel and advice, and the other 50% in-depth. on debt collection, credit repair, and other debt concerns. For the clients whom we serve in-depth, HERA will either terminate collections efforts completely or reduce the requested debt amount by an average of 50% of the debt that was claimed by the collecting entity. As a result, these residents will experience an improvement in their credit report and score, generally a minimum of a 50 point jump within the 6 months following debt elimination or reduction. HERA will also provide 3 workshops per year, in-person or via zoom with an average of 40 residents in attendance at each.</p>			
Evaluation			
<p>HERA's Executive Director and our grants reporting administrator will keep an eye on project progress, particularly in year one as we go through start-up. We will review reports from our database, review materials showing how many</p>			

residents have attended workshops, and the assigned senior attorneys will look for trends/themes in what comes to us from our target counties under this project so we can refine our strategies, which may mean adjusting workshop topics, using a clinic style of assistance in some locations or other adjustments that we cannot currently predict. We want to be efficient, but we absolutely want to maintain a high quality of legal assistance and not just go for volume.

How might the work of the proposed project be replicable and/or sustainable beyond the grant period?

HERA intends to model this project after our successful long-term program in San Joaquin County. In San Joaquin, HERA built a partnership with the local court that has created a steady stream of client referrals to our office. The Court recognizes HERA's expertise and competence in debt collection cases, and the self-help desk consistently refers clients to us for help. This project began over 6 years ago, and has sustained since then to great success. By modeling this project on the San Joaquin program, HERA intends to build long-term relationships with local courts and maintain a strong presence in each region as a debt collection resource.

2023-2025 CONSUMER DEBT GRANT PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name		Project Title	
Inland Counties Legal Services		Consumer Debt Grant (CDG)	
Amount Requested	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Administrative Costs	
\$1,200,000	14.37%	18.33%	
Partner Organizations			
University of Illinois Chicago Law School, Stout Risius Ross, LLC, California State University, San Bernardino			
County(ies) Served			
Riverside, San Bernardino			
Project Abstract			
<p>This project will expand ICLS's consumer debt defense services with clinics, outreach, and research to understand why many consumers do not respond to debt collection litigation. It will fund attorneys, paralegals, and legal assistants to expand existing consumer debt defense unbundled services and representation, document preparation, bankruptcy services, and affirmative litigation for indigent consumers in rural, suburban, and urban areas of the Inland Empire; the counties of Riverside and San Bernardino.</p> <p>The project will build on the work of the ICLS Consumer Team. In 2022, The Consumer Team finalized an automated document production system with LegalServer and Law Help Interactive to produce answers, discovery, meet and confer letters, motions, and complaints to help attorneys respond quickly to debt collection activity. The Consumer Team will increase and improve its pleadings templates to provide tools for attorneys to help consumers. Further, the Consumer Team will create two new clinics in both Riverside and San Bernardino that will increase the number of consumers assisted by 100 a year who will receive full representation rather than just pro-per support.</p> <p>Finally, this will include an outreach and evaluation component to determine why consumers do not respond to debt collection lawsuits and inform development of best methods to increase consumer involvement. California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB) students working with the Consumer Team will survey 300 consumers total. This will further the research of our partners into consumer debt collection behavior that is of interest to significant funders in the field.</p>			
Target Population			
<p>Inland Counties Legal Services, Inc. ("ICLS"), is the largest legal services organization providing services to the communities of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. ICLS provides free legal assistance to indigent persons, especially underserved clients such as victims of domestic violence, the elderly in the greatest social or economic need, and disabled persons including veterans and deaf and hearing impaired as well as monolingual Spanish speaking as well as other underserved groups of non-English speaking persons.</p> <p>Geographically, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties together comprise of 27,466 square miles (about the area of South Carolina), an area that is larger than the five states of New Jersey, Hawaii, Connecticut, Delaware, and Rhode Island combined, or larger than the state of West Virginia.</p> <p>Our target population are the indigent consumer debtors who are sued in Riverside or San Bernardino Counties. This population can neither employ private attorneys to represent them nor can they step through a litigation process on their own using self-help tools.</p>			
Will this project address consumer debt matters in rural communities?			Yes
Will this project address consumer debt matters in particularly underserved communities?			Yes
Project Goals and Deliverables			
<p>PROJECT GOALS FOR 3-YEAR GRANT PERIOD</p> <p>(1) Provide legal services 300 clients (2) Provide counsel and advice to 100 clients</p>			

- (3) Provide Limited Action pro per document preparation to 100 clients
- (4) Provide Extended Services to 100 clients
- (5) Distribute and explain free Federal Trade Commission materials on Identity Theft and other consumer scams to 300 consumers
- (6) Distribute and explain free Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) materials on Money Management (Your Money, Your Goals toolkit) to 300 consumers
- (7) Produce and distribute to consumers a roadmap of the litigation process with instructions to 300 consumers
- (8) Produce and distribute to consumers a roadmap of the bankruptcy process with instructions to 100 consumers
- (9) Produce and distribute client satisfaction surveys to 300 clients
- (10) Produce and distribute a consumer survey geared to capturing why consumers do not respond to debt collection litigation and what methods might improve consumer involvement in the civil litigation process (distributed by CSU San Bernardino students assisting with the research and evaluation of the project)
- (11) ANNUAL OUTREACH: 6 outreach events in Qualified Census Tracts and Difficult Development Areas targeting event attendance at 15 to 20 consumers

Evaluation

This project proposes to: 1) conduct research by engaging consumer debtors who don't respond to collection lawsuits; 2) develop from this research an outreach and consumer education program that can be implemented in legal aid services delivery on an ongoing basis; and 3) devise data-driven solutions to provide targeted direct services legal assistance to those litigants against whom default judgments were entered during the pandemic or who otherwise seek legal assistance for debt collection lawsuits.

Through collaboration with strategic research partners, the Consumer Team will develop a culturally competent survey to be conducted by CSUSB students targeting consumers throughout San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. The students will identify field locations such as grocery stores, big box superstores and other areas where low-income households frequent to conduct their surveys. The research will supplement an existing data set collected for research on court case outcomes in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. The Consumer Team's Consumer Clinics will take referrals from eligible survey respondents and provide services to resolve their debt collection matters.

There is no data or research on the decision-making processes of consumer debt defendants, and why they don't use available legal aid and non-profit resources when faced with a collection lawsuit. The project will engage in solutions-oriented research to identify perceptions and habits and develop tailored outreach to people who would otherwise not use the court system. This research could inform opportunities for court reform regarding notices, filings, and processes to effectively resolve consumer debt cases with fewer court resources.

How might the work of the proposed project be replicable and/or sustainable beyond the grant period?

ICLS will use grant funds to serve consumer defendants in active litigation due to debts defaulted during the pandemic. The creative and innovative approach to outreach and research will ensure that grant funds are utilized to serve individuals who were hardest hit during the pandemic and unable to respond to debt collection lawsuits due to the impacts of the pandemic recession, stay-at-home orders, closed courts, and a lack of disposable income. The knowledge to be gained from survey results in the field will contribute to ongoing legal aid services delivery and will allow ICLS and other legal aid offices in California to develop targeted outreach and informational campaigns around consumer debt, debt default, consumer collections lawsuits, and the rights of consumers to negotiate fair and just resolutions with debt collectors. An expanded legal aid services delivery program based on community-based qualitative research will allow the findings on consumer behavior to inform targeted and intentional outreach.

2023-2025 CONSUMER DEBT GRANT PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name		Project Title	
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights		Protecting Bail Bonds Consumers	
Amount Requested	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Administrative Costs	
\$265,500	11.86%	24.86%	
Partner Organizations			
N/A			
County(ies) Served			
Alameda, Contra Costa, Los Angeles, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, Sonoma			
Project Abstract			
<p>The project builds upon our litigation victory in <i>Bad Boys Bail Bonds v. Caldwell</i>, the first of its kind to challenge a bail bond company for violating consumer protection laws. The class action lawsuit demands that Bad Boys—one of California's largest bail bonds companies—rectify its illegal practices, stop violating consumer protection laws, and provide full restitution and relief to our plaintiff Ms. Caldwell and all other cosigners saddled with illegal debt from the company. On December 29, 2021, the California Court of Appeal upheld the preliminary injunction order to halt Bad Boys Bail Bonds' debt collection efforts on \$38 million dollars of contracts, affirming that the bail bond industry must follow consumer protection laws. However, without further advocacy, many victims of bail bonds' unlawful consumer practices will not be made whole.</p> <p>LCCRSF's proposed project will assist hundreds of clients in permanently discharging unlawful bail debt, and requesting restitution for amounts they paid under unlawful bail contracts. With pro bono support, LCCRSF will provide remote and in-person assistance to putative Caldwell class members and others across California to ensure that bail companies follow the law going forward, and make recompense for money they unlawfully collected. We will achieve these results by engaging in direct services to identify outstanding debts and advocate for their removal through our class action litigation, through individual litigation against debtors, in informal settlement discussions, in advocacy to cancel debt with third-party debt collectors, and more broadly by educating the client community regarding their rights.</p>			
Target Population			
<p>The project will support low-income consumers who have been harmed by the predatory bail bonds industry—many of whom are Black women and women of color whose care for their loved ones have been exploited by private bail companies. Specifically, the project will assist BBBB v. Caldwell's class members and others with similar bail debt throughout the state of California. Nearly all of them are BIPOC individuals who cosigned onto bail debts totaling over \$38 million, and this project will assist the lowest income families, who were unable to pay enough up front to avoid lengthy bail contracts.</p> <p>Just as our class members were at their most vulnerable, worried about a loved one who was arrested, Bad Boys required cosigners on its credit bail agreements to assume responsibility for the entire amount of bail bond premiums, but never explicitly stated this in contracts or agreements. Cosigners believed that they need to only pay the stated upfront amount to bail their loved one out of jail, only to later find themselves saddled with thousands of dollars in bail debt. Bad Boys and other bail companies have violated California consumer law by failing to inform our class members about the true nature of their contracts, and has violated regulations specifically meant to provide transparency in commercial bail bond transactions.</p> <p>Reinforced by the CA Court of Appeal halting of BBBB's debt collection efforts (issued December 2021), our services will provide a pathway for cosigners to receive refunds, or erase their persistent bail debts.</p>			
Will this project address consumer debt matters in rural communities?			Yes
Will this project address consumer debt matters in particularly underserved communities?			Yes
Project Goals and Deliverables			

GOAL: Strip money and power away from the bail bonds industry, and ensure the money they unlawfully extracted is returned to Black and Indigenous families and families of color

a) Assist at least 100 class members and other loved ones who paid unlawful bail debt in retrieving thousands of dollars in refunds as restitution

b) Secure at least \$1,000,000 in debt relief for consumers who have cosigned unlawful Bad Boys contracts

Evaluation

LCCRSF will track cases through a custom designed Salesforce database that notes number of individuals served, the number of cases accepted, as well as case outcomes. In coordination with Salesforce, we also track our data according to the metrics provided by the State Bar (e.g., All benefits/outcomes achieved according to definitions in the CA Legal Aid Reporting Handbook; demographic data of the clients served; economic benefits that resulted in an award recovered for the client or savings for the client, etc.). The success of our project will largely be measured by the amount of debt we are able to eliminate and return back to consumers. Alongside this quantitative data, LCCRSF will collect written and oral evaluations from clients and pro bono partners. We can review our rate of success with debt elimination at intervals to confirm success and adjust as needed as we continue to serve our clients.

How might the work of the proposed project be replicable and/or sustainable beyond the grant period?

LCCRSF is known as a statewide expert for our creative application of consumer protection law as a tool for dismantling the bail industry's rampant abuses. Our BBBB v. Caldwell case is one of the first lawsuits to challenge a commercial bail bond company for violating consumer protection laws, and our victory in securing a preliminary injunction sets a precedent for the application of such laws in the bail industry nationwide. Others are now hoping to follow suit with litigation against other bail bonds companies. Our work demonstrates that the bail industry's practices are illegitimate, and that bail bonds consumers should not have to incur debt for wanting to free their loved ones.

We have shared and continue to share knowledge/tools about our litigation strategies, as well as best practices for our Bail Clinic, so that organizations in other states can follow suit and secure recompense for those who have been preyed upon by bail bonds companies. We hope that as more bail bonds cosigners challenge and eliminate their bail debts, the more we can weaken the bail industry's hold on consumers, and the closer we can get to ultimately eliminating the insidious industry and pre-trial detention as a whole.

**2023-2025 CONSUMER DEBT GRANT
PROJECT PROFILE**

Organization Name		Project Title	
Legal Access Alameda		Bankruptcy Assistance Program	
Amount Requested	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Administrative Costs	
\$273,270	1.08%	0%	
Partner Organizations			
N/A			
County(ies) Served			
Alameda, Contra Costa, Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, San Benito, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sonoma			
Project Abstract			
Legal Access (Legal Access) Alameda's Bankruptcy Assistance Program will assist low-income Californians with filing for bankruptcy so they can resolve their debt issues affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Legal Access will leverage its current, small bankruptcy program to conduct new outreach and to provide services to a new client base. Legal Access will expand its staffing under the grant by 1.0 FTE staff attorney who will work to increase the number of clients served by the project by 500% and train and add at least 15 new volunteer attorneys to the Bankruptcy and Consumer panel. Volunteer attorneys will be trained and supported by Legal Access' robust pro bono program.			
Target Population			
Legal Access' Bankruptcy Assistance Program is open to residents in any county in the Northern District Catchment area of California. Some of our target counties include: Alameda, Contra Costa, Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Marin, San Francisco, and Sonoma. Clients served under the grant will be low-income and include disadvantaged groups like limited and non-English speakers, racial minorities, seniors, people with disabilities, and individuals from rural areas. These marginalized groups are traditionally cut off from legal services and are, therefore, at greater risk of not taking advantage of legal options such as bankruptcy to resolve their debt issues. The grant will allow us to expand our current limited bankruptcy program services (around 40-50 clients a year) by hiring a staff attorney, thereby increasing outreach and the number of clients served.			
Will this project address consumer debt matters in rural communities?			Yes
Will this project address consumer debt matters in particularly underserved communities?			Yes
Project Goals and Deliverables			
The project's overarching goal is to help low-income and underserved individuals assess consumer debt issues, whether filing for bankruptcy would be advantageous for them, help with preparing petitions for chapter 7 bankruptcy, and assistance with post-filing matters at the Bankruptcy court.			
The project's deliverables are as follows: Expand the number of clients served by the project by 500%. Train and add at least 15 new volunteer attorneys to the Bankruptcy and Consumer panel.			
Evaluation			
Legal access measures outcomes and impact by tracking client and volunteer statistical data, assessing client and volunteer feedback, and reporting individual client experiences when permitted. Program staff provides surveys for all Legal Access clients and volunteers in order to continually evaluate and improve our services.			
How might the work of the proposed project be replicable and/or sustainable beyond the grant period?			
We anticipate that our community partners could use this program as a model to replicate and incorporate into their own programming. In terms of sustainability, we will seek other grants and individual gifts in order to sustain the project beyond the grant period.			

2023-2025 CONSUMER DEBT GRANT PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name		Project Title	
Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County		Consumer Protection Program	
Amount Requested	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Administrative Costs	
\$281,775	11.82%	10.01%	
Partner Organizations			
N/A			
County(ies) Served			
San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura			
Project Abstract			
<p>The Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County (LAFSBC) seeks project funding to build on its 10-year success of running a Foreclosure Prevention & Consumer Protection program. Since 2016, this program has been staffed by one experienced attorney. Starting next year, the attorney is partially funded by Victim of Crime Act funds and we seek to use the Consumer Debt Grant to fund the balance of her time. No other legal aid or non-profit organization in Santa Barbara County provides these consumer protection services. Despite stereotypes, when you factor in the cost of living, Santa Barbara County has the 3rd highest rate of poverty out of all 58 counties across the state (20.7%). Santa Barbara County spans 2700 square miles of largely rural community and the LAFSBC has offices in Santa Maria, Lompoc, and Santa Barbara. The pandemic hit our region hard and immigrant Latinx residents were particularly vulnerable to economic and public health impacts, especially for undocumented or mixed status households. The project attorney will serve indigent eligible residents of Santa Barbara County by providing consumer protection services in at least 105 cases over three years. The all-volunteer Consumer Debt & Bankruptcy Clinic, which serves self-represented litigants living within the jurisdiction of the bankruptcy court (San Luis Obispo County, Santa Barbara County, and part of Ventura County), will also serve at least 180 indigent residents over three years with grant funding. Without Consumer Debt grant funding, our program will only have 1 part-time attorney serving senior victims.</p>			
Target Population			
<p>The LAFSBC's Consumer Protection program will primarily serve indigent Santa Barbara County residents through the services of 1 attorney. The all-volunteer Consumer Debt & Bankruptcy Clinic, which runs 2 hours per week, will serve self-represented litigants residing anywhere within the jurisdiction of the bankruptcy court, which includes San Luis Obispo County, Santa Barbara County, and part of Ventura County. Approximately 47% of Santa Barbara County residents identify as Hispanic/Latino, 23% are foreign born, and 40% speak a language other than English at home (US Census). 16% are seniors age 65 or over (US Census). No other organization provides these free legal services to indigent residents in our community. There are also no general consumer advocacy non-profits in our community.</p>			
Will this project address consumer debt matters in rural communities?			Yes
Will this project address consumer debt matters in particularly underserved communities?			Yes
Project Goals and Deliverables			
<p>The program attorney will close at least 35 consumer protection legal cases for eligible indigent residents of Santa Barbara County per year, for a total of at least 105 closed cases over three years. Legal advice and representation will be related to: debt collection, wage garnishment or bank levy defense; protection against unfair debt collection, predatory lending, and consumer scams; financial abuse; and other debt matters.</p> <p>The Consumer Debt and Bankruptcy Clinic will serve at least 60 indigent customers per year (who may live in the jurisdiction of the Bankruptcy court), for a total of 180 indigent customers served.</p> <p>LAFSBC will complete 2 outreach events per year in rural communities.</p>			
Evaluation			
<p>The program attorney and Executive Director will review program data on a quarterly basis to review progress towards deliverables and the demographics of clients served. All clients receiving legal service at a level above "limited action" will receive a Client Satisfaction Survey. The program will also develop a short exit survey for those</p>			

attending the Consumer Debt & Bankruptcy clinic. At least once per year, the LAFSBC will also survey relevant community leaders and court staff on the effectiveness of the program in addressing consumer debt matters affected by the pandemic. We conduct a similar process for our LRC Partnership program and will model best practice from our experience there.

How might the work of the proposed project be replicable and/or sustainable beyond the grant period?

There is broad support for providing general consumer debt legal assistance in our community. Although securing funding is always challenging, we can leverage ongoing Victim of Crime Act funding to keep the overall Consumer Protection program going. Most funders value the opportunity to pair or match other funding. We could also build on our existing volunteer network to expand Consumer Debt & Bankruptcy Clinic hours over time. Finally, periodic Cy Pres awards (which we have previously received) may help fill funding gaps that periodically arise due to funding fluctuations or cost increases. We expect to make a more proactive approach towards securing Cy Pres awards during the grant period to sustain the program in the future.

2023-2025 CONSUMER DEBT GRANT PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name		Project Title	
Legal Aid of Marin		Protecting Marin Seniors and Underserved Community Members from Financial Abuse & Enforcing Consumer Rights Through Direct Legal Services	
Amount Requested	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Administrative Costs	
\$758,115	11.1%	11.71%	
Partner Organizations			
Community Action Marin			
County(ies) Served			
Marin			
Project Abstract			
<p>Under this proposed project, Legal Aid of Marin will provide efficient, client-centered, and holistic consumer rights and elder financial abuse prevention services to at least 500 additional impacted seniors and underserved community members living in Marin County. Of those clients served, 75% will experience increased financial stability and will better understand their consumer rights because of Legal Aid of Marin's direct legal services program. In partnership with Community Action Marin, Legal Aid of Marin will provide holistic legal and social services, as well as advocate for seniors who have incurred consumer debt arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. Services will include individual consultations regarding elder financial abuse and consumer debt defense, assistance regarding adverse credit reporting and credit discrimination, advisement of rights, negotiations with consumer or debt collectors, assistance through Community Action Marin's Success Coaching program and full scope representation in consumer-related litigation (including wage garnishment defense, protection against unfair debt collection practices, and protection against unfair or predatory lending and consumer scams).</p>			
Target Population			
<p>The target population includes indigent seniors aged 60+ who live at or below 200% of the federal poverty line or qualify for services under the Older Americans Act. Additionally, the project will serve underserved communities, including BIPOC individuals and immigrants.</p> <p>The geographic area to be served by the project is all of Marin County.</p> <p>This target population is in particular need of the services to be provided by this project because they have limited income (due to being unemployed or retired), are vulnerable to financial abuse and consumer debt issues because of diminished mental capacity, and are overwhelmingly isolated due to limited transportation, disability, and necessary distancing to protect from exposure to COVID-19.</p>			
Will this project address consumer debt matters in rural communities?			Yes
Will this project address consumer debt matters in particularly underserved communities?			Yes
Project Goals and Deliverables			
<p>Under this project, LAM will provide client-centered, and holistic consumer rights and elder financial abuse prevention services to at least 500 seniors and underserved community members living in Marin County. 75% of clients served will experience increased financial stability and understand their consumer rights because of this program. LAM will provide legal services and advocacy for seniors who have been financially exploited related to consumer debt matters because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Services will include individual consultations regarding elder financial abuse and consumer debt defense, assistance regarding adverse credit reporting and credit discrimination, advisement of rights, negotiations with consumer or debt collectors, assistance through Community Action Marin's Success Coaching program and full scope representation in consumer-related litigation (including wage garnishment defense, protection against unfair debt collection practices, and protection against unfair or predatory lending and consumer scams).</p>			

LAM will conduct at least one community-based training monthly with Community Action Marin—reaching an estimate 500 seniors or underserved community members over the three-year grant period. Participants will complete a voluntary exit ticket, to gather feedback and test their knowledge of concepts. English and Spanish written and digital outreach resources will be placed in community centers, senior centers, nursing facilities, hospitals, partner organizations, and libraries. In partnership with subgrantee partner Community Action Marin, we will conduct in-person outreach and events to bring holistic COVID-19 related consumer debt legal services to seniors and underserved community members across Marin County.

Evaluation

Legal Aid of Marin and subgrantee Community Action Marin will gather quantitative and qualitative data directly from individuals served by the project. Part of our initial meetings will involve developing metrics for success as it pertains to data collection. Legal Aid of Marin will ask each person served to complete a satisfaction survey that tracks their experience, level of service, and how their financial stability has been impacted by project services. Additionally, Legal Aid of Marin Staff will use outcomes, demographic, and income reports from LegalServer to ensure that project objectives are being met. We will also rely on qualitative data from our clients, subgrantee partners, and other stakeholders to identify areas for strategy refinement.

How might the work of the proposed project be replicable and/or sustainable beyond the grant period?

Legal Aid of Marin will leverage existing partnerships, including but not limited to subgrantee Community Action Marin, to ensure success of this project. Serving seniors will remain a critical part of our mission to advance equity and access to justice in Marin. Beyond the grant period, we will continue to prioritize supporting indigent seniors and partnering with organizations who will help us deepen our impact. We hope that the data we gather and report, along with documentation of our project design and services, will support replication by other providers and inspire increased access to civil legal services for indigent seniors and other underserved communities.

2023-2025 CONSUMER DEBT GRANT PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name		Project Title	
Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino		Surviving the Pandemic (STP)	
Amount Requested	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Administrative Costs	
\$1,200,000	12.02%	1.2%	
Partner Organizations			
N/A			
County(ies) Served			
Riverside, San Bernardino			
Project Abstract			
<p>Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino (LASSB) will establish a program to provide direct legal services, outreach, and education to those facing debt due to the pandemic. During the pandemic, debt ballooned for low-income and seniors. LASSB will use the grant funds to establish assistance for those who took on debt to ensure their families' survival during the pandemic. LASSB will further use the funds to prevent the instability created by covid-19, which forced low-income, blue-collar workers to take on debt to ensure their family has sufficient food and safety supplies and can pay the bills to prevent homelessness.</p> <p>LASSB will target services beyond advice and counsel to specific circumstances that may lead to homelessness. LASSB will collaborate with local non-profits to ensure the client can obtain the necessary resources to maneuver through a post-pandemic world.</p> <p>LASSB will identify appropriate cases for negotiation, mediation, or litigation. Formal negotiation will be sought to resolve the issues as efficiently as possible. If that is not possible, LASSB will review the case to engage in mediation when the adverse party is amenable to such process. As a last resort, LASSB will review the case to determine if litigation is warranted and seek appropriate relief.</p>			
Target Population			
<p>Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino provides free civil legal services to low-income residents and elderly persons in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties.</p> <p>There are approximately 4,102,171 San Bernardino County residents. Many residents (14.3%) live below the poverty line. Of all the county residents over the age of five, one in four (41.7%) live in homes where English is not the primary language spoken, and more than half (55.8%) of county residents identify themselves as residing in a house where consists of only Hispanic or Latino individuals. Nine percent (9.4%) identify as living in entirely black or African-American homes.</p> <p>Riverside County has 2,458,395 residents, and 11.2% live below the poverty line. Of all the county residents over the age of five, one in four (41.1%) live in homes where English is not the primary language spoken, and more than half (51.6%) of county residents identify themselves as residing in a house where consists of only Hispanic or Latino individuals. Seven percent (7.5%) identify as living in entirely black or African-American homes.</p> <p>The target populations to be served by this grant are low-income and senior individuals and families facing the impact of a pandemic world, which forced them to take on debt to ensure their family was able to survive the pandemic. Low-income and senior borrowers are generally the most affected and least informed in the community, targeted and hardest hit by illegal lending practices. They tend to be the most desperate, with the least resources to deal with the covid crisis.</p>			
Will this project address consumer debt matters in rural communities?			Yes
Will this project address consumer debt matters in particularly underserved communities?			Yes
Project Goals and Deliverables			
<p>The program's primary objective is to assist low-income and senior borrowers in working with the creditor to resolve a pandemic debt to address predatory lending.</p>			

The two strategies to accomplish this objective are direct individual assistance, community education, and outreach. (1) individual assistance will consist of interactions with the client, creditor services, and other third parties, including negotiation, mediation, and litigation on the client's behalf. (2) Community legal education will inform consumers about the pros and cons of credit debt.

LASSB has preliminarily identified the following "deliverables."

Deliverables include:

Evaluate clients' consumer debt situation by reviewing the client's credit application, promissory notes, correspondence, and other relevant documents. Estimated at 50-100 Persons a month (20-50 households)

Upon completing the review of the client's documents, the advocate would provide a verbal assessment of the client's consumer issues, explicitly identifying those instances in which there has been a debt collection violation. Estimated at 50-100 Persons a month (20-50 households)

The advocate will follow up the demand letters with telephone calls to resolve issues informally through negotiations. Estimated at 20-30 Persons a month (10-30 households)

If the issues cannot be resolved informally, LASSB will initiate appropriate responsive pleadings will be drafted. The type of cases that may be filed may include, but may not be limited to, actions for collection responsive pleading, discovery responsive pleadings, and affirmative defenses. Affirmative lawsuits may also be filed to cancel written instruments, rescind contracts, or obtain a reformation of contracts. Estimated at 5-10 Persons a quarter (2-5 households)

Evaluation

LASSB utilizes LegalServer, a comprehensive case management system (CMS) that can be tailored to meet the demands of any project. LegalServer is effortlessly configurable and allows remote tracking and customizable filters to remove human error. LASSB will track the project client cases by case number, type of legal problem, case outcome, and number of case hours.

Specifically, with this project, the type of case would be identified as the Covid Consumer Defense problem code and identified by a unique funding code. The CMS will specify the types of assistance through various problem codes related to consumer defense.

Lastly, the advanced grants management module will ensure that only eligible cases are funded for this grant. The required fields will prevent staff members from proceeding without entering the required data. All relevant fields will be available for statistical reporting. Statistical data will ensure that the most disadvantaged communities are being served by refining and redirecting efforts based on statistical data.

How might the work of the proposed project be replicable and/or sustainable beyond the grant period?

LASSB has been committed to serving a rural and urban communities since its inception in 1958 and will remain so into the foreseeable future. LASSB intends to develop a never-before service for LASSB clients. This grant will allow LASSB to build and expand its expertise in covid 19 consumer debt. LASSB will be allowed to bolster its core competencies concerning Consumer Debt and Debt collection violations.

Though this grant would eventually expire, the expertise created through the funding of this project will remain with LASSB advocates. It will continue to serve the entire community (Riverside and San Bernardino Rural and urban residents), and the target population identified. In addition, LASSB intends to develop a debt defense process that will be replicable within LASSB and benefit many rural and urban clients.

LASSB intends to continue to focus on addressing the debt which ballooned during the pandemic, which helped the wealthy build wealth as the low-income tread water. LASSB wants to search for alternative funding opportunities to continue serving a vulnerable population prone and susceptible to abusive lending practices.

2023-2025 CONSUMER DEBT GRANT PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name		Project Title	
Legal Aid Society of San Diego		Financial Empowerment Project	
Amount Requested	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Administrative Costs	
\$1,200,000	17.48%	13.01%	
Partner Organizations			
N/A			
County(ies) Served			
San Diego			
Project Abstract			
<p>The Financial Empowerment Project (“FEP”) aims to primarily assist domestic violence (DV) victims, the elderly, and disabled to recover from debt and credit issues caused or exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and help them find a path to greater and long term financial health and stability.</p> <p>As part of the project, LASSD will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide legal assistance and representation in negotiation, arbitration, litigation, and appeals to assist clients with debt and credit issues caused or worsened by the pandemic; • Create questionnaires to facilitate early identification of financial issues in DV cases or other cases involving financial abuse. These questionnaires will help other attorneys who may not be as familiar with consumer law to identify potential issues and guide clients towards resources. • Create an informational guide for advocates assisting DV victims, the elderly, and disabled individuals with credit and debt related issues, including screening questionnaires, general information on options, sample materials, and a list of San Diego-specific resources. • Develop self-help materials for the public, including informational materials on rights for victims of financial abuse and financial education materials on credit and debt related topics. • Provide outreach and education through online and/or in-person workshops; and, • Use data collected from the project to identify trends and target future services. 			
Target Population			
<p>FEP will focus on low-income DV victims, the elderly, and the disabled in San Diego County, including individuals living in rural communities. FEP will also aim to reach individuals with limited English proficiency. DV victims have often been isolated and their access to the outside world is limited. They may feel trapped due to being financially dependent on their abusers, especially because of pandemic-related financial instability. Studies have found that 99% of violent abusers control their partners through financial means. This project will work with DV victims to assist in breaking financial ties with abusers by providing legal assistance to handle existing debt and credit-related issues caused by an abuser, and education on how to protect their credit and assets going forward. Without good credit, victims may find themselves unable to purchase cars, rent apartments, or obtain loans, contributing to their inability to start new lives. Assisting them in improving their credit is key to helping them move on from these relationships.</p> <p>The pandemic also is likely to result in greater credit and debt related issues for the elderly and disabled. Because of the shift from in-person to virtual services, many elderly individuals, lacking technology, may have been unable to access legal services. Isolation and rising financial pressures put many at an increased risk of financial abuse, especially by caregivers. Finally, due to fixed incomes, many may have defaulted on payments due to rising inflation. Finally, those with limited English proficiency face language barriers to learning about or accessing services.</p>			
Will this project address consumer debt matters in rural communities?			Yes
Will this project address consumer debt matters in particularly underserved communities?			Yes
Project Goals and Deliverables			
Goal: Assist clients through Direct Legal Assistance:			

- FEP will provide direct legal services ranging from advice to full scope representation to approximately 270 clients, with a special emphasis on assisting domestic violence victims, the elderly, and the disabled.
- This assistance will be on consumer debt matters relating to credit reporting, defending victims against debt collection lawsuits, financial abuse, unfair practices and providing bankruptcy assistance, among other things. This assistance will also include materials on how to better understand consumer debt matters in order to help provide the client with more long term financial health and stability.

Goal: Provide informational materials on dealing with credit & debt related issues for advocates to utilize.

- FEP attorneys will research and create an informational guide for advocates assisting DV victims, the elderly, and the disabled, which will include screening questionnaires, general information on options, sample materials, and San Diego-specific resources.
- FEP attorneys will create consumer debt questionnaires that will help attorneys who may not be as familiar with consumer debt to identify potential issues.

Goal: Increase community knowledge of options regarding credit and debt related issues to create long term financial health and stability in our client community.

- FEP will hold at least 2 outreaches starting the 2nd quarter of the project for a total of 8 outreaches per year, and 22 total over the grant term.
- FEP attorneys will develop self-help materials for the public to use as a resource for credit and debt related issues.

Evaluation

LASSD will track baseline and outcome data to evaluate project successes and challenges, make necessary changes to elements that pose challenges, and share the data in order to scale impact to other networks and regions. Baseline data will be gathered, including demographics such as household income, age, race, gender identity, and ethnicity, education level, languages spoken and preferred, military status, and household size. Data will also track the number of seniors, children, and veterans served and COVID-19 impacts on clients.

LASSD's JusticeServer Database will track legal case activity and outcomes. Legal assistance milestones will be determined by: the number of cases; the results of court cases; the descriptions of positive outcomes, including quantifying money saved; amount of debt originally involved; amount of debt avoided; and, the quantity of debt resolved. Activity and outcomes that will be captured include but are not limited to: resolution of consumer issues; attorney work product; counseling, credit rebuilding/debt management, and legal assistance activities and service points; and confidential client notes. Quarterly meetings will be conducted to review and analyze the data collected.

The following outreach event data will be tracked: the number of people, location, and feedback.

On a quarterly basis, LASSD will send out and analyze information gathered from client satisfaction surveys to evaluate the program's effectiveness.

Non-grant staff such as the Senior and Lead Attorneys for the Consumer Team, as well as upper management, will devote time to supervising grant staff and activities. Non-grant staff will also regularly run reports on JusticeServer.

How might the work of the proposed project be replicable and/or sustainable beyond the grant period?

This project will allow us to create samples and informational packets that can be used long after the project has ended. Some materials will be specific to targeted populations such as DV victims and elder abuse victims. As part of the project, LASSD will create screening questionnaires, informational materials, and sample materials that can be used by the Consumer Team and other teams at LASSD. This will help teams to continue screening for potential issues

early on and allow them to refer cases over to the appropriate teams as soon as possible. The Consumer Team will continue to use and update these new materials at its existing Consumer Debt Collection Clinic and Bankruptcy Self-Help Center after the grant period has ended.

LASSD will also look for alternative funding to extend this project beyond the grant period.

During the project, LASSD will share information gathered from the project with other organizations that do consumer work, such as information about emerging trends, effective strategies for dealing with debt or credit issues for the target populations, and how to address specific COVID-19 related issues. LASSD will also make informational materials developed during the project available to other organizations interested in implementing similar projects and offer training if desired.

Additionally, LASSD will continue to utilize connections existing and new community partners to distribute information and sample materials to the wider community.

2023-2025 CONSUMER DEBT GRANT PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name		Project Title	
Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County		Medical and Credit Card Debt Project	
Amount Requested	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Administrative Costs	
\$300,000	10%	18.46%	
Partner Organizations			
N/A			
County(ies) Served			
San Mateo			
Project Abstract			
<p>The Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County (Legal Aid SMC) will provide civil legal services to indigent San Mateo County residents related to medical debt and credit card debt affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Health Consumer Center will handle medical debt cases for uninsured and underinsured consumers who face unfair billing practices, focusing on practices banned under Hospital Fair Pricing and No Surprises laws. Legal Aid SMC's Health Consumer Center (HCC) has historically handled primarily cases involving Medi-Cal and Medicare. During the pandemic, however, all Medi-Cal negative actions were paused. The resulting reduction in Medi-Cal cases created capacity for the HCC to accept medical debt cases. HCC attorneys quickly realized that many medical providers were not complying with consumer protection laws. The HCC will develop and distribute community education materials explaining medical billing protections and provide legal advice and representation to indigent victims of unfair billing practices.</p> <p>Our Senior Advocates team and Pro Bono Director will recruit private attorneys to provide pro bono legal assistance to elder adults and adults with disabilities facing credit card and other consumer debt accumulated during the pandemic and exacerbated by recent cost of living increases. The Senior Advocates team has historically provided limited advice in consumer debt cases to elder adults and adults with disabilities. During the pandemic, however, pro bono support for the project decreased. Legal Aid SMC proposes to rebuild its pro bono capacity meet the growing need for credit card debt advocacy by older adults and adults with disabilities.</p>			
Target Population			
<p>This project will focus on low-income residents of San Mateo County with medical and credit card debt issues affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. While medical debt has represented only a small fraction of the HCC's caseload in the past, based on our experience we anticipate that about 42% of our medical debt clients will identify as Hispanic/Latino, 24% as Asian or Pacific Islander, 23% as non-Hispanic White, and 7% as Black. According to the Consumer Protection Financial Bureau report cited above, Hispanic and Black people are more likely than average to have medical debt.</p> <p>The credit card debt component of the project will focus on older adults and adults with disabilities, especially those living in rural areas. Based on our historical consumer debt caseload, we anticipate that 36% of our credit card debt clients will identify as non-Hispanic White, 25% as Asian or Pacific Islander, 23% as Hispanic/Latino, and 8% as Black. Older adults and adults with disabilities living on fixed incomes find it particularly difficult to absorb increases in the cost of living.</p>			
Will this project address consumer debt matters in rural communities?			Yes
Will this project address consumer debt matters in particularly underserved communities?			Yes
Project Goals and Deliverables			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create Know Your Rights materials related to medical debt and credit card debt and disseminate to consumers and community agencies serving low-income residents. 2. Conduct 12 medical debt and 24 credit card debt community education presentations, in person where possible and consistent with public health guidance, to facilitate distribution of Know Your Rights materials and raise awareness of consumer debt issues and legal assistance available. 			

3. Provide legal advice and representation to 60 clients with medical debt issues and 120 clients with credit card debt issues.
4. Recruit and train 9 pro bono attorneys to advise clients on consumer debt issues.

Evaluation

Legal assistance is evaluated through structured case review. Cases are rated as achieving a favorable outcome if the client obtained a positive legal result, or if they received legal education or advice that enabled them to advocate for themselves. Information about direct legal services including the number of individuals served, their demographic information, and case outcome will be collected and stored in our case management system. We will utilize this system to track our outreach efforts including the location and number of individuals impacted. Legal Aid SMC recently created a new Contracts Administrator position to enhance our ability to use data analysis to evaluate programs.

How might the work of the proposed project be replicable and/or sustainable beyond the grant period?

The Health Consumer Center will share medical debt Know Your Rights materials and strategies for ensuring provider compliance with Hospital Fair Pricing and No Surprises laws with its partners in the statewide Health Consumer Alliance. The HCC's membership in the Health Consumer Alliance will allow it to bring additional leverage to its negotiations with medical providers that could bring lasting change throughout California.

The Senior Advocates team, with the support of the Pro Bono team, plans to build a pro bono program that will continue to serve elder adults and adults with disabilities facing credit card and other consumer debt issues beyond the grant period. Having a robust consumer debt project should make Legal Aid SMC a stronger candidate for cy pres awards.

2023-2025 CONSUMER DEBT GRANT PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name		Project Title	
Legal Assistance to the Elderly		Consumer Debt Defense for Seniors and Adults with Disabilities	
Amount Requested	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Administrative Costs	
\$966,606	12.15%	12.46%	
Partner Organizations			
N/A			
County(ies) Served			
San Francisco			
Project Abstract			
<p>This project will address the needs of seniors and adults with disabilities facing consumer debt legal matters affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in San Francisco. Older Americans are carrying more long-held consumer debt than previous generations and the age-dependent harms sustained during the COVID-19 pandemic only exacerbated that burden. Supporting these seniors' long-term financial health through legal advocacy is essential to ensuring they can live safely, securely and independently. With this project we will expand our current consumer debt defense work by adding an attorney and an outreach advocate to provide legal services and educational outreach related to debt collection, financial abuse related to consumer debt, protection against unfair debt collection practices, predatory lending and consumer scams, and other debt matters.</p>			
Target Population			
<p>Our target population is San Francisco's seniors aged 60 and older, and adults with disabilities with incomes below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, who are struggling with consumer debt matters affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. These clients are struggling to find financial stability, as we exit the pandemic. They are also coping with a new life stage marked by limitations and vulnerability after a lifetime of self-sufficiency that make them especially vulnerable to financial exploitation and unfair lending practices. They face a slew of new scams targeting seniors including those related to vaccines, stimulus payments and social security payments. We are also expecting and preparing for an increase in consumer debt cases for seniors who stopped working during the pandemic for safety reasons and supported themselves on credit.</p> <p>Across practice areas LAE's clients are diverse: 38% white, 15% African American/Black, 20% Asian, 14% Latino, one percent Native American, one percent Middle Eastern, one percent Pacific Islander and 10% Multi-Racial or Other. About 90% of our clients are seniors and 10% are adults with disabilities. A majority of our clients identify as women (55%) and eight percent identify as LGBTQ. Our clients struggle economically: Ninety-six percent of our clients are very or extremely low-income. Finally, our clients face physical challenges: 60% are frail or disabled and 6% are homebound or in a medical facility.</p>			
Will this project address consumer debt matters in rural communities?			No
Will this project address consumer debt matters in particularly underserved communities?			Yes
Project Goals and Deliverables			
<p>This project will provide legal services for indigent persons related to consumer debt matters affected by COVID-19. These legal services will range from educational outreach events to giving legal advice to full scope representation. This work will include providing services related to debt collection, wage garnishment, bank levies, financial abuse related to consumer debt, protection against unfair debt collections practices, predatory lending and consumer scams, credit reporting and discrimination, and other debt matters including related to student loans, auto loans and credit card and medical debt.</p> <p>We expect that this project will provide legal support on 60 matters over the course of one year and 20 outreach.</p> <p>We plan to provide multiple levels of service, including:</p>			

20 clients will receive Advice and Counsel on consumer debt defense issues as listed above.

10 clients will receive Brief Services on consumer debt defense issues as listed above.

30 will receive Case Acceptance: full scope representation on consumer debt defense issues as listed above

20 Outreach events including: informational presentations, educational workshops and videos. These will be in person and live streamed events (i.e. on Facebook live and WeChat)

Evaluation

LAE evaluates our programs by reviewing quantitative data from our program outcomes and service objectives, as well as client input, to improve program design and delivery.

On a monthly basis, we prepare deliverable reports for each program, which are reviewed by program leads. Quarterly, program leads and management meet to evaluate the effectiveness of our programs and our progress towards achieving our goals and objectives. We look at how many unduplicated clients we served, who they are; whether we are meeting our deliverables; and which program areas new clients are using. We assess whether we have sufficient capacity to serve all those in need.

We also look at outcomes: did we achieve the client's goals? Were those goals realistic? Did we meet our own expectations? Additionally, we look at our approach: how can we do our jobs better? Are there new legal approaches we can use, or more efficient staffing models? Are there seniors in need who are not able to access legal services?

We review completed Client Comment Forms, which ask how we can improve our services, and if the services rendered appropriately and accurately reflected the consumer's desires. We incorporate client comments into our evaluation.

How might the work of the proposed project be replicable and/or sustainable beyond the grant period?

LAE is deeply committed to supporting and protecting the financial health and security of San Francisco's seniors and adults with disabilities. We have formed the Financial Security Team to look at these legal issues comprehensively, combining preventative strategies such as education around consumer scams and long-term end of life planning, with legal advocacy to address immediate legal crisis, defending consumer debt and financial abuse matters. We are dedicating funding to support this work and will continue to fundraise outside of this grant to ensure that this program expansion is sustainable beyond the grant period.

Seniors are the fastest growing age group in San Francisco, according to the San Francisco Department of Disability and Aging Services, which estimates that nearly 30% of the city's residents will be seniors by 2030. Similarly, in California the number of seniors is expected to grow by 30% by 2030. This is why it is critical to develop legal programs that promote the long-term financial health and security of seniors. Particularly, as our state is facing a housing and affordability crisis, seniors on low, fixed income are the most at risk of falling under the burden consumer debt and ultimately losing their housing. In San Francisco, alone 10% of people living unhoused are seniors. Our model is both sustainable beyond the grant period, and replicable as we deepen and expand our systems and model, and with the expertise of our staff we can support other legal services organizations who want to develop these types of programs.

2023-2025 CONSUMER DEBT GRANT PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name		Project Title	
Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice		Consumer Advocacy to Service Survivors Holistically (CASSH)	
Amount Requested	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Administrative Costs	
\$1,200,000	11.39%	20.45%	
Partner Organizations			
Valley Oasis			
County(ies) Served			
Los Angeles			
Project Abstract			
<p>Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice (LACLJ) annually serves more than 900 survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and/or human trafficking who live in poverty and face barriers to legal assistance because of their financial status and the effects of trauma. Most LACLJ clients also experience justice access challenges because of limited English language proficiency and/or immigration status. Economic abuse is prevalent among survivors, resulting in consumer debt issues that can prevent them from securing housing, employment, and meeting basic needs as they escape abuse. LACLJ will expand civil legal services to address consumer debt matters that impede survivors from establishing safety and security for themselves and their children. Revised intake procedures will help identify survivors who need consumer debt assistance. A senior attorney with a background in consumer debt will oversee project activities and provide legal services. LACLJ will hire a full-time paralegal to support the senior attorney in addressing issues such as credit reporting errors/credit repair, defense against debt collection efforts, resolution of debt incurred through identity theft or coercion, student loan relief, and bankruptcy guidance or representation. LACLJ's pro bono manager will leverage these efforts by recruiting volunteer attorneys. Additionally, LACLJ will hire a full-time community advocate/case manager to help clients experiencing challenges because of consumer debt. A partnership with Valley Oasis in Antelope Valley will help LACLJ reach survivors in rural areas of Los Angeles County, and a partnership with City National Bank will provide financial literacy education that complements consumer debt legal assistance.</p>			
Target Population			
<p>LACLJ's project activities will serve a target population comprising indigent (Business and Professions Code §6213(d) definition) DV, sexual assault, and/or human trafficking survivors who reside in Los Angeles County and are facing consumer debt legal issues that jeopardize their ability to escape abusive situations and establish safety, security, and economic independence. In addition to meeting the criteria for indigency, the target population will mirror LACLJ's client demographics. Most clients (82%) are female and have minor children (63%). Clients are predominantly Latina/o (89%) and immigrants (58% are undocumented). Many have limited English language proficiency (58%). In addition to common challenges facing survivors, LACLJ clients experience justice access barriers related to language, culture, and immigration status that impact their ability to resolve consumer debt matters without culturally- and linguistically-appropriate legal services. Through an existing partnership with Valley Oasis, an emergency shelter for DV victims in Antelope Valley, LACLJ will reach survivors in rural Los Angeles County who need assistance with consumer debt issues.</p> <p>As noted above in the statement of need, DV victims and victims of other sexually- and gender-based crimes are particularly vulnerable to economic abuse designed to keep them dependent on their abusers. Repairing/resolving credit matters; receiving protection from unfair collection practices, discrimination, scams/fraud; and defending against collections/garnishments/bank account levies alongside appropriate social services give survivors a clean slate and a path to establish lives free from violence where they can build economic agency as well as safety and security.</p>			
Will this project address consumer debt matters in rural communities?			Yes
Will this project address consumer debt matters in particularly underserved communities?			Yes
Project Goals and Deliverables			

LACLJ's key project goal is to resolve consumer debt matters that otherwise would hinder survivors from obtaining employment, housing, meeting essential needs, and building economic agency. LACLJ seeks funding to build capacity to provide more in-depth legal assistance with consumer debt issues arising from the pandemic and subsequent economic crisis than it can currently provide.

To achieve these goals, LACLJ will focus on the following specific outcomes/deliverables from project activities:

- Improve consumer debt screening protocols upon intake.
- Improve tracking of consumer debt cases and case resolution.
- Assist 125 clients with consumer debt matters.
- Reduce debt obligations for at least 40% of clients.
- Improve credit scores for at least 20% of clients.
- Train at least 50 clients on credit repair.
- Provide financial literacy training for at least 50 clients.
- Have at least 60% of clients report increased economic agency.
- Close at least 75% of cases with positive outcomes for consumer debt matters

Evaluation

LACLJ has robust evaluation protocols for all programs. LACLJ has an evaluator on staff who is dedicated to collecting and analyzing program data, and the evaluator will be responsible for managing all evaluation activities under the California State Bar Consumer Debt grant project.

LACLJ will acquire information for project evaluation by monitoring individual client progress and case outcomes and the aggregate impact of project activities. LACLJ will collect the following types of statistical and qualitative data: client demographics, consumer debt case types (e.g., bankruptcy, fraud, collections), consumer debt cases opened, outcomes of closed cases, debt reduction, increased financial stability, improved credit ratings, and perception of the impact of project activities on economic agency and quality of life.

LACLJ will use our client database, LegalServer, to collect and analyze information on a monthly basis to monitor project progress over time. Regular staff meetings and coordination of case management services through LACLJ's Community Advocacy Program will allow us to refine project activities to meet evolving consumer debt needs for survivors. On a quarterly basis, project staff will prepare reports summarizing cumulative activities and outcomes and will discuss ways to increase effectiveness in addressing consumer debt matters, especially those that the pandemic continues to exacerbate.

To track client needs, LACLJ staff administer the Arizona Self-Sufficiency Matrix (ASSM) at intake and 90-day intervals. Via ASSM, clients rate their level of self-sufficiency across 19 domains, including areas that consumer debt directly affects. LACLJ also conducts client surveys and exit interviews and surveys of community partners.

How might the work of the proposed project be replicable and/or sustainable beyond the grant period?

Replicability:

As LACLJ develops organizational expertise in consumer debt and new areas of law such as coercive debt, we can lead the way in identifying best practices in serving rural and other underserved survivors, developing financial literacy to promote long-term stability and economic health for survivors, and providing direct legal services that address consumer debt matters. LACLJ will be able to replicate consumer debt legal clinics and economic abuse trainings and will be able to facilitate partners' implementation of replicated consumer debt clinics and economic abuse trainings. Once LACLJ develops training materials and clinic models, replication will be relatively simple for partners that are legal services providers and/or victim service providers willing to host trainings and legal clinics.

Sustainability:

Because the Board of Directors has already made a commitment to improving financial literacy for survivors, LACLJ will ensure sustainability of project activities beyond the launch period under the grant. Providing civil legal services

for consumer debt will open avenues to seek financial support from different funders. For example, many banks and their affiliated foundations do not prioritize legal services for DV, but do prioritize support for improving economic stability and economic empowerment. We will proactively seek and approach funders that support the work LACLJ will do through consumer debt legal services and complementary financial literacy education. Additionally, the pro bono capacity to handle consumer debt matters that LACLJ builds during the grant period will help sustain this work on an ongoing basis.

2023-2025 CONSUMER DEBT GRANT PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name		Project Title	
National Health Law Program		Avoiding and Addressing Consumer Medical Debt	
Amount Requested	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Administrative Costs	
\$225,000	8.31%	9.86%	
Partner Organizations			
N/A			
County(ies) Served			
Statewide			
Project Abstract			
<p>NHeLP will address medical debt faced by low-income, rural, and underserved Californians by educating legal services and health advocates, and community-based organizations (CBOs) about the importance of affordable health insurance programs (Medi-Cal and Covered California) in facilitating economic stability for low-income communities. We will educate advocates and CBOs about recent developments in federal and state laws to protect consumers from medical debt, including the No Surprises Act and California's Hospital Fair Pricing Act. We will help advocates anticipate challenges, including the end of the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE). Education will occur through training, written materials, outreach and technical assistance. We will engage in administrative (and legislative) advocacy efforts to protect and improve access to affordable, comprehensive health coverage for Californians to help reduce medical debt across our state, including for rural communities and underserved populations.</p> <p>NHeLP will do this work by allocating dedicated resources to expand our capacity to participate in advocacy stakeholder meetings and committees we participate in with state agencies, legal services and health care advocates, and by utilizing existing avenues through which we engage in administrative policy advocacy. We will also leverage our long-standing statewide collaborative with existing legal services partners and support centers to provide health consumer assistance on cases and provide technical legal assistance. Through our weekly advocacy meetings and statewide advocates listserv, we will engage and seek feedback from partners to support the project and directly share information with the health consumers they serve, who live in rural areas and have low incomes.</p>			
Target Population			
<p>Our target population is low-income Californians eligible for and/or enrolled in Medi-Cal and/or other insurance affordability programs but still subject to illegal billing practices. NHeLP is a national organization founded in California, where we have an office and support advocates and consumers statewide. We educate, advocate, and litigate for low-income California residents and recognize the needs and disparities unique to rural communities. Our target population particularly needs our services because low-income and underserved communities are especially susceptible to medical debt and illegal billing practices. This population has the most to gain from accessing affordable, comprehensive health care and from legal assistance to address illegal medical billing on consumers. Residents in rural communities are particularly susceptible to inadequate provider networks and lack of timely access to care due to inadequate networks. They often travel long distances to access health care, which costs money and time away from work. As a result, many residents in rural counties take on the extra time and expense to travel to access health services in other areas with adequate provider networks, or are asked to pay for services that should be covered by Medi-Cal, when local providers do not accept Medi-Cal. It is common for residents to pay out of pocket, incur high medical expenses, or take on debt to access care. We are also targeting individuals who remain eligible for coverage but will fall off when the PHE expires, including due to loss of contact when moving to a new address in the same county.</p>			
Will this project address consumer debt matters in rural communities?			Yes
Will this project address consumer debt matters in particularly underserved communities?			Yes
Project Goals and Deliverables			

Goal 1: Educate and empower advocates and community-based providers to ensure low-income Californians avoid medical debt and illegally billing.

Deliverables: NHeLP will produce written information and other communications for advocates who serve low-income communities, including rural and underserved populations. Specifically, NHeLP will:

- Produce three factsheets or other materials in the three-year grant period;
- Conduct two webinars over the grant period for advocates about curtailing medical debt for the target populations. The webinars will address key advocacy tools used to prevent medical debt, including dental debt; and
- Provide ongoing technical assistance to advocates and service providers about medical debt and how to reduce out-of-pocket costs for covered health care services, including assistance on individual cases.

Goal 2: Obtain and advance beneficial policies by ensuring policymakers are educated on the importance of reducing medical debt by maximizing affordability of insurance coverage and access to services and violations of medical billing rules.

Deliverables:

- NHeLP will engage in system-level advocacy with the state, including DHCS and CovCA, to maintain, and increase, health coverage enrollment and ensure access to covered services. For example, we will elevate issues raised by our advocacy partners concerning difficulties enrolling and retaining Medi-Cal coverage, as well as challenges transitioning between insurance coverage;
- NHeLP will write one advocate blog per grant year; and
- NHeLP will engage in policy and administrative advocacy with state agencies as well as work to implement state or federal laws that maximize health coverage and enrollment for all Californians.

Evaluation

In an effort to evaluate both the effectiveness and impact of this project, NHeLP will seek feedback from QLSPs and other legal services programs, health advocates and community-based organizations on the content and accessibility of materials produced to demonstrate the importance of Medi-Cal in facilitating economic stability for low-income communities throughout California. This will include the disseminated factsheets, as well as any conference calls providing education or updates. NHeLP will also seek feedback through surveys from those participating in the advocate webinar(s). Our technical assistance and trainings provided to QLSPs and other advocates is logged and tracked in an internal database.

As part of its overall communications efforts, NHeLP will collect and monitor statistics for blogs and other materials developed and disseminated electronically. We will also collect records of media hits or mentions when the project and/or NHeLP staff are cited or quoted in the media.

How might the work of the proposed project be replicable and/or sustainable beyond the grant period?

Medical debt is the largest source of debt in collections today in the U.S. This problem will not go away over the course of this grant period. However, California is implementing several historical initiatives in Medi-Cal to improve access to affordable and comprehensive health care. Such implementations include the complete elimination of the asset limit, eliminating premiums, expanding MAGI Medi-Cal coverage to all eligible individuals regardless of immigration status, and the multi-year implementation of the CalAIM initiative, which is overhauling the Medi-Cal program's delivery system for health services. There is also an opportunity to do more specific work to enforce the newly enacted federal No Surprises Act to address health care billing practices. Yet the likely expiration of the COVID-19 PHE in 2023 means that counties will be required to review, over the course of 12-14 months, millions of Medi-Cal cases that have gone untouched for almost 3 years. Millions of people are at risk of losing their Medi-Cal coverage due to reasons unrelated to eligibility. While this grant is intended to cover a critical period – including the end of the PHE - our organization will work to continue a focus on medical debt and monitor illegal health care billing practices through other ongoing funding after the grant period. This specific funding to address medical debt and financial stability through health coverage will enable us to devote significant staff time and resources to these issues, building a foundation for future, ongoing work.

2023-2025 CONSUMER DEBT GRANT PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name		Project Title	
Neighborhood Legal Services		Expanding Consumer Legal Services in LA County	
Amount Requested	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Administrative Costs	
\$1,200,000	12.34%	10.71%	
Partner Organizations			
N/A			
County(ies) Served			
Los Angeles			
Project Abstract			
<p>This innovative project will allow NLSLA to grow its consumer debt team to meet the increasing consumer legal needs in Los Angeles County. Through direct representation, NLSLA will provide a range of advocacy to address consumer debt, including, but not limited to, negotiating with credit card companies and debt collectors, protecting consumers from unfair debt collection practices, especially and by providing full scope representation on civil consumer debt cases. In addition to consumer debt matters, the project will also target individuals filing for bankruptcy protection and help individuals preserve and protect family assets, and avoid consumer debt in the first place, by providing estate planning legal services.</p> <p>This project will also include a significant self-help component to enable individuals to help themselves. In addition to providing one-one-self-help assistance to litigants, NLSLA will create legal education and outreach resources and consumer-facing videos on topics such as how to respond to answers, how to respond to discovery, how to prepare for trial, how to set-up a trust and draft a will. These videos will be critical to increasing consumer education on consumer legal issues in LA County. Utilizing its extensive community relationships, NLSLA will also provide this information via in-person and virtual know-your-rights trainings.</p>			
Target Population			
<p>The demographics of the target population will include people of color, people who are disabled, older adults, and/or the limited-English proficient. This project's goal will be to have at least 70% of the households served be from these communities. The target geographical areas will include the LA County Service Planning Areas ("SPA") 1, 2, and 3, which span the Antelope, San Fernando, San Gabriel, and Pomona Valleys, all regions with high percentages of poverty.</p> <p>Consumer debt legal assistance is especially important for communities of color, older adults and the limited-English proficient who are more likely to be victimized by unscrupulous debt collection practices and have less knowledge of their legal rights. Older adults are a particularly vulnerable population and are disproportionately signed up for credit cards with high interest rates. They are also at an increased risk of facing physical, health, and mental barriers to access justice. The COVID-19 pandemic has magnified the importance of consumer debt and estate planning legal needs, especially for these vulnerable populations.</p> <p>Another target population is formerly incarcerated individuals. This project consumer team will work closely and cross refer with NLSLA's Clean Slate Initiatives (CSI) team to provide services to this population. Many of NLSLA's CSI clients encounter consumer issues that exacerbate the challenges that flow from contact with the criminal legal system. This client population already faces barriers to economic stability without the burden of consumer debt. Long-term economic stability is crucial to successful community reintegration for formerly-incarcerated individuals.</p>			
Will this project address consumer debt matters in rural communities?			Yes
Will this project address consumer debt matters in particularly underserved communities?			Yes
Project Goals and Deliverables			
<p>Through direct representation, this project will provide a range of advocacy to address consumer legal issues, including, but not limited to, negotiating with credit card companies and debt collectors to engage in informal dispute resolution, ensuring consumer protections are upheld, especially by debt collectors, providing full scope</p>			

representation on civil consumer debt cases, assisting individuals with filing bankruptcy and representing them throughout the legal process, including at trial and discovery requests, and helping individuals preserve assets and stay out of debt by advising them on estate planning and trust creation.

The project will provide legal representation in at least 88 consumer debt collection cases per year (264 extended cases total), including 48 consumer debt and bankruptcy cases and 40 wills and trusts matters. NLSLA will provide 180 counsel and advice and brief service cases per year (540 total), including 100 to consumer debt and bankruptcy cases and 80 for trusts and estates. In order to meet these deliverables, NLSLA will utilize 5-10 pro bono volunteers per year to take cases under NLSLA's supervision of NLSLA. NLSLA staff and volunteers will provide self-help assistance to 440 individuals per year (1320 per year).

Through know-your-rights trainings, legal clinics and legal information content, NLSLA will reach thousands of individuals with this funding. Specifically, NLSLA will provide at least one know-your-right-training per quarter and 1 trusts and estates legal clinic per quarter. NLSLA will also produce 1-2 legal information video each quarter (8 videos with Briefly and an additional 8-10 videos on our own).

Evaluation

NLSLA includes an evaluation and outcome component for all of its projects. An evaluation plan will be created to help the supervisor determine what data should be collected and monitored through NLSLA's case management system, LegalServer. A project management report will be created to track any data points that will effectively inform project staff of the overall status of the project outcomes. The project supervisor will meet regularly with the partners and senior managers to review the data, assess progress, and make adjustments as necessary to ensure the project is operating in an efficient and effective manner and meeting the project's goals.

In addition, NLSLA has over 50 years of experience in managing complex grants and leveraging technology to track multiple funding sources and expenditures. NLSLA's President & CEO, Chief Financial Officer, Vice-President of Access to Justice Initiatives, Director of Pro Bono, Director of Grants Management and Compliance and Vice-President of Operations and Legal Technology will be responsible for the oversight of grant compliance. This project will be evidence-based by conducting surveys and focus groups of past clients and clients served through the project to measure the effectiveness of the consumer protection efforts.

Briefly will also provide assistance with evaluation of the video and screencast content. Briefly utilizes advanced video analytics to determine what videos are most successful, what sections of videos can and should be improved, and how to implement strategies so that the maximum number of people receive the most useful content created.

How might the work of the proposed project be replicable and/or sustainable beyond the grant period?

This project will be replicable in a variety of ways and the consumer legal services model will be one that can be replicated at organizations throughout the state, particularly in regards to the ground-breaking Estates and Trusts work. NLSLA can become a model for how to provide these unique services. To this effort, NLSLA will create guides on this work and apply to present on this work at gatherings and conferences in an effort to present the project and encourage other legal aid organizations to invest resources in similar efforts

Another replicable component are the videos that will be created. NLSLA hopes to become a leader in client-centered video and screencast content creation, particularly in regards to consumer debt and bankruptcy. NLSLA videos will provide templates for other organizations to create similar content in other jurisdictions in California.

At the this conclusion of this grant period, NLSLA will seek additional funding to continue this project and support individual with consumer legal needs through LA County. As the consumer debt crisis grows, NLSLA anticipates that there will be opportunities to secure funding for continued and expanded services in future years.

2023-2025 CONSUMER DEBT GRANT PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name		Project Title	
OneJustice		Maximizing Legal Services Impact on Economic Health & Stability	
Amount Requested	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Administrative Costs	
\$750,000	11.07%	12.23%	
Partner Organizations			
Legal Aid Association of California			
County(ies) Served			
Statewide			
Project Abstract			
<p>This project will expand the availability of consumer debt legal services and maximize the impact of these services in promoting long-term economic health and stability, particularly in rural and underserved communities.</p> <p>We will provide legal services organizations that offer limited or no consumer debt legal services the support needed to launch new projects and expand the availability of these services. We will also help existing consumer debt legal services projects to maximize the impact of legal services on indigent individuals, with a focus on the long-term goals of economic health and stability. Moreover, we will help legal services organizations to engage in broad-scale advocacy on behalf of low-income communities.</p> <p>To achieve these outcomes, we will offer a series of six-month training programs for leaders of legal services organizations to launch new consumer debt projects, expand direct legal services and policy advocacy, and maximize their impact in promoting long-term economic health and stability. We will target leaders of organizations serving rural and underserved communities for the training programs. We will also support the development of critical resources needed by consumer debt legal services providers.</p> <p>Through this project, we will increase legal aid's long-term impact by supporting decision-making that is data-driven, builds on the most promising and effective practices, and expands the availability of services, particularly in rural and underserved communities. This project will also strengthen statewide collaboration on consumer debt legal issues and expand advocacy across the legal services sector on consumer law issues.</p>			
Target Population			
<p>The geographic area to be served is the entire state, with a focus on rural and underserved communities. Our training program will benefit legal services organizations across the state that currently host a consumer law project or are interested in launching new consumer debt legal services. We will prioritize leaders of legal services organizations that serve rural and underserved communities for inclusion in the training program.</p> <p>This project will benefit from the strong ties that OneJustice and Legal Aid Association of California (LAAC) have with organizations serving rural communities and our successful track record of expanding legal resources available to rural and underserved communities.</p> <p>For example, OneJustice's Executive Fellowship program has trained nearly 50 leaders from organizations serving rural communities. Additionally, we are currently partnering with three legal services organizations serving rural communities to build out systems for connecting more volunteers with opportunities in rural California communities and creating streamlined pro bono clinic service delivery models designed to better reach and serve clients and engage and incorporate remote volunteers.</p> <p>Similarly, as a membership organization for legal services organizations in California, LAAC has strong contacts at member organizations serving rural and underserved regions. In addition, LAAC's research and analysis will be instrumental in targeting rural and underserved communities and maximizing this project's impact. See e.g., the Rural</p>			

Justice Policy Paper Series, co-authored by LAAC, including the 2021 report, “Health Equity and Rural Attorney Deserts.”	
Will this project address consumer debt matters in rural communities?	Yes
Will this project address consumer debt matters in particularly underserved communities?	Yes
Project Goals and Deliverables	
<p>This project will expand the availability of consumer debt legal services and maximize the impact of these services in promoting long-term economic health and stability. We will achieve these goals by: (1) providing needed resources to the sector to launch new consumer debt projects and expand consumer legal services, (2) building a foundation for strategic decision-making about the delivery of legal services, with a focus on maximizing long-term financial health and stability, and (3) strengthening statewide collaboration and broad-scale advocacy on behalf of low-income communities.</p> <p>This project will train legal services organizations to better understand the range of consumer law services they can provide, to improve their assessment of community needs for such services, and to determine how best to allocate their resources. By focusing on organizations working in rural areas and serving underserved populations, we will ensure that services are expanded for communities where legal representation is often out of reach.</p>	
Evaluation	
<p>At the end of each training program, we will measure the project’s effectiveness in: (a) conveying curricular knowledge about resource allocation; (b) transforming participants’ mindsets about data-driven decision-making; and (c) effecting data-driven resource allocation decisions among participating LSOs, using the following metrics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Pre- and post-program self-assessment surveys, measuring improvements in participant assessments of their knowledge of curricular topics and their confidence in implementing curricular knowledge in their day-to-day work; * In-depth interviews with participating teams; and * Case studies of each participating LSO team’s Capstone projects, identifying improvements in organizational resource allocation processes and measuring changes in organizational outcomes and community impacts achieved as a result of the Capstone projects’ implementation. <p>Based on the lessons learned, we will expand the geographical scope of the program in subsequent cohorts, to help California’s legal services sector improve outcomes.</p>	
How might the work of the proposed project be replicable and/or sustainable beyond the grant period?	
<p>This project will build on the success of OneJustice’s Executive Fellowship program. Since its 2010 launch, the Executive Fellowship program has trained over 350 legal services leaders to become more strategic and effective. This grant will allow us to apply what we have learned to strengthen the expertise and capacity of legal services organizations in the area of consumer debt legal services.</p> <p>The structure of the program has also been replicated in two other OneJustice programs—the Organizational Change Accelerator (OCA) and Capacity-Building Academy (CBA) programs—to help legal services staff design and implement new projects at their organizations (for OCA) and help legal services senior staff improve their program management skills (for CBA). So far, 51 organizations have benefitted from these programs.</p> <p>We anticipate that this project will provide a strong foundation in the future to support organizations offering other types of legal services, with other funding sources. We can adapt what we have learned through this project to expand to other substantive legal areas. We can reach out to funders invested in other types of legal services to fund future project expansions, with the goal of expanding the availability of legal services and maximizing their impact in achieving long-term outcomes.</p> <p>Additionally, the tools and resources created through this project will be shared with the sector so organizations can adapt and grow their consumer law programs. As laws change, organizations can take the lead in adjusting the resources and creating new resources to be shared across the consumer law advocacy community.</p>	

2023-2025 CONSUMER DEBT GRANT PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name		Project Title	
Open Door Legal		Universal Access to Consumer Justice	
Amount Requested	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Administrative Costs	
\$900,000	18.78%	14.48%	
Partner Organizations			
N/A			
County(ies) Served			
San Francisco			
Project Abstract			
<p>Our service model is built around providing guaranteed legal representation, across all areas of civil law, for all low-income residents in historically marginalized communities of color. Since COVID-19 we have seen an increase in people subjected to fraud and scams and an explosion of consumer debt. Our consumer practice works to support low-income clients who are in jeopardy of losing hundreds of thousands of dollars as a result of consumer debt. Unlike traditional models that support consumer law through niche specializations, we work across 35 sub-areas of law and go beyond the clinic model to take on in-depth full-scope cases and tackle the injustices that come from consumer law-related problems.</p> <p>We intend to grow our civil litigation team, to support the overwhelming demand for legal support in consumer debt-related issues. COVID-19 exacerbated the power imbalance between corporations and low-income consumers, making consumers subject to unjust outcomes in the court system, leading to a huge grow in demand for our services. The consequences of consumer rights being violated can lead to devastating outcomes which impact housing stability and low-income families.</p> <p>We take a holistic approach to ensure that our clients have access to justice and every opportunity to improve their social and economic situation. We handle many consumer issues to ensure our clients are armed with the knowledge and power necessary to not only survive but prosper; we believe that without access to justice, poverty and homelessness are not just social issues but become a community reality.</p>			
Target Population			
<p>For almost ten years, Open Door Legal has been providing legal services in San Francisco to high-need, low-income, communities of color with historically limited access to legal services. From our beginnings, in the Bayview/Hunters Point, we have expanded our reach into the Excelsior neighborhood and the Western Addition.</p> <p>We've seen that BIPOC populations are being preyed upon by high-interest lenders, who are experiencing interest rates that are so exorbitantly high that they will never be able to pay the debt off. This debt is so paralyzing that some clients cannot even pay the yearly interest rates on their debt.</p> <p>Our Service Model guarantees that anyone over 18, income-qualified, with a valid civil legal need can obtain legal help. With over 2,479 cases of legal representation completed since 2013, we have developed a very strong track record in defending our clients' rights with a comprehensive, culturally-competent, and trauma-informed approach. Approximately 81% of our clients earn less than \$35,000 a year, 93% are BIPOC, and 22.19% speak a language other than English.</p> <p>With our target population in mind, we plan to prioritize San Franciscans who have lost their job or had their hours significantly reduced to the point that it's made their debt insurmountable and clients who are vulnerable to other consumer debt-related issues.</p>			
Will this project address consumer debt matters in rural communities?			No
Will this project address consumer debt matters in particularly underserved communities?			Yes
Project Goals and Deliverables			

For outcomes: over the course of the three years under this grant, our goal is to cancel \$900,000 in debt for clients, including the through obtaining 90 bankruptcies, and 150 cases that ended or reduced debt collection or wage garnishment and enforcement of debt collection.

Evaluation

Our evaluation will proceed along two axis, both using data managed in the CMS. First, we will track resolution data for all cases funded under this project: how many cases were successful, how many homes were saved, the total value of damages obtained and debt canceled.

Second and perhaps more importantly, we will track qualitative feedback from clients. We automatically survey clients twice during their case, and if any client doesn't respond, we have volunteers call them to do a phone survey. Our survey contains 10 questions, including whether ODL treated you with respect, if you encountered any barriers to service, and how much of a positive life difference ODL made. We aim for at least 35% of clients under this project to report that ODL made an "extreme" difference in their life.

We will use this to refine and course correct in real-time, and we will review it in monthly meetings with our partners.

How might the work of the proposed project be replicable and/or sustainable beyond the grant period?

As this work is aligned with our organizational mission, we intend to use these funds to build upon our existing service model's success. Our mission is to dramatically reduce poverty by pioneering the country's first system of universal access to legal representation. This wholeheartedly includes protecting clients in jeopardy of consumer debt. An award from the State Bar to support Consumer Debt law will allow us to not only sustain our existing work but also to serve as a model to be replicated across the state as we grow.

2023-2025 CONSUMER DEBT GRANT PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name		Project Title	
Public Counsel		Empowering and Defending Consumers	
Amount Requested	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Administrative Costs	
\$1,199,382	28.32%	17.71%	
Partner Organizations			
The Community Action League of Antelope Valley, Antelope Valley Senior Center, Valley Oasis, Karsh Center, Neighborhood Housing Services of Los Angeles County, East LA Community Corporation, Interfaith Communities United for Justice and Peace, Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment			
County(ies) Served			
Los Angeles			
Project Abstract			
<p>Public Counsel's Empowering and Defending Consumers Project aims to educate, empower, and defend underserved and rural consumer communities throughout Los Angeles County, as well as expand access to debt defense services for underserved and rural consumers in neighboring Kern, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties. The project will utilize a remote clinic model staffed by attorneys skilled in debt collection defense and bankruptcy to provide legal services to consumers facing debt matters affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Through these clinics, we will provide access to pro per debt services to hundreds of consumers annually, as well as provide full representation to over 100 consumers over the course of the grant. The project will also provide in-person and virtual Know Your Rights (KYR) presentations to educate community members about unfair debt collection practices, as well as strategies to avoid bankruptcy, financial abuse, and consumer scams.</p> <p>Debt collection cases, the resulting judgments, and predatory debt settlement companies target Latinx and Black consumers who are often low-income. This exacerbates the existing racial wealth gap. Helping consumers defend themselves in debt cases is the best way to fight unfair debt collection practices and protect assets. While some consumers can represent themselves, Public Counsel's Empowering and Defending Consumers Project will represent vulnerable, rural, and limited English proficient consumers by obtaining dismissals or judgments in their favor. Debt collection plaintiffs frequently dismiss cases when defendants with counsel appear.</p>			
Target Population			
<p>This project will serve individuals who are low-income and need legal assistance with consumer debt matters primarily across Los Angeles County. The project will also serve individuals in adjacent counties, such as Kern, Riverside, and San Bernardino, who are drawn to clinics advertised through our partner organizations in the Antelope Valley.</p> <p>The consumers who are low-income in these vulnerable communities are predominantly BIPOC, and many are elders. Our clients and their communities have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in large part because so many of them lost wages as a result of the near total shutdown of hospitality and other service industries in 2020. The effects of these lost wages continue to ripple through these communities. To survive, many BIPOC and elder consumers turned to credit cards, high-interest loans, high cost buy-now-pay-later and early wage access products, and debt settlement services. With rising interest rates and the cost of everyday needs skyrocketing, we are seeing an increase in the number of individuals facing debt collection, the majority from bad actors. In addition, as rental debt turns into consumer debt, consumers will be facing collections on multiple products.</p> <p>These vulnerable consumers are historically underserved in terms of debt collection services, especially because so few legal services organizations have consumer debt collection expertise. Without experienced debt collection assistance, these consumers will face harassment and lawsuits from debt collectors and debt buyers who historically rely on default judgments to collect often questionable debts.</p>			
Will this project address consumer debt matters in rural communities?			Yes
Will this project address consumer debt matters in particularly underserved communities?			Yes

Project Goals and Deliverables
<p>Public Counsel’s Empowering and Defending Consumers Project will provide underserved and rural consumer communities with access to debt-related legal services, education, and resources.</p> <p>Specifically we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide weekly clinics with 12 appointment slots staffed by at least two attorneys enabling access to over 500 consumer appointments annually where we can provide limited representation or pro per services; • Provide full representation to at least 100 consumers over the life of the project; • Reach at least 500 additional consumers through in-person and virtual consumer debt KYR presentations over the grant term; and • Disseminate physical and digital self-help debt information packets to consumers who are low-income. <p>In addition to these deliverables, this project will work to deepen community partnerships, broaden access to information about predatory financial products and debt collection tactics, and break down barriers facing low-income and rural communities.</p>
Evaluation
<p>Public Counsel will track the number of clients served, client demographic data, and main and economic benefits achieved. Routine review of this data will ensure the efficacy of our legal services model and allow us to adjust our program plan as necessary to ensure the quality of legal services for consumers facing debt collection matters. We will also track the number of participants in attendance at workshops, clinics, and community outreach events. The team will provide a short survey questionnaire to clinic participants to increase effectiveness and ensure we are meeting the needs of the consumers in attendance.</p>
How might the work of the proposed project be replicable and/or sustainable beyond the grant period?
<p>The grant will provide the start-up costs necessary to establish the partnerships, technology, and staff needed to create the project. Based on the best practices established through the grant term, Public Counsel will be able to replicate the project to assist other organizations in creating their own projects. The KYR presentations, legal templates, pro bono trainings, and pro per materials Public Counsel creates will be made available to other organizations who seek to expand their debt collection defense work through groups such as the Advocates for Consumer Justice -- a coalition of legal services attorneys in California -- which we chair, and the California Low-Income Consumer Coalition, of which we are a founding member.</p> <p>In terms of sustaining the project once the grant term ends, the tactics used by debt collection plaintiffs often create the opportunities to collect limited attorneys’ fees and sanctions. While some of these funds will be awarded directly to defendants, such attorneys’ fees may be used to assist with funding the project after the grant term ends. If awarded the grant we will further develop partnerships with local law schools and colleges to increase our debt collection volunteer base to help staff future clinics and intake lines. Finally, establishing this project will help Public Counsel compete for legal fellows to ensure the clinics are staffed into the future.</p>

2023-2025 CONSUMER DEBT GRANT PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name		Project Title	
Public Law Center		Orange County Consumer and Economic Justice for Older Adults Project	
Amount Requested	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Administrative Costs	
\$948,828	7.75%	0%	
Partner Organizations			
Council on Aging - Southern California			
County(ies) Served			
Orange			
Project Abstract			
<p>Public Law Center (PLC) will maintain our elder justice project to provide consumer and economic justice for low-income older adults (over 60 years old) in Orange County, California. The project will include focused outreach to caregivers of older adults with dementia and other memory-related conditions. The goal of this project is to continue the delivery of consumer and economic justice legal services to the older adult community in Orange County, especially as their consumer debt vulnerabilities have increased due to the global pandemic and the economic downturn. The objectives are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Provide civil legal services for indigent older adults and their caregivers related to consumer debt matters affected by the COVID-19 pandemic; (2) Increase accessible information for older adults and caregivers in Orange County on availability of legal services; (3) Educate older adults and caregivers in Orange County about consumer scams and predatory practices; (4) Provide proactive legal advice and assistance to older adults and caregivers; (5) Assist older adults and their caregivers in stabilizing any housing instability caused by the nexus of the pandemic, the economic downturn and consumer debt challenges; (6) Ensure appropriate and adequate legal services are provided to older adults with memory-related disabilities and their caregivers, taking into account the unique needs that come with memory-related disabilities and questions about competence; and (7) Further strengthen the partnerships between PLC and community partners who also service older adult populations. 			
Target Population			
<p>The proposed project will target low-income older adults (over 60 years old) in Orange County. The median household income for those over 65 in Orange County is about a third less than the overall median household income. About 45% of the older adult population, including eight out of 10 Hispanic older adult individuals and seven out of 10 Asian older adult individuals, are considered to be economically insecure. In addition to our partnership with Council on Aging - Southern California (COASC), PLC also works with community partners in the Latinx and Asian American populations to ensure members are aware of our services, receive holistic care, and feel comfortable engaging with our staff and volunteers (most of whom come from the communities). In recognition of recent consumer justice issues and the global pandemic, PLC is further targeting Older Adults with memory-related disabilities to ensure the most vulnerable members of our society are able to receive proactive and comprehensive care they need. Since September 2019, PLC has assisted nearly 200 older adults through our sunseting LAEP grant.</p>			
Will this project address consumer debt matters in rural communities?			No
Will this project address consumer debt matters in particularly underserved communities?			Yes
Project Goals and Deliverables			
<p>Based on past experience, we expect the legal services provided to include: debt collection, wage garnishment, or bank account levy defense; financial abuse related to consumer debt; protection against unfair debt collection practices; protection against unfair or predatory lending and consumer scams; and other debt matters. Based on our performance under the current LAEP-funded project and factoring our experiences with pandemic-related</p>			

disruptions, the proposed project will annually provide monthly outreach presentations/clinics, reaching an audience of approximately 200 older adults in Orange County. We expect we will screen approximately 120 older adults for legal services annually, opening at least 60 cases, all of which we expect will receive some level of service, and providing full representation to at least 35 older adult clients.

Evaluation

Because the work to be performed under this grant will consist primarily of individual case work, it will be evaluated consistent with PLC's existing evaluation and supervision policies for such work. The Director of Legal Services, a Directing Attorney or a Supervising Attorney review all closed cases to ensure compliance with PLC policies. The Director of Legal Services meets at least weekly with the Executive Director as an additional part of the supervisory and evaluation process.

Further, PLC's staff will have grant-funded objectives built into their work plans and tied to their performance evaluations. In addition to regularly reviewing advocates work, PLC will regularly review data in PLC's case management system to determine the demographic information of those served by the project. This information from our case management system will be reviewed at monthly check in meetings of staff on this project, including the Executive Director. To the extent we learn through these regular reviews that we need to adjust our efforts to ensure we are achieving the goals and objectives stated above, we will be able to develop a corrective plan in these meetings and monitor that plan's success.

Project partner activities will be evaluated during regular check-ins with Project and Organizational leads. Outreach and training materials will also be reviewed by PLC staff with relevant legal, programmatic, and language skills. Formal and informal training participant evaluations may also be utilized depending on initial stakeholder and staff feedback.

How might the work of the proposed project be replicable and/or sustainable beyond the grant period?

Civil legal aid projects of this type are not unique, however PLC's work across varied racial and ethnic enclaves and during unprecedented social and economic upheaval provides a resilient model of service that may be replicated by other organizations and jurisdictions. PLC is always open to providing technical assistance to other civil legal aid organizations, sharing our best practices through civil legal aid convenings and spaces, and connecting with non-legal organizations interested in developing partnerships with civil legal aid organizations. Beyond the grant period, PLC will continue to seek other funding opportunities to sustain and grow our Elder Justice Project, including exploring future LAEP grant proposals. In recent years, PLC also conducted issue-based individual giving campaigns focused on projects like Elder Justice. While these endeavors typically raise only supplemental funds, coupled with PLC's unrestricted funding streams, we believe can help sustain this project into the future.

2023-2025 CONSUMER DEBT GRANT PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name		Project Title	
Riverside Legal Aid		RLA CONSUMER PROJECT	
Amount Requested	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Administrative Costs	
\$450,000	20%	3.33%	
Partner Organizations			
Elder Abuse Forensic Council			
County(ies) Served			
Riverside			
Project Abstract			
<p>The proposed project will likely assign a full time intern or paralegal trained in all aspects of dealing with consumer cases such as Answer to Summons and Complaint, negotiation with Plaintiffs, answering and propounding interrogatories and preparing cases for depositions and trials. These activities will be supervised by a part time attorney or a portion of the time of a full time attorney. The attorney will also do any trial work or other litigation such as depositions on the individual cases. RLA already has a bankruptcy clinic, separately funded. A protocol will be established between the consumer and bankruptcy employees for internal referrals and appropriate case prep in each case. The intern or paralegal will also provide services pre-litigation regarding individual consumer debt in an effort to avoid both bankruptcy and other litigation as needed in areas such as predatory lending practices, financial abuse, unfair debt collection, credit reporting and discrimination, student loan forgiveness and forbearance. Post litigation remedies would include wage garnishment and levies.</p>			
Target Population			
<p>The target population is the rural and underserved population of Riverside County. A very large portion of Riverside county is rural and much of it is agricultural. The income level is very low and a large number of the people in the rural community are agricultural workers. Of these agricultural workers the majority are immigrants and many are Spanish speaking only. All of these factors add up to a most particularly underserved community. The target population is particularly in need of the services to be provided since the non-English speaking immigrant populations are generally the easiest to prey upon by financial sharks. Riverside County also has other low income populations outside the rural area consisting of a large number of non English speaking immigrants and also others who are not immigrants but low income as well. All of these populations are targets for unscrupulous financial institutions that do not wield their power fairly.</p>			
Will this project address consumer debt matters in rural communities?			Yes
Will this project address consumer debt matters in particularly underserved communities?			Yes
Project Goals and Deliverables			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify additional clients who are in need of bankruptcy services prior to levies and garnishments. 2. Prevent default judgments and "surprise" levies later on. 3. Establish and assert defenses in consumer debt matters 4. Assist in obtaining student loan forgiveness and forbearance 5. Offer assistance to clients who are considering loan or credit arrangements in explaining the terms and pitfalls. 			
Evaluation			
<p>All personnel participating in the project will confer and report to each other and other employees of RLA about the types of legal problems, necessary services and possible future strategies on a regular basis. Additionally the bankruptcy division of RLA will coordinate their matters with other consumer services in regard to establishing future strategies. The bankruptcy division is separately funded by Attorney Admissions Fund which provides funding for other similar bankruptcy clinics in several locations in Southern California. The Attorney Admissions Fund has regular meetings with bankruptcy judges and other court personnel to discuss items of mutual interest. The information RLA gains in these meetings is most helpful in strategizing trends for the future. Additionally, RLA belongs to CLICC,</p>			

California Low Income Consumer Coalition and attends weekly meetings and other events they sponsor. This keeps us informed about statewide developments in Consumer Law and related matters and all changes in the law.

How might the work of the proposed project be replicable and/or sustainable beyond the grant period?

RLA is interested in the additional consumer funding as an opportunity to enter this legal field in much more depth than we have before. As such if the program is expanded as we anticipate and we are able to better serve more individuals we would be able to replicate and sustain the project beyond the grant period with new sources of funding.

2023-2025 CONSUMER DEBT GRANT PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name		Project Title	
San Luis Obispo Legal Assistance Foundation		Consumer Debt Project	
Amount Requested	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Administrative Costs	
\$322,950	14.98%	10.22%	
Partner Organizations			
N/A			
County(ies) Served			
San Luis Obispo			
Project Abstract			
<p>The Project will handle a wide array of consumer matters including predatory lending, advice about and defenses to debt collection practices, wage garnishment and bank levy defense, help with credit reporting problems and credit discrimination, bankruptcy, and other debt matters including those related to student loans, auto loan, credit card, and medical debt. Additionally, while we do not anticipate providing full representation in Bankruptcy Court, the Project will provide free legal advice and information to help consumers decide if bankruptcy is a good option for them. For example, the Project will meet with debtors and evaluate their debt, assets and income and help the debtor decide if they are "judgment proof" such that filing for Chapter 7 would not be necessary to protect their assets if they are exempt from enforcement of a judgment. The Project will also provide assistance and resources to people representing themselves in bankruptcy cases and will help debtors negotiate their debt with creditors.</p> <p>Although not unique or fancy, this Project will provide free legal help to indigent debtors that is not available through any other resource in San Luis Obispo County. The training, education and resources that will be developed through and provided from this Project will benefit the organization and indigent County residents long after the grant expires.</p>			
Target Population			
<p>This Project will be available to all indigent consumers throughout the County. People of color were hardest hit by the pandemic so SLOLAF's bilingual Outreach Coordinator will focus his efforts on outreach to those communities, especially monolingual Spanish and Mixteco speaking people living in rural, farmworker communities. According to research by the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, "The impacts of the pandemic and the economic fallout have been widespread, but remain particularly prevalent among Black people, Latino people, and other people of color. These disproportionate impacts reflect harsh, long-standing inequities — often stemming from structural racism — in education, employment, housing, and health care that the crisis exacerbated. Households with children also continue to face especially high hardship rates." The study also found that Black and Latino workers have experienced slower jobs recovery than white workers — reflecting historical patterns rooted in structural racism. It's no secret that the economic fallout from the Coronavirus disproportionately impacted people of color in part because workers of color are overrepresented in many low-wage jobs that were most vulnerable to layoffs during the pandemic, according to a 2020 report from the US Bureau of Labor and Statistics. It stands to reason that this population would also have the greatest need for help with COVID related consumer debt. According to the Organization's own records, they are also disproportionately less likely to seek our help than non-BIPOC residents. Therefore, we will target our outreach efforts to that underserved population.</p>			
Will this project address consumer debt matters in rural communities?			Yes
Will this project address consumer debt matters in particularly underserved communities?			Yes
Project Goals and Deliverables			
<p>The key goal is to create a Consumer Debt Project in SLO County that, during the grant period, will focus on COVID debt but that will also allow us to create resources, training and self-help materials that can be used beyond the grant period. This will be the first free Consumer Debt Project offered to indigent San Luis Obispo County residents in recent history, to SLOLAF's knowledge. The only other legal aid provider serving San Luis Obispo County, CRLA, does</p>			

not provide consumer debt assistance (and has not in at least the last 10 years) and neither does the Court's Self-Help Center.

Evaluation

In addition to the data that is collected as required by the grant, SLOLAF will develop a Google Form that will be sent to all Project clients so that they can evaluate the services for themselves and provide feedback. Often, there are results that the handling attorney does not know about (to report themselves when closing) which hopefully will be more easily captured by using a Google Form. The form will be emailed (or mailed if the client does not have email) as soon as the services are concluded. Google Forms are very easy to use and to download the data in spreadsheets in order to evaluate responses. The survey (provided in the language spoken by the client) would include questions focused on helping us evaluate and improve the Project such as ease of accessing services, time it took to answer questions, whether client understood the information provided, whether client understood the advice and next steps, whether client felt supported through the process, amount of money saved or debt reduced (tangible benefits), whether client understood their rights and responsibilities better (intangible benefits), and what we can do to improve.

How might the work of the proposed project be replicable and/or sustainable beyond the grant period?

The training and materials created from the Project will be able to be used to help indigent people beyond the grant period. After training and self-help materials are developed, we intend to try to collaborate with the San Luis Obispo College of Law to see if we can create a clinical opportunity for law students working under the supervision of the Project's Staff Attorney, to provide advise and assistance with self-representation on consumer debt issues that would compliment the Project's services during the grant period and extend beyond the grant period.

2023-2025 CONSUMER DEBT GRANT PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name		Project Title	
Santa Clara University Alexander Law Center		Consumer Practice Area	
Amount Requested	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Administrative Costs	
\$450,000	12.29%	10.62%	
Partner Organizations			
Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto			
County(ies) Served			
San Mateo, Santa Clara			
Project Abstract			
<p>The Consumer Law Practice (CLP) of the Katharine & George Alexander Community Law Center (KGACLC) provides free legal services for low-income consumers. The goal of the CLP is to promote greater economic security for low-income individuals and communities by providing 1) assistance for self-represented debt collection defense litigants; 2) preventive educational information on rights and responsibilities; and 3) legal advice to individuals who require assistance for problems that have arisen in consumer transactions. The CLP is directed by an experienced KGACLC attorney who trains and supervises law student interns and volunteer attorneys. In addition to one-on-one pro se assistance and direct-representation on select matters, the CLP provides information regarding alternatives to litigation, community resources, and other services that may be available in the community. To expand the reach and clients served through the CLP, during the grant period, we are pleased to partner with CLSEPA. While we have informally partnered together in the past on affirmative cases and other matters, in recent years, CLSEPA reduced capacity with consumer services. Through this funding, we will formalize our partnership and CLSEPA will be able to rebuild capacity with the support of KGACLC. CLSEPA will focus their efforts on increasing community education and outreach for low-income and BIPOC consumers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Working together, we will expand our reach significantly by serving both our regional clientele by providing direct services paired with targeted outreach. This will equip a much larger number of community members with tools to protect themselves and their income.</p>			
Target Population			
<p>We anticipate that our target population will include low-income residents who come from mixed status families, who may have experienced housing insecurity or high rents, and may continue to face barriers to work, which led them to experience increased consumer debt, credit problems, and abusive debt collection practices by third party debt collectors. Additionally, these communities may face language barriers to accessing the court and legal services. Currently, there are limited consumer legal services available for the undocumented communities, our aging population, and young adults who may be vulnerable to consumer scams and abusive debt collection. All of these populations need increased economic mobility and security as inflation increases and the economy becomes more uncertain.</p> <p>Both KGACLC and CLSEPA have decades of experience serving these communities, both with outreach and strengthening partnerships with other organizations and with providing holistic and effective direct consumer legal services.</p>			
Will this project address consumer debt matters in rural communities?			Yes
Will this project address consumer debt matters in particularly underserved communities?			Yes
Project Goals and Deliverables			
<p>The KGACLC-CLSEPA Consumer collaboration aims to build capacity to serve low-income and BIPOC community members in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties experiencing consumer debt issues, and integrate consumer debt legal services with legal outreach provided to the target populations. By continuing to employ the three pronged approach, both organizations will be able to sustainably provide consumer legal services to their respective communities.</p>			

KGACLC's Consumer Debt Defense Clinic's goal is to meet 150 litigants per year at their moment of need and assert critical defenses and counterclaims to ultimately achieve a better outcome in their case.

KGACLC's Consumer Law Practice goal is to provide advice and direct representation to consumers facing a plethora of consumer issues.

CLESPA will provide at least 4 community presentations per year and we estimate that approximately 90-100 individuals will be reached. We will update and improve accessibility of at least 8 know-your-rights materials, including substantive presentations, updating KGACLC's Consumer Debt Defense Guide, social media posts, and informational texts to inform individuals about consumer protections that may apply to them.

Evaluation

Arming community members with information about their legal rights and assisting them with consumer debt collection defense and other actions is crucial to improving their financial security. By providing outreach to the most vulnerable populations impacted by COVID-19, KGACLC and CLSEPA will increase their cost savings and income protection when they face various consumer-related legal issues.

KGACLC employs a variety of evaluation measures including client surveys at the conclusion of each Clinic appointment and representation case to rate service effectiveness, usefulness of information, and suggestions for improvement. Quarterly, KGACLC conducts follow-up calls with consumers served through the Clinic to ensure services meet consumer needs.

CLESPA will send short surveys to attendees after any presentation to collect feedback and gauge how effective outreach and information sharing efforts are and whether we can make any improvements or changes. CLESPA will also track the level of engagement on social media.

We will expand our reach significantly by serving people who directly engage with CLSEPA and KGACLC, but also those who seek services from our community partners. This will equip a much larger number of consumers with tools to protect themselves and their income.

KGACLC and CLESPA will track clients seen through the advice clinics, agency referrals, direct representation cases, amounts of income saved, monetary awards, and attorney's fees year over year to measure the effectiveness of our legal services efforts.

Each year we will meet to evaluate and analyze our data collectively to develop improved strategies and approaches in the following year.

How might the work of the proposed project be replicable and/or sustainable beyond the grant period?

As we build capacity to provide consumer legal services through this grant, KGACLC and CLSEPA will also develop narratives and data to support the case for funding this critical work in the greater ecosystem of anti-poverty work.

The partnership will not only expand the reach of each agency's consumer practice, but also over time, our work will increase the number of available law students and volunteer attorneys available to provide legal resources for low-income consumers.

The approaches to clinic staffing and methods of referrals and outreach can be utilized by other nonprofit partners to build capacity and better serve their target populations. Further, this partnership will enable both organizations to sustain a caseload and be a resource to others in our legal services community.

2023-2025 CONSUMER DEBT GRANT PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name		Project Title	
Senior Advocacy Network		Consumer Debt Assistance for Older Adults	
Amount Requested	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Administrative Costs	
\$712,200	19.3%	12.28%	
Partner Organizations			
N/A			
County(ies) Served			
Merced, Stanislaus			
Project Abstract			
<p>The core goal of the Consumer Debt Assistance for Older Adults is provide legal advice, counseling and possible bankruptcy, litigation to Older Adults with significant consumer debt that prevents them from having enough finances to purchase food, medication, utilities and rent or mortgage payments. We believe by assisting them with debt relief, they will have food and medication to lead a healthier life, will afford utilities, will have money to pay their rent and/or mortgage, preventing eviction and foreclosure. They will have relief from financial stress they experience by being bogged down with debt they may never repay. This project will impact the lives of many older adults allowing them to live out their lives with grace and dignity. This project will compliment the HP3 and CalHFA grants we already administer.</p>			
Target Population			
<p>SAN provides legal assistance to persons over the age of 60. The project will target OAs, especially those from rural communities in both Stanislaus and Merced county. Persons with little or no English proficiency will be of particular importance because of their increased vulnerability and the general trend for scammers and lenders to prey on non-English speakers and persons over the age of 60.</p> <p>This population is in particular need of these services because of their age, access to transportation, economic status, cultural barriers and embarrassment of their current financial troubles. Many will not ask family for assistance for fear of family members controlling their finances; or they have been scammed and do not want anyone to know. The populations we will serve are some of the hardest working individuals in our communities and believe they can self-help by continuing to work and to eventually pay off their bad debt. Unfortunately, the aging process does not allow many to continue to work as they used to and they are stuck with large debt without the resources to make their payments.</p>			
Will this project address consumer debt matters in rural communities?			Yes
Will this project address consumer debt matters in particularly underserved communities?			Yes
Project Goals and Deliverables			
<p>1. Conduct total of 8 or more outreach events annually in Stanislaus and Merced Counties in settings were OAs frequent to increase awareness of the Consumer Debt Assistance for Older Adults Project AND the legal services provided by SAN.</p> <p>2. Improve collaboration among OA providers/legal partners and facilitate a minimum of 3 learning collaboratives and/or trainings annually to increase capacity and skills re consumer debt issues in Stanislaus and Merced Counties among OA providers.</p> <p>3. Develop and maintain a bilingual, bicultural SAN Consumer Debt web page on the existing SAN-SLP website for potential clients and provider organizations that will track the number of visitors to the site. Aim is for 100 views per month.</p> <p>4. Develop informational hand-outs/brochures to disseminate at all outreach, educational and legal clinic events and hand out 500 informational packets per year.</p>			

5. Provide confidential legal intake clinics in remote areas of counties to meet the client in their home by scheduling 8 intake clinics per quarter at churches, senior centers, restaurant meeting rooms.
6. Accept at least 20 new clients per month with consumer debt issues.
7. Close at least 50% of all cases per year with a 60% positive resolution rate the first year, increasing to 70% in years 2 and 3.

Evaluation

Our organization collects a broad range of demographic client data at every intake. For this project we will revise our intake to include information about the consumer debt issue. Specifically, we will keep data on the nature of the debt, amount, and when the debt arose. This, in combination with the demographic data, allows us to determine whether any adjustment in our program procedures is necessary to more effectively address specific consumer debt matters. This data will be further utilized to modify our outreach methods to better reach and address the target population.

In addition, a written questionnaire will be developed to present to the client at closure of their case which will ask their opinion about the services provided, their satisfaction with the staff and the service and any suggestions for improvement.

How might the work of the proposed project be replicable and/or sustainable beyond the grant period?

The proposed project will likely be sustainable beyond this grant period by using the results we have obtained to leverage new funding sources to replicate the program after the current funding ends. Since this is a new program, we will be making changes to the program as we grow as we learn to be more efficient in both litigation and in working with debt collectors. Those changes will result in the program becoming a reliable, efficient and sustainable program for our agency and our successes will assure any future funders that this program is important to the OA community for continued funding.

2023-2025 CONSUMER DEBT GRANT PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name		Project Title	
Senior Citizens Legal Services		Indigent Consumer Debt Legal & Bankruptcy Services	
Amount Requested	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Administrative Costs	
\$460,500	16.94%	0%	
Partner Organizations			
Money Management International (MMI)			
County(ies) Served			
San Benito, Santa Cruz			
Project Abstract			
<p>SCLS has been providing high quality legal services to indigent adults, age 60 and older, who reside in Santa Cruz and San Benito counties for 50 years. The typical senior who is served by SCLS cannot afford to hire private counsel or their legal problem is such that private representation is unrealistic. The pandemic has greatly increased the consumer debt problems for these clients. SCLS intends to address this need by hiring experienced legal staff to provide full scope representation to seniors who are facing financial hardships resulting from COVID-19, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those being sued for inability to pay a credit card debt; • Wages are being garnished • Bank accounts are being levied • Victims of consumer scams/fraud • Unable to pay a medical debt <p>For those who have a protectable asset such as a home and little or no other assets or income, the newly hired Consumer Attorney will assist with assessing then filing for Chapter 7 bankruptcy.</p> <p>In addition, educational workshops and Pro Se "Answer" clinics will be offered to clients in both counties. Monthly workshops will help educate seniors on various issues related to consumer debt such as how to safeguard against scams. Pro Se Answer clinics will help seniors who have been served with a consumer debt complaint and help them file Answers, request records, write demand letters, try to negotiate a settlement or dismiss their case.</p> <p>Finally, holistic, credit and housing (budget) counseling will be offered to prevent future debt problems from occurring again.</p>			
Target Population			
<p>The target population to be served by this project are low income seniors, 60 and older, who have been financially impacted by the pandemic. Seniors are in particular need of the services that we aim to provide because there are very few options for obtaining free legal services related to consumer debt. For years, SCLS has received many requests for bankruptcy services and has not before been able to provide this important service. At the onset of COVID-19, SCLS saw a 925% increase in demand for services, while simultaneously losing all volunteer and intern support we traditionally relied on. SCLS had historically served approximately 12 new client each week. Post COVID-19, we began receiving an average of 111 calls per week from prospective clients.</p> <p>During this pandemic, there has been very little protection for seniors unable to pay daily living expenses such as credit cards and medical bills, whereas in other areas, such as housing, there have been generous moratoriums to help protect from eviction. In addition to the lack of protection for those who have fallen behind on expenses, the percentage of seniors being targeted by scams is skyrocketing. According to the National Council on Aging, in 2021, there were 92,371 older fraud victims resulting in \$1.7 billion in losses. The most common financial scams targeting older people include government impersonation, sweepstakes scams, and robocall scams. Financial crimes against seniors can be devastating, particularly for those also impacted by the pandemic with no way to recoup their losses.</p>			

Will this project address consumer debt matters in rural communities?	Yes
Will this project address consumer debt matters in particularly underserved communities?	Yes
Project Goals and Deliverables	
<p>Low-income seniors often face overwhelming debt that results from debt accumulated from doctor and hospital visits, the death of a spouse, or credit cards. These individuals often rely entirely on social security, SSI, and other benefits; and as a result, they are unable to afford the \$1500-\$2500 Chapter 7 Bankruptcy attorney fees while still affording basic necessities. Creditors aggressively pursue these debts, and low income seniors must endure harassing collection phone calls and letters from creditors seeking payment. Low-income seniors are often sued for these debts and face possible bank account levies and liens against their property. Although low-income seniors are sometimes judgment proof, this is not always the case: low income seniors often have property or income that is assessable for garnishment or levy. At SCLS we have noticed that one of the greatest harms to our clients from these collection activities is the stress our clients face with every new collection effort - from the initial collection letters alerting seniors their debt is being sent to collections, to service of a summons to go to court, and then notices of levies from a bank. Often our clients have many creditors and they face these actions repeatedly, for years.</p> <p>The key goals of this project are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to reduce stress, - alleviate debt, - respond successfully to consumer complaints, - help low income individuals file Chapter 7 bankruptcy giving them and their families a fresh start. - Additionally, facilitating credit or housing counseling will educate the individual in order to avoid similar problems from reoccurring. 	
Evaluation	
<p>SCLS has long used PIKA as its client management system and is well versed in its reporting capabilities. PIKA's data software can run reports that provide accurate information regarding the number of clients served during the reporting period, their geographical information, and various other data points needed to understand the effectiveness of this grant project. We are also working incredibly hard right now to research and purchase new software, due to the fact that PIKA is no longer being supported. We have done an extensive amount of research and expect to have new software by the end of 2022.</p> <p>Additionally, SCLS historically tracks client satisfaction using customer surveys gathered at the conclusion of each legal matter. The clients themselves are able to provide valuable insights as to the integrity of the new program and collecting surveys will be essential to evaluate the project. The Consumer Attorney will mail out a Consumer Satisfaction survey after each legal matter. Additionally, SCLS is working on creating digital surveys which can be emailed to clients, and tablets have also been purchased for in office survey purposes to allow data to be automatically stored and sorted, and to offer greater confidentiality. Each of these assessment tools should gather consumer experience information regarding the quality of services received, professionalism of staff and outcomes achieved.</p> <p>More generally, the quantity and effectiveness of services provided under this grant will be carefully evaluated by SCLS Executive Director Tanya Ridino and reported as required by the grant.</p>	
How might the work of the proposed project be replicable and/or sustainable beyond the grant period?	
<p>We have done our best with available resources to meet the growing needs in the region, and where possible to innovate. It has long been recognized that our community would benefit vastly from the introduction of consumer debt services and additional expertise with bankruptcy and debt counseling. This funding is a welcomed foundation for offering these important services and will be considered "seed money" for a long-lasting service.</p> <p>Continuation beyond the grant funding period is expected, as SCLS is currently budgeted to hire a Development Director and fully expects to continue expanding their budget. SCLS therefore would be able to keep on newly retained staff and absorb other project costs, with the intention of continuing the newly added services following the grant funding period.</p>	

Alternative funding will of course also be consistently considered. SCLS Executive Director, Tanya Ridino, is now becoming well versed in seeking funding sources and is continually working on locating funding sources and submitting appropriate requests for grant money. Ms. Ridino was new to her position as Executive Director at SCLS in 2020, but has tripled the Agency budget in her short time as ED and has already submitted numerous grant requests, created new partnerships and is committed to continuing growth for the Agency.

2023-2025 CONSUMER DEBT GRANT PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name		Project Title	
USD School of Law Legal Clinics		Civil Clinic Expansion - Consumer Debt Project	
Amount Requested	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Administrative Costs	
\$265,791	19.04%	0%	
Partner Organizations			
N/A			
County(ies) Served			
San Diego			
Project Abstract			
<p>The Civil Clinic provides full-scope legal representation to indigent individuals and families in San Diego County. The Consumer Debt Grant will allow the Civil Clinic to expand its services to help provide additional legal services for indigent clients related to consumer debt matters affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, prioritizing minorities living in certain zip codes, clients living in rural East County San Diego, and also undocumented clients. The Civil Clinic will focus on zip codes where indigent minorities have been targeted with initial transactions leading to the debt and the subsequent collection practices. For example, payday loan lenders that set up shop in disadvantaged areas. The Civil Clinic will provide indigent clients with civil legal services related to the following: debt collection, wage garnishment, and bank levy defense; financial abuse related to consumer debt; protection against unfair debt collection practices; protection against unfair or predatory lending and consumer scams; credit reporting and credit discrimination; and other debt matters related to student loan, auto loan, credit card, and medical debt.</p> <p>The proposed project will also build on the incredible success of our new Housing Rights Project that launched in January 2022, which focuses on providing full-scope legal representation to undocumented tenants. While many undocumented individuals are unbanked, they still face consumer debt issues, fraud, and discriminatory financial practices that can be litigated by the expanded Civil Clinic. The project will also build upon our outreach network in rural East County San Diego to serve clients with pandemic related consumer debt issues.</p>			
Target Population			
<p>Target populations include minorities living in disadvantaged communities in San Diego County that suffered from job loss or other financial impact as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. San Diego County already had a high cost of living prior to the pandemic. Job losses and reduced wages from the pandemic pushed many families living paycheck to paycheck into financial ruin, with no hope to resolve consumer debt resulting in a downward spiral. Further, the high cost of inflation as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic has put even more families at all income levels at risk of financial challenges, but disproportionately affects indigent and low-wage earners. The project's target population will also include undocumented individuals and families suffering the financial impacts of the pandemic. We have found through our work in the Housing Rights Project that landlords and other creditors often take advantage of undocumented individuals and families due to their immigration status. For example, landlords will charge outrageous fees or refuse to make repairs because they believe undocumented individuals and families have limited options and no recourse (https://vimeo.com/754323040/a1f5b3e46a). The third target population will be indigent individuals and families living in rural East County San Diego all the way to the Imperial County border. Through our outreach events as part of our homelessness prevention work, we have created partnerships and referral sources for clients living in rural areas of San Diego County that don't even have running water. This existing network will help us assist clients suffering from the pandemic.</p>			
Will this project address consumer debt matters in rural communities?			Yes
Will this project address consumer debt matters in particularly underserved communities?			Yes
Project Goals and Deliverables			
<p>The key goals for the project are to provide access to high quality, full-scope civil litigation representation to the following groups suffering financial setbacks and abuse from the pandemic: 1) Minorities living in disadvantaged communities in San Diego County; 2) Undocumented individuals and families living in San Diego County; and 3)</p>			

Individuals and families living in East San Diego County all the way to the Imperial County border. During the course of the project, the Civil Clinic expansion will provide some level of full-scope representation to 500 indigent clients to assist with resolving their consumer debt issues resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Evaluation

The Legal Clinics will conduct surveys for closed client cases over the phone, email, and also through text messages. In addition, closed case data will be tracked in Legal Server, our online case management system, which allows for custom and automatic reports for key performance indicators and other metrics that will allow the supervising attorneys and clinic directors to evaluate whether adjustments to the program plan need to be made and the effectiveness of the current model.

How might the work of the proposed project be replicable and/or sustainable beyond the grant period?

It is our hope and expectation that by the end of the Consumer Debt Grant in 2025, the Civil Clinic will have raised enough funds through donations, other grants, and attorney's fee awards, that the Civil Clinic will continue to operate with expanded services indefinitely.

2023-2025 CONSUMER DEBT GRANT PROJECT PROFILE

Organization Name		Project Title	
Western Center on Law and Poverty		Alleviating Medical Debt in California's Rural Communities	
Amount Requested	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Non-Personnel Costs	Percent of Total Amount Requested Budgeted for Administrative Costs	
\$1,200,000	14.56%	9.25%	
Partner Organizations			
Inland Counties Legal Services, Central California Legal Services			
County(ies) Served			
Statewide			
Project Abstract			
<p>Medical debt collections never stopped during the COVID-19 pandemic; hospitals, providers, and debt collectors continue(d) pursuing collections without restraint. Many hospitals fail to inform patients of their charity care eligibility before commencing debt collection, are largely inconsistent in sharing specific eligibility guidelines, and fall short in overall implementation, enforcement, and oversight of charity care programs. These gaps in policies have been exacerbated by COVID-19—as patients are struggling to make ends meet due to the pandemic's economic impacts and remain largely unaware of any recourse for debt forgiveness or reductions of medical billing charges.</p> <p>For far too long, medical debt has disproportionately burdened people of color. Black adults reported the highest rate of medical debt in 2021 at 22.5%, compared with 15.5% of white adults (Urban Institute). Debt collectors target Black people and people of color disproportionately (National Consumer Law Center). Consumers typically have legal representation in less than 10% of debt claims and more than 70% of debt cases end with default judgments (Pew Charitable Trusts). This kind of debt is tied to systemic racism with the unequal distribution of healthcare and legal resources, especially for BIPOC communities in California. By increasing the enforcement of existing law in different health care systems utilized by people of color, we will create systems with anti-racist billing and collections practices. We will educate communities about their rights, assist them in obtaining financial assistance, mandate the revision of deficient hospital policies, and when necessary, pursue impact litigation against bad actors and predatory collections agencies.</p>			
Target Population			
<p>Western Center and its grant partners will serve counties that have high a prevalence of low-income households, medical debt, and known hospitals with deficient charity care policies and practices. Each organization has a dedicated health law or consumer law program—or both—which will bring in a flow of individual medical debt cases that will inform our systemic and policy advocacy. The number of individuals with medical debt we intend to engage with on a substantial basis will be about 150 over the course of three years, through our local partner organizations. We expect our impact on individuals to be significantly larger based on changes to hospital charity care policies, increased enforcement of existing laws, new legislation, and impact litigation. This could be nearly half a million Californians who are estimated to have medical debt.</p>			
Will this project address consumer debt matters in rural communities?			Yes
Will this project address consumer debt matters in particularly underserved communities?			Yes
Project Goals and Deliverables			
<p>As California's oldest legal support center, Western Center plans to use this grant to increase advocates' capacity to reduce consumers' medical debt by enforcing existing state and federal law. We will train advocates on using these rules in collection lawsuits, in affirmative lawsuits against hospitals, to resolve debts without litigation, and in filing administrative complaints with state and federal consumer agencies. We will also facilitate conversations between advocates and state agencies for administrative improvements to existing law, with a focus on the state's new Department of Financial Protection and Innovation, Civil Rights Department, Department of Health Care Services, Department of Managed Health Care, and Department of Health Care Access and Information.</p>			

Below are outcomes we can achieve over the three-year grant period:

- Create and deliver community outreach materials including informational sessions and know-your-rights guides;
- Develop a “best practices” toolkit for community-based organizations to use in individual cases and when advocating for hospital policy change;
- Increase capacity of each local organization to bring affirmative lawsuits against bad billing actors and collectors;
- Identify at least one new idea for an administrative or legislative fix to reduce medical debt for consumers; and
- Articulate priority medical debt data collection points for state legislators and agencies.

Evaluation

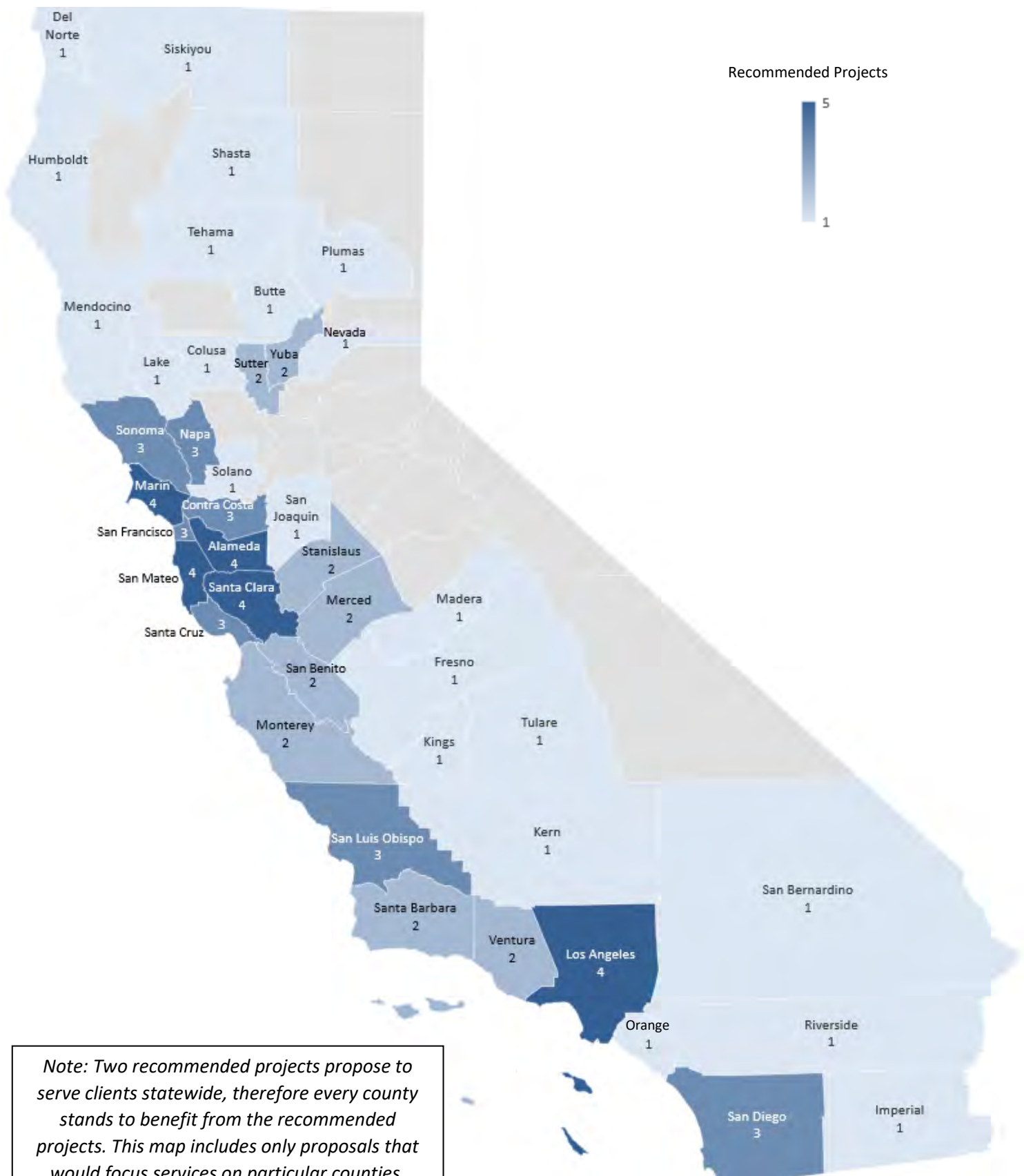
As part of the Health Consumer Alliance, we work with 10 legal services organizations with programs dedicated to health care issues. Through consumer law networks, we are connected to other legal services programs that represent clients on medical debt issues. We are trusted supporters of California’s vast health insurance application assister and enroller community (many working for community clinics and grassroots promotora networks), working with the frontline staff who spot and resolve hospital medical debt issues. By providing advice on medical debt cases on a frequent basis, we access key data and elevate trending problems to our state agencies and legislators for resolution.

Metrics we will monitor throughout the grant period include number of collection cases filed in the local jurisdiction by certain medical debt collectors, number of consumers seen at clinics, number of cases that required representation in medical debt defense, amount of debt discounted or discharged, number of people benefiting from impact litigation, number of referrals to oversight agencies for enforcement.

How might the work of the proposed project be replicable and/or sustainable beyond the grant period?

Alleviating unjust medical debt caused by the economic devastation of COVID-19 is an urgent call to action - one that this project can take the lead in addressing. This project draws on Western Center's proven model of training, administrative and policy advocacy, and impact litigation to address racial and economic inequities in the healthcare system. The trainings, tools, and Charity Care policy guidance created through this project in partnership with our grant partners will be shared with legal service providers and advocacy groups throughout California to implement in their respective communities.

Map of Recommended Consumer Debt Projects: Number of Projects that Would Serve Each County, as Recommended at November 30, 2022, Executive Committee Meeting



Note: Two recommended projects propose to serve clients statewide, therefore every county stands to benefit from the recommended projects. This map includes only proposals that would focus services on particular counties, however.

Organization	County(ies) Served	Score	Funding Requested	Funding Recomm.
Inland Counties Legal Services*	Riverside, San Bernardino	89	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 1,200,000
Legal Access Alameda	Alameda, Contra Costa, Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, San Benito, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sonoma	85	\$ 273,270	\$ 273,270
Legal Aid Society of San Diego	San Diego	84	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 1,200,000
San Luis Obispo Legal Assistance Foundation	San Luis Obispo	83	\$ 322,950	\$ 322,950
Senior Advocacy Network	Merced, Stanislaus	82	\$ 712,200	\$ 712,200
Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice	Los Angeles	81	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 1,102,500
Public Counsel	Los Angeles	81	\$ 1,199,382	\$ 1,199,382
California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.	Colusa, Fresno, Imperial, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Monterey, San Diego, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tulare, Ventura, Yuba	79	\$ 715,221	\$ 715,221
Bay Area Legal Aid	Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Clara	78	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 1,200,000
Capital Pro Bono Inc.	Butte, Nevada, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama, Yuba	77	\$ 330,000	\$ 330,000
Neighborhood Legal Services	Los Angeles	77	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 816,458
Public Law Center	Orange	74	\$ 948,828	\$ 948,828
OneJustice	Statewide	73	\$ 750,000	\$ 750,000
Senior Citizens Legal Services	San Benito, Santa Cruz	73	\$ 460,500	\$ 400,500
Western Center on Law and Poverty*	Statewide	71	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 840,000
Legal Assistance to the Elderly	San Francisco	68.5	\$ 966,606	\$ 966,606
USD School of Law Legal Clinics	San Diego	67.5	\$ 265,791	\$ 265,791
Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County	San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura	67	\$ 281,775	\$ 281,775
Santa Clara University Alexander Law Center	San Mateo, Santa Clara	66	\$ 450,000	\$ 269,871
Legal Aid of Marin	Marin	65.5	\$ 758,115	\$ 454,648
*After the November 30, 2022, Executive Committee meeting, State Bar staff conducted follow-up with Inland Counties Legal Services (ICLS) to determine whether the organization preferred to receive full funding of their proposal or divert some funds to their proposed subgrant under Western Center on Law and Poverty's (Western Center) proposal. ICLS indicated they would prefer to reduce their own proposed budget by \$360,000 and fully fund their subgrant work under Western Center's proposal. If the commission agrees, this would result in an award amount of \$840,000 to ICLS and \$1,200,000 to Western Center.				



Date: May 12, 2021

To: Members, Executive Committee of the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission

From: Chris McConkey, Senior Program Analyst

Subject: 2021-2022 Provisionally Licensed Lawyers (PLL) Grant Recommendations

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

From January 1, 2021, until January 1, 2023, section 6140.03 of the California Business and Professions Code increases by \$5 the contribution that is part of the attorneys' annual license fee to support Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA)-funded organizations. The additional \$5 "shall be allocated to qualified legal services projects or qualified support centers...to hire law school graduates with a temporary provisional license issued by the State Bar."¹

The statutory change specifies that grants to hire provisionally licensed lawyers (PLLs) shall be competitive awards and gives the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission (Commission), in consultation with the Board of Trustees, authority to set grantmaking priorities. The State Bar must use the IOLTA funding formula to reallocate to QLSPs and support centers any funds that remain after the Provisional Licensure Program ends on June 1, 2022.²

The State Bar received 32 PLL Grant applications requesting a total of \$2,381,000. Staff estimate that total funding for these grants, from 2021 and 2022 combined, will be \$1,359,600. Staff has scored all applications using the Commission's rubric for these grants and arrived at funding recommendations for the 20 highest scoring submissions. Staff's funding recommendations total \$1,359,000 and would provide grants to hire full-time PLLs across the state, collectively serving every county.

The Commission Executive Committee will meet on May 12 to vote on staff's PLL Grant funding recommendations. To prepare for that vote, this memo provides information about staff's review process, scores, and funding determinations for these awards.

¹ California Business and Professions Code section 6140.03(b)(1). Note that attorneys may "opt out" of making this contribution.

² California Business and Professions Code section 6140.03(b)(2)-(4). The IOLTA funding formula is in California Business and Professions Code section 6216.

BACKGROUND

Scoring Rubric

The Commission recommended, and the Board of Trustees approved, selection criteria that will direct awards toward those programs best equipped to support their PLL on a compelling project. The goal is to maximize each PLL's contribution and retention while protecting consumers. The scoring rubric (infra, p. 3) looks at each organization's ability and plans to recruit, engage, train, supervise, and mentor a PLL. Successful responses to the Request for Proposals (Attachment A) persuasively and in detail described:

1. **(Impact)** How the organization would leverage the PLL's provisional license on a project that is well within the organization's experience and expertise vis-à-vis areas of law and client communities.
2. **(Support)** How the organization would train, mentor, and otherwise develop the PLL who might have to onboard and work remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. **(Safeguards)** How the organization would protect the experiences of both its clients and the PLL through quality assurance safeguards for the PLL's legal work.
4. **(Recruitment)** How the organization would support—or, if the organization has already selected a PLL, has supported—PLL engagement and retention through a process to locate and evaluate a strong and diverse pool of PLL candidates.

The rubric also gives special consideration to projects that would focus their PLL's work on the legal issues facing those:

- Suffering due to COVID-19.
- Suffering due to natural disasters.
- Residing in rural areas.

Within the parameters of the scoring rubric, the Commission and Board directed staff to strive to recommend a statewide distribution of grants. Finally, to maximize the funding that goes to compensating PLLs, the Commission permitted staff to consider whether organizations had already selected a PLL candidate by the time they applied.

DISCUSSION

Review Process

The State Bar received 32 PLL Grant applications requesting a total of \$2,381,000. Given the short window to review submissions, the Commission delegated to staff the responsibility of scoring PLL Grant proposals. A team of three staff members from the Office of Access & Inclusion (two Program Managers and one Senior Program Analyst) scored all 32 applications. The staff members followed a written review guide and held a calibration session so they would share an understanding of—and thereafter consistently apply—the scoring rubric. The review team then met two more times to discuss and arrive at unified scores for every submission.

Scoring

The Commission Executive Committee and Board of Trustees approved the following rubric for scoring applications:

Category	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Below Expectations	Not Addressed
Impact: Applicant envisions work that will leverage the PLL's provisional license on a project that is well within the organization's experience and expertise.				
Support: Applicant describes a thoughtful plan to provide onboarding, training, and mentorship to the PLL.				
Safeguards: Applicant articulates robust supervision and other quality assurance measures to protect the experiences of both its clients and the PLL.				
Recruitment: Applicant lists thoughtful steps to select a motivated and qualified candidate (even if it has already selected a qualified candidate) from a strong and diverse pool.				
Number of check marks	X25 points	X20 points	X15 points	X0 points
Subtotal				
Special consideration: Applicant articulates a focus on providing COVID-19, natural disaster, and/or rural legal aid.				
	0-10 points			
Total				

Staff adhered to the guidance that it provided to programs in the application instructions. When evaluating "impact", staff considered:

- The types of cases with which the PLL would assist and the PLL's role in those cases.
- How the organization would leverage the PLL's provisional license to its full advantage.
- The communities—geographic, demographic, linguistic, etc.—on which the PLL would focus his, her, or their legal work.
- Anything that would make the PLL particularly qualified to perform the work.
- The organization's experience with the interventions themselves (e.g. clinics vs. litigation), areas of law, and communities to be served.

When evaluating “support”, staff considered:

- The substantive law, legal skills, and other (e.g. diversity, equity, and inclusion, trauma-informed care, and cultural humility) trainings that the PLL would receive, as well as other forms of professional development and support.
- All other types of support (e.g. access to legal templates and commercial research databases) that the applicant would provide to assist the PLL.

When evaluating “safeguards”, staff considered:

- How the PLL would onboard, receive trainings, meet with their supervisor, and collaborate with other staff.
- The supervisor’s steps to ensure that the PLL would provide safe, effective, and sensitive legal services to clients.
- How the organization would accomplish these goals if the PLL had to work remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

When evaluating “recruitment”, staff considered:

- How the organization sought or proposed to seek a strong and diverse pool of candidates.
- Whether/how the organization’s evaluation criteria for candidates relate(d) to the proposed project.

When evaluating “special consideration”, staff considered whether the applicant described an explicit focus for the PLL on COVID-19, natural disaster, and/or rural civil legal issues. Describing work that combines those issues, such as helping survivors of natural disasters in rural areas, earned more points than describing work that focused on just one. The number of points depended on the strength of connection to the special consideration categories and thoroughness of explanation.

The rubric does not confer points for having already selected a PLL. Staff would have considered whether an organization had already selected a PLL if staff needed to break a tie between organizations with the same score. This did not need to happen. Additionally, staff observed a spread of funding across the state as a result of the scores. Therefore, staff did not need to use geography as a tie breaker either.

Funding Levels

To recommend an award amount, staff allocated the available funding starting with the highest scoring application. Staff then proceeded to the second-highest scoring proposal and so on until it had exhausted the pool of funds. Thus, each applicant’s total score determined its place in line for funding. Total scores did not, however, influence whether staff recommended that successful grantees receive only some or all of their budget request. Rather, staff considered whether the program had budgeted for significant other resources to compensate the PLL. Successful programs that did propose significant non-PLL Grant funds typically received a recommendation for their full budget request

The Grant Request for Proposals alerted applicants that they might receive less than their full request.³ The Commission Executive Committee and Board of Trustees anticipated that this would be a way to balance the competing goals of maximizing the number of grant-funded positions for PLLs and ensuring sufficient award amounts for each grantee. Asking grantees to provide some of the funding to hire a PLL also increases the chances that the program can afford to keep the individual after the grant ends. Programs that budgeted only PLL Grant dollars to hire a PLL received a recommendation of funding between 73 percent and 94 percent of their request. For the top 20 applications as a group, the average recommend funding is 90 percent of the budgeted request.

Recommending amounts that were under the program's request enabled staff to make three additional awards to hire full-time PLLs. If staff had only recommended awards of 100 percent of each grantee's request, there would have been funding available for just 17 awards with some funding left over.

CONCLUSION

Collectively, the recommended programs would hire PLLs to serve every county in California. Excluding those whose PLL would provide services statewide, the recommended organizations would still serve 43 counties.⁴ At least 30 of these counties are markedly rural and/or have comparatively few legal aid providers. These PLLs would provide services across the spectrum of civil legal issues facing low-income Californians. The most common areas of law include housing (11 PLLs), family/domestic violence (8 PLLs), and income maintenance (7 PLLs). All but five of the 20 PLLs would work on COVID-19, natural disaster, or rural legal issues.

Staff estimates that there will be funding to provide grants to the top 20 (top 63 percent of) applicants. These programs received total scores between 81 and 100 points. Attachment B lists total scores, funding recommendations, and other information for each application. Attachment C breaks down the total score for each application according to the rubric's criteria. This breakdown includes any points that the program might have received for proposing work on COVID-19, natural disaster, and/or rural civil legal issues. Attachment D provides the narrative responses and budget requests from each applicant. Attachment E shows the counties to which the recommended programs would have their PLL provide services. Finally, Attachment F lists the recommended programs whose PLL would provide services in each area of law.

At its meeting on May 12, staff will ask the Commission Executive Committee to review and approve these recommendations for 2021-2022 PLL Grant awards.

³ The Request for Proposals section titled "Required Contribution from the Host Organization" states, "Please note that successful applicants might have to contribute some funding to compensate a full-time PLL." The section then provides an example scenario. Attachment A, page 3.

⁴ These counties are: Alameda, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Glenn, Humboldt, Imperial, Lake, Lassen, Los Angeles, Marin, Mendocino, Modoc, Nevada, Orange, Placer, Plumas, Riverside, Sacramento, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Tehama, Trinity, Ventura, Yolo, and Yuba.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Request for Proposals for 2021-2022 PLL Grants
- B. Staff Scores and Funding Recommendations for PLL Grant Applications
- C. Breakdown of Staff Scores for PLL Grant Applications
- D. Profile Sheets of PLL Grant Applications
- E. Map of Recommended PLL Grant Recipients
- F. Recommended PLL Grant Recipients by Area of Law



The State Bar of California

2021–2022 Provisionally Licensed Lawyers (PLL) Grant Request for Proposals

Application available in SmartSimple: Monday, March 15, 2021

Deadline to submit application in SmartSimple: Friday, April 16, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. (PT).

Background

On September 30, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill 3362 (AB 3362). AB 3362 amends section 6140.03 of the California Business and Professions Code to increase by \$5 the opt-out donation to qualified legal services projects (QLSPs) and support centers on attorneys' annual license fee statements. According to the legislation, the additional \$5 "shall be allocated to qualified legal services projects or qualified support centers...to hire law school graduates with a temporary provisional license issued by the State Bar." The statute instructs that the entire \$5 increase from each licensee who contributes must go to QLSPs and support centers without any deductions for State Bar costs.

AB 3362 specifies that these grants to hire Provisionally Licensed Lawyers (PLLs) shall be competitive awards and gives the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission, in consultation with the State Bar Board of Trustees, authority to set grantmaking priorities. Any funds remaining after the State Bar's Provisional Licensure Program ends must be reallocated to QLSPs and support centers through the statutory Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts formula in California Business and Professions Code section 6216. The Provisional Licensure Program will end on June 1, 2022. The following is an excerpt of AB 3362's relevant language:

Section 6140.03 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

6140.03.

(a) The board shall increase each of the annual license fees fixed by Sections 6140 and 6141 by an additional forty-five dollars (\$45), to be allocated only for the purposes established pursuant to subdivision (b) and Section 6033, except to the extent that a licensee elects not to support those activities.

(b) (1) Five dollars (\$5) of the forty-five-dollar (\$45) fee shall be allocated to qualified legal services projects or qualified support centers as defined in Section 6213 to hire law school

graduates with a temporary provisional license issued by the State Bar. The State Bar shall not make any deductions from the five dollars (\$5) for any reason, including, but not limited to, administrative fees, costs, or expenses by the State Bar.

(2) Funds shall be allocated pursuant to a competitive grant process and not through the formula set forth in Section 6216.

(3) The Legal Services Trust Fund Commission in consultation with the board of trustees may create priorities for allocating the competitive grants.

(4) Any funds allocated under paragraph (1) remaining after the termination of the temporary provisional license program shall be reallocated only for the purposes established pursuant to Section 6033.

(c) The invoice provided to licensees for payment of the annual license fee shall provide each licensee the option of deducting forty-five dollars (\$45) from the annual license fee if the licensee elects not to have this amount allocated for the purposes established pursuant to Section 6033.

(d) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2023, and as of that date is repealed.

Although this amendment to section 6140.03 is effective until January 1, 2023, the State Bar's Provisional Licensure Program will end on June 1, 2022. Thus, the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission and State Bar staff must reallocate any funds left over as of that date.

Eligibility

AB 3362 specifies that only current California QLSPs and support centers—those “defined in [California Business and Professions Code] section 6213”—may receive a competitive PLL grant. Interested organizations must submit their grant proposal via the State Bar's grants management platform, SmartSimple, by **April 16, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. (PT)**.

Award Information

The number and size of awards will depend on how much the State Bar collects from the \$5 increase during the 2021 and 2022 fee cycles. This in turn depends on how many State Bar licensees opt out of that contribution. As of February 16, staff project about \$552,000 from 2021's \$5 increase. For 2022 fees, staff conservatively project \$480,000 from the \$5 increase.

Applicants may submit a budget for their expenses to hire a PLL between January 1, 2021, when AB 3362 became effective, and June 1, 2022, when the law requires the State Bar to reallocate unspent funds. This 17-month award period bridges two State Bar fee cycles, requiring the State Bar to make awards using the known total for 2021 contributions and a projected total for 2022 contributions. Applicants will need to acknowledge that the State Bar will have to adjust proportionally their final award amount to reflect the actual, to-be-determined contributions for 2022. **Conservatively projecting next year's donations will lower—but not eliminate—the risk of having to decrease awards during the grant period.**

Since California Business and Professions Code section 6140.03(b)(4) requires reallocating leftover funds after the Provisional Licensure Program sunsets, grantees will have to return any unused portion of their award shortly after June 1, 2022. Extensions will be unavailable. To mitigate challenges with returning funds, grant payments will likely arrive in two or more installments during the one-year grant period and State Bar staff will monitor spend down via multiple financial reports.

Required Contribution from the Host Organization

Please note that successful applicants might have to contribute some funding to compensate a full-time PLL. The State Bar will require grantees to set their PLL's salary and benefits in accordance with their existing organizational policies and practices. As an example, if a grantee's salary scale sets a first-year attorney's salary at \$60,000, then the grantee will need to pay the PLL the \$60,000 salary plus benefits, even if the grant is less than the total.

Example: An organization that sets first-year attorney salaries at \$60,000 might find that it spends about 22 percent of that salary on the same position's payroll taxes and benefits. The full cost of the position, therefore, would run about \$73,200. If the organization's PLL award were exactly \$50,000, then the organization's contribution to the PLL's compensation would be about \$23,200.

Selection Criteria

Unlike other discretionary awards that the State Bar administers to QLSPs and support centers, AB 3362 does not limit PLL grants to averting or redressing specific legal harms. The Legal Services Trust Fund Commission, in consultation with the Board of Trustees, has therefore set selection criteria that will support PLLs in reaching their full potential to serve clients safely. This includes looking at the organization's ability and plan to recruit, train, guide, supervise, and mentor its PLL in projects that fall within its existing experience and expertise.

A successful response to the RFP will persuasively and in detail describe:

1. How the organization will leverage the PLL's provisional license on a project that is well within the organization's experience and expertise vis-à-vis areas of law and client communities.
2. How the organization will train, mentor, and otherwise develop the PLL who might have to onboard and work remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. How the organization will protect the experiences of both its clients and the PLL through quality assurance safeguards for the PLL's legal work.
4. How the organization will support—or, if the organization has already selected a PLL, supported—PLL engagement and retention through a process to locate and evaluate a strong and diverse pool of PLL candidates.

The State Bar will use its best efforts to distribute grants statewide. Organizations are welcome to choose any of their QLSP or legal support center services for a PLL's proposed scope of work. Additionally, in its ongoing commitment to helping address our state's most pressing access to justice crises, there will be special consideration for projects that focus on confronting the legal issues facing those:

- Suffering due to COVID-19.
- Suffering due to natural disasters.
- Residing in rural areas.

To maximize funding to compensate PLLs, the State Bar may grant special consideration to organizations that have selected a PLL with whom to work by the time that the organization applies for funding.

Staff will use the following scoring rubric to evaluate proposals:

Category	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Below Expectations	Not Addressed
Impact: Applicant envisions work that will leverage the PLL's provisional license on a project that is well within the organization's experience and expertise.				
Support: Applicant describes a thoughtful plan to provide onboarding, training, and mentorship to the PLL.				
Safeguards: Applicant articulates robust supervision and other quality assurance measures to protect the				

experiences of both its clients and the PLL.				
Recruitment: Applicant lists thoughtful steps to select a motivated and qualified candidate (even if it has already selected a qualified candidate) from a strong and diverse pool.				
Number of check marks	X25 points	X20 points	X15 points	X0 points
Subtotal				
Special consideration: Applicant articulates a focus on providing COVID-19, natural disaster, and/or rural legal aid.				
	0-10 points			
Total				

PLL Grant award decisions are within the sole discretion of the State Bar and will be final. There is no appeals process.

Grant Parameters

The legislation requires that organizations use these grants “to hire law school graduates with a temporary provisional license issued by the State Bar.” To maximize flexibility for programs and PLLs while complying with the language of the statute, the State Bar has interpreted “to hire” to include employing a PLL who: previously left the organization and would be returning under the grant, previously volunteered for the organization, works for the organization as an external contractor, or is otherwise not currently an employee of the host organization.

To support a fair compensation for PLL staff, grant funds may be used for only PLL salaries, payroll taxes, and benefits. All other costs associated with the PLL’s work, such as professional development and supplies, must come from other funds.

Application Questions

The Legal Services Trust Fund Commission and State Bar have sought to streamline the application for PLL grants so that it can make awards on a one-year timeline with an end date aligning with that in the statute. The application asks for the following information:

Prompt 1.: Please describe in detail the legal work that the PLL would perform over the grant period (from January 1, 2021 to June 1, 2022). If the PLL already works with your organization, this can be the same work that the PLL performs now. In your response, please describe the types of cases with which the PLL will be assisting and the PLL’s role in those cases, noting how you intend to leverage their provisional license to its full advantage. Consider describing the

community or communities—geographic, demographic, linguistic, etc.—on which the PLL will focus their legal work. Finally, please note if anything makes this PLL particularly qualified to perform this work.

Prompt 2.: Since PLLs have yet to pass the Bar Exam and might be starting work remotely, it is imperative that grantees be able to provide robust supervision and other support to their PLL. The State Bar, therefore, will give strong preference to applicants that can establish the ability to guide and monitor their PLL's work.

Prompt 2.a.: Please describe your organization's experience and expertise in the PLL's proposed projects—the interventions themselves (e.g. clinics vs. litigation), the areas of law, and the communities they serve. Who will oversee the PLL and what is their experience with the project and supervising others?

Prompt 2.b.: Please describe with specificity the substantive law, legal skills, and other (e.g. diversity, equity, and inclusion, trauma-informed care, and cultural humility) trainings that the PLL will receive. Please note whether trainings are usually in-house or external and who will provide them. Please note the other supports (e.g. access to legal templates and commercial research databases) that you will provide to the PLL to assist them in their work.

Prompt 2.c.: Please describe in detail how you will safeguard the quality of your PLL's services to clients as well as the PLL's own experience at the organization. How will the PLL onboard, receive trainings, meet with their supervisor, and collaborate with other staff? What steps will the supervisor take to ensure that the PLL provides safe, effective, and sensitive legal services to clients? Finally, please describe how you will accomplish these goals if the PLL must start and work remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prompt 3: Please describe how you recruited or will recruit your PLL by one month into the grant period (by July 1, 2021). How do you seek a strong and diverse pool of candidates? Please note whether/how your evaluation criteria relate to the proposed project.

Budget narrative prompt: Please estimate the total costs—salary, benefits, and payroll taxes—of hiring a full-time PLL. You may include costs between January 1, 2021, when AB 3362 took effect, and June 1, 2022, when the Provisional Licensure Program ends. Additionally, please explain how you arrived at the PLL's rate of pay in accordance with your existing policies and list the benefits that the PLL will receive.

Requirements/Next Steps

Date	Activity
March 15, 2021	Release application in SmartSimple
April 16, 2021	Deadline to submit RFP applications in SmartSimple
May 17, 2021	Notify applicants about awards
July 1, 2021	Deadline to hire a PLL or return funds
June 1, 2022	End of grant period, triggers return of unused funds

Reporting Requirements

Documenting how grantees effectively use statutory funds critically supports their existence in the future. Grantees will have to file regular financial reports and describe the types of cases on which the PLL worked, including notable outcomes.

Financial Reporting

Organizations that receive a PLL grant will have to submit interim and final financial reports for their payments to PLLs. To ensure compliance with the authorizing statute, the State Bar reserves the right to require proof, at any time, of the amount, timing, and nature of payments towards PLL salaries, payroll taxes, and benefits. Proof might include paystubs, third-party payroll processor reports, benefits invoices, etc. that show the organization's payments for its PLL's work during the grant period.

If an organization reports for its PLL grant its costs for a PLL's salary/wages, payroll taxes, or benefits, it must then exclude those expenses from other State Bar financial reports. That is, organizations must avoid double counting their spending to hire PLLs except to the extent that a PLL's compensation exceeded the amount of the PLL grant award.

Evaluation

At the end of the grant period, organizations must submit a report describing the contributions of its grant-funded PLL to the organization's services. The report will likely seek information about the following topics, among others:

- The scope of work that the PLL performed during the grant period, including the PLL's greatest accomplishments.
- The effect that the PLL's work had on the organization's services to QLSPs or very low-income Californians, especially notable case outcomes.
- The organization's and PLL's experiences during the award period.
- Whether the organization plans to keep the PLL on staff.

Required Project Assurances

Applicants must agree to:

1. Use the funds only “to hire law school graduates with a temporary provisional license issued by the State Bar.” California Business and Professions Code section 6140.03(b)(1).
2. Return any unused PLL Grant funds within 30 days of the end of the award period (by July 1, 2022).
3. Let the State Bar adjust—increase or decrease—their total award for January 1, 2021 to June 1, 2022, to reflect the total funding that becomes available for PLL grants from the 2022 license fee statement. Grantees would likely see the increase or decrease in their final PLL grant payment. This assurance is necessary because licensees typically have until February 1 to pay their annual fees to the State Bar. State Bar staff, therefore, will probably know the total contributions for 2022 only after February 1, 2022. The State Bar will make 17-month awards using the known amounts for 2021 and a conservative projection for 2022. To the extent that 2022 funding is higher or lower than the State Bar’s initial projections, the State Bar will distribute the increase or decrease across all grantees proportionally after February 1, 2022.
4. File all required reports. Upon request, submit proof (e.g. paystubs, a third-party payroll processor’s report, benefits invoices, etc.) of the timing, amounts, and nature of all qualifying payments to compensate PLLs for their work during the award period.
5. Immediately notify the State Bar if the grant-funded PLL leaves the organization before it has finished spending down its award. Grantees that are unable to hire a PLL by July 1, 2021, and within 30 days of a PLL leaving early, must return their unused funds unless the State Bar, in its sole discretion, makes an exception.
6. Abide by its own current personnel policies, collective bargaining agreements, and salary scales in setting the PLL’s compensation. This means that organizations must compensate their grant-funded PLL at the organization’s rate of pay for entry-level attorneys, as well as offer to them the same benefits. If a conflict arises between the organization’s policies and these assurances, the PLL Grant Agreement, the Provisional Licensure Program’s requirements, or any legal requirements that operate on the organization, then the organization’s policies must give way to those other provisions.

7. Comply with all State Bar Provisional Licensure Program requirements. The PLL's attorney supervisor(s) must meet regularly with the PLL to ensure attentive onboarding, training, case reviews, and mentorship.
8. Make available to the PLL resources that are similar to those it provides to its other attorneys such as a space to work, computer hardware, computer software, furniture, supplies, telecommunications, online services, etc. If the organization has temporarily closed its offices due to the COVID-19 pandemic, then agree to make available to the PLL work-from-home resources like those it provides to other attorneys on staff.
9. Strive to offer the same alternatives, if any, to in-office or in-person work during the COVID-19 pandemic that it generally provides to other attorney staff members. Additionally, communicate to the PLL its expectations for in-person vs. remote work due to the pandemic prior to the PLL accepting the position. If the PLL already works with the organization, then agree to revisit these expectations upon accepting an award.
10. With respect to the PLL only, waive any policy that would normally require the PLL to pass a bar exam during the award period. Like any leave request, organizations may grant bar exam leave in accordance with its policies for all staff members. The PLL grant should not pay for the PLL's salary during leave unless—and then only to the extent that—such leave would normally be paid under the employer's policies.
11. Comply with all applicable federal, state, and local employment laws (e.g. those governing leave and the treatment of exempt versus nonexempt employees) as well as all other applicable laws and regulations including those governing the State Bar Provisional Licensure Program.

Required Documents

At the time of application, organizations will need to submit:

- Signed grant assurances.
- PLL's resume (if available).
- Written policy, such as a salary scale, that they used to determine the PLL's compensation in the budget narrative (if available).

Before July 1, 2021, organizations will need to submit:

- A copy of the signed declaration form that the PLL submitted in its application for provisional licensure showing that the grantee is supervising the PLL.
- Proof that the Provisional Licensure Program has accepted the PLL.

- The organization's written offer of employment to the PLL, which the PLL has accepted.

If you have any questions, please contact Christopher McConkey at 213-765-1505 or Christopher.McConkey@calbar.ca.gov

	Organization	County(ies) Served	Substantive Area(s)	Selected a PLL	Months of Funding	Amount Requested	Total Score	Funding Recomm.
Scores 91-100								
1	Legal Services of Northern California	Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Tehama, Trinity, Yolo	Disability Rights, Education, Housing, Income Maintenance, Consumer/Finance, Employment, Health and Long-term Care, Immigration	No	11	\$ 83,000	100	\$ 75,000
2	Legal Access Alameda	Statewide	Consumer/Finance, Family/Domestic Violence, Employment, Housing	No	12	\$ 69,000	98	\$ 65,000
3	California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.	San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Stanislaus, Ventura	Housing	Yes	14	\$ 88,000	96	\$ 80,000
4	Bet Tzedek Legal Services	Los Angeles	Housing	Yes	14	\$ 84,000	92	\$ 70,000
5	Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles	Los Angeles	Housing	No	12	\$ 50,000	92	\$ 50,000
6	Senior Citizens Legal Services	San Benito, Santa Cruz	Disability Rights, Housing, Income Maintenance, Consumer/Finance, Health and Long-term Care, Other (Natural Disaster Recovery)	Yes	13	\$ 87,000	91	\$ 82,000
Scores 81-90								
7	Eviction Defense Collaborative	San Francisco	Housing	Yes	12	\$ 70,000	90	\$ 70,000
8	Inland Counties Legal Services	Riverside, San Bernardino	Family/Domestic Violence	Yes	15	\$ 75,000	90	\$ 75,000
9	Worksafe, Inc.	Alameda, Contra Costa, Los Angeles, Marin, Orange, Sacramento, San Francisco, Santa Clara, Solano, Sonoma	Income Maintenance, Employment.	Yes	16	\$ 105,000	90	\$ 85,000
10	Elder Law & Advocacy	Imperial, San Diego	Conservatorship, Disability Rights, Guardianship, Housing, Income Maintenance, Consumer/Finance, Family/Domestic Violence, Employment, Health and Long-term Care, Immigration, Other (Wills/Advance Health Care Directives; Civil Harassment and Abuse Matters)	No	12	\$ 71,000	87	\$ 65,000
11	Inner City Law Center	Los Angeles	Housing	Yes	12	\$ 60,000	87	\$ 60,000
12	Community Legal Aid SoCal	Orange	Family/Domestic Violence	No	12	\$ 63,000	85	\$ 63,000
13	Family Violence Law Center	Alameda	Family/Domestic Violence	No	12	\$ 74,000	85	\$ 65,000
14	Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice	Los Angeles	Family/Domestic Violence, Immigration	No	12	\$ 76,000	85	\$ 65,000
15	Santa Clara University Alexander Law Center	Santa Clara	Consumer/Finance, Immigration	Yes	11	\$ 90,000	85	\$ 70,000
16	UC Davis School of Law Legal Clinics	Sacramento, Solano, Yolo, Yuba	Family/Domestic Violence, Immigration, Civil rights	No	12	\$ 89,000	85	\$ 65,000
17	Veterans Legal Institute	Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino	Income Maintenance, Family/Domestic Violence, Other (Veterans)	Yes	12	\$ 67,000	83	\$ 60,000
18	Mental Health Advocacy Services	Los Angeles	Disability Rights, Housing, Income Maintenance, Consumer/Finance, Employment, Health and Long-term Care	Yes	13	\$ 80,000	82	\$ 70,000
19	Public Counsel	Statewide	Disability Rights, Housing, Income Maintenance, Health and Long-term Care, Other (Veterans)	No	12	\$ 69,000	82	\$ 60,000
20	Child Care Law Center	Statewide	Disability Rights, Education, Housing, Income Maintenance	Yes	12	\$ 75,000	81	\$ 64,000
Scores 65-80								
21	Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach	Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, San Mateo	Immigration Law	Yes	12	\$ 69,000	80	
22	Justice & Diversity Center	San Francisco	Housing	No	12	\$ 82,000	80	
23	Law Foundation of Silicon Valley	Santa Clara	Disability Rights, Health and Long-term Care	Yes	12	\$ 76,000	80	
24	Learning Rights Law Center	Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Ventura	Disability Rights, Education	No	12	\$ 70,000	80	
25	Social Justice Collaborative	Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus	Guardianship, Immigration	Yes	12	\$ 65,000	80	
26	Legal Assistance for Seniors	Alameda	Family/Domestic Violence, Guardianship, Housing, Income Maintenance, Immigration	Yes	17	\$ 82,000	77	
27	Legal Assistance to the Elderly	San Francisco	Housing	Yes	17	\$ 73,000	77	
28	OneJustice	Statewide	Education, Housing, Income Maintenance, Consumer/Finance, Family/Domestic Violence, Employment, Health and Long-Term Care, Immigration	No	10	\$ 55,000	77	
29	Neighborhood Legal Services	Los Angeles	Housing, Income Maintenance, Other (Homelessness Prevention)	No	14	\$ 91,000	76	
30	Riverside Legal Aid	Riverside	Conservatorship, Guardianship, Housing, Income Maintenance, Consumer/Finance, Family/Domestic Violence, Immigration	Yes	8	\$ 50,000	75	
31	Contra Costa Senior Legal Services	Contra Costa	Consumer/Finance, Family/Domestic Violence, Health and Long-term Care, Housing, Other (Wills and Small Claims)	Yes	11	\$ 70,000	72	
32	Legal Services for Seniors	Monterey	Guardianship, Housing, Income Maintenance, Family/Domestic Violence, Health and Long-term Care	No	12	\$ 73,000	65	
					Totals	\$ 2,381,000		\$ 1,359,000

Breakdown of Staff Scores for PLL Grant Applications

		Impact	Support	Safeguards	Recruitment	Special Consideration	Total Score	Funding Recomm.
1	Legal Services of Northern California	20	25	20	25	10	100	\$ 75,000
2	Legal Access Alameda	25	20	20	25	8	98	\$ 65,000
3	California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.	25	25	20	20	6	96	\$ 80,000
4	Bet Tzedek Legal Services	20	25	20	25	2	92	\$ 70,000
5	Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles	25	25	20	20	2	92	\$ 50,000
6	Senior Citizens Legal Services	25	20	20	20	6	91	\$ 82,000
7	Eviction Defense Collaborative	25	25	20	20	0	90	\$ 70,000
8	Inland Counties Legal Services	25	20	20	20	5	90	\$ 75,000
9	Worksafe, Inc.	25	20	20	20	5	90	\$ 85,000
10	Elder Law & Advocacy	25	20	20	20	2	87	\$ 65,000
11	Inner City Law Center	25	25	20	15	2	87	\$ 60,000
12	Community Legal Aid SoCal	25	20	20	20	0	85	\$ 63,000
13	Family Violence Law Center	25	20	20	20	0	85	\$ 65,000
14	Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice	20	20	20	25	0	85	\$ 65,000
15	Santa Clara University Alexander Law Center	20	25	20	20	0	85	\$ 70,000
16	UC Davis School of Law Legal Clinics	20	20	20	20	5	85	\$ 65,000
17	Veterans Legal Institute	25	20	20	15	3	83	\$ 60,000
18	Mental Health Advocacy Services	25	20	20	15	2	82	\$ 70,000
19	Public Counsel	20	20	20	20	2	82	\$ 60,000
20	Child Care Law Center	20	20	20	20	1	81	\$ 64,000
21	Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach	20	20	20	20	0	80	
22	Justice & Diversity Center	20	20	20	20	0	80	
23	Law Foundation of Silicon Valley	20	20	20	20	0	80	
24	Learning Rights Law Center	20	20	20	20	0	80	
25	Social Justice Collaborative	20	20	20	20	0	80	
26	Legal Assistance for Seniors	20	20	20	15	2	77	
27	Legal Assistance to the Elderly	20	20	20	15	2	77	
28	OneJustice	20	20	20	15	2	77	
29	Neighborhood Legal Services	20	20	20	15	1	76	
30	Riverside Legal Aid	20	20	15	15	5	75	
31	Contra Costa Senior Legal Services	20	20	15	15	2	72	
32	Legal Services for Seniors	15	15	20	15	0	65	
							Total	\$ 1,359,000

**PROVISIONALLY LICENSED LAWYERS GRANT
APPLICATION PROFILE**

Organization Name	Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach		
	Total Amount Requested	PLL Start Date (Actual or Anticipated)	PLL End Date (Actual or Anticipated)
	\$69,000	05/01/2021	05/01/2022
County(ies) Served	Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, San Mateo,		
Substantive Area(s)	Immigration		
Impact (PLL's Work)	<p>APILO's PLL will primarily focus on Immigration cases for indigent clients in the San Francisco Bay Area that are low-English proficiency. The PLL already works with our organization and will continue the same work they are performing now under the supervision of our Immigration Supervising Attorney. The PLL's activities include meeting with, interviewing, and working with clients to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Screen for eligibility for immigration remedies or naturalization -Provide generalized legal assistance -Provide referrals to other social service or legal providers, as needed -Review documents -Review case -Submit Freedom of Information requests -Assist with application process for affirmative immigration remedies (U-Visas, T-Visas, SIJS, VAWA self-petitions, family-based petitions, Adjustment of Status, asylum, TPS), DACA, Naturalization. This includes application/petition preparation for client and derivatives, Requests for Evidence, and appeals. <p>Under the direct supervision of our Immigration Project Supervisor, the PLL is able to do all of these activities up to and including drafting petitions and applications. The only thing they cannot do is sign off or be listed as the client's legal representative on USCIS Form G-28. This means that follow up correspondence from immigration authorities will not be received directly by our PLL but by their direct supervisor who will work with the PLL to follow up on next steps for the case.</p> <p>Our PLL has over 12 years of experience working with this client population, is a native Spanish speaker, and is committed to providing high quality legal services to community members that are marginalized due to their status as LEP, low-income, and/or immigration status.</p>		
Impact (Organization's Expertise)	<p>APILO provides culturally competent legal services in over a dozen languages and dialects. Legal services are provided by a staff of 45 working out of offices in Oakland and San Francisco. Priority programs include immigration, anti-trafficking, violence against women, housing, as well as services for youth, seniors, and individuals with disabilities. Further, clinical services are provided by APILO staff working with partners and volunteers in Stockton, Modesto, Fresno, Sacramento, and Contra Costa and San Mateo counties. Last year, APILO served over 2900 clients.</p> <p>APILO has provided a full range of legal representation in the immigration area to under-served communities for over 40 years. In recognition of the lack of immigration legal services in the Latinx community, services have been expanded so that about 25% of APILO's current clients are Latinx.</p> <p>Additionally, APILO works closely with community-based organizations (CBOs) to provide holistic and comprehensive services to clients including social, educational, and health services, as well as those that promote economic development. Training and technical assistance has been provided to attorneys, CBOs, public agencies, and law Enforcement.</p> <p>APILO has served low-income, hard-to-reach, under-served communities since its creation by offering free legal services in the language of the client's choice, conducting</p>		

	<p>outreach, and maintaining a constant presence in these communities, while working closely with organizations to maximize reach into the community and to ensure that services respond to needs.</p> <p>APILO's PLL will be supervised by the Immigration Project Supervisor who has 12 years of experience representing clients in civil matters, including a variety of immigration matters and 15 years of experience with culturally competent communication and outreach activities in the immigrant communities. They have over one year of experience supervising a team of 8 immigration attorneys/staff and also proficient in Bahasa Indonesian, French, and Spanish.</p>
Support (Support for PLL)	<p>APILO's PLL will be afforded the same training and professional development opportunities as our staff attorneys. This includes an annual professional development budget of \$1200 to attend external courses, conferences, and workshops plus a number of free trainings including: APILO's in-house series of cultural humility trainings covering all of our core practice areas (immigration, trafficking, elder abuse, domestic violence/family law, housing, and youth), external culturally competent interpreter training, external diversity, inclusion, and equity training, external bias training, and free external general practice and immigration-specific trainings provided by PLI, ILRC, and CLINIC. In addition to these training resources, we also have an extensive in-house immigration law library and access to legal templates and a commercial research database called FASTCASE.</p>
Safeguards (Protections for PLL and Clients)	<p>Our PLL has already been onboarded as they have been a member of our staff since 2019. They meet weekly with their supervisor and the rest of the immigration team to collaborate, discuss issues, and share best practices. Their team also meets once a week with all other legal staff from our agency's other practice areas to ensure safe, effective, and sensitive legal services to clients. The first step our PLL's supervisor will take to ensure safety and effectiveness is an assessment of a potential client's situation (intake) to determine if the case will be accepted by our agency. They will ensure sensitivity and adequate capacity of staff and resources before taking on a client's case and assigning it to individual staff by evaluating current case loads and cultural background of available staff to match client cases with appropriate staff. If a case cannot be accepted by other staff or our PLL then a consultation with referrals, if needed, will be provided. After acceptance of a case, the supervisor provides technical assistance and guidance on an ongoing as-needed basis. The supervisor checks in with the PLL at least twice a week while working remotely. Immigration team and all legal staff meetings are each held once a week remotely.</p>
Recruitment (Strong and Diverse Pool of Candidates)	<p>We sought a strong and diverse pool of candidates by posting for a staff attorney position that could work in any of our 6 practice areas. We posted on a variety of channels including collaborative listservs, e-mails to community partners, on our website, on job posting sites like Indeed and ZipRecruiter, e-mails to our funders, law school listservs, at law school recruiting events like Public Interest Law Day, and word of mouth. We were ultimately successful in finding a candidate that met our job description requirements and criteria for hiring when we met Hilda "Vanessa" Campbell who was both interested and experienced in helping underserved community members with their immigration matters. We hired Vanessa as a post-bar fellow on our immigration team and believe that her position is extremely well-suited to maximize use of this grant. This is because the bulk of immigration work is screening, eligibility, and paperwork, which can all be conducted by a non-attorney under the supervision of an experienced immigration attorney.</p>

GRANT BUDGET				
Months of Funding	12			
Personnel				
	PLL Grant	Other SB Monies	Other Funding	Total
PLL Salary	\$55,645	\$0	\$5,355	\$61,000
PLL Payroll Taxes and Benefits	\$13,355	\$0	\$1,285	\$14,640
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$69,000	\$0	\$6,640	\$75,640

**PROVISIONALLY LICENSED LAWYERS GRANT
APPLICATION PROFILE**

Organization Name	Bet Tzedek Legal Services		
	Total Amount Requested	PLL Start Date (Actual or Anticipated)	PLL End Date (Actual or Anticipated)
	\$84,000	04/01/2021	06/01/2022
County(ies) Served	Los Angeles		
Substantive Area(s)	Housing		
Impact (PLL's Work)	<p>Bet Tzedek's PLL, Caitlin Saggese, was a legal fellow on our Preventing and Ending Homelessness Project (PEHP) from September 2020 through March 2021 and under this grant would continue working on the PEHP team as a PLL.</p> <p>Broadly speaking, Bet Tzedek's PEHP team provides two types of services: pre-litigation advice and counsel, and litigation services. Ms. Saggese provides the former and will continue to do so as PLL. There is always a significant need for pre-litigation advice and counsel and, in general, helping clients before they go to court offers the best options for positive outcomes for the client. Ms. Saggese does substantive work, including conducting daily intake interviews for incoming eviction prevention and defense cases; researching legal issues; providing advice and counsel; preparing client declarations; and staffing a weekly remote legal clinic.</p> <p>Bet Tzedek's PEHP serves LA county, focusing on four courthouse jurisdictions: Stanley Mosk, Santa Monica, Van Nuys, and Antelope Valley. These jurisdictions have a mixture of urban, rural, and hard-to-reach or underserved clients, especially undocumented monolingual Spanish speakers. Notably, Bet Tzedek is one of just two legal aids in LA County that serve undocumented clients, who face particular risks and complications in eviction-related matters.</p> <p>While being closely supervised, Ms. Saggese will have an added degree of autonomy as a PLL rather than a fellow and will perform the type of duties performed by a first-year attorney. Ms. Saggese is uniquely qualified for this position because she has been part of our recent homelessness prevention efforts under COVID-19 as a fellow. She is fully onboarded and trained, very well versed in the types of matters we see and has demonstrated her skills and client-centered approach. Bet Tzedek will work with her to incorporate new and additional duties to fully leverage the PLL position for her career development.</p>		
Impact (Organization's Expertise)	<p>Bet Tzedek's PEHP was established in 2017 with Measure H funds, joining five other legal aid agencies in a county-wide LAHSA-funded collaborative. Since then, Bet Tzedek has rapidly expanded the practice and brought the gamut of services—from pre-litigation to UD defense to post-judgment solutions—to the four courthouse jurisdictions we primarily serve. Since September 2020, we have been part of LA County's Right to Counsel project; as one of the contractors with the highest deliverables, we serve a substantial portion of the County's UD cases and field a high volume of referrals for advice and counsel.</p> <p>Since the start of the pandemic, Bet Tzedek's PEHP has swiftly and continually adapted to the changing housing law landscape, providing up-to-date resources and services. Hiring Ms. Saggese as PLL is part of our effort to continue building internal resources to meet the community's growing and changing needs. Her experience, skills, and provisional licensure increase our capacity to intake clients quickly and deliver high quality advice and counsel.</p> <p>Ms. Saggese is currently supervised by Tzung-lin Fu, Bet Tzedek's VP of Legal Services, who has supervised the PEHP team since December 2020, when Directing Attorney Cynthia Chagolla went on Family Leave. Because the program has grown so rapidly and now has 16 full-time staff attorneys and advocates, in March 2021 Bet Tzedek hired a Co Directing Attorney, Gigi Lam. Going forward, the PLL, Ms. Saggese, will be co-supervised by Ms. Fu and Ms. Lam, until Ms. Chagolla returns from leave.</p> <p>The PLL will also benefit from the mentorship of the team's two seasoned senior attorneys. To the extent that an advice and counsel case requires consideration, the directing attorneys</p>		

	and seniors attorneys weigh in during case review. The PLL will always be well-supported and will benefit from the insights of four experienced housing attorneys.
Support (Support for PLL)	<p>Bet Tzedek is committed to staff development; every team has a robust staff development budget, and all staff are encouraged and supported to seek out training opportunities, such as conferences and webinars.</p> <p>Bet Tzedek also provides extensive in-house trainings. In terms of substantive law, these include in-house eviction defense specific trainings tailored for the PEHP team. These trainings will continue during the PLL grant term and recordings of past trainings will be made available to the PLL. Additional trainings regarding trial advocacy, such as deposition and jury selection trainings, are being planned and will be made available to the PLL.</p> <p>Other in-house trainings directed at legal advocacy staff are provided regularly by Bet Tzedek attorneys and outside experts; topics of recent and upcoming trainings include trauma-informed anti-racist advocacy, impact litigation 101, effective legal writing, ethics, litigation skills, and policy and amicus record-keeping. In addition, in fall 2020 Bet Tzedek's staff participated in a series of race affinity group discussions, and the agency has committed to continued training on diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workplace.</p> <p>Beyond trainings, Bet Tzedek provides other forms of support. The housing practice utilizes a set of established templates, and the new co-Directing attorney and senior attorneys are developing more. In addition, Bet Tzedek has resources including Lexis, Westlaw, Lawyaw (a cloud-based form preparation service we use every day), and One Legal (an e-filing system). Training on these tools is part of every legal staff member's onboarding. All legal staff have access to the Practicing Law Institute and the Pro Bono Training Institute, which have a variety of on-demand recorded webinars on a wide range of topics.</p>
Safeguards (Protections for PLL and Clients)	<p>The proposed PLL, Ms. Saggese, joined Bet Tzedek in September 2020 as a fellow and has been fully onboarded and trained. She has met with her supervisor to discuss her duties as a PLL and the terms of this proposed grant.</p> <p>Bet Tzedek puts numerous safeguards in place to ensure all legal staff, including the PLL, provide quality legal services to clients. Intakes that come in through the PEHP clinic are processed through a daily abbreviated case review attended by PEHP team members. When processing intakes, staff follow standard protocols and/or their work is checked by a supervisor. When any work product is prepared to be sent out, it is always reviewed by at least a senior attorney if not a directing attorney. In addition, each PEHP staff member has a biweekly one-on-one meeting with their supervisor to answer questions, provide additional support, and problem-solve.</p> <p>If a client complains or concerns arise about the PLL's or any staff attorney's work, the directing attorney steps in to answer questions, and if needed will speak directly with the client to resolve the problem.</p> <p>Bet Tzedek has operated on a remote service delivery model since mid-March 2020. This includes client service delivery (intake, consultation, clinics, education) and internal operations (staff meetings, supervision, case review). While nearly all staff work remotely, our office is open with extremely limited capacity to handle emergencies and administrative needs. Court appearances are handled mainly through the court's remote platform, though in rare instances advocates have appeared in-person, following social distancing and masking protocols. All staff, including our PLL, Ms. Saggese, have been provided remote workstations including laptops, monitors, keyboards, and other equipment as needed. Staff have also been provided stipends to cover cell phone usage and utilities while working from home.</p>
Recruitment (Strong and Diverse Pool of Candidates)	<p>Bet Tzedek posted the fellowship position Ms. Saggese currently holds widely and recruited through all our usual channels. New positions are first announced internally to union members. Bet Tzedek then circulates job postings to various websites and listservs, including law school student and alumni networks; the Legal Aid Association of California; various law career sites and listservs; the career pages of our public agency partners; general career sites such as LinkedIn, Zip recruiter, Indeed, and Glassdoor; and diversity boards that target BIPOC candidates. Bet Tzedek actively seeks a diverse pool of candidates. All job postings include the following statement: "To best serve our communities,</p>

	<p>Bet Tzedek seeks a diverse staff with cultural competency reflecting our client populations. We strongly encourage candidates from traditionally underrepresented communities and historically oppressed groups to apply.”</p> <p>Ms. Saggese was selected as a fellow from the pool of applicants because of her skills, qualifications, and familiarity with Bet Tzedek as a former volunteer. She was our top choice for this PLL grant program because she serves very effectively in one of our highest-need practice areas and has already secured her provisional license. We will be able to utilize her provisional license to its fullest advantage to serve clients with no gap in services.</p>
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GRANT BUDGET				
Months of Funding	14			
Personnel				
	PLL Grant	Other SB Monies	Other Funding	Total
PLL Salary	\$68,843	\$0	\$0	\$68,843
PLL Payroll Taxes and Benefits	\$15,157	\$552	\$0	\$15,709
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$84,000	\$552	\$0	\$84,552

**PROVISIONALLY LICENSED LAWYERS GRANT
APPLICATION PROFILE**

Organization Name	California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.		
	Total Amount Requested	PLL Start Date (Actual or Anticipated)	PLL End Date (Actual or Anticipated)
	\$88,000	04/01/2021	06/01/2022
County(ies) Served	San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Stanislaus, Ventura,		
Substantive Area(s)	Housing - N/A		
Impact (PLL's Work)	<p>The PLL will assist with eviction defense for CRLA's Housing Helpline. The Helpline has the goals of expanding access to housing rights information in two of the regions hardest hit by California's housing crisis, without regard to legal residency status; increasing access to eviction defense; and preventing eviction and displacement.</p> <p>The Helpline uses a tiered service-delivery model. CRLA will leverage the PLL's provisional license to its full advantage by assigning the PLL higher-level services and providing them with ongoing training, mentorship, and supervision. Helpline callers receiving Step 1 and 2 services are given information or counsel/advice. The PLL will deliver Step 3 services, which range from more complex advice, demand letters, and negotiations with landlords to full representation at Unlawful Detainer proceedings and systemic advocacy addressing illegal practices of common bad actors. The PLL will work as part of a litigation team designed to identify and fight for tenants in cases that may have systemic impact because they involve a large landlord, a repeat bad actor, or a novel/difficult issue whose resolution may positively impact other tenants. This focus will result in opportunities for motion and trial advocacy for the PLL and will benefit low-income tenants in the Helpline's service area.</p> <p>The Helpline's target demographic is low-income tenants facing eviction in San Joaquin, Stanislaus, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties. Low-income residents of these areas have been significantly impacted by California's housing crisis, and the pandemic has exacerbated this. The fast-changing landscape of tenant protections and the UD process has increased landlord non-compliance and decreased court enforcement. The PLL will be based in San Joaquin or Stanislaus so they can appear in court. Unlike many urban courts, both of these courts continue to hold in-person hearings and trials. Rural tenants are routinely defaulted and evicted despite the pandemic.</p>		
Impact (Organization's Expertise)	<p>CRLA has developed significant expertise in the provision of accessible legal services to low-income clients facing specific housing challenges. CRLA has provided eviction defense since 1966 and launched the Housing Helpline in 2019 to enable low-income tenants to call an advocate with special training in eviction defense. CRLA has been working for decades in San Joaquin, Stanislaus, SLO, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties but lacked the capacity to help the majority of low-income tenants needing housing assistance until the Helpline's creation. Helpline employees work as a five-county team.</p> <p>Helpline employees provide answers to clients' legal questions, analyze legal problems, and advise clients on how to resolve issues. Advocates provide brief and extensive services, including representation in court and systemic advocacy. Hundreds of Helpline clients have been served to date. The Helpline is seeking to increase its ability to litigate cases through the PLL's hire and the PLL will be integrated into the Helpline's existing workload, but their addition will also allow CRLA to achieve greater impact in appropriate cases. The Helpline team recently won a jury trial against San Joaquin County's largest housing provider, demonstrating that the landlord had unlawfully tried to evict CRLA's client because she was unable to pay her rent due to COVID-related financial distress. This success not only ensured that the Helpline client remained housed but also had an impact on ensuring compliance with these protections for over 500 households living in the same apartment complex.</p> <p>Laura Ferree, Housing Helpline Managing Attorney, will oversee the PLL's work. Ms. Ferree has managed the Helpline since last year and has been a supervising attorney with CRLA since 2014 and a lawyer since 1992. At CRLA, she has focused primarily on housing advocacy. She has extensive experience supervising teams like the Helpline and will be the PLL's direct supervisor.</p>		
Support (Support for PLL)	<p>CRLA provides attorneys, including the PLL, with access to and training and support with LexisNexis, CEB OnLaw, and PS Technologies' LegalServer case-management database. LegalServer is a comprehensive system that allows staff to record and track case activity.</p>		

	<p>CRLA has also recently incorporated DocuSign and SMS messaging to clients into its advocacy to facilitate remote legal work.</p> <p>CRLA maintains recordings of myriad hours of substantive law, legal skills, and other trainings from its recent in-house conferences and presentations. These recordings are accessible to CRLA staff, and new advocates are directed to them for professional development. At CRLA's 2020 training conference, panel topics included COVID Housing Law and Regulations, UD Defense, The Fundamentals of Jury Selection, Maximizing Advocacy Within LSC Guidelines, and Building Trauma-Informed and Healing-Centered Practices. These and other trainings will be available for the PLL to watch.</p> <p>The PLL will be part of CRLA's in-house Housing Task Force, which meets monthly, and includes trainings, legislative updates, and advocate roundtables. CRLA uses Microsoft Teams to collaborate across field offices and programs. These trainings are live through Zoom given the large geographic area CRLA covers.</p> <p>All CRLA attorneys, including the PLL, receive a \$500 yearly education allowance for external trainings of their choice and all attorneys are eligible to petition to use additional training funds. CRLA strives to send its new attorneys to LAAC-sponsored National Association of Trial Attorney trainings. CRLA has been fortunate to send most staff attorneys who ask to attend these trainings and would hope to send the PLL as well.</p> <p>CRLA also regularly coordinates in-house, all-staff trainings on a variety of topics, including LGBTQ+ Cultural Literacy and Diversity, Equity, and Belonging. The most recent of these trainings focused on applicant-intake protocols established by CRLA's LGBTQ+ Program.</p>
<p>Safeguards (Protections for PLL and Clients)</p>	<p>The PLL will receive extensive onboarding from both CRLA's Human Resources team and the Housing Helpline team, in addition to comprehensive training and regular supervision. CRLA's program-focused onboarding concentrates on substantive skills and includes a period where the PLL shadows more experienced advocates. The PLL will meet bimonthly with their supervisor, who also provides substantive case assistance through weekly all-team reviews of new cases, biweekly office hours, and an open-door policy. Within the larger Housing Helpline team, the PLL will work alongside a counterpart staff attorney who will provide peer support and mentoring.</p> <p>CRLA will be able to accomplish project goals if the PLL must work remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, CRLA's HR and Information Systems teams transitioned the organization to fully remote operations, allowing CRLA to make the leap from largely in-person applicant intake to phone-intake methods. CRLA is currently in Phase 2 of its tiered reopening plan, which was based on the State of California's tiered plan. As such, CRLA is providing socially distanced legal services to client communities.</p> <p>Although it was implemented before the COVID-19 pandemic, the Housing Helpline allowed CRLA to seamlessly deliver services in a post-pandemic world. The Housing Helpline serves clients by phone, text, and email; and uses DocuSign and other technology, including SMS messaging through the LegalServer case-management database, to meet client needs. The Housing Helpline team stays connected through regular Teams and Zoom meetings and hopes to have periodic in-person meetings again when safe to do so.</p>
<p>Recruitment (Strong and Diverse Pool of Candidates)</p>	<p>The mission of CRLA is to fight for justice and individual rights alongside the most exploited communities of our society. CRLA believes that its ability to live up to its mission depends on recruiting and hiring diverse candidates who represent the whole of the communities it serves. CRLA is therefore committed to seeking out and offering opportunities to all people, and particularly Black, Brown, Indigenous, and other People of Color; women; LGBTQ+ communities; low-wage workers; agricultural workers; immigrants; people with disabilities; non-dominant language users; people going through reentry; and people impacted by poverty.</p> <p>CRLA recently extended an offer of employment to Brandon Hargrove, and he accepted the offer with an expected start date of April 14, 2021. If funded, Mr. Hargrove will fill the PLL position for this grant. He previously interned for CRLA as a 1L law student, where he gained experience with rural legal work. Because his qualifications matched the type of lawyer CRLA was seeking for the Housing Helpline, the Managing Attorney jumped at the opportunity to explore whether he would be a good fit. She talked with him about the opportunity to join the Helpline team, interviewed him, and checked his references.</p> <p>Mr. Hargrove brings the passion to fight against injustice, strong research and writing skills from doing criminal appellate work with the Attorney General's office, and a desire to get into court. He also demonstrates excellent collaboration skills. As stated previously, he will join</p>

	the Helpline team on April 14. However, CRLA lacks the funds to continue his employment past June 30, 2021 without this grant.
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GRANT BUDGET				
Months of Funding		14		
Personnel				
	PLL Grant	Other SB Monies	Other Funding	Total
PLL Salary	\$69,600	\$0	\$0	\$69,600
PLL Payroll Taxes and Benefits	\$18,400	\$0	\$0	\$18,400
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$88,000	\$0	\$0	\$88,000

**PROVISIONALLY LICENSED LAWYERS GRANT
APPLICATION PROFILE**

Organization Name	Child Care Law Center		
	Total Amount Requested	PLL Start Date (Actual or Anticipated)	PLL End Date (Actual or Anticipated)
	\$75,000	01/07/2021	01/07/2022
County(ies) Served	Alameda, Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Los Angeles, Madera, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Mono, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Placer, Plumas, Riverside, Sacramento, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yolo, Yuba,		
Substantive Area(s)	Disability Rights; Education; Housing; Income Maintenance; Other - Child care benefits, Government benefits.		
Impact (PLL's Work)	<p>The PLL will handle legal issues to prevent families from homelessness or displacement, and to preserve families' income. The areas of law are: housing discrimination, renters' rights, zoning laws, health and safety, child care benefits, and disability rights laws. All of the families who will be impacted are essential workers, providing child care and other front line services during the pandemic. Child care providers were particularly hard hit by the pandemic, receiving unemployment insurance far later than everyone else, and no dedicated federal relief.</p> <p>The PLL has the duties of a staff attorney. They will research laws and policies, write short briefs and memos as appropriate, craft answers to frequently asked questions, and conduct training and community education. In conjunction with QLSP partners, the PLL will handle cases and provide limited representation for clients. They will draft demand letters, file appeals with government agencies, and if necessary engage in litigation or pre-litigation activities.</p> <p>The PLL will advocate with city planners, fire departments, county and state agencies, on behalf of eligible clients, regarding zoning, health and safety, housing, child care benefits, and disability rights laws.</p> <p>The PLL will target the two interconnected communities - women who are home-based child care providers, and families who are eligible for child care assistance. Black and Latinx women form the majority of home-based providers, and they are predominantly renters. (In California, Black and Latinx households do not own homes at the same rates as whites.) The housing shortage puts extra pressure on these providers, who rely on their rental homes for shelter and income. Black and Latinx families are also more likely than whites to be eligible for child care subsidies, because of land theft and other discriminatory policies that have prevented them from acquiring wealth.</p> <p>The PLL is bilingual in Spanish and English, and practiced at several nonprofit legal aid organizations and housing rights organizations while in law school. They have experience listening to people in the community and working alongside them to find answers and solutions.</p>		
Impact (Organization's Expertise)	<p>This project builds on CCLC's community development work, funded by the State Bar, from 2016-2020, in which we successfully removed these barriers to housing for child care providers: 1) prohibition of home-based child care in homeowners' association agreements, house rentals, apartments, condos, and duplexes; 2) widely divergent fire safety rules from town to town; 3) exorbitant zoning, business, inspection and permit fees; 4) unlawful restrictions imposed by towns and 5) discriminatory and illegal rent practices.</p> <p>Just as the pandemic began, we were beginning education and implementation efforts to assist families across the state to preserve and protect their housing and income using the new laws. We progressed at a slower rate, but we are now in a position to expand our legal training and advocacy to child care providers, parents, and QLSP attorneys. CCLC is deeply connected to child care provider and family services agencies and works closely with Public Counsel.</p>		

	<p>CCLC partners with the Education and Outreach division of the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) to educate child care providers about its complaint process. CCLC's administrative advocacy includes appeals and hearings at county and state education agencies and the PLL can build on that experience with DFEH.</p> <p>CCLC is responsible for the landscape of child care law in relation to zoning, housing, benefits and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Our staff are experts in these legal areas.</p> <p>The PLL will be supervised by Maisha Cole, Co-Director for Legal and Legislative Advocacy. Ms. Cole has overseen our housing rights and disability rights projects for the past two years. In that role she has helped define the project goals, requirements and desired outcomes. Her management training is augmented by her participation in the One Justice Executive Fellowship and ongoing consultations with management experts.</p>
<p>Support (Support for PLL)</p>	<p>CCLC has worked for forty years in the legal areas affecting child care that we described above. We have an archive of training, legislative, historical, and other background materials to provide in-house trainings in these substantive law issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing law Landlord/tenant law Zoning law Disability rights, Americans with Disabilities Act and California civil rights laws Child care health and safety and licensing laws Government benefits Child care benefits <p>Other skills our PLL will have training in are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Writing for non-lawyers -Legal drafting -Community engagement -Presentation skills (especially using virtual platforms) <p>We will continue to work closely with our support center and QLSP colleagues to give the PLL training in other areas of law as necessary, as well as skill-building in litigation, legal drafting and client relations. The PLL will have full access to online legal training and research tools through PLI, LAAC, and Westlaw.</p> <p>CCLC is at the forefront of change to create more equitable child care programs, funding and systems in California. Our PLL will participate in our weekly staff discussions to analyze and promote laws, rules and policies to end discriminatory practices against Black, Latinx, Asian American and Pacific Islander families and others in communities of color. We all participate whenever possible in workshops and presentations to create diversity, racial equity and inclusion.</p> <p>The PLL is involved in right now in listening sessions with the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, and recently attended these two workshops:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Heather McGhee, author of The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone -California Asian Pacific American Bar Association's APAs vs. Hate Conference : A Call To Action.
<p>Safeguards (Protections for PLL and Clients)</p>	<p>We safeguard the quality of the PLL services with these practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close supervision of all work, especially during the first three months Weekly meetings with supervisors Management team meetings that cover effective supervision, communication, long term strategy and program evaluation Team meetings on specific legal issues Consultations with other legal experts and QLSP partners. <p>CCLC has created a thorough orientation and onboarding program for the first three months of employment. During weeks one through four, new staff are trained in child care law through reading, inservices with senior staff, and review of questions and answers on our website and intake system. With close supervision, new staff begin answering questions from legal services attorneys, child care providers and parents after two-three weeks. This</p>

	<p>allows new staff to learn through practice, in conjunction with a supervisor. During this time, supervisors and senior staff meet with new staff almost every day.</p> <p>During weeks four through six, new staff are given a short legal research project or an outreach project to uncover issues from QLSPs.</p> <p>During weeks six through twelve, staff begin working independently, and set benchmarks for the coming quarter. Weekly supervision meetings begin.</p> <p>We encourage trainings through PLI and LAAC as appropriate in the first three months and later.</p> <p>The pandemic has allowed the CCLC staff to communicate and work even more closely than before, when we often travelled to Sacramento for work. Now, team members meet twice a week, and each staff member meets with their supervisor once a week. Everyone on the staff “shows up” for work at 9am on video. We meet for “lunch” once every two weeks.</p> <p>The PLL supervisor ensures effective and sensitive legal services by stressing the importance of including clients in decisions, showing them where and how to find legal information about their rights, creating materials in multiple languages, and using a language interpretation service.</p>
Recruitment (Strong and Diverse Pool of Candidates)	<p>CCLC recruited a strong and diverse pool of candidates by advertising with cultural bar associations and in law schools career offices, participating in career forums, and using widely-viewed commercial job recruitment services. We chose this PLL attorney from among twelve qualified finalists. We applied best practices to developing the job announcement by stating the salary range and stressing the value of non-legal job and life experience. Our PLL is a bilingual, California-born child of Cuban and Chinese immigrants.</p> <p>For newcomers to California from other countries, being able to start a child care business is an important step towards building a successful life here. About two-thirds of child care providers are Latinx and Spanish-speaking. When seeking a qualified candidate for the position of staff attorney, bilingualism in Spanish or Chinese and English was a top priority.</p>

GRANT BUDGET				
Months of Funding	12			
Personnel				
	PLL Grant	Other SB Monies	Other Funding	Total
PLL Salary	\$62,930	\$0	\$0	\$62,930
PLL Payroll Taxes and Benefits	\$12,070	\$0	\$0	\$12,070
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$75,000	\$0	\$0	\$75,000

**PROVISIONALLY LICENSED LAWYERS GRANT
APPLICATION PROFILE**

Organization Name	Community Legal Aid SoCal		
	Total Amount Requested	PLL Start Date (Actual or Anticipated)	PLL End Date (Actual or Anticipated)
	\$63,000	06/01/2021	06/01/2022
County(ies) Served	Orange		
Substantive Area(s)	Family/Domestic Violence		
Impact (PLL's Work)	<p>CLA SoCal seeks to hire a provisionally licensed lawyer to serve as a Domestic Violence Litigator for survivors of domestic violence (DV) and sexual assault. They will work with low-income survivors of domestic violence and civil harassment who have cases in Orange County courts.</p> <p>Job duties will include:</p> <p>1) Running CLA SoCal's twice-monthly Orange County DV Restraining Order (RO) clinic, which currently sets 8 appointments per month.</p> <p>2) Triaging cases and representing clients most in need at Court during permanent restraining order hearings. To start, the PLL will serve as second chair to our seasoned Family Law attorneys as they represent domestic violence survivors at Court; the PLL will then move to lead counsel, teamed with a supervisor or other seasoned attorney. Only after they have handled several cases in tandem will they begin providing representation on their own. The goal is to provide in-court representation to 50 clients during the year.</p> <p>3) Working with clients and colleagues to help determine next steps in clients' cases. Does the client want to pursue avenues such as safety planning, divorce, immigration status, or a referral to a shelter? PLL will make referrals within and outside of CLA SoCal as needed.</p> <p>RO cases are an excellent opportunity for a provisionally licensed lawyer. Due to the nature of DV practice and the length of RO cases, the PLL will gain significant, real-world litigation experience without having to shepherd complex, lengthy cases. This project also gives them the opportunity to manage a discrete project that blends clinic practice with litigation. CLA SoCal often embeds its new family law attorneys at DV clinics as a means of building experience and confidence as litigators.</p>		
Impact (Organization's Expertise)	<p>Family law remains CLA SoCal's largest practice area, comprising approximately 40% of our litigation casework. We have 1 Supervising Attorney, 7 Staff Attorneys, and 11 Paralegals in our Family Law Unit; many are bilingual and all of whom have extensive experience in Family Law. In 2020, our Family Law staff closed 340 cases as extensive service. They are overseen by Directing Attorneys and a Director of Legal Services who have significant experience in handling family law.</p> <p>Thirty years ago, CLA SoCal opened the first court-based DVRO clinics in the Los Angeles County Superior Court system. Today we still operate these clinics at the Compton Courthouse and Whittier Courthouse. During the summer of 2020, in response to COVID-19, we opened a third DVRO Clinic in Orange County. For the most part, all three clinics operated remotely in 2020; our Los Angeles clinics have reopened in 2021.</p> <p>CLA SoCal enhanced our work at our LA DVRO clinics with a successful DV Litigator project between 2019-2021. The litigator accepted referrals from the clinics; he prioritized the representation of clients whose opposing parties were represented, or who were least able to effectively appear pro per at permanent restraining order hearings. This project also helped us introduce case managers to our program; these staff help traumatized clients and clients dealing with myriad issues access additional resources beyond CLA SoCal, and help advocate for them through their legal processes.</p> <p>CLA SoCal also has deep partnerships with community organizations. We share funding with shelters and victims' advocates to provide wraparound services to victims of DV and sexual assault. We have staff onsite at Family Justice Centers, which bring together social services</p>		

	agencies with law enforcement. We also work closely with UC Irvine School of Law and Chapman University Fowler School of Law.
Support (Support for PLL)	<p>Initially, the PLL will work with our current Clinic attorneys and paralegals to learn the RO process and how to draft Temporary Restraining Orders before taking over the clinic.</p> <p>Soon thereafter, the PLL will shadow veteran Family Law Unit attorneys during representation of domestic violence survivors at Court in restraining order hearings, and in contested divorce, child custody, and visitation cases. Next, they will sit as second chair at these hearings. The PLL will then move to lead counsel, teamed with a Supervising Attorney or Directing Attorney sitting in second chair. Only after they have handled several cases in tandem will they begin providing representation on their own.</p> <p>There is a host of training that new legal staff receive when they onboard at CLA SoCal. As a new family law attorney, the PLL must become certified through a 40-hour state-approved Domestic Violence Advocate training early in their employment. They will be directed to Practicing Law Institute (pli.edu) and given access to DV toolkits published by other agencies such as the Family Violence Appellate Project. New legal employees also watch an organizational library that includes trainings on language justice, DV presentations, and trauma-informed care.</p> <p>In addition, all CLA SoCal staff are participating in ongoing Equity, Inclusion and Diversity training that will continue through 2021-2022. CLA SoCal also provides classes for MCLE credit for its staff on legal issues such as motivational interviewing. By late 2021, training completion will be tracked in a new system to track staff training.</p> <p>Finally, the PLL will be invited to all CLA SoCal's social events, which build camaraderie and help staff step away from work on stressful cases. CLA SoCal has hosted many remote social events, but certainly looks forward to reinstating in-person potlucks in 2022.</p>
Safeguards (Protections for PLL and Clients)	<p>All new staff with CLA SoCal undergo a comprehensive onboarding process, which includes review of our staff policies and procedures such as confidentiality, technology use, and whistleblower, and provision of equipment and orientation to their work infrastructure, including case management system and remote work technology. The PLL will also undergo a two-week onboarding with their new unit, including education outlined above in question #3. Finally, new employees are introduced to our staff on our bi-weekly staff calls and via our internal social media page. Remote onboarding has been successfully underway since April 2020.</p> <p>Providing high-quality, trauma-informed care to our clients is paramount to our staff and management. Family Law Unit Supervisor Yolanda Omana has worked at CLA SoCal since 2000, handling all aspects of family law from domestic violence restraining orders to full representation on divorce, custody, and paternity matters.</p> <p>Ms. Omana will supervise the PLL utilizing a variety of avenues that she already utilizes with existing staff, including one-on-one meetings, case reviews, onsite observation, and a formal semi-annual evaluation process that tracks written goals and objectives (with informal evaluations at the 30-, 60- and 90-day marks for new staff). These evaluations focus not only on quality of legal services provision, but ability to practice in accordance with our client-centered organizational values, and progress towards meeting professional development goals.</p> <p>Currently Ms. Omana holds virtual meetings with her staff but may resume in-person meetings later in 2021; she will initially hold weekly check-ins with the new PLL to ensure ongoing education and quality of work. The Family Law Unit is a close-knit unit in which members work together to troubleshoot thorny case issues and educate one another on new trends and best practices; case reviews are held monthly.</p>
Recruitment (Strong and Diverse Pool of Candidates)	<p>Since the shutdown, CLA SoCal has been successful in hiring more than a dozen staff, including attorneys and paralegals. These new staff bring with them a variety of skills including bilingual language skills and expertise in specific areas of law. We offer competitive pay and benefits, including loan repayment assistance, and a supportive culture that values</p>

	<p>teamwork and inclusivity. Interviews are conducted by Directing Attorneys and Supervising Attorneys to ensure the best fit for the job.</p> <p>We find our applicants using several means:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Many of our applicants come to us through the informal network of public interest attorneys and law schools in the region, as well as through leads from our own staff. Locally, we are working with our partners at UC Irvine Law School, Chapman University Law School, and other legal aid providers to find applicants, particularly those who have experience working in DVRO clinics. 2) Our Pro Bono department is reaching out to its contacts at law schools and firms. 3) In addition to our networks, we have also been able to attract successful employees through our online postings. <p>Our entry-level Family Law Attorney job description is the basis for our hiring criteria. Even though the PLL is not yet admitted to the Bar, they will be expected to fully perform all required duties of the position.</p> <p>CLA SoCal thanks the State Bar of California for its consideration of this proposal.</p>
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GRANT BUDGET				
Months of Funding	12			
Personnel				
	PLL Grant	Other SB Monies	Other Funding	Total
PLL Salary	\$63,000	\$0	\$0	\$63,000
PLL Payroll Taxes and Benefits	\$0	\$0	\$17,010	\$17,010
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$63,000	\$0	\$17,010	\$80,010

**PROVISIONALLY LICENSED LAWYERS GRANT
APPLICATION PROFILE**

Organization Name	Contra Costa Senior Legal Services		
	Total Amount Requested	PLL Start Date (Actual or Anticipated)	PLL End Date (Actual or Anticipated)
	\$70,000	06/30/2021	05/30/2022
County(ies) Served	Contra Costa		
Substantive Area(s)	Consumer/Finance;Family/Domestic Violence;Health and Long-term Care;Housing;Other - Simple Wills, Small Claims Counseling		
Impact (PLL's Work)	<p>Our desired PLL (Karen Hinojosa) would focus her work on the following areas of law: Health Planning, Advance Health Care Directives, Durable Powers of Attorney, Simple Wills, Elder Abuse Restraining Orders, and Small Claims Counseling with a particular focus on assisting monolingual Spanish speaking seniors in Contra Costa. While in law school at UC Hastings, our candidate worked at the Medical-Legal Partnership for Seniors Clinic which gave her relevant experience both in many of the same legal areas CCSLS handles, and with serving older adults. Plus, since we have had the good fortune of working with Karen as our Legal Fellow for the past several months (funded by Legal Services Funding Network [LSFN]), she is already familiar with our legal processes, our staff, and the ways we deliver services to clients virtually during this time of the Coronavirus pandemic. Karen's LSFN fellowship ends in June 2021 and we currently lack the budget to keep Karen on. The timing of the PLL grant would therefore be ideal. In addition, Karen is bi-lingual in Spanish which is extremely helpful in a county with 26% LatinX population (Source: U.S. Census as of 7/19). Demand for our services has been rising each month since the vaccination campaign began. Plus, senior centers are starting to reopen and we expect our in-person monthly legal clinics to recommence soon. As a PLL, Karen will ensure we have the qualified legal staff to properly serve all seniors in need in our County.</p>		
Impact (Organization's Expertise)	<p>Contra Costa Senior Legal Services ("CCSLS") is a private, non-profit agency that has been providing free legal services to low-income seniors 60 and older since 1976 to enable them to live independently and with dignity. We provide legal assistance on average to more than 1,000 clients each year (prior to Covid) about 40% of whom are disabled. These services enable seniors to stay in their homes, secure public benefits, recover property wrongly taken from them, plan for the future with health care directives and powers of attorney, and obtain relief from physical, financial and emotional abuse. Whereas many cases involve limited advice or pretrial settlement, our attorneys commonly appear in court for eviction matters and restraining orders. Our four full-time attorneys and a roster of volunteer attorneys offer direct legal services, administer clinics, supervise pro bono volunteers, and educate the public. Up until the pandemic, we held monthly clinics at Senior Centers around the county to serve many of our clients. We have pivoted to virtual clinics using telephone & Zoom appointments for the time being. Our Supervising Attorney, Victoria Snyder, will be responsible for supervising our PLL (she has signed the "PLL Declaration of Supervising Attorney" for the Office of Admissions). She has supervised Karen as our Legal Fellow. With more than 11 years of experience and 7 years at CCSLS, Victoria is one of our most experienced attorneys who can provide guidance to Karen to ensure successful client service delivery.</p>		
Support (Support for PLL)	<p>We are committed to ensuring this PLL Grant experience is a worthwhile one for our PLL. Karen's supervising attorney will work with her to self-assess her skills and identify training goals at the outset of the PLL in areas of law (e.g., financial elder abuse, wills), legal skills (e.g., evaluating capacity, trial advocacy, motions practice), and other (e.g., trauma-informed client communication). We will encourage her, at CCSLS' expense, to select at least one Professional Development Training during her PLL tenure through an organization such as the Practicing Law Institute (PLI). We will make sure she can attend any training for the PLL cohort as well. We will encourage her to attend trainings offered by NCLER, LAAC, and the Contra Costa Bar Association in areas where she feels she could use additional knowledge & expertise.</p>		
Safeguards (Protections for PLL and Clients)	<p>Karen came to CCSLS as a part-time Legal Fellow after being vetted through a competitive selection process by the Legal Services Funding Network (LSFN). She became full-time as to become a Legal Fellow and we have had the opportunity to work with Karen since July of 2020, we know she will be able to work effectively with us as a PLL. We have already conducted on-boarding to help her become familiar with our policies and procedures,</p>		

	substantive law in our areas of practice, and client population. She was also trained on our intake procedures, Kemps Client Database, Essential Forms, administration of legal clinics and volunteer attorneys, and collaboration tools such as Microsoft Teams platform so she can work remotely as a vital team member. There are regular check ins scheduled with the legal team and senior staff, in addition to our weekly all staff meetings. As Karen shifts to a full-time PLL, additional training will be offered in other areas of law such as housing and more advanced training in elder abuse restraining orders. Victoria will continue to meet individually with Karen to ensure her legal services meet our clients' needs and ensure quality of service.
Recruitment (Strong and Diverse Pool of Candidates)	We have had the good fortune of being assigned Karen Hinojosa as a Legal Fellow starting in the Summer of 2020 courtesy of the Legal Services Funders Network (LSFN). The LSFN Post-Graduate Legal Fellows Program was designed in the midst of the 2020 coronavirus pandemic to address the needs of Bay Area Legal Services Organizations by connecting them to recent graduates of Bay Area Law Schools who are faced with a delay in their ability to take the California Bar Exam. Key evaluation criteria for our PLL, given current needs, are Spanish language skills, experience with clinics, demonstrated ability to communication with seniors, and experience with advance health care planning. Karen meets and exceeds these criteria. When we recruited Karen as a Legal Fellow, she was an optimal fit for CCSLS since our attorney responsible for advance health care directive clinics and powers of attorney was planning to retire in August 2020. Karen had a background in medical legal clinic work from her time at Hastings and speaks Spanish, which was a gap in our organization at the time. The outgoing attorney conducted an extensive handover with Karen to bring her up to speed on our clinics including introductions to volunteer attorneys and our critical senior center partners. Karen's fellowship ends in June 2021 and it was a natural step to see if we could extend her association with CCSLS through this PLL Grant. Karen has demonstrated her aptitude during the Legal Fellowship and has blended well with our team. It was an easy decision to invite her to apply for this PLL funding opportunity to increase her hours and extend her time at CCSLS.

GRANT BUDGET				
Months of Funding	11			
Personnel				
	PLL Grant	Other SB Monies	Other Funding	Total
PLL Salary	\$60,000	\$0	\$0	\$60,000
PLL Payroll Taxes and Benefits	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$10,000
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$70,000	\$0	\$0	\$70,000

**PROVISIONALLY LICENSED LAWYERS GRANT
APPLICATION PROFILE**

Organization Name	Elder Law & Advocacy		
	Total Amount Requested	PLL Start Date (Actual or Anticipated)	PLL End Date (Actual or Anticipated)
	\$71,000	06/01/2021	06/01/2022
County(ies) Served	Imperial, San Diego,		
Substantive Area(s)	<p>Conservatorship; Consumer/Finance; Disability Rights; Family/Domestic Violence; Employment; Guardianship; Health and Long-term Care; Housing; Immigration; Income Maintenance; Other - The project will also cover the following substantive areas: living will, advance health care directive, health care proxy, power of attorney, estate plan/will, protection from civil harassment or stalking, protection from elder or dependent abuse, access to justice.</p>		
Impact (PLL's Work)	<p>EL&A's PLL will assist in San Diego and Imperial county's Senior Legal Services and Caregiver programs, and the Imperial County Unlawful Detainer clinic. Case types will include non-litigation civil legal matters in both one-on-one and clinic settings. Under the supervision of an EL&A staff attorney as their Supervising Attorney, the PLL will perform the duties of a staff attorney including maintaining their own case load.</p> <p>The PLL will have the opportunity to engage in a substantial number of legal subject matter cases. The practice will allow the PLL to apply their academic knowledge and skills to actual legal matters presented by clients. After the training period, they will handle a range of cases from simple legal matters with obvious legal solutions, to cases that involve more complex legal issues and require in-depth research and communication with others. In those types of cases, the PLL will have the benefit of collaborating with EL&A's highly experienced attorneys and supervisors. This collaboration can help foster growth and confidence in a new attorney.</p> <p>The PLL position will help the organization meet an anticipated pent-up demand for services. The organization expects an increased demand specifically related to housing issues due to eviction moratoria and other changes to the law. The PLL will also assist in the Imperial County Unlawful Detainer Partnership Clinic on a monthly basis. The PLL will provide support to the attorneys assigned to the project and will also work directly with clinic participants.</p> <p>The PLL will focus their work on both San Diego and Imperial Counties. The geographic region includes urban, rural and frontier areas. Clients will be older adults who qualify under the Older Americans Act for legal services. Special efforts will be made to assist clients in the 75 and older group.</p>		
Impact (Organization's Expertise)	<p>Since 1978, EL&A has been providing free legal services for older adults and their families throughout San Diego and Imperial Counties. Its high-volume programs reach thousands individuals annually who are living in urban, rural and frontier communities. Service delivery and legal issue subject areas are tailored specifically to the needs of older adults. EL&A develops innovative programs in response to demonstrated needs that reach especially vulnerable, underserved groups of seniors such as those who are over the age of 75, housebound or institutionalized primarily due to severe poor health, low-income, minority, limited or non-English speakers, and those at risk of impoverishment due to financial elder abuse. EL&A provides a valuable service to low-income seniors who have legal issues. With a focus on pre-litigation legal intervention, client issues are resolved, often leading to recovery of funds or preservation of assets and saving these older individuals the stress, anxiety and cost of litigation.</p> <p>The PLL will be joining established projects which will offer a large variety of legal experiences. The Senior Legal Services and Caregiver programs have been operating for several decades; the Imperial County Unlawful Detainer project is in its sixth year. The PLL will also be joining a staff which has many long-term attorney employees who will be able to mentor and act as a resource for the PLL.</p>		

	<p>EL&A collaborates and partners with numerous other community service and legal aid providers to offer its clients access to as many resources as possible and is constantly expanding its resource network. The PLL will have the opportunity to learn about this network, which in turn will lead to an understanding of community-based referral resources for clients with nonlegal needs.</p>
<p>Support (Support for PLL)</p>	<p>The PLL will receive in-depth one-on-one training to ensure that they can obtain case facts and other details from clients who may have issues hearing , speaking clearly, or understanding legal concepts and the legal advice provided to them. This requires practice, patience, and compassion, which are required to effectively help a significant portion of the older adult populations served by the organization. Clients may have physical limitations, medical conditions and transportation issues which may prevent them from providing documents or traveling to court. They may also have limitations using technology. All of these must be taken into consideration when providing informed legal services to an older adult population.</p> <p>Training will also include ‘shadowing’ other staff attorneys as they provide services. During COVID-19 restrictions, this will be done in a shared Zoom format. Ongoing training in substantive legal areas will be provided for the PLL under EL&A’s established training procedures including use of EL&A’s in-house WIKI which covers frequently encountered substantive legal issues and provides templates and research on relevant elder law topics. In-house MCLE civil legal topic and law practice in-house trainings are provided by legal experts. On-line trainings through LAAC and support center LSP’s cover topics of relevance to the legal services provider community, and specifically to those practicing elder law. The PLL will have access to online research databases and court fillable form program (Lawyaw), as well as print legal practice guides.</p> <p>As part of their ongoing legal practice training, the PLL will have the opportunity to participate in regular attorney meetings, contribute to web-based and print educational articles, will assist in the preparation of reports of their legal activities, contribute to the organization’s social media efforts, and will participate in community education and outreach events.</p>
<p>Safeguards (Protections for PLL and Clients)</p>	<p>EL&A will onboard the PLL using its established human resources procedures either remotely or in-person. Trainings will be provided either remotely or in-person. Because the organization has been both onboarding and training new employees and volunteers during the pandemic, it will be able to do so if necessary for the PLL.</p> <p>The PLL will be under the direct supervision of their assigned Supervising Attorney who will act as both mentor and resource on their cases. When the PLL is ready to handle their own caseload as determined by the legal supervising staff, the PLL will be assigned cases. Initially, if pandemic restrictions remain in place, the supervising attorney will be monitoring client interactions remotely. When pandemic-related restrictions are lifted, client interactions will be monitored by the Supervising Attorney in-person to ensure that clients are given the correct legal advice, and that elder clients are treated with patience and respect. After the initial observation period, cases handled by the PLL will be reviewed regularly by the PLL’s assigned Supervising Attorney or legal supervising staff through viewing files in the organization’s database. The Supervising Attorney will review any cases with the PLL where an issue needs to be discussed and will provide supplemental training and resources where indicated. The PLL will have access to all of the attorney staff in order to be able to consult on case matters and best practices.</p>
<p>Recruitment (Strong and Diverse Pool of Candidates)</p>	<p>EL&A currently has one PLL applicant. Upon receiving notification of a PLL grant award, the organization will immediately seek additional candidates by advertising the position in a variety of venues including law schools in the San Diego area, and those outside of the area such as UCI School of Law, UCLA School of Law and others in California and in other states. EL&A will also advertise the position through LAAC, NP Works, Idealist, and others.</p> <p>EL&A will give special consideration to candidates who are bi-lingual, are diverse, have experience with legal aid work (paid or volunteer), have worked with special populations including persons with disabilities or advanced age, and can demonstrate a passion of the provision of free legal services to low-income or underserved populations. This type of experience will indicate that a candidate is not only interested in the PLL option, but also cares about the work done by nonprofit legal services organizations.</p>

GRANT BUDGET				
Months of Funding	12			
Personnel				
	PLL Grant	Other SB Monies	Other Funding	Total
PLL Salary	\$60,000	\$0	\$0	\$60,000
PLL Payroll Taxes and Benefits	\$11,000	\$0	\$0	\$11,000
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$71,000	\$0	\$0	\$71,000

**PROVISIONALLY LICENSED LAWYERS GRANT
APPLICATION PROFILE**

Organization Name	Eviction Defense Collaborative		
	Total Amount Requested	PLL Start Date (Actual or Anticipated)	PLL End Date (Actual or Anticipated)
	\$70,000	06/01/2021	06/01/2022
County(ies) Served	San Francisco		
Substantive Area(s)	Housing		
Impact (PLL's Work)	<p>Eviction Defense Collaborative (EDC) seeks a community lawyer to join our Tenant Right to Counsel team. EDC is the only legal services organization in San Francisco solely focused on eviction prevention. In addition to being the Lead Partner for San Francisco Tenant Right to Counsel (TRC), EDC provides San Francisco's most vulnerable populations legal services in an eviction, rapid emergency rental assistance for those at risk of displacement, and advocacy for clients in shelters. EDC's work includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) full scope legal representation to tenants facing eviction; 2) coordinated coverage at Mandatory Settlement Conferences (MSC) and San Francisco Superior Court's TRC program point of contact along with the Mayor's Office of Community Housing and Development (MOHCD); 3) operating the TRC Referral to Legal Representation System; 4) trainings to TRC Partners and community stakeholders; 5) TRC program data collection, evaluation, and monitoring support to MOHCD. <p>As a staff attorney, this PLL will play a key role in the implementation of TRC in San Francisco, working at the forefront of the universal right to representation movement, in one of a handful of cities where right to counsel is being implemented as a strategic intervention in the local housing crisis. Working with a team of attorneys, interns, and volunteers, the PLL will represent tenants fighting eviction lawsuits. TRC stabilizes and preserves affordable housing, prevents displacement, and protects the diversity of San Francisco.</p> <p>Primary PLL responsibilities include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Providing full scope representation to tenants in eviction matters including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Preparing responsive pleadings, discovery, and motions; b) Advocating for tenants and negotiating on their behalf with landlords and landlords' attorneys in unlawful detainer (eviction) actions; c) Representing tenants at court hearings, settlement conferences, and trial. 2) Supporting volunteer attorneys and attorneys at other legal services organizations representing tenants. 3) Conducting trainings to nonprofits and community-based agencies. 		
Impact (Organization's Expertise)	<p>Eviction Defense Collaborative (EDC) has over 25 years of experience in providing Eviction Defense legal services to San Francisco tenants. As Lead Partner for the San Francisco Tenant Right to Counsel (TRC) Program, EDC has a wealth of opportunities for the PLL to provide Full Scope and Limited Scope representation to tenants facing eviction. EDC provides such services to thousands of tenants annually. EDC's clients come from majority low income communities of color. 77% are Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), 83% are extremely low-income, and 44% differently abled.</p> <p>EDC is the only legal services organization in San Francisco ("SF") solely focused on eviction prevention. In addition to being the TRC Lead Partner, EDC provides SF's most vulnerable populations legal services in an eviction, rapid emergency rental assistance for those at risk of displacement, and advocacy for clients in shelters. EDC's work prevents displacement and homelessness, stabilizes communities, and reduces racial disparities in housing, particularly for low income tenants.</p> <p>EDC has been a training ground for tenant attorneys nationwide, providing technical support to the tenants' rights communities since its inception. EDC's new Director of Litigation and Policy, Ora Prochovnick is a long term Bay Area tenants' rights activist, and was the Director of Clinical and Public Interest Law Programs, as well as Director of the Housing Law Advocacy Clinic at JFK University for the past 10 years. As such, EDC is expanding our</p>		

	<p>technical assistance to community legal service partners. The PLL will therefore receive direct training from a lifelong tenants' rights attorney and educator, and will join the housing justice movement at a historical time when stable housing means the difference between life and death.</p>
<p>Support (Support for PLL)</p>	<p>The PLL will be trained internally to deliver culturally sensitive, client centered, and trauma informed services. They will also have access to legal templates via EDC's Lawyaw software. The PLL will attend monthly trainings available to all staff attorneys at Tenant Right to Counsel (TRC) agencies on topics such as preparing responsive pleadings, discovery, motions to vacate, settlement negotiations, and trial preparation, conducted by experts from the TRC program. The PLL will have full access to the Practicing Law Institute's entire library of training courses. Trainings will also be conducted in-house within the agency, both formally and informally, through an assigned supervising mentor, shadowing and participation in case rounds meetings.</p> <p>Additionally, the PLL will participate in EDC's 20-21 Racial Equity Initiative. One month prior to George Floyd's murder, and the resulting global outcry for racial justice, EDC hired World Trust Educational Services, an organization focused on strategically advancing racial justice to provide Board and staff racial equity education and to conduct an organizational audit of our policies and practices in an effort to build an actively anti-racist organization. Human Rights activist and former Black Panther member Ericka Huggins is our lead teacher for the initiative. Ericka led the staff in a powerful workshop on May 22, 2020, just three days before Mr. Floyd's murder, and held a follow up session the following week. She has since led 3 more workshops, with 6 more scheduled for 2021. Finally, the PLL will have access to EDC's Employee Assistance Program which provides staff with increased behavioral health services.</p>
<p>Safeguards (Protections for PLL and Clients)</p>	<p>Several measures will ensure that the PLL provides safe, effective, and sensitive legal services to clients. The PLL will not be solely responsible for cases for several months, instead working together with a mentor, supervisor and/or the PLL's more experienced attorney partner. When hired, the PLL will meet individually with EDC's Operations and HR Assistant for a new staff orientation, and with the managing paralegal to learn court filing processes. The PLL will also be provided with written and visual training materials. Ongoing training, as mentioned above, will include monthly Tenant Right to Counsel (TRC) program trainings focused on specific legal topics directly relevant to TRC work and unlimited access to Practicing Law Institute materials. The PLL will receive direct hands-on supervision through the assignment of a designated senior staff attorney mentor and weekly one-on-one meeting with their supervising attorney and/or the Deputy Director of Litigation. Regular collaboration with other staff will be achieved through attendance at weekly litigation team meetings, multiple small group case review meetings throughout the week, and assignment to subcommittees to work on specific advocacy projects. The PLL will be paired with different attorneys at various times in order to learn different methods.</p> <p>EDC has continued to provide services uninterrupted during COVID using a remote workplace model that was scaled within one week of the Shelter-In-Place order. Now, EDC is rolling out a hybrid workplace model that will include both remote and in office work. As such, the PLL will work both remotely and on site in EDC's office located in SOMA, on the boarder of the Tenderloin district in San Francisco. EDC follows all COVID related CDC, OSHA, and SFPDPH guidelines to ensure the safety of staff and clients.</p>
<p>Recruitment (Strong and Diverse Pool of Candidates)</p>	<p>EDC staff has worked with 2 candidates in the past who are qualified individuals for the PLL program. EDC staff also includes an adjunct law professor with long time connections to the Northern California law school community. Using these connections, our agency will seek to recruit from among qualified recent law school graduates. EDC will also utilize its relationships within its network of Bay Area housing rights organizations and with other California nonprofit legal services organizations to promote our participation in the PLL program. Additionally, EDC will list an advertisement for the opening in the San Francisco Chronicle. EDC will ensure its recruitment follows best practices to attract a diverse pool of qualified candidates. In addition to a stellar scholastic record, the candidate must have intimate knowledge of eviction defense, and/or a history of providing services to low income clients. The scoring of applications and interviews will be heavily weighted in these areas, ensuring the best candidate is selected.</p>

GRANT BUDGET				
Months of Funding	12			
Personnel				
	PLL Grant	Other SB Monies	Other Funding	Total
PLL Salary	\$70,000	\$0	\$0	\$70,000
PLL Payroll Taxes and Benefits	\$0	\$0	\$16,100	\$16,100
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$70,000	\$0	\$16,100	\$86,100

**PROVISIONALLY LICENSED LAWYERS GRANT
APPLICATION PROFILE**

Organization Name	Family Violence Law Center		
	Total Amount Requested	PLL Start Date (Actual or Anticipated)	PLL End Date (Actual or Anticipated)
	\$74,000	06/01/2021	06/01/2022
County(ies) Served	Alameda		
Substantive Area(s)	Family/Domestic Violence		
Impact (PLL's Work)	<p>FVLC's lawyers serve a high volume of clients each year: in 2019-20 we provided 1,186 survivors with free legal services. Since the beginning of the pandemic, service requests have spiked and the severity of violence experienced by clients has increased. Many of our clients are struggling financially; we have noticed that an increased number of survivors seeking shelter were homeless and sleeping in their cars. We continue to connect them with local community resources, but these resources are overtaxed due to the pandemic. The survivors we serve are greatly in need of additional support to stabilize their families and access healing.</p> <p>One of our clients' biggest unmet legal needs is assistance with their dissolution and custody cases. We experience such a high demand for assistance with restraining orders (a demand that we expect to remain high and possibly increase as the pandemic ends) that we often are unable to assist clients with dissolution or stand-alone custody cases. A full time PLL would help meet the volume of restraining order requests during, and hopefully in the months after, the pandemic, and also free up some of FVLC's senior attorneys' time to handle dissolution or custody matters. The fellow will provide legal advice and counsel, in-court representation, paperwork preparation and court filing, clinic-based pro per assistance, and appropriate referrals. The fellow also will have the opportunity to learn how to represent clients in other matters by serving as second chair on some of the family law cases and taking some housing cases in partnership with our Housing Staff Attorney. Through these services, domestic violence survivors will have meaningful, supportive access to justice and become better equipped to permanently establish independent lives away from an abusive partner.</p>		
Impact (Organization's Expertise)	<p>FVLC has a distinguished history and an established record of providing domestic violence survivors with meaningful access to the justice system. FVLC is the only domestic violence agency in Alameda County that has a team of staff attorneys providing no-fee attorney representation in partnership with a team providing supportive services such as emergency relocation. In FY 19-20, FVLC provided comprehensive no-fee legal services to 1,186 clients, the majority of whom were low-income women of color: 85% were people of color (of clients who provided ethnicity and race information), 30% were immigrants, and 21% had limited English proficiency.</p> <p>FVLC provides a comprehensive service model for domestic violence survivors, based on the understanding that clients' ability to follow through on legal matters improves significantly when they receive the emotional and logistical support provided by FVLC's other programs. To that end, FVLC seamlessly integrates free attorney representation with other critical supportive work including counseling, case management, criminal justice advocacy, and direct financial support. In 2019, FVLC added housing legal and case management services to our holistic model. FVLC staff has always worked with survivors to help them with relocation and other housing issues created by domestic violence. However, we have been limited in our staff and financial capacities to help survivors with their greatest housing needs. We have added a Housing First project that adds two new staff, including a housing attorney, and a significant amount of low barrier client assistance funds to help keep survivors stably housed. Ultimately, as a result of FVLC's services, victims are better equipped to establish safe, independent lives away from abusive partners.</p>		
Support (Support for PLL)	<p>All new lawyers are given training by FVLC staff on domestic violence dynamics, laws pertaining to Domestic Violence Protection Act restraining orders, and legal form completion. All new lawyers shadow FVLC staff attorneys and conduct client appointments with a FVLC staff attorney present before they work with clients alone. All paperwork is reviewed by a FVLC attorney before filing. FVLC monitors the adequacy and effectiveness of its supervision by encouraging and eliciting constant feedback from staff and volunteers.</p>		

	FVLC's Managing Attorney and Senior Staff Attorney regularly meet with staff attorneys and volunteers to discuss their experiences, observations and any relevant issues that come up in the course of their legal work. In particular, during the yearly evaluation process, staff is asked to consider and give feedback on any additional training, support, structure and/or direction they feel they need and what specifically their supervisor(s) can do to support their performance and goals.
Safeguards (Protections for PLL and Clients)	Supervision of all legal staff, including the PLL, is conducted using the following mechanisms: 1) weekly check-ins with staff attorneys; 2) annual written evaluations; 3) periodic court watch to observe FVLC attorneys in the courtroom; 4) regularly scheduled legal department meetings; and 5) an FVLC calendaring system (both electronic and paper) that assists the Managing Attorney in monitoring each attorney's workload. Cases are closed after the Managing Attorney reviews the file to determine whether everything has been completed, including a case closing letter sent to the client and a substitution of attorney filed with the court. FVLC's procedures are modeled after the American Bar Association's Standards for Providers of Civil Legal Services to the Poor. These safeguards continue in place during the pandemic; FVLC's attorneys have been working remotely since the beginning of the pandemic and have successfully onboarded and supervised one new staff attorney and two fellows.
Recruitment (Strong and Diverse Pool of Candidates)	FVLC will publicize the PLL position by posting job listings with law schools including but not limited to the following: Berkeley Law, Hastings College of the Law, Stanford Law School, USF School of Law, Golden Gate University School of Law, and Santa Clara School of Law. FVLC additionally will send copies of the job listing to select professors and instructors at these schools, including Nancy Lemon, who teaches a Domestic Violence Law Practicum at Boalt. FVLC will also advertise the fellowship with the California State Bar, local and specialty bar associations, One Justice and the Legal Aid Association of California, community-based organizations with whom we partner, the American Bar Association Commission on Domestic Violence national listserv, and the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence. FVLC will also post the PLL position on its website at fvlc.org, at craigslist.org under both legal and non-profit jobs, and at idealist.org, a website devoted to non-profit opportunities.

GRANT BUDGET				
Months of Funding	12			
Personnel				
	PLL Grant	Other SB Monies	Other Funding	Total
PLL Salary	\$61,440	\$0	\$0	\$61,440
PLL Payroll Taxes and Benefits	\$12,560	\$0	\$0	\$12,560
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$74,000	\$0	\$0	\$74,000

**PROVISIONALLY LICENSED LAWYERS GRANT
APPLICATION PROFILE**

Organization Name	Inland Counties Legal Services		
	Total Amount Requested	PLL Start Date (Actual or Anticipated)	PLL End Date (Actual or Anticipated)
	\$75,000	03/01/2021	06/01/2022
County(ies) Served	Riverside, San Bernardino,		
Substantive Area(s)	Family/Domestic Violence - N/A		
Impact (PLL's Work)	<p>Selena Pierre joined ICLS as a PLL in March 2021. Ms. Pierre has a diverse background and experience in assisting marginalized low-income persons which makes her well suited to make a valuable contribution to ICLS's family law practice group. Having grown up in Haiti, one of the poorest countries in the world, Selena has witnessed the impact of poverty on vulnerable populations, making her uniquely qualified to work with ICLS's diverse demographic of low-income clients.</p> <p>The Family Law practice group serves clients in the rural and metropolitan areas of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. Selena will focus on legal assistance for domestic violence victims in the rural areas of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties in communities with a large low-income population. ICLS has formal partnerships with organizations providing supportive services to domestic violence survivors and children in the cities of Riverside, Barstow and Indio, named the Victim's Legal Advocacy Project (VLAP). Barstow has an estimated population of 23,972 and a poverty rate of 36.6%; Indio has an estimated population of 91,765 and a poverty rate of 16.5%. Surrounding Indio and Barstow are rural communities with very little access to legal services. Households in both Indio and Barstow are diverse with 52.6% of the households in Indio speaking a language other than English. For Barstow, 29.7% of households speak another language. As an immigrant to the United States, Selena can identify with the diverse communities ICLS serves.</p> <p>Selena will focus on ICLS's VLAP project by providing additional support to attorneys to prepare for hearings and trials, conduct legal research and client interviews. After extensive training, ICLS will allow Selena to conduct trials and hearings with a more experienced attorney present to mentor her.</p>		
Impact (Organization's Expertise)	<p>Since its establishment in 1958, ICLS has been a community resource for free legal services in the Inland Empire. ICLS covers both San Bernardino and Riverside Counties and a primary focus is on legal advocacy for survivors of domestic violence. As a result of the great need created by the COVID-19 pandemic, The Victim's Legal Advocacy Project (VLAP) will be Selena's primary focus. ICLS has long standing partnerships with Haley House/Desert Sanctuary in Barstow and the Family Justice Centers in the cities of Indio and Riverside to provide legal assistance to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault through regular on-site intakes. ICLS has been conducting outreach at Haley House/Desert Sanctuary since 1997 and the Family Justice Centers since 2013. Outreach appointments are scheduled by ICLS partners who identify whether there is a need to screen for legal issues and the collaboration ensures that survivors receive holistic services to help them escape the cycle of violence.</p> <p>Cara L. Whisler, Esq., with ICLS since 2007 has been the Family Law Practice Group Director (PGD) since 2017. During her time as PGD she has focused solely on family law matters. Cara currently leads the VLAP Project and is responsible for the Family Law Team's outreaches to rural communities. She supervises five attorneys and three secretaries. She will be Selena's primary supervisor and the three legal secretaries will provide supportive services to Selena. Selena will also have the support of her fellow staff attorneys, all of whom have varying levels of legal experience from 20 plus years of experience to one year of experience. Ms. Whisler's comprehensive legal experience in domestic violence issues and practical experience working in the communities ICLS serves, will help Selena develop the skills necessary to serve our clients.</p>		
Support (Support for PLL)	ICLS offers training for all advocates which are provided by experienced in-house advocates and external experts in their fields. The trainings cover subjects ranging from equity and inclusion, health and wellness as well as substantive law and litigation practices. During		

	<p>Selena's first week, she participated in a two-hour training on unconscious bias conducted by an expert in the field. ICLS will build on this training by providing follow-up trainings in the next six months to assist the program in minimizing and addressing unconscious bias in the workplace. ICLS will also be providing a Wellness and Dealing with Stress training in April provided by an outside expert in the field, Julia Wilson, Esq.</p> <p>Substantive legal trainings are included in monthly attorney roundtable meetings in which in-house experts and volunteer attorneys deliver presentations on their areas of practice. On April 21, 2021, ICLS will have collaborated with a pro bono attorney presenting a training on child custody and visitation issues, which Selena has been invited to attend. Additionally, ICLS will start a series of 3-hour litigation trainings at the attorney roundtables. The trainings will consist of a lecture and then small group practice sessions. The first session will focus on opening statements and will be conducted by a pro bono attorney. Every other month, advocates will receive litigation training on different subject matters.</p> <p>In addition to the schedule of trainings noted above, Selena will have access to ICLS's in-house resources include free access to Practising Law Institute's webinar trainings, Westlaw as well as an organization-wide pleadings bank. To further support attorneys working remotely, ICLS leverages its technology to engage staff through Microsoft Office 360 Microsoft Teams video conferencing, Chats and Teams Channels that allow group postings to build cohesiveness. Through Microsoft Teams, advocates have been able to work together efficiently without in-person contact.</p>
<p>Safeguards (Protections for PLL and Clients)</p>	<p>ICLS intends to work closely with Selena to provide her similar opportunities for litigation as a first-year licensed attorney. In addition to Cara Whisler's guidance and mentorship, Selena will also be mentored by the Deputy Director of Litigation, Sang Banh, who has practice law for over 17 years. The Family Law Practice Group currently consists of five attorneys and three legal secretaries, not including Ms. Pierre.</p> <p>Selena will be trained through group discussions and individualized instruction. The Family Law Team hold weekly litigation and staff meetings to discuss cases and provide support to each other. The Family Law attorneys hold a separate weekly litigation meeting with Deputy Director of Litigation Sang Banh to brainstorm on cases. Additionally, Sang provides mentorship for new attorneys by attending their hearings and taking a hands-on approach in guiding them through the litigation process.</p> <p>As part of her team building efforts, Ms. Whisler's team has daily morning email check-ins and weekly video conferencing meetings. Cara meets with each advocate individually each week to discuss and strategize on case activities. As a new attorney Selena will shadow experienced attorneys during their client conferences and court hearings and she will be provided training on navigating client services for survivors of trauma.</p> <p>ICLS also relies on a case management system (CMS), capable of running reports that will capture the time advocates spend on specific activities on a daily basis to give a detailed analysis of an advocates' daily accomplishments. Advocates are trained to included detailed notes regarding case activities in the CMS that can be overseen by the PGD. The work done on each case by Selena will be reviewed by Cara Whisler in the CMS as well as during meetings to ensure that Selena's clients are receiving quality legal services.</p>
<p>Recruitment (Strong and Diverse Pool of Candidates)</p>	<p>ICLS sought to recruit a strong pool of candidates by advertising the position on Ziprecruiter, an online job search platform, that cross-posts on other career sites such as LinkedIn, Glassdoor, Indeed, and CareerBuilder to generate a large pool of potential candidates. The position was advertised on ICLS's website as well. Family Law Practice Group Director Cara Whisler and Deputy Director of Litigation Sang Banh reviewed the applications that ICLS received, focusing on granting interviews to candidates who had prior volunteer experience and experience working with the low-income community. Although having some experience working in a legal office was viewed positively, the emphasis was on applicants that had diverse backgrounds and experiences because the project Selena Pierre will be working on focuses on domestic violence survivors living in rural communities.</p> <p>Selena found the position on Indeed and applied in February 2021. ICLS' application process involves two levels of interview. The first interview is conducted by practice group directors with a series of questions that focus on the applicant's background and experience working</p>

	in non-profits and with low-income persons. The second interview was conducted by Deputy Director of Litigation Sang Banh and Executive Director Darrell Moore. The second interview focuses more on the applicant's goals and their ability to work with our clients. Although other applicants with more legal experience applied for the job, Selena was offered the position based upon her commitment to assisting the low-income community, and she would be a good fit with the family law practice group, which is a collaborative and diverse team.
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GRANT BUDGET				
Months of Funding	15			
Personnel				
	PLL Grant	Other SB Monies	Other Funding	Total
PLL Salary	\$58,000	\$0	\$14,500	\$72,500
PLL Payroll Taxes and Benefits	\$17,000	\$0	\$4,210	\$21,210
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$75,000	\$0	\$18,710	\$93,710

**PROVISIONALLY LICENSED LAWYERS GRANT
APPLICATION PROFILE**

Organization Name	Inner City Law Center		
	Total Amount Requested	PLL Start Date (Actual or Anticipated)	PLL End Date (Actual or Anticipated)
	\$60,000	06/01/2021	06/01/2022
County(ies) Served	Los Angeles		
Substantive Area(s)	Housing		
Impact (PLL's Work)	<p>The PLL will join Inner City Law Center's (ICLC) well-established Healthy Homes project as a staff attorney and participate in affirmative litigation that promotes decent, affordable housing and addresses conditions that threaten the health and safety of tenants. The team uses sophisticated plaintiff's litigation techniques to address housing-related health hazards, preserve affordable housing, improve unhealthful conditions, protect residents from landlord retaliation, and, when appropriate, recover financial damages. We anticipate increased complaints of unsafe conditions and retaliation as pandemic restrictions and protections are lifted. Months have gone by without code enforcement inspections, and tenants and workers are concerned about exposure to COVID-19. At the same time, months have gone by in which property owners have been unable to evict tenants for alleged failure to pay rent. We anticipate a surge of tenants requesting our assistance with slum conditions and increased retaliation by property owners who have been unable to pursue founded or pre-textual evictions. The PLL will be integrated into the current model in in order to expand our ability to respond to both a backlog and surge of complaints. The PLL will be trained and provided opportunities to take part in client interviews, deposition and hearing preparation, legal research, discovery, drafting of pleadings, court appearances, and will work closely with pro bono co-counsel. Although not admitted, the PLL can work on all aspects of the cases under close supervision of a very experienced attorney and so provide the same support any newly admitted attorney offers, while simultaneously building a skill set that will make them a very valuable new hire upon their admission to the bar.</p>		
Impact (Organization's Expertise)	<p>ICLC's Healthy Homes work is at the very heart of its work. While ICLC has expanded its methods and interventions for preventing and ending homelessness over the last 40 years, slum housing litigation was one of its first interventions and has remained a centerpiece of its work ever since. For more than three decades, ICLC has set the standard for promoting and decent, affordable housing and addressing conditions that threaten the health and safety of tenants. The team assists thousands of tenants each year to assert and defend their rights to habitable housing through its outreach, its partnership with the Los Angeles Housing and Community Investment department, and its pursuit of justice for tenants living in slum housing through litigation. The team has always been led by experienced civil litigators and is currently led by veteran civil litigation attorney Kim Miller under the supervision of Director of Legal Services, who has litigated and overseen the litigation of slum housing cases for more than two decades. Over the last five years, the team has successfully litigated more than forty multi-plaintiff cases on behalf of more than 500 tenants living in deplorable conditions, obtaining repairs, protecting tenancies and, in some instances, obtaining financial remuneration, including return of unlawfully collected rent. Currently, the team represents 376 tenants living in 17 properties across Los Angeles County. The PLL would be fully integrated into the legal team and represent tenants in all phases of litigation from investigation and due diligence, discovery and pre-trial litigation to trial or alternative dispute resolution.</p>		
Support (Support for PLL)	<p>The PLL will receive the same training as other staff attorneys joining ICLC, including trauma-informed and client-centered representation, cultural competency, the nuts and bolts of benefits and of landlord tenant law, multi-client representation, ethics and professional responsibility and other trainings more specific to their caseload. New litigation team members usually attend the NITA trial skills training held in Los Angeles in January with a cohort of their ICLC colleagues and will in 2022 if the class is offered. Otherwise, they will attend similar online NITA trial skills training online. Most of the training offered to new attorneys is in-house and provided by a mix of staff, pro bono attorneys and experts. Each month training is provided to all staff. Thus far in 2021 the topics have included: Vital Documents and Immigration Representation; Legal Needs of the Elderly through a Homelessness Lens; and Gender Diversity and Pronouns Best Practices; with upcoming</p>		

	<p>trainings on Veterans and “Bad Paper” and Legal Needs of the Native Los Angeles Community. In addition to the supervision of the Director of Litigation, Managing Attorney Retired Commissioner Doug Carnahan offers assistance with ethics issues and review writing. Attorneys at ICLC have access to Lexis Nexis online and written materials and the litigation team’s pleadings bank is a bountiful collection of 40 years of innovative slum housing strategies.</p>
<p>Safeguards (Protections for PLL and Clients)</p>	<p>The Healthy Homes project’s caseload and structure means that each new attorney is closely supervised by the Director of Litigation and by teammates through the “buddy method” of case responsibility. One attorney is never left to represent a case solo, but always has a partner on that case with whom they must confer before submitting work product to the court or client. All significant written product runs through either the Directing Attorney or senior attorney for finalization and sign-off. New attorneys are trained on skills, such as preparing a client for depositions by the Director of Litigation, and then observe the skill as conducted by a more experienced teammate, followed by being observed demonstrating the skill. Eventually they will be asked to do the same for a newer attorney.</p> <p>The team meets every week to discuss its cases and upcoming deadlines and goals. Civil litigation of this nature is demanding and non-stop, but it most instances allows sufficient notice and time to allow for review by a senior or directing attorney.</p> <p>Treating clients with dignity is a core ICLC value. All staff are trained in client interviewing techniques to assure that core value is met. New attorney’s interactions with clients are observed after first having observed client interviews conducted by senior staff.</p> <p>In response to the pandemic, all ICLC teams are working remotely. Program Managers increased the frequency of team meetings, ensuring that staff stay connected and to check on everyone’s wellbeing. All staff have been set up with the proper equipment to successfully and safely perform their jobs from home. Client services are being conducted remotely as much as possible, using the internet, telephones, mail, and fax. If an in-person meeting is required, social distancing mandates are being followed and extra precautions with disinfecting common areas are in place.</p>
<p>Recruitment (Strong and Diverse Pool of Candidates)</p>	<p>We have seen more and more candidates proactively seeking out employment opportunities with ICLC. This shift, along with our encouragement and responsiveness to such candidate-driven ‘recruitment,’ has created a new and unencumbered opportunity for candidates to share their most genuine selves, and has added greater depth and diversity to our candidate pool. We are deeply committed to continuous improvement across all aspects of our work, especially around recruitment, retention, and organizational culture. There are so many elements that need to come together perfectly for a candidate seeking enriching and meaningful employment – a vacancy, meeting all position requirements, timing, alignment with an organization’s mission and values, the number of applicants, an organization’s screening and hiring process, the interview, and the list goes on and on. While we have our own internal limitations, such as funding, we believe that our work is too important to be constantly opening and closing the door of opportunity for interested candidates. We maintain a perpetually open door for candidates to express interest in employment with ICLC, which we couple with thoughtful outreach in the community, at colleges and universities, and within each of our networks. At ICLC, every member of staff is empowered to advance our ever-growing pillar of inclusivity.</p> <p>With the COVID-19 pandemic still part of our day-to-day lives and the effects on the most vulnerable and marginalized communities not fully actualized, we knew that any of our ICLC teams would benefit from another fighter against injustice. Amy Frazee was among several candidates who proactively reached out to express interest in joining ICLC and participating in the PLL Program. Amy’s experiences, education, diversity of exposure, and thoughtful engagement throughout the candidacy process has confirmed that she is great fit for ICLC and the PLL Program.</p>

GRANT BUDGET

Months of Funding

12

Personnel				
	PLL Grant	Other SB Monies	Other Funding	Total
PLL Salary	\$60,000	\$0	\$5,000	\$65,000
PLL Payroll Taxes and Benefits	\$0	\$0	\$14,950	\$14,950
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$60,000	\$0	\$19,950	\$79,950

**PROVISIONALLY LICENSED LAWYERS GRANT
APPLICATION PROFILE**

Organization Name	Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco		
	Total Amount Requested	PLL Start Date (Actual or Anticipated)	PLL End Date (Actual or Anticipated)
	\$82,000	06/01/2021	06/01/2022
County(ies) Served	San Francisco		
Substantive Area(s)	Housing		
Impact (PLL's Work)	<p>The Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco (JDC) plans to hire a PLL to support our Affirmative Eviction Prevention Project. Operated with support from State Bar EAF Homelessness Prevention funds, this project intervenes in landlord-tenant conflicts before they become so critical that the landlord seeks or delivers an Unlawful Detainer (eviction) order.</p> <p>Direct project services include pre-eviction tenant legal consultations, advocacy, and dispute resolution, aiming to prevent the filing of Unlawful Detainer cases, stabilize low-income people's housing, and keep tenants in housing that is affordable for them. This legal advocacy focuses on a number of pre-eviction issues, including payment disputes and tenant behavioral issues that jeopardize leases and housing, conflicts over the necessity of unit repairs and building conditions, unit habitability disagreements, sub-tenancy issues, and general lease compliance matters.</p> <p>PLL services provided by this project will consist of consultations with clients to ensure that they understand their legal rights and obligations as tenants in San Francisco. When necessary, the PLL will draft and send letters to landlords and/or the Rent Board to facilitate conflict resolution, request medically documented accommodations, and make a record of legal rights and obligations. The PLL will also act as an intermediary between the landlord and the tenant, advising each side of their rights and duties, with the aim of resolving the issues that are precipitating the prospective eviction.</p> <p>This project exclusively serves indigent residents of the San Francisco Bay Area. Many of these clients are Latinx monolingual Spanish-speakers, reflecting the socio-economic dynamics that put immigrant families in peril of losing their housing. JDC will select a highly qualified applicant for the PLL position with relevant experience and linguistic abilities.</p>		
Impact (Organization's Expertise)	<p>JDC has provided tenant advocacy and eviction defense legal and social services to low-income San Franciscans for more than 30 years, preventing countless thousands of evictions and helping tenants with a wide array of legal issues that stabilize their lives. A plurality of our agency's clients are Latinx and nearly all JDC direct service staff speak Spanish, giving us a strong ability to connect with and serve our target population.</p> <p>Most public funding available in San Francisco for eviction prevention legal services projects is restricted to situations where an Unlawful Detainer case has already been filed with the Superior Court of San Francisco, officially initiating eviction proceedings. However, JDC provides pre-eviction legal advocacy services for tenants because we understand that often by the time a landlord has begun the legal process of evicting a tenant, we have already lost numerous opportunities for reconciliation, de-escalation, and remedies that could have prevented the legal filing in the first place. When we can resolve conflicts, negotiate agreements, and otherwise keep tenants in their homes without engaging in formal court processes, the process requires less staff time and fewer monetary resources from our clients to maintain their housing.</p> <p>JDC also serves tenants facing eviction as part of its Homeless Advocacy Project (HAP), which participates in the Tenants' Rights Coalition, in partnership with Bay Area Legal Aid and eleven other legal aid organizations in San Francisco. This citywide project strives to provide universal representation for tenants who are facing eviction. However, it is critical to the community's ability to stop evictions that legal services intervene earlier in landlord-tenant disputes to prevent the conflict from rising to the point of legal action.</p>		

<p>Support (Support for PLL)</p>	<p>Because JDC has been providing pre-eviction tenant advocacy for more than three decades, we have developed robust legal training modules, document resources, and expert support for attorneys who provide housing advocacy.</p> <p>As part of the PLL's initial onboarding, Supervising Attorney Greg Gomes will train the PLL in the basics of tenant advocacy, including on substantive landlord-tenant law and project workflow. The Supervising Attorney will continue to provide daily ongoing support and guidance throughout the PLL's tenure.</p> <p>External resources for the PLL will include access to the Westlaw legal research database and online trainings from leading subject matter experts through the Practicing Law Institute (PLI), including modules on various topics on landlord-tenant law and ethical and practical issues in the provision of direct legal services. The PLL will attend monthly San Francisco-specific trainings in landlord-tenant law through the Tenant Rights Coalition, whose nonprofit members provide free direct services to low-income San Francisco tenants. The PLL will also have access to JDC's in-house law library, which includes the Rutter Group practice guides in Landlord-Tenant Law and Pre-Trial Civil Litigation, The Green Book published by the National Housing Law Project, and Continuing Education of the Bar's Eviction Defense Manual.</p> <p>In addition to substantive legal trainings and support provided to the PLL, the new member of the JDC team will also receive standard new staff orientation and training in trauma-informed service provision. This training emphasizes the importance of allowing the experiences and preferences of each client guide the services that we provide. We recognize that when the client decides which services he/she wishes to access and which legal avenues to pursue, our services achieve a natural cultural competence and equity. No one understands the cultural implications of the services they receive better than the clients themselves.</p>
<p>Safeguards (Protections for PLL and Clients)</p>	<p>The PLL will first attend JDC's new staff orientation, complete entry paperwork with Human Resources, and participate in training that all staff receive. Once this process is complete, the PLL will begin an intensive onboarding and training process with the Supervising Housing Attorney, Greg Gomes. This Supervising Attorney will provide the PLL with training on landlord-tenant law, housing advocacy, and the ethical and practical considerations of protecting housing for low-income San Franciscans. The Supervising Attorney will then introduce the PLL to the many resources and manuals he/she will use and reference in the operation of the project.</p> <p>Once the PLL is ready to begin serving clients, he/she will meet with the Supervising Housing Attorney at least daily to review the PLL's work and approach to working with clients. The Supervising Housing Attorney will review every document and piece of advice that the PLL produces for project clients, ensuring that the PLL is following best practices and advancing clients' interests.</p> <p>These supervision sessions will take place via telephone and video conferencing platforms, like Zoom, until it is safe to conduct meetings in-person. We have been conducting similar activities via Zoom for more than a year and are confident in our ability to onboard, train, and supervise the PLL remotely until it is safe to resume in-person contact. Project client services will likewise follow this protocol to ensure the safety and health of JDC staff and clients.</p>
<p>Recruitment (Strong and Diverse Pool of Candidates)</p>	<p>JDC has already begun the search for a PLL and identified two excellent candidates. Unfortunately, neither of the candidates we identified for the PLL position were eligible to apply to become a PLL – despite their strong interest in the position. This experience informs our confidence that we will be able to recruit a strong eligible PLL candidate to support our Affirmative Eviction Prevention Project.</p> <p>Our recruitment process for this position will lean heavily on our relationships with law schools in the San Francisco Bay Area, including UC Hastings, UC Berkeley, Stanford, University of San Francisco, and Golden Gate University. We have already asked the career department at UC Hastings to solicit applications from recent graduates who qualify as for the PLL program and received positive responses. While the first two excellent applicants were ineligible, the quality of those applicants is a strong sign of the potential of these</p>

	schools to provide us with a committed and capable candidate for this important PLL position.
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GRANT BUDGET				
Months of Funding	12			
Personnel				
	PLL Grant	Other SB Monies	Other Funding	Total
PLL Salary	\$66,017	\$0	\$0	\$66,017
PLL Payroll Taxes and Benefits	\$15,983	\$0	\$0	\$15,983
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$82,000	\$0	\$0	\$82,000

**PROVISIONALLY LICENSED LAWYERS GRANT
APPLICATION PROFILE**

Organization Name	Law Foundation of Silicon Valley		
	Total Amount Requested	PLL Start Date (Actual or Anticipated)	PLL End Date (Actual or Anticipated)
	\$76,000	05/01/2021	05/01/2022
County(ies) Served	Santa Clara		
Substantive Area(s)	Disability Rights; Health and Long-term Care		
Impact (PLL's Work)	<p>The Law Foundation of Silicon Valley respectfully requests funding to support a PLL beginning on or near May 1, 2021 to perform duties on behalf of our Health Program. We are in the process of completing the interview and selection process for this position. We made a verbal offer to a candidate who is a PLL and she verbally accepted.</p> <p>The PLL would be hired to support various projects within our Health Program. During the first few months of their contract the PLL would be asked to focus on projects within our patients' rights unit. Later they would be called upon to expand their duties to monitor and address conditions in the Santa Clara County jail system, conduct legal research to address sweeps of homeless encampments in San Jose and other duties as assigned.</p> <p>While working on patients' rights matters, the PLL will assist in representing patients in locked psychiatric facilities in administrative hearings, investigating and resolving complaints from recipients of mental health services regarding improper denials of patients' rights; monitoring and challenging mental health facilities and services for compliance with statutory and regulatory patients' rights provisions; and providing technical assistance, training, and outreach to mental health providers, consumers, and community members.</p> <p>The PLL will gain experience doing client interviewing, issue spotting, oral advocacy in administrative hearings, legal research and writing, and develop translatable legal skills while helping our team continue direct services work and expand our systems change efforts.</p> <p>The Health Program works with clients in Santa Clara County. For clients who self-identify, demographics are as follows: 50% of clients are male and 49% are female; 63% of clients have a disability; 26% of clients are White/Not Hispanic Origin; 33% of clients are Hispanic or Latino; 9% of clients are API; and 8% of clients are Black.</p>		
Impact (Organization's Expertise)	<p>The Law Foundation of Silicon Valley is Santa Clara County's largest provider of free legal services. Our mission is to advance the rights of underrepresented and low-income individuals and families in our diverse community through legal services, strategic advocacy, and educational outreach. The Law Foundation serves more than 10,000 low-income people in Santa Clara County each year through our Children & Youth, Health, and Housing Programs.</p> <p>The Law Foundation's team of nearly 90 attorneys, social workers, and staff, together with volunteers, ensure stable homes for abused and neglected children, help people living with chronic illnesses access the benefits they need to remain healthy and self-sufficient, provide low-income people access to safe and affordable housing and address a number of other critical issues including domestic violence, discrimination, human trafficking, mental health and more.</p> <p>The project we are proposing would be managed within the Law Foundation's Health Program, which serves communities that are historically excluded from health systems including Black, Indigenous, Latinx, AAPI, other people of color, LGBTQIA individuals and people experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>The Health Program combines community lawyering and grassroots advocacy to help clients with health disabilities lead more independent and fulfilling lives. A team of 13 attorneys and staff work with people in Santa Clara County who identify as having mental health or developmental disabilities and people who are living with HIV or AIDS.</p>		

	<p>We recognize that many things influence health equity and social determinants of health including jails and prisons, and law enforcement, unequal access to health care, lack of basic income, racism and more. Our work is structured around community and movement lawyering and grassroots advocacy that is informed by the direct legal services we provide on a daily basis.</p>
<p>Support (Support for PLL)</p>	<p>Upon starting with the Law Foundation, the PLL will have a robust training plan. The first step in the plan is to learn about the Law Foundation's programs and to get a deeper understanding of the priorities of the Health program. Next, the PLL will be provided substantive legal training on relevant topics from their colleagues and from webinars provided by Disability Rights California, PLI, and other organizations. Training on trauma-informed care and vicarious trauma will also be included. The PLL will learn how patients' rights hearings are conducted at all 10 psychiatric facilities where the Law Foundation conducts hearings by shadowing hearings, through simulated trainings, and by gradually taking on more of the hearing representation while being shadowed.</p> <p>The PLL will have regular check-in meetings with Abre' Conner, the directing attorney of the Health program. Soon, the entire team will be embarking on a series of litigation trainings, and continued learning is a regular part of its practice.</p> <p>The Law Foundation has an extensive race, equity, and inclusion initiative that includes a significant foundational training program for all staff. The PLL will have opportunities to participate in a variety of work groups across the organization focused on efforts such as hiring and retention, cultural celebrations, data and evaluation, and support for staff of color. The Health program is deeply focused on race equity work in their day to day efforts and frequent training opportunities are given to staff through guest speakers, webinars, and group learning opportunities.</p> <p>The Law Foundation uses CFW as its client database. The PLL will receive training on use of CFW and will be asked to regularly enter client data.</p> <p>At the end of 4 and 12 months, the PLL will receive a formal evaluation to be conducted by Abre'.</p>
<p>Safeguards (Protections for PLL and Clients)</p>	<p>The Health program staff meets three times a month to discuss priorities and address challenges. The Patients' Rights team meets weekly to discuss hearing representation and case questions. The PLL will meet bi-weekly and one-on-one with Abre' to review progress against tasks and to set and track goals. The entire team has an "open door" policy and is very supportive of one another's questions throughout the week. The Law Foundation holds an all staff meeting on a monthly basis.</p> <p>At the start of employment a professional development plan will be developed for the PLL and progress against goals will be tracked on an ongoing basis, culminating in a final evaluation after 12 months. They will be issued a computer and a phone if needed, and access to all Law Foundation systems, including the shared network and database, will be issued.</p> <p>As previously mentioned, to safeguard clients' experiences, the PLL will have ample opportunities for shadowing and being shadowed before they will start representing clients independently.</p> <p>Although we don't expect there to be any issues with the newly hired PLL, the Law Foundation has robust human resources protocols to address individual performance issues when they arise.</p> <p>The Law Foundation staff is currently working remotely and the patients' rights staff attend hearings virtually. Internal meetings are held via Microsoft Teams and Zoom or via phone. When absolutely necessary, staff visit the Law Foundation's office in Downtown San Jose or meet with clients while following distancing and safety protocols. All office visits are coordinated using a master calendar to ensure that no staff people are working in close proximity to one another. All staff members must adhere to established safety protocols.</p>

Recruitment
(Strong and Diverse
Pool of Candidates)

We have concluded the search process for this position. The job notice was posted on LinkedIn and Indeed, on our organization's website and was shared on social media. We received applications from 10 applicants. We narrowed the search to two finalists who are PLLs and who exhibited a passion for the work of the Law Foundation, a willingness to learn and grow professionally, and relevant skills and experience. We made a verbal offer to our finalist, Rebecca Basson, on April 15, 2021 and she verbally accepted the offer. We expect Rebecca to begin on or near May 1, 2021. She will be relocating to the Bay Area from North Dakota, Rebecca graduated from Washington University School of Law in 2020 where she earned a Dean's Service Award and was a member of the Native American Law Students Association.

GRANT BUDGET**Months of Funding**

12

Personnel

	PLL Grant	Other SB Monies	Other Funding	Total
PLL Salary	\$64,923	\$0	\$0	\$64,923
PLL Payroll Taxes and Benefits	\$11,077	\$0	\$0	\$11,077
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$76,000	\$0	\$0	\$76,000

**PROVISIONALLY LICENSED LAWYERS GRANT
APPLICATION PROFILE**

Organization Name	Learning Rights Law Center		
	Total Amount Requested	PLL Start Date (Actual or Anticipated)	PLL End Date (Actual or Anticipated)
	\$70,000	06/01/2021	06/01/2022
County(ies) Served	Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Ventura,		
Substantive Area(s)	Disability Rights; Education		
Impact (PLL's Work)	<p>LRLC will provide a 10-day onboarding period. Our PLL attorney will receive a series of cases and statutes to review to understand the basics of our unique area of the law. We will then slowly introduce a variety of responsibilities.</p> <p>LRLC will give our PLL exposure to a number of different kinds of representational responsibilities. In the education context, LRLC is positioned to provide a variety of meeting dynamics ranging from entirely informal parent-teacher conferences (wherein our attorneys accompany a parent and are able to navigate these interactions in a very informal way) to the more structured Individualized Education Plan meeting representation (where attorneys are tasked with overseeing meetings and "defending" the student's interests in a way that allows the non-legal educational planning to happen).</p> <p>Our practice is built around laws that contain administrative hearing requirements, our attorneys are able to assume individual representation and engage in all types of responsibilities much sooner than they would in other fields of law. Even our newest attorneys are asked to draft due process complaints, attend Resolution Sessions (informal Alternative Dispute Resolution meetings) and Mediations with Administrative Law Judges. LRLC expects any hearing that goes forward during the PLL's tenure to include hearing preparation and, if the case was one that the PLL had drafted, hearing appearances and witness questioning.</p> <p>It is important to stress our mission: LRLC works with students who, as a consequence of disability or discrimination, have been denied equal access to a public education. Our demographic data regarding who qualifies under our representation criteria shows that our clients tend to come from a lower socio-economic strata, are often families of color, and often have unique issues related to poverty. The PLL will provide needed legal representation to these underserved communities thus expanding the number of families we can help.</p>		
Impact (Organization's Expertise)	<p>For fifteen years, LRLC has handled a large volume of clients through our Education Rights Clinic and our direct representation work. In addition to these two legal divisions, LRLC also provides community based training and education, and is a trusted resource for underserved families to learn about their rights under the IDEA, Section 504, the ADA, and other civil rights protections. Our breadth of influence has enabled us not only to reach a large number of families, but also to target systemic barriers and understand broader trends impacting our clients, and this has enabled us to pursue broader impact litigation. In addition to matters before the Office of Administrative Hearings, LRLC has cases pending in state court, federal district courts, and the Ninth Circuit. We recently served as plaintiff in a Writ action relating to the Los Angeles Unified School District's refusal to adhere to state and federal special education assessment obligations during the COVID-19 closures.</p> <p>LRLC handles special education matters both in a consultative way before disagreements arise and by providing due process representation for families when it is clear that an impasse has been reached over a student's particular needs and programming offers. For example, LRLC provides assistance to students unfairly subjected to discipline procedures, or who have their rights denied during the implementation of discipline proceedings. LRLC addresses broader and systemic issues in educational planning and implementation and tries to resolve situations where students are unable to achieve their meaningful and equitable educational goals.</p> <p>The PLL at LRLC will be supervised directly by the Legal Director, Alexis Casillas. Ms. Casillas has extensive experience training attorneys to handle educational rights issues,</p>		

	<p>particularly in the special education context, and how to navigate administrative and non-administrative litigation for educationally-related issues.</p>
<p>Support (Support for PLL)</p>	<p>Any PLL hire will have access to the same resources our current staff attorneys have: a practice management software (Clio Manage), a research system (LexisNexis), an education-specific Special Education Connection database, access to CaseText pending our office contract on that system, our CLE opportunities (PLI subscription, and all attorneys have access to the Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates trainings throughout the year and the 2022 Annual Conference in Boston), and all of the in-office supports, activities and programming LRLC provides, including periodic “lunch and learn” talks from experts in the field, and planned future craft nights and other fun programming to create community amongst staff.</p> <p>Our newer attorneys are provided with recommended CLE courses based on the more tenured attorneys’ experiences. This, along with ongoing mentoring and check-in meetings, encompasses LRLC’s multi-faceted professional development strategy. LRLC wants our attorneys to be comfortable and capable of taking on responsibilities with our clients, so supervisors carefully focus on what skill areas to target and what types of tasks our attorneys want to improve in as they discuss our attorneys’ ongoing CLE programming.</p> <p>Beyond that, LRLC also wants to make sure that our attorneys (and staff) are well prepared to be empathetic and effective with our clients who, by virtue of our mission, are more likely than not to be economically disadvantaged, culturally diverse, and to have suffered from trauma. Our Racial Justice Committee has put together a series of anti-racism trainings and provides ongoing referrals for programming that would prepare our staff and attorneys to be prepared to practice in a more informed and appropriate manner. This includes attending external programming and then internal re-teaching of information learned at these programs for our entire LRLC team when appropriate.</p>
<p>Safeguards (Protections for PLL and Clients)</p>	<p>Significant thought is given to new attorneys assignments. Tasks are assigned with pre-reading, a proposed approach, and scheduled check-ins and deadlines to ascertain structure to each assignment. Supervisors prompt the newer attorneys to find their own way of approaching a task and getting from initial query to a presentable work product. This is a balancing act between the attorney and supervisor, but it is a process LRLC embraces wholeheartedly.</p> <p>LRLC developed modules for staff to learn its management software. Supervisors issue assignments with a comprehensive plan about what a new attorney comes to that assignment already knowing and maps an approach to gain a level of competency to achieve the overall task. Discrete sub-tasks within the assignment are flagged and reviewed with the attorneys. As with all new attorneys, the PLL’s work will be reviewed throughout the drafting process, and will require supervisor sign-off before it is filed.</p> <p>LRLC has been effectively working remotely since March 2020. LRLC works to create community even if it is over tiny computer screens. To this end, supervisors have scheduled a series of large-group, small-group, and one-on-one meetings to allow staff to collaborate as they would if our offices were open. There is a weekly Case Review Meeting where cases are assigned, workflows of the office are discussed, and any long-term projects are reported on. Between those meetings, a series of subgroups also meet to discuss various projects. For example, LRLC is targeting a particular geographic area to address institutional barriers to mental health programming and lawyers, staff, and advocates meet to report on stories from affected families and to discuss potential legal strategies that address those barriers. Individual attorneys meet together at regular intervals to discuss their ongoing cases. Organization-wide staff meet once a month for office information and informal socialization.</p>
<p>Recruitment (Strong and Diverse Pool of Candidates)</p>	<p>LRLC is currently recruiting PLL candidates through its connections to local law schools. LRLC’s volunteer and law clerk programs have spent years recruiting to nearby schools, including Loyola, UCLA, USC, and more. LRLC has reached out to the career services departments at these schools to see if they have recent graduates who are eligible for the PLL program. Learning Rights is also reaching out to other local schools with similar inquiries about potentially PLL eligible recent graduates. LRLC is focusing its outreach on additional law schools with higher percentages of students of color and students who come from low-income backgrounds, to ensure they better understand the families that we work with.</p>

	<p>LRLC will evaluate and select candidates in accordance with the organization's current hiring practices. All staff, particularly new attorneys, are asked to create short-term objectives and goals for professional development. LRLC provides work based on those goals and aspirations. Attorneys report quarterly on their work distribution based on those goals, and to ensure that their weekly schedules progress them towards those goals. A large part of our evaluation process for attorneys revolves around how the attorneys are developing of their professional skills and their managerial tasks in light of where they start and what reasonable goals they set for themselves.</p> <p>As to the more "soft" aspects of becoming a successful attorney, we instigate conversations with all staff and attorneys about their abilities to interact with clients and with coworkers. We discuss work and office flow on a regular basis to ensure everyone is comfortable with current systems, and to support staff members who need better navigation help.</p> <p>We have recently launched a standardized rating scale for new hires, and are implementing a progress monitoring self-survey for attorneys and staff to complete and review with supervising staff.</p>
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GRANT BUDGET				
Months of Funding	12			
Personnel				
	PLL Grant	Other SB Monies	Other Funding	Total
PLL Salary	\$70,000	\$0	\$0	\$70,000
PLL Payroll Taxes and Benefits	\$0	\$0	\$12,250	\$12,250
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$70,000	\$0	\$12,250	\$82,250

**PROVISIONALLY LICENSED LAWYERS GRANT
APPLICATION PROFILE**

Organization Name	Legal Access Alameda		
	Total Amount Requested	PLL Start Date (Actual or Anticipated)	PLL End Date (Actual or Anticipated)
	\$69,000	06/01/2021	06/01/2022
County(ies) Served	Alameda, Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Los Angeles, Madera, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Mono, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Placer, Plumas, Riverside, Sacramento, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, Ventura, Yolo, Yuba,		
Substantive Area(s)	Consumer/Finance; Family/Domestic Violence; Employment; Housing; Other - The CFLA program provides assistance to lower income clients throughout California on all legal issues related to or arising as a result of the Covid pandemic or a natural disaster, such as wildfires and earthquakes. Currently we are seeing issues in family law, housing, employment and consumer law mostly, but there are other areas of law that are addressed such as insurance and FEMA and other benefits.		
Impact (PLL's Work)	<p>The PLL will work closely with the Disaster Projects Managing Attorney (DPMA) to deliver services to disaster survivors and those impacted by Covid. The PLL's will work on the California Free Legal Answers platform ("CFLA"). CFLA is a collaboration between Legal Access Alameda (and the Disaster Legal Assistance Collaborative) and California Lawyers Association. Using the ABA's Free Legal Answers platform, CFLA offers lower-income Californians the opportunity to request free legal advice on a wide range of legal issues. Volunteer attorneys draft answers to questions posted by clients (statewide), and those answers are reviewed by expert attorneys before being posted. (Substantive areas of law include insurance, housing, employment, FEMA and other benefits, family, and consumer).</p> <p>The PLL will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruit, train, and support volunteer attorneys; • Draft answers to questions not selected by volunteers, which will be reviewed by an expert attorney; • Draft FAQs to send to CFLA clients and for the DLAC website (www.disasterlegalservicesca.org). <p>Also, after a disaster, the PLL will work with the DPMA on the hotline (including recruiting and training volunteers, outreach, and developing materials for volunteers and clients calling in) and on staffing clinics – all under the supervision of an attorney.</p>		
Impact (Organization's Expertise)	Legal Access Alameda has been staffing the Disaster Legal Assistance Collaborative since 2015. Tiela Chalmers, CEO and General Counsel of Legal Access, has been chairing disaster legal response efforts in California even prior to that. Legal Access currently has a team of 2.5 FTE in addition to Chalmers assigned to disaster response work. The PLL's direct supervisor would be the Disaster Projects Managing Attorney, Pam Hinchliffe, who has been involved in disaster work since June of 2020. Hinchliffe has substantive expertise in family law and housing, and is an experienced supervisor. Chalmers will also remain very involved, meeting with the group every week (and likely more in the immediate aftermath of a disaster).		
Support (Support for PLL)	The PLL will be required to complete the approximately 10 hours of MCLE training now available (and being created by June 2021 by DLAC and Pro Bono Training Institute) on the substantive law areas outlined above. That training includes content relating to trauma-informed client interaction, and all of the presenters are expert attorneys from legal services programs. In addition, we will have the PLL go through the approximately 10 hours of MCLE training recorded as part of the Landlord Tenant Boot Camp (March and April of 2021), and the approximately 18 hours of MCLE training recorded as part of the Family Law Boot Camp (April and May of 2020). Each of these trainings (created inhouse by Legal Access and by the Alameda County Bar Association) are taught by a range of experts in the field, all of whom have been in practice in that area a long time. They also include judicial officers		

	consistently assigned to that subject area. These trainings also include a significant focus on working with low-income clients and cultural competence. Our goal is to give the PLL a very solid base in the most common areas of legal need for disaster survivors and those affected by Covid. Our website also includes many templates and legal resources collected over the past year. Finally, the PLL will have access to FastCase, an online legal research platform.
Safeguards (Protections for PLL and Clients)	As described above, the PLL's work on CFLA, the hotline, and disaster clinics will all be overseen by an experienced attorney. The PLL will be responsible for drafting CFLA answers, coming up with potential responses to hotline questions, completing forms and writing letters at clinics, and drafting FAQs – but none of those things will be delivered to the client without first being reviewed by an experienced attorney. In terms of onboarding and collaborating, Legal Access has been all remote since March 2020, and most likely will remain that way indefinitely. We are now accustomed to working remotely, and have onboarded several staff remotely. Legal Access staff as a whole meet once a week by Zoom to check in on each project. In addition, the Disaster Projects staff (and this would include the PLL as well as their supervisor) meets once a week by Zoom, to do a detailed check in on how things are going, issues that have come up, etc. Finally, for the first 6 months at least, the PLL can expect to meet with their supervisor regularly. Legal Access also uses Slack to communicate (in addition to email, of course) and to facilitate collaboration.
Recruitment (Strong and Diverse Pool of Candidates)	We will send out notices to all ABA and State Bar accredited law schools in California. We have particularly strong contacts in Bay Area schools, and will use those as well to spread the word. We will also post on various online platforms that have proved helpful. We have also already received an inquiry from a PLL, and will follow up. The Alameda County Bar Association is examining creating a "PLL Matchmaking service" and obviously this may also be a good source of applicants. We will also reach out to our partners in affinity bars, many of whom have members who are law students and new JD's. Our evaluation criteria will include overall eagerness to learn, interest in public service, an ability to work independently but also check in, and ability to absorb information rapidly. We will prioritize candidates with experience or background in the low-income and disadvantaged communities we serve, and with competence in a language other than English. All of these criteria will help us select a candidate who is able to learn the new substantive law and work successfully with our clients.

GRANT BUDGET				
Months of Funding	12			
Personnel				
	PLL Grant	Other SB Monies	Other Funding	Total
PLL Salary	\$59,000	\$0	\$580	\$59,580
PLL Payroll Taxes and Benefits	\$10,000	\$0	\$129	\$10,129
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$69,000	\$0	\$709	\$69,709

**PROVISIONALLY LICENSED LAWYERS GRANT
APPLICATION PROFILE**

Organization Name	Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles		
	Total Amount Requested	PLL Start Date (Actual or Anticipated)	PLL End Date (Actual or Anticipated)
	\$50,000	06/01/2021	06/01/2022
County(ies) Served	Los Angeles		
Substantive Area(s)	Housing		
Impact (PLL's Work)	<p>The PLL will be representing Tenant Defendants working on Full Scope Unlawful Detainer Eviction Defense Cases. The PLL would assist in the full scope representation from the interview intake with the clients, completing answers, pre-trial motions, propounding/responding to written discovery, depositions, negotiations with Opposing Parties/Counsel, Court appearances, trial preparation and trial litigation (Bench or Jury) and even possibly writ or appellate work. Also, the PLL will engage in extensive preventative work to avoid the filing of such cases pre-UD in tenant advocacy thru addressing complaints re habitability, Landlord Harassment, reasonable accommodations etc.</p> <p>Even though training, supervision and onboarding will be the priority, the PLL will eventually be the primary assignment on these cases and will be representing tenants in their unlawful detainers as the attorneys/advocates of record with the court and any advocacy engaged therein. Although the PLL will be working with other attorneys/advocates on the team doing the same eviction defense work, the goal of the PLL's work would be to take on as many full scope and limited cases as reasonable and expected to carry the same case load as the other attorneys working on the Eviction Defense Team at the requisite skill and experience level.</p> <p>The PLL will focus on serving the most vulnerable people in Los Angeles County, where 2.1 million people are low-income; many of these individuals are in dire need of civil legal services. Since we began tracking in March 2020, LAFLA has received over 2,200 COVID-19 related calls through our intake line, and nearly 50% of those have been housing related issues, including inability to pay rent due to coronavirus related illness and/job loss, tenant harassment and tenants' rights and related safety issues. We expect as the Covid-19 protections lift in LA County, the need for housing attorneys in this area will be great.</p> <p>The PLL has not yet been identified.</p>		
Impact (Organization's Expertise)	<p>LAFLA has provided free legal services to poor and low-income people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness since its inception over 90 years ago. In 2020, LAFLA closed 6,000 Housing cases, ranging from prevention of loss of housing to enforcing tenants rights to safe and habitable housing conditions. LAFLA regularly partners with other public interest law firms including Inner City Law Center, Bet Tzedek, Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County and Public Counsel on Measure H, CA State Bar's Equal Access Homeless Prevention Fund, Shriver, Self Help Centers, and other programs to provide services to clients who are homeless or at risk of homelessness; we will continue to collaborate and share best practices on this work. We are the legal services program lead to the new Los Angeles County & City "Right to Counsel" Project. Furthermore, LAFLA works with a network of community based organizations focused on community outreach such as SAJE (Strategic Actions for a Just Economy), Liberty Hill, East Yard Leads, One LA, LACan, Libre, and many others. We are also involved in a number of housing coalitions involving countless other organizations and entities to better serve our communities.</p>		
Support (Support for PLL)	<p>The PLL will be working with a much larger group of attorneys and advocates not only in the eviction defense/housing but also benefits, domestic violence, veterans, re-entry, and immigration. The organization regularly holds significant trainings sponsored within and are involved in larger trainings throughout the state and the country. LAFLA regularly is involved/invited to trainings with LAAC, Nita, PLI and a vast array of other providers. Further, we have our own internal Pro Bono Institute Training Project that has an extensive library of trainings across the fields that the organization practices. Also, we have a Race</p>		

	<p>Equity Committee led by the Racial Justice and Equity Director focused on the race equity lens for our work as legal service providers.</p> <p>As far as the direct eviction defense training work that the PLL will be doing, much of our internal housing trainings have been digitized. We have considerable materials, presentations, templates, samples, etc. of case work and documents over LAFLA's many years involved in unlawful detainer defense. In addition, the LAFLA maintains a physical law library in its main office and holds access to Lexis Nexis, CEB, Rutter Guide, (to name a few) and other publications for on-line access for its staff.</p>
Safeguards (Protections for PLL and Clients)	<p>The PLL will receive initial training on LAFLA's policies and procedures and in use of LAFLA's case management system, as well as in the substantive law practiced in their assigned workgroup or project.</p> <p>The managing attorneys supervise their respective workgroup and special project staff by holding case reviews no less than twice a month. Additionally, managers conduct individual case reviews on a quarterly basis using caseload reports generated from LAFLA's case management system, LegalServer. At case review, the group discusses potential cases for acceptance, develops case plans, and proposes potential strategies. representation. Depending on the complexity of an assignment, a managing attorney may assign another staff attorney to act as a mentor and provide substantive support.</p> <p>The managing attorney monitors progress, ensures competent legal work, and promotes professional development of staff by reviewing selected files, establishing work plans and goals for the case, evaluating accomplishments and deficiencies, and discussing strategies and techniques for providing effective legal assistance/representation.</p> <p>As noted previously, the PLL will be working with a team of 12 advocates including 8 attorneys and a managing attorney that is a part of a much larger housing team at the organization (almost 60 advocates). All of which are doing similar work in defending tenants in order to keep them in their homes or prevent displacement from over- reaching landlords.</p>
Recruitment (Strong and Diverse Pool of Candidates)	<p>We will recruit a candidate through our internal networks as well as posting on our website, NLADA's website, MIE, idealist.org and social media channels. Additionally, we work with Law School Career Placement staff in our recruitment efforts and both Human Resources and the Pro Bono Director have contacts at most law schools in Southern California. We hope to identify candidates who have some social justice experience and a passion for LAFLA's mission.</p>

GRANT BUDGET				
Months of Funding	12			
Personnel				
	PLL Grant	Other SB Monies	Other Funding	Total
PLL Salary	\$38,168	\$0	\$26,832	\$65,000
PLL Payroll Taxes and Benefits	\$11,832	\$0	\$8,318	\$20,150
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$50,000	\$0	\$35,150	\$85,150

**PROVISIONALLY LICENSED LAWYERS GRANT
APPLICATION PROFILE**

Organization Name	Legal Assistance for Seniors		
	Total Amount Requested	PLL Start Date (Actual or Anticipated)	PLL End Date (Actual or Anticipated)
	\$82,000	01/01/2021	06/01/2022
County(ies) Served	Alameda		
Substantive Area(s)	Family/Domestic Violence;Guardianship;Housing;Immigration;Income Maintenance		
Impact (PLL's Work)	<p>The PLL is primarily client-focused, serving older adults in the areas of elder abuse and housing. Christian Ramos came to LAS as a summer intern in 2019 and became a Legal Services Funders Network (LSFN) fellow with LAS since summer 2020. If funded, Christian will continue to work with and represent (PLL-certified) older adults in elder abuse and housing (along with other areas of law). In his brief time with the agency, Christian has become a trusted member of the legal staff, notably for his strong work ethic and welcoming, warm communication with clients in crisis. Housing and elder abuse are the two most impacted areas of law for the agency. COVID-19 has created a significant increase in need and Christian is a critical member of the team in supporting this increased demand, navigating stressful situations for clients.</p> <p>Christian is exploring a project for the agency to ensure older adults have access to technology so they can have meaningful access to the courts during the pandemic. For many older adults, the digital divide poses due process concerns that could have long-term devastating impacts. Christian plans to address this issue by creating accessible resources to distribute to clients in the community. . This guide can be used by older adults to find local community centers that have computers and access to broadband internet where seniors can access legal advice from LAS as well as other organizations that moved the intake process and client meetings to virtual appointments for safety purposes in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, the guide will have instructions on how to access and use two commonly used video conference programs: Zoom and BlueJeans. The guide will ideally have screengrabs to create a clear and visually pleasing walk-through of the sign-in process through the end of the meeting.</p>		
Impact (Organization's Expertise)	<p>The PLL will primarily assist LAS in the two areas of law that have the highest volume of clients, housing and elder abuse. In the past year, LAS helped over 400 older adults in these areas. Given the complex legal and supportive needs that older adults require in these areas, it is necessary for a lawyer to balance the practical issues and legal reality of the situation. The PLL will benefit from the combined years of experience from the five attorneys working in these areas, who are seasoned attorneys with multiple years of direct client service. Christian is already working in both areas, conducting intakes to fully representing clients, and benefiting from LAS' mentorship.</p> <p>Housing: Over the past five years, LAS has created a housing program that is the only older adult- focused program in Alameda County. When older adults are displaced, they not only lose their homes, but their cultural community, caregivers, support networks and stability. The housing program provides full eviction defense, as well as counsel and advice for other housing issues. The end of COVID eviction moratoria will cause a large increase in demand for housing legal assistance. In anticipation of this increased need, LAS is focused on increasing staffing and resources for our housing program.</p> <p>Elder Abuse: Elder abuse has been LAS' primary practice area for many years and is what the agency is known for throughout the state, both for our direct services and for our annual conference focused on preventing and combatting elder abuse. Elder abuse can take many forms, including financial, physical, and emotional. We represent elder abuse survivors, typically seeking restraining orders to protect them from their abusers. This is another area of law that requires additional resources due to increased isolation caused by COVID-19.</p>		
Support (Support for PLL)	<p>The PLL will continue receiving direct training from LAS attorneys in elder abuse and housing. The PLL will also have access to trainings through local bar associations and legal agencies on substantive law and legal skills that will help to assist in professional development and support. Christian is currently attending a monthly national call on COVID-</p>		

	<p>19 pandemic's effect on homeowners. Additionally, Christian attends a quarterly meeting with the Alameda Superior Court on family violence legal matters that the Court is facing where he discusses these issues with judges, court staff, and other valued community members.</p> <p>At LAS, we encourage professional development by paying for our staff's membership fees in various bar organizations, Christian's fees will also be paid by LAS. Christian is already a member of East Bay Trusts and Estates Lawyers, which has enabled him to network with various agencies and community members servicing older adults. Christian is also a member of the Practicing Law Institute, which provides access to trainings in several different areas of law, predominantly legal aid-related areas. We plan on expanding Christian's membership in legal organizations so he can attend a wider arrange of legal trainings and connect with numerous legal professionals. These meetings will greatly improve and help develop Christian's professional skills and legal knowledge.</p> <p>Additionally, our staff also have access to several trainings focused on equity, diversity and inclusion that train staff to provide more culturally competent services to our diverse clientele.</p>
<p>Safeguards (Protections for PLL and Clients)</p>	<p>The PLL will receive focused guidance and support through an assigned supervising attorney. Christian will meet weekly with his supervisor, to ensure he is getting the support he needs for the cases he is managing and the digital divide project. He has created a work flow chart for his remaining time as an LSFN Fellow at LAS, to ensure he is getting the experience he expects in his time with the agency. If he receives PLL funding, he will create a similar work flow chart for the funding period.</p> <p>In addition to supervision from his supervisor, Christian's work will be periodically reviewed by the Legal Director and the Executive Director, who is also an attorney. All hearings conducted by the PLL will be directly supervised by an experienced attorney. The attorney will conduct extensive preparation for the hearing with the PLL, including a review of all filings, evidence and client/witness preparation. Christian will attend a weekly legal case review meeting, attended by all legal staff. At that meeting, difficult or novel cases are brought for discussion. Christian will be asked to present his cases at these meetings to further prepare his cases. All attorneys in the office will be available at all times for Christian, if he has questions and his direct supervisor is not available.</p> <p>LAS's Legal Director frequently consults with legal staff and reviews all closed legal cases. LAS' three supervising attorneys also manage caseloads within each area of law and assist with day-to-day management of legal staff. Each legal practice area, including housing and elder abuse, hold a weekly meeting to manage cases and coordinate service delivery. This structure ensures there are multiple highly experienced LAS staff to review Christian's work, ensuring the client is getting the same service they would receive by an LAS staff attorney.</p>
<p>Recruitment (Strong and Diverse Pool of Candidates)</p>	<p>Christian began as a legal intern with LAS in the summer of 2019, after completing his second year of law school. From the start, Christian displayed great skill and compassion in working with older adults. During his summer at LAS, he worked on projects in all the legal areas that LAS practices including conservatorships, elder abuse, public benefits, health law, housing law, legal guardianship of minor children, and naturalization. He evaluated new prospective client calls, handled the intake process for various areas, drafted various judicial council forms, provided clients with case updates, and researched legal topics for all departments.</p> <p>After graduating from law school, Christian was awarded a fellowship to work at LAS through the Legal Services Funders Network (LSFN) that runs through August 1, 2021. The LSFN Post-Graduate Law Fellowship was designed in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic to address the needs of the Bay Area Legal Services Organizations to increase the capacity to serve. During this Fellowship, Christian again demonstrated great skill and care in handling multiple cases from start to finish and managed the intake process for cases in public benefits, elder abuse, and housing.</p> <p>The Provisionally Licensed Lawyer program of California has allowed Christian to take representation of clients even further. Recently, in his first hearing representing a client, Christian was a poised and strong advocate for his client, making a positive impression on</p>

	several of the LAS attorneys who also attended the hearing to observe him. Even with the challenges of conducting the hearing over a virtual platform, Christian was effective in his strategy and argument. If given the option to continue with LAS through the PLL program, there is no doubt that he will continue on his path toward becoming an exceptional attorney, while providing critical support to LAS in a challenging time.
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GRANT BUDGET				
Months of Funding		17		
Personnel				
	PLL Grant	Other SB Monies	Other Funding	Total
PLL Salary	\$65,600	\$0	\$0	\$65,600
PLL Payroll Taxes and Benefits	\$16,400	\$0	\$0	\$16,400
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$82,000	\$0	\$0	\$82,000

**PROVISIONALLY LICENSED LAWYERS GRANT
APPLICATION PROFILE**

Organization Name	Legal Assistance to the Elderly		
	Total Amount Requested	PLL Start Date (Actual or Anticipated)	PLL End Date (Actual or Anticipated)
	\$73,000	01/01/2021	06/01/2022
County(ies) Served	San Francisco		
Substantive Area(s)	Housing		
Impact (PLL's Work)	<p>Provisionally Licensed Lawyer (PLL) Jessica Juarez has been with our housing team since January 2021. During this time she has excelled, impressing the entire team with her skill, her commitment to improving and learning, and dedication to her clients. Ms. Juarez has been given a role similar to a first-year attorney under the supervision of Senior Supervising Attorney Margaret DeMatteo who closely monitors compliance with the program requirements and restrictions. Ms. Juarez is focusing primarily on full-scope representation in Unlawful Detainers. As such, she manages a caseload, under the supervision of Ms. DeMatteo. Our cases are assigned during our weekly housing meetings where the entire housing team meets to discuss new cases, evaluate them and consider legal strategies. From there, Ms. Juarez will be responsible for all aspects of her assigned cases. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • meeting and interviewing clients, • conducting factual investigation and evaluating case, • preparing initial responses, fee waivers, pre-trial motions, • conducting discovery, • leading settlement and case management discussions with opposing counsel, • arguing motions in court and attending mandatory settlement conferences, • preparing settlement agreements, and • Preparing for trial. If the case proceeds to trial, similar to a first-year attorney, Ms. Juarez would second chair her first trial with opportunities to conduct some of the trial. <p>As any first-year attorney and in compliance with the PLL program requirements, Ms. Juarez's work is closely supervised. To date, Ms. Juarez has managed client relations in Spanish and English, prepared initial responses, discovery, reviewed settlement agreements, negotiated with opposing counsels, appeared ex parte, argued a demurrer in San Francisco Superior Court and conducted a deposition. The deposition exemplifies the close supervision and training Ms. Juarez has received with the supervising attorney helping her prepare an outline, training her in conducting depositions, and then attending the deposition to provide any necessary support.</p>		
Impact (Organization's Expertise)	<p>For over 40 years LAE has provided free legal services to seniors and adults with disabilities in San Francisco. We provide comprehensive, holistic legal services in multiple practice areas including elder abuse prevention, healthcare preservation, benefits advocacy, consumer law, end of life planning and housing/eviction defense. Our clients are majority women and BIPOC. Many clients are also isolated by language and immigration status, with about 20% being non-English speakers. About 60% of our clients are frail or disabled and 6% are homebound or in a medical facility. Our clients are also overwhelmingly low income: 53% of our clients living below the federal poverty level (FPL) and 73% living below 200% of FPL guidelines.</p> <p>Our PLL, Ms. Juarez, has joined our largest practice area with seven attorneys, housing/eviction defense. Fully 60% of our clients face housing threats including evictions, terminations of subsidies, unlawful rent increases, denials of necessary modifications, and extra-judicial evictions and harassment. We have an extremely experienced team with collectively over 90 years of working in housing/eviction defense. Our housing cases ranging from full-scope representation in unlawful detainer actions, to challenging illegal rent increases and rental subsidy terminations in administrative hearings, to affirmative actions to fight landlord harassment and housing discrimination.</p> <p>Ms. Juarez is supervised by Senior Supervising Attorney Margaret DeMatteo who has over eight years working in housing law. She has received extensive training in supervising and</p>		

	<p>spent many years supporting new attorneys. She will also be supported by Director of Litigation Thomas Drohan who has worked as LAE's primary housing attorney for over 28 years and has extensive experience supervising and training new attorneys, LAE's Executive Director, who also worked as a supervising housing attorney for over 7 years, and Hannah Kim, Supervising Housing attorney who has over 5 years working as a housing attorney.</p>
<p>Support (Support for PLL)</p>	<p>At LAE, because we have an extremely experienced and collaborative housing team, we are able to hire and train inexperienced attorneys, including our PLL, Ms. Juarez. We provide extensive one-on-one, in-house trainings on substantive housing law and unlawful detainer procedural law, including motion writing, preparing initial responses and discovery, and deposition preparation. We also have our new attorneys participate in external trainings particularly those conducted by the Practicing Law Institute (PLI), Western Center on Law and Poverty, and National Institute of Trial Attorneys. Ms. Juarez has already taken several of these trainings. Ms. Juarez has access to Westlaw Edge, as well as our internal database of templates to learn and work from.</p> <p>Ms. Juarez also attends the monthly Eviction Defenders meeting where eviction defense attorneys from legal services organizations across San Francisco meet to exchange strategies, and news from the court and our cases. After each meeting there is a training for new attorneys on various aspects of unlawful detainer defense, which are sometimes taught by our Director of Litigation or other staff attorneys. Topics include: settlement negotiations, discovery, reasonable accommodations, and trial preparation.</p> <p>Our weekly Housing Team meetings provide another opportunity for Ms. Juarez to learn and ask questions of our entire housing team. At this meeting we strategize and discuss litigation plans for new cases, as well as brainstorm around issues that arise in on-going cases. Ms. Juarez has a bi-weekly one-on-one with her supervisor to review all of her cases. We also have a housing slack channel where questions can be asked (particularly when working remotely). Finally, we have an open-door policy where any attorney can ask any supervisor or attorney for advice.</p> <p>Ms. Juarez also joined our DEI Committee, and will participate in staff-wide trainings, such as Cultural Humility vs. Cultural Competence and Biases & Microaggression.</p>
<p>Safeguards (Protections for PLL and Clients)</p>	<p>Our PLL, Ms. Juarez started her onboarding through multiple trainings mentioned above. Direct overview of office policies, calendaring, access to email, PLI, Westlaw, Slack, Salesforce (our client database), and Box drive for client files, were all provided one on one with the supervising attorney at the start. Trainings are assigned on a rolling basis as they are available, though nearly all trainings through PLI are available on demand at any time. Bi-weekly supervision is over the phone, while weekly staff meetings are conducted over zoom. Collaboration with other staff occurs at the weekly housing meeting, or through Slack where anyone can post a question or issue for feedback.</p> <p>Ms. Juarez maintains an outline of cases she is working on, and which attorney she is working with on each case. The Supervising Attorney oversees all casework, and client communications are conducted via email with the Supervising Attorney cc'ed, or present via conference call over the phone. In person client meetings are rarely happening at this time, but when they resume, the Supervising Attorney will be present with Ms. Juarez and client at legally sensitive meetings. This ensures safe, effective and sensitive advocacy is being provided by Ms. Juarez to the client, and allows the Supervising Attorney to tailor professional development opportunities in real time through coaching and assigned trainings. Due to COVID, this has been happening remotely for months. As the Supervising Attorney and staff are also remote, effective systems have been put in place to address client and staff needs in the face of remote work. Maintaining a culture of communication helps make PLLs feel comfortable going to their supervisor with any questions they have.</p> <p>Since Ms. Juarez began her work with us, she has been supervised in the ways outlined above by Supervising Attorney Margaret DeMatteo.</p>
<p>Recruitment (Strong and Diverse Pool of Candidates)</p>	<p>In 2020, we participated in the Legal Services Funders Network (LSFN) Fellowship program, which was designed during the coronavirus pandemic to address the needs of Bay Area Legal Services Organizations by connecting them to recent graduates of Bay Area Law Schools who faced a delay in their ability to take the California Bar Exam. After the</p>

	<p>fellowship, we were able to hire our fellow, and had funding to extend the LSFN fellowship from January to June 2021 for two additional fellows in the area of eviction defense. Through this collaboration, we interviewed and hired Ms. Juarez, PLL.</p> <p>We are seeking this funding to allow Ms. Juarez to continue with LAE. Ms. Juarez has already shown that she is an excellent advocate. She takes initiative, asking for new challenging assignments and cases. She always asks for feedback and proactively seeks out training and skill development opportunities. She is a natural litigator, demonstrating an ability for oral arguments and taking depositions. As a native Spanish and English speaker, she has often worked with our monolingual Spanish speaking clients. Significantly, her lived experience has also allowed her to connect to these clients. Ms. Juarez is Latina, a single mom, in the first generation of her family to attend college and the first in her family to earn a J.D. She has demonstrated a great commitment to our clients, her community and to the provision of legal services.</p> <p>At LAE, to ensure that we receive a strong and diverse pool of candidates we not only post new jobs on our website, but we also share job listing on websites such as PSJD, LAAC, indeed, idealist, and LinkedIn, and share job listings with other legal aid organizations in our networks and with law schools in the Bay Area as well as law student associations.</p>
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GRANT BUDGET				
Months of Funding		17		
Personnel				
	PLL Grant	Other SB Monies	Other Funding	Total
PLL Salary	\$58,850	\$0	\$29,425	\$88,275
PLL Payroll Taxes and Benefits	\$14,150	\$0	\$7,062	\$21,212
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$73,000	\$0	\$36,487	\$109,487

**PROVISIONALLY LICENSED LAWYERS GRANT
APPLICATION PROFILE**

Organization Name	Legal Services for Seniors		
	Total Amount Requested	PLL Start Date (Actual or Anticipated)	PLL End Date (Actual or Anticipated)
	\$73,000	06/01/2021	06/01/2022
County(ies) Served	Monterey		
Substantive Area(s)	Family/Domestic Violence;Guardianship;Health and Long-term Care;Housing;Income Maintenance		
Impact (PLL's Work)	<p>LSS PLLs advocates (Advocates) will work on housing, physical/financial elder abuse prevention and recovery, income maintenance (Social Security and other public or private benefit programs), health care access, Medicare and Medi-Cal appeals, Advance Health Care Directives, Wills, Springing Financial Powers of Attorney, Probate Guardianship/Limited Conservatorships, and consumer protection.</p> <p>General areas of law in which we provide representation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Public Benefits: Denial of Social Security and other pensions are often due to institutional oversight, not the senior's fault. We will provide assistance in pension regulations to successfully address problems created by the better than the agencies providing those pensions and learn to get to the heart of the challenge ensuring clients receive the income they deserve. 2) Financial Abuse: Financial elder abuse victims are stripped of their life savings. When seniors realize they have been taken advantage of, they question their ability to care for themselves and avoid reporting the abuse. LSS will provide supervised attorney representation so seniors are comfortable knowing their confidences go no farther. 3) Physical Abuse: Advocates will be supervised in assisting seniors with obtaining restraining orders in domestic violence court, keeping our clients safe and independent. 4) Housing: Advocates will address legal threats to seniors in the areas of housing: maintenance of eligibility for affordable and/or subsidized housing; tenant defense in unlawful evictions, substandard living conditions and other tenant-related issues, We protect senior homeowners from losing homes to unscrupulous lenders, dishonest contractors and greedy family members. We are beginning to see a new area of senior housing scams. 5) Health Care, Insurance and Estate Planning: Assisting seniors Medicare, Medi-Cal and private-pay health insurance problems. We also prepare Advance Health Care Directives (AHCD) and Wills. 6) Probate Law: Representing seniors in Probate Guardianship petitions and Limited Conservatorships (seniors seeking custody of adult disabled children). 		
Impact (Organization's Expertise)	<p>LSS has been providing these same PLL services for 35 + years. LSS has the experience in working with PLL in this grant training period: Our current staff consist of a) Creighton Mendivil (SBN 266939) Executive Director/Attorney with 11 years legal aid experience in the PLL practice areas; b) Teri Scarlett (SBN 132682) Supervising Attorney with 33 years experience in the project areas of law; c) Kellie Morgantini (SBN 201022) Pro Bono Attorney, LSS' previous Executive Director and Directing Attorney with 26 year experience with LSS and these proposed projects; d) Albert Maldonado (SBN 59695) Pro Bono Attorney and retired judge practicing since 1974.</p>		
Support (Support for PLL)	<p>Every year LSS participates in sexual harassment training. Further LSS is a MCLE provider presenting trainings in our practices areas. Between January and March of 2021 LSS staff has participated in the following MCLE trainings: Sexual Harassment; Neighbor Disputes; as well as other professional educational sessions: Mortuary Practices (Neptune Society); Alliance on Aging Service; California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform (CANHR) Medi-Cal Trust Recovery; Lawyer Self-Care (presented by Lita Abella, (CalBar)</p>		
Safeguards (Protections for PLL and Clients)	<p>LSS Executive Director/ Directing Attorney and our Supervising Attorney, collectively have more than 35+ years' legal aid experience. Our entire legal staff meets twice per week for case review – where we review cases, receive education on new legal issues and other issues important for our advocates to know and help direct how we handle cases. The Executive Director and Supervising Attorney also consult directly with each attorney, legal advocate and volunteer on a daily basis on individual cases, advocates' case loads, as well</p>		

	as identification and treatment of specific clients' legal matters. Each day, the Executive Director meets for a set time with each advocate and attorney to ensure direct oversight and communication with staff (e.g., training a new advocate on the particulars regarding general landlord/tenant law or detailed case management with attorneys who have undertaken litigation for financial elder abuse, etc.). These meeting during Shelter in Place have been using Zoom. LSS looks forward to returning to supervision in person when safe. These same practices will be used with any PLL.
Recruitment (Strong and Diverse Pool of Candidates)	LSS is working currently with two PLL to assist them in attaining their required hours. LSS will advertise a paid position through Monterey College of Law and the local Bar Association.

GRANT BUDGET				
Months of Funding		12		
Personnel				
	PLL Grant	Other SB Monies	Other Funding	Total
PLL Salary	\$55,000	\$0	\$0	\$55,000
PLL Payroll Taxes and Benefits	\$18,000	\$0	\$0	\$18,000
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$73,000	\$0	\$0	\$73,000

**PROVISIONALLY LICENSED LAWYERS GRANT
APPLICATION PROFILE**

Organization Name	Legal Services of Northern California		
	Total Amount Requested	PLL Start Date (Actual or Anticipated)	PLL End Date (Actual or Anticipated)
	\$83,000	07/01/2021	06/01/2022
County(ies) Served	Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Tehama, Trinity, Yolo		
Substantive Area(s)	Consumer/Finance;Disability Rights;Education;Employment;Health and Long-term Care;Housing;Immigration;Income Maintenance		
Impact (PLL's Work)	<p>Under the direct supervision of the pro bono manager, LSNC's PLL will engage in a broad range of legal work across LSNC's practice areas including the following specific projects:</p> <p>COVID-19 Tenant Assistance - The PLL will assist with coordination of LSNC's program-wide direct client assistance related to the California COVID-19 emergency rental assistance program. In addition to assisting clients directly with their applications to the program and supporting volunteers providing direct assistance, the PLL will also prepare outreach materials and Know Your Rights presentations related to COVID-19 rental debt, assist with and work on cases related to any COVID-19 rental debt clinic organized by LSNC, and engage in community outreach, research and coordination on other COVID-19 related projects.</p> <p>Disaster Relief - The PLL will assist with coordination of local and program-wide disaster relief response efforts in our service area, preparing outreach materials and Know Your Rights presentations related to disaster relief. The PLL will work with supervising attorneys on disaster relief cases related to FEMA benefits, anti-price-gouging protections for disaster survivors, insurance claims, and other disaster public benefit issues.</p> <p>Rural Communities - The majority of LSNC's 23-county service area is rural, and the PLL will serve clients and support volunteers serving clients throughout LSNC's service area. The PLL will also work in coordination with the Expanded Access Project (EAP) that utilizes both staff and volunteers to operate evening and weekend clinics designed to serve low-wage workers, students and others who are unable to access LSNC services during business hours. The PLL's work with EAP will focus on expungement work, naturalization, and employment issues.</p> <p>The PLL will also assist staff in volunteer recruitment and clinic logistics for the projects listed above, help maintain LSNC's volunteer database and records of project efforts for grant reporting and analysis.</p>		
Impact (Organization's Expertise)	<p>LSNC's proposed projects for the PLL are focused on the organization's pro bono activities, which include direct client representation in all of LSNC's core practice areas - housing, health, public benefits and civil rights. The PLL would work in coordination with volunteers in both clinic and in-office settings to provide legal advice, assistance and, in some cases, full scope representation to low-income residents of LSNC's 23 northern California counties. As the primary legal aid provider in the region, LSNC assists more than 10,000 clients each year in matters that range from evictions and public benefit terminations to school discipline hearings and naturalization applications. LSNC is already engaged in the specific project areas described in (1) above, including COVID-19 tenants' rights work, disaster assistance and the EAP clinic areas.</p> <p>As described in (3) below, the PLL's primary supervisor will be LSNC's pro bono manager. The PLL will also work with other qualified attorney supervisors throughout the program when appropriate. The pro bono manager supervises, in collaboration with the managing attorneys of each field office, the legal work of LSNC's attorney and non-attorney volunteers, with additional support from LSNC's three regional counsel - specialists in the areas of housing, health and public benefits law. Under attorney supervision, the PLL can accept cases that volunteers open in clinic or field office settings for more extensive representation</p>		

	<p>than the volunteer can provide. The PLL can also provide co-counseling support to volunteer attorneys working on longer-term cases. The PLL will not undertake legal work in areas outside of LSNC's traditional practice, which is extremely broad in scope, but will add capacity to its pro bono programs during the project year. LSNC's pro bono programs, particularly in rural offices, have expanded significantly in the last four years, and the PLL would further expand our capacity to serve clients through our pro bono services.</p>
<p>Support (Support for PLL)</p>	<p>LSNC provides comprehensive skills and substantive law training to legal graduates and attorneys. Since the organization shifted to remote work due to the COVID-19 pandemic, that training has been provided via videoconference, in shorter formats. In accordance with LSNC's training practices, the PLL will receive 10 to 20 hours of in-house training by qualified staff in the areas of housing, public benefits and health law. The PLL will also receive in-house training in providing accessible services to various client communities, language access, interviewing skills, legal writing, writ practice, administrative hearing advocacy and a variety of litigation skills important for lawyers in their first year of practice. LSNC provides ongoing training to all advocates, on a weekly basis while our advocates are working remotely, on a variety of legal issues related to our practice. Additionally, the PLL will receive in-house training specific to the project areas listed in (2) above.</p> <p>While working remotely, the PLL will be provided a laptop computer, an internet based phone connection, telephone headset and any other necessary home office equipment. When working in the office the PLL will have an appropriate work space with access to all appropriate computer and office machine resources. Both remotely and in the office, the PLL will have access to LSNC's online case management system, its internal advocacy resource materials, Westlaw and all computer software necessary to engage in full scope legal representation.</p> <p>The pro bono manager will directly supervise the PLL. With more than eight years in practice, the pro bono manager works with dozens of volunteer attorneys, legal graduates, law students and non-attorneys and has successfully trained and supervised them remotely. She will supervise all of the PLL's legal work. The PLL will also work with qualified supervisors throughout the program based on need and subject matter expertise.</p>
<p>Safeguards (Protections for PLL and Clients)</p>	<p>As described above, the pro bono manager is an experienced attorney and supervises volunteers and law students throughout the year, in addition to providing support to other attorneys in the program. LSNC's training program is comprehensive and ongoing, with weekly training updates in the organization's primary areas of practice. Individual case work is monitored on an ongoing basis, using LSNC's online case management system that permits managers to review the status of open and closed cases. LSNC has consistent policies, uninterrupted during the pandemic, on review of open cases in progress as well as closed cases. Managers ensure appropriate case handling and verify the accuracy of advice and quality of legal assistance. The PLL will also have the resource of LSNC's three regional counsel, subject matter experts in housing, public benefits and health law, to advise and co-counsel on complex cases. The pro bono manager will ensure the PLL's professional development by working in collaboration with field office managing attorneys to identify appropriate cases to build the PLL's skills in the areas of administrative hearing representation, litigation and negotiation. The PLL will be supervised and trained in accordance with LSNC's ordinary plans for new legal graduates and attorneys.</p>
<p>Recruitment (Strong and Diverse Pool of Candidates)</p>	<p>LSNC is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer. Consistent with the organization's hiring policies, LSNC will develop and post a job announcement that will be posted on its website, sent to all ABA accredited law schools and shared with state and local Bar associations and organizations representing historically underrepresented law students and attorneys. LSNC has strong relationships with law school career services offices nationwide, as it engages in nationwide recruiting for summer law clerks, externs and new legal graduates on an annual basis and has done so consistently for more than 25 years. LSNC will accept applications for a set period of time and offer interviews to the most qualified candidates, prioritizing candidates who speak languages commonly spoken in LSNC's client communities and those whose work or life experience make them especially qualified for the position.</p>

GRANT BUDGET

Months of Funding	11			
Personnel				
	PLL Grant	Other SB Monies	Other Funding	Total
PLL Salary	\$68,646	\$0	\$0	\$68,646
PLL Payroll Taxes and Benefits	\$14,354	\$0	\$0	\$14,354
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$83,000	\$0	\$0	\$83,000

**PROVISIONALLY LICENSED LAWYERS GRANT
APPLICATION PROFILE**

Organization Name	Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice		
	Total Amount Requested	PLL Start Date (Actual or Anticipated)	PLL End Date (Actual or Anticipated)
	\$76,000	06/01/2021	06/01/2022
County(ies) Served	Los Angeles		
Substantive Area(s)	Family/Domestic Violence;Immigration		
Impact (PLL's Work)	<p>Under this project, the PLL would be providing legal assistance to victims of human trafficking (HT), with a focus on matters relating to immigration relief. As the Project continues PLL may also provide assistance on a range of other legal issues to address consequences of victimization and address the client's goals for safety and stability; this may include criminal justice advocacy issues and public benefits issues. PLL will be working with the general population served by LACLJ, which is low-income survivors of domestic abuse, sexual assault and/or human trafficking with a special emphasis on undocumented survivors. Typical work for PLL would include: (a) conducting trauma-informed, client-centered interviews and assessing the needs of victims in terms of their immediate legal needs as well as other legal issues that are an outgrowth of the victimization; (b) providing legal services including legal research and factual investigation, counsel and advice, brief services and document preparation, and preparation of immigration petitions and motions to be filed at the Executive Office for Immigration Review or Immigration Court; (c) engaging with FBI, police and prosecutors to report and advocate for victims and accompany them to interviews with law enforcement; (d) preparing AB629 CalVCB applications; and (e) coordinating with in-house social work team to coordinate service delivery and identify/address non-legal issues that have an impact on the client and/or their legal case. This position will be particularly beneficial for a newly-practicing PLL as they will join a skilled team of attorneys doing this work, through which they can develop practical legal skills that will benefit their practice regardless of where they go next, such as interviewing clients, determining eligibility for various forms of relief, drafting applications, declarations and motions, preparing clients for interviews and hearings and eventually representing clients in those applications, at those interviews and hearings.</p>		
Impact (Organization's Expertise)	<p>The PLL project is a longstanding project which is central to LACLJ's service model: providing comprehensive legal services to survivors of crime. LACLJ was founded to respond to the unmet need for legal services among the Latino immigrant populations in Los Angeles. For 45 years, this has remained LACLJ's primary service population, and will be the population served by the PLL. In recent years, the percentage of LACLJ clients who are undocumented has increased to over 60%. With this increase, LACLJ saw an increase in clients who had survived human trafficking (HT). As we identified an important overlap between victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and HT, we developed capacity to serve HT survivors in-house rather than refer them elsewhere. Now as part of our standard service model LACLJ assesses every incoming client for HT, but we also have partnerships with HT service providers such as CAST for continued referrals of HT clients. While the primary legal need of the HT survivors at LACLJ is immigration services, such as T Visas, survivors also often need public benefits and criminal justice advocacy. These services are the core of our HT work and will make up the primary workload of the PLL. LACLJ's HT work is led by our Directing Attorney for immigration, Michelle Carey, who has 17 years of experience as an attorney representing survivors on immigration cases, 15 years of experience supervising staff and volunteers, and 8 years managing LACLJ's immigration team and work. She has also been a trainer on survivor-based forms of immigration relief for national technical assistance providers including ASISTA and the ILRC (Immigrant Legal Resource Center). The Senior Attorney who will be directly supervising the PLL, Julie Tedford, has over 12 years' experience providing direct legal services and 10 years of experience supervising staff and volunteers.</p>		
Support (Support for PLL)	<p>At this time all LACLJ onboarding, training and work are performed remotely and LACLJ will provide PLL with equipment and tools necessary to participate in all activities remotely. PLL will receive the standard onboarding trainings given to all staff on topics such as timekeeping, office procedures, the use of equipment and systems and LACLJ's unique integrated service model. Also, PLL will receive the trainings standard for client-facing staff,</p>		

	<p>such as providing trauma-informed services, motivational interviewing, and comprehensive legal issue spotting. The LACLJ immigration Senior Attorney will lead all phases of the PLLs training: Phase (1): PLL shadows the Senior and Staff Attorneys in client meetings, interviews, hearings and other activities. Through shadowing, PLL learns client communication, legal assessment, declaration drafting and other skills through modelling done by the experienced attorneys. Phase (2): PLL conducts client meetings with an experienced attorney observing and providing support and feedback. Phase (3), the PLL conducts client meetings independently. Throughout these phases, weekly case reviews with the Senior Attorney and bi-weekly meetings with the Directing Attorney provide a further opportunity for personalized training. PLL will also participate in monthly LACLJ immigration team meetings, and all-staff meetings, trainings, and activities, including activities related to trauma informed services and cultural responsiveness. In addition to the in-house training and mentorship, PLL will be connected to the broader network of HT service providers through trainings and meetings. PLL will receive webinar trainings by national experts such as ILRC, ASISTA and CAST. PLL will also attend CAST's weekly Legal Advocates Working Group meeting where they will receive further insights into trafficking-related legal work. PLL will also join in monthly meetings with the LACLJ immigration team and join with the team in webinars by ILRC, ASISTA and CAST on cutting edge/changing issues related to serving HT survivors, as they become available.</p>
<p>Safeguards (Protections for PLL and Clients)</p>	<p>As with all attorney supervision at LACLJ, the supervision of the PLL will be conducted pursuant to LACLJ's Standards of Practice and the ABA Standards of Practice for the Supervision of Domestic and Sexual Violence Attorneys. Supervisory activities include sitting in on client intakes, attending hearings, reviewing files, and conducting employee reviews and check-ins. As LACLJ is committed to trauma-informed supervision, the Senior and Directing Attorneys supervising the PLL are trained in how to recognize the vicarious trauma that is a likely result of working with survivors, how to make an implement plans to address, prevent and remedy both vicarious and direct work-related trauma. The LACLJ immigration Senior Attorney will be the primary supervisor for PLL and be responsible for the PLL work on this project. After PLL completes the initial training period, they will be assigned approximately 15 cases from the Senior Attorney's caseload that are appropriate fit for PLL based on their strengths and overall capacity. Additional cases may be assigned to the PLL, depending on considerations such as workload and PLL comfort level. These cases will then be managed by the PLL, with case progress reviewed by the Senior Attorney at weekly case reviews. During case review, the Senior Attorney will provide supervision, discuss case strategy and next steps, answer questions, and provide support with prioritizing task and managing deadlines. The Senior or Directing Attorney will review all written work of the PLL and must approve any documents before filing. The Directing Attorney will have biweekly meetings with the PLL to provide mentorship and additional case strategy and support. Senior Attorney will also check in with clients periodically to confirm a positive level of rapport is being developed between the client and the PLL and address any communication or other issues that might benefit from further support.</p>
<p>Recruitment (Strong and Diverse Pool of Candidates)</p>	<p>LACLJ will take the following steps to recruit a strong and diverse pool of candidates, which primarily involve leveraging our longstanding relationships with law schools and other legal service providers in addition to new resources that have been created to match PLL and supervising attorneys, including: (a) contact directors of local law school immigration clinics (such as U.S.C., Southwestern, UCLA and Loyola) and their specialized programs, such as those in public interest and Critical Race Studies, to ask them to share the job posting with their networks of students; (b) contact law school public interest and career development offices and post the position on their job boards; (c) share the job posting with other service providers working in the immigration field, such as our co-partners in the Los Angeles VAWA Network, who are all leaders in the field of survivor-based immigration work and who work with many student and recent graduate volunteers; (d) register the opportunity on the LA-Region Bar Associations Provisional License Partnership website, which facilitates matching of PLLs and supervising attorneys; (e) post the position on the California Lawyers Association online community for provisional licensees; (d) post the position on listservs related to immigration and human trafficking legal services, such as the national VAWA expert and LA-specific SIJS listservs; (e) post with the Multicultural Bar Association (MCBA), a coalition of various diversity bars in LA County, and finally, (f) post the position on the various job boards where we typically post positions, such as Public Service Job Directory,</p>

	NLADA, LAAC, CPEDV, the LA County Domestic Violence Council newsletter, as well as general job sites such as Indeed and Idealist.
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GRANT BUDGET				
Months of Funding		12		
Personnel				
	PLL Grant	Other SB Monies	Other Funding	Total
PLL Salary	\$63,000	\$0	\$0	\$63,000
PLL Payroll Taxes and Benefits	\$13,230	\$0	\$0	\$13,230
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$76,230	\$0	\$0	\$76,230

**PROVISIONALLY LICENSED LAWYERS GRANT
APPLICATION PROFILE**

Organization Name	Mental Health Advocacy Services		
	Total Amount Requested	PLL Start Date (Actual or Anticipated)	PLL End Date (Actual or Anticipated)
	\$80,000	05/01/2021	06/01/2022
County(ies) Served	Los Angeles		
Substantive Area(s)	Consumer/Finance; Disability Rights; Employment; Health and Long-term Care; Housing; Income Maintenance; Other - expungement/clearing criminal records with dismissal/sealing of past convictions & arrests		
Impact (PLL's Work)	<p>During the grant period, Howard Canton (MHAS' selected PLL), will provide free legal services to low-income individuals with mental health disabilities in a variety of areas including housing, public benefits, and other legal issues related to clients' mental health disabilities. Howard is extremely qualified to do this work as he has already been doing very similar client work as a Senior Legal Services Advocate with MHAS. As a PLL, Howard will maintain his own caseload of clients, some of whom he will assist with brief advice and counsel, others of whom he will be more extensively represent. He will engage in research and writing, negotiation, administrative advocacy, and court advocacy on behalf of his individual clients, and provide technical assistance and training to community partners.</p> <p>80% of the clients Howard serves – and will continue to serve during the grant period – are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. As a native Spanish speaker, Howard is also able to serve monolingual Spanish speakers, who make up close to 50% of the clients he currently assists.</p> <p>The majority of Howard's work will be assisting individuals with mental health disabilities who are experiencing compounding harms due to the COVID-19 pandemic including increased risk of eviction and homelessness. Many of the clients Howard has helped over the past year and will continue to help during the grant period are at risk of falling off the looming "eviction cliff" as eviction moratoria are lifted at the federal, state, and local levels. Howard will provide these individuals with tenant defense assistance in landlord-tenant rental disputes, will educate clients and help them take advantage of utility assistance, rent relief, and homelessness prevention programs, and will inform clients and help them to exercise their tenant, debt collection, and fair housing rights.</p>		
Impact (Organization's Expertise)	<p>MHAS has been a leader in the disability rights movement and in the fight for equal rights for people with mental health disabilities for over forty years, providing free, direct legal services to approximately 3,000 individuals every year.</p> <p>The PLL's proposed projects fit squarely within MHAS's current areas of focus and expertise. Since 2000, MHAS has maintained a robust fair housing project, funded by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, to educate mental health consumers and service providers about fair housing rights and responsibilities. During this time, MHAS has also provided direct services in the areas of housing both to clients who attend these trainings and to clients contacting MHAS through its general intake line.</p> <p>In 2020, MHAS launched a new behavioral health-legal partnership in which legal services intervention specifically targeting low-income tenants with mental health disabilities at risk of homelessness is holistically integrated in partnership with two of the largest mental health services providers in Los Angeles. Clients are provided with tenant defense assistance in landlord-tenant rental disputes, including counseling, advice and consultation, renter education and representation, and legal services to improve habitability and to ensure receipt of eligible income or benefits to improve housing stability.</p> <p>This expertise is shared with Howard (and all staff attorneys) through structured guidance and supervision, including weekly case review and ongoing daily supervision. Howard's supervisor at MHAS has been and will continue to be Jo Bloomfield, who has 15 years of experience as an attorney and who has over 10 years of experience providing direct services and supervising attorneys in the proposed PLL practice areas. Howard will also benefit from</p>		

	the culture and practice of collaboration and support of MHAS's entire team of attorneys, who bring additional expertise in housing, public benefits, consumer law, and related issues.
Support (Support for PLL)	<p>Every MHAS employee is provided with training on a variety of topics at the beginning of and throughout their employment at MHAS. Howard has received in-house training on several substantive areas including expungement, consumer law, and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and other Social Security benefits. Howard has also received in-house training on client interviewing skills, legal research and writing, and working with clients who are survivors of interpersonal violence. MHAS also hosts regular participatory trainings and discussions both in-house and sometimes featuring external guest speakers on diversity, equity, and inclusion and trauma-informed care. Finally, MHAS invites Toby Rothschild to present annually to the MHAS legal services team on updates in Ethics.</p> <p>MHAS staff, including Howard, further regularly attend and participate in trainings that MHAS staff provide externally on fair housing, working with clients with challenging behaviors, and special education. (MHAS is a Multiple Activity Provider approved to provide CLE credit with the State Bar of California.) This past year, MHAS adapted its standard fair housing training to include up-to-date information on the web of federal, state, and local COVID-19-related eviction moratoria, educating renters on what they need to know and do to preserve their housing as these moratoria begin to expire. MHAS' housing team further updates the entire MHAS staff regularly as changes in the law have been and continue to be swiftly enacted.</p> <p>In the past year, Howard has attended over ten external trainings including, among others, (1) Public Counsel: Navigating Unemployment in the COVID-19 Landscape, (2) National Housing Law Project: Eviction Defense During COVID-19, (3) Worksafe: Disability, Workers' Compensation, and COVID, and (4) Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles: Employment Issues During COVID-19. Howard will continue to attend these types of external trainings as these opportunities arise.</p> <p>Finally, MHAS provides all staff attorneys with access to LexisNexis.</p>
Safeguards (Protections for PLL and Clients)	<p>The quality of Howard's services to MHAS clients – as well as his own experience at MHAS – is structurally safeguarded in a number of ways.</p> <p>First, Howard will be supervised by MHAS Managing Attorney Jo Bloomfield who will provide oversight on all cases handled by Howard. Howard and Jo will meet one-on-one weekly where Jo will provide guidance on specific cases and issues, critique quality of work, review Howard's overall caseload, and discuss priorities for the coming week. Furthermore, Howard - and all MHAS attorneys - are required to record their casework in MHAS' online case management system, LegalServer. Howard's notes, progress on cases, and completed work is available for review at any time and is periodically checked by Jo. Jo will also review any proposed new case with Howard prior to execution of any legal representation agreement with a potential client. Similarly, Jo will review work done on the case prior to case closure.</p> <p>Second, Howard will participate in regular staff meetings and project meetings, which include discussion of specific cases and issues raised by staff members and discussion of ethical issues. In 2021, the attorneys are holding weekly case review meetings.</p> <p>Finally, MHAS has an "open-door" culture, meaning that all staff are encouraged to interact with one another, go to one another with questions, and support one another in their work, in their professional development, and generally as human beings working together. This policy extends equally from the Office Receptionist to the Executive Director.</p> <p>MHAS has been successfully operating remotely during the pandemic but hopes to return to the office at the end of the summer, 2021. Even while working remotely, however, MHAS has maintained an open, connected environment with regular staff meetings, staff "happy hours", and other opportunities for staff to connect with one another remotely.</p>
Recruitment (Strong and Diverse Pool of Candidates)	MHAS is fortunate in that we already have an excellent internal candidate, Howard Canton, identified for our PLL position. Howard first joined MHAS in 2018 as a post-law school volunteer. When a Legal Services Advocate position opened up, he was immediately hired into it based on his superb work performance. Over the past couple of years, Howard has

	<p>worked on a number of MHAS projects including our General Intake Line and our Medical-Legal Community Partnership where he has assisted clients with housing and public benefits issues, among other legal needs. He has excelled in any task he has been given, has received consistently positive feedback from both clients he has served and partners with whom he has interacted, and has earned universally high praise from his supervisors.</p> <p>We are thrilled that Howard is eligible for the Provisional Licensure Program and is on a path to becoming licensed to practice law in the State of California. A bilingual, smart, and kind advocate, he is exactly the type of person we need to join the field and help close the justice gap in California. He is dedicated to the clients that MHAS serves, is a team player, and is a skilled and effective advocate. Having successfully recruited him, our focus now is to make sure we can retain him in this field, which we hope this grant will help us do.</p>
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GRANT BUDGET				
Months of Funding		13		
Personnel				
	PLL Grant	Other SB Monies	Other Funding	Total
PLL Salary	\$66,000	\$0	\$0	\$66,000
PLL Payroll Taxes and Benefits	\$14,000	\$0	\$0	\$14,000
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$80,000	\$0	\$0	\$80,000

**PROVISIONALLY LICENSED LAWYERS GRANT
APPLICATION PROFILE**

Organization Name	Neighborhood Legal Services		
	Total Amount Requested	PLL Start Date (Actual or Anticipated)	PLL End Date (Actual or Anticipated)
	\$91,000	04/01/2021	06/01/2022
County(ies) Served	Los Angeles		
Substantive Area(s)	Housing; Income Maintenance; Other - Legal services related to homelessness and homelessness prevention		
Impact (PLL's Work)	<p>Through a combination of individual representation, high impact litigation and public policy advocacy, Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles (NLSLA) combats the immediate and long-lasting effects of poverty and expands access to health, opportunity, and justice in Los Angeles' diverse neighborhoods.</p> <p>The PLL will work with NLSLA's housing and homelessness projects. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, NLSLA has seen a significant uptick in both housing and homelessness cases. The PLL will help NLSLA address this heightened community need by providing supervised representation of clients as well as assist with impact litigation and policy advocacy matters as needed. NLSLA has a long history of providing representation in housing and homelessness matters, including innovative programs such as Shriver Housing Project-L.A. and StayHoused LA, which provide access to legal representation to low-income people facing eviction, and Lawyers Preventing and Ending Homelessness Project, which provides legal help to the homeless in the Antelope, San Fernando and San Gabriel Valleys.</p> <p>NLSLA's service area, Los Angeles County is one of the most racially, ethnically and culturally diverse areas of the country and includes large numbers of poor people who collectively speak more than a hundred languages. The PLL will focus on three geographic regions within LA County: the San Fernando, San Gabriel and Antelope Valleys. These regions contains significant numbers impoverished immigrants, including monolingual Spanish-speakers and one of the largest concentrations of Asian Pacific Islanders (API) in the United States. These minority groups face significant language and cultural barriers to accessing the legal system and have a high concentration of legal issues related to housing and homelessness.</p>		
Impact (Organization's Expertise)	<p>NLSLA has deep experience with all manners of legal assistance to low-income clients including direct representation (brief and extended service), legal clinics, impact litigation, policy advocacy, self-help assistance and community outreach. NLSLA attorneys—based in offices, courthouses and clinics throughout the county—specialize in areas of the law that disproportionately impact low-income people, including affordable housing and eviction defense, access to public benefits, support for domestic violence victims, access to healthcare, worker and consumer rights, and employment and training.</p> <p>In the past year, NLSLA has responded to the COVID-19 pandemic to reach as many impacted tenants as possible through client representation, impact litigation, remote clinics, and community and partner presentations and video calls. During this time, COVID-19 tenant protection ordinances were adopted by a vast majority of municipalities in Los Angeles County and our housing attorneys responded by learning the nuances or the new ordinances to ensure the provision of the highest quality advice, education, and advocacy for our clients and applicants for our services. Our attorneys have significant experience in eviction defense, section 8 and public housing, illegal rent increases, disability accommodations, unsafe living conditions and fair housing and discrimination.</p> <p>Cassandra Goodman, the Director of Housing and Homelessness at NLSLA, will be the PLL's direct supervisor. Cassandra has over 20 years of experience in public interest housing law and criminal defense. Cassandra was instrumental in establishing NLSLA's Shriver Housing Project-LA over 10 years ago and she has supervised attorneys at all experience levels throughout her career.</p>		

<p>Support (Support for PLL)</p>	<p>The PLL will have access to all standard office technologies in addition to cutting-edge legal aid equipment, software and case management system. NLSLA is at the forefront of legal technology and utilizes up-to-date platforms for case work, database management and reporting, inter-office communication, legal research and artificial intelligence. NLSLA utilizes Legal Server, Lawyaw, Hotdocs, Westlaw and OneLegal, among other legal technologies. The PLL will work closely with NLSLA's Vice-President of Operations and Legal Technology, Charlie Gillig to ensure their technological needs are met.</p> <p>In 2020, technology played an increased role in the day to day operations of NLSLA. In March 2020, NLSLA transitioned to full remote operations. We assessed the technological capacity of its staff to work remotely and provided equipment as needed. We purchased and supplied staff with laptops, hotspots, printers and other devices so that staff could perform their work duties remotely. NLSLA also took steps to ensure that client data privacy and confidentiality would be protected by immediately updating its Technology Policy and created a "Telework Policy" which outlined expectations and best practices for working and utilizing telecommunication platforms remotely. E-filing and e-signing have become more regular practices to ensure timely filing and we adopted a policy to ensure clients are aware and have an opportunity to review what is being filed for them. The PLL will be fully prepared to work in office, remotely or in a hybrid model.</p>
<p>Safeguards (Protections for PLL and Clients)</p>	<p>The PLL will receive the same on-boarding as a first-year attorney. The administrative onboarding will include human resources, fiscal and technology trainings. The substantive training will include training presentations and videos, review of NLSLA housing and homelessness training materials, and meetings with all housing and homelessness supervisors. The PLL will participate in case reviews, sit in on client interviews and attend live hearings. Additionally, the PLL will receive training on providing culturally sensitive, trauma-informed legal services. NLSLA provides staff with regular trainings on topics such as implicit bias, self-care, and diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI).</p> <p>In the first few months, the PLL will receive close guidance on all aspects of the position. The supervising attorney will meet with the PLL weekly to monitor substantive learning and determine when the advocate is ready for casework and advocacy. The PLL will begin by assisting attorneys and paralegals with existing cases and advocacy projects. The PLL will shadow experienced attorneys and second chair court appearances as part of their training plan. Once the supervising attorney has determined the PLL is ready, the PLL will begin representing clients. The PLL will then and follow NLSLA's policy whereby the supervising attorneys meet with their attorneys every two weeks. All case and advocacy work will be reviewed by the supervising attorney. In addition to assigning a supervisor, NLSLA will also assign a mentor attorney that meets with the PLL twice a month and is there to respond to any questions or issues that the PLL has.</p> <p>As mentioned in the previous question, NLSLA has formalized systems that allow its programs to function as if staff were in the office. The PLL will be able to perform their duties and be a full member of a legal team regardless of being in-office or remote.</p>
<p>Recruitment (Strong and Diverse Pool of Candidates)</p>	<p>NLSLA has a robust history of seeking and hiring diverse candidates. Over 70% of our advocates of NLSLA advocates are people of color. NLSLA's President & CEO, Yvonne Mariajimenez, is Latina and grew up in a low-income communities we serve. Women make up 65% of our staff, including 52% of our lawyers. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion is a touchstone for NLSLA and plays an important role in all decision-making, including recruitment and hiring decisions. NLSLA also looks for outstanding individuals with leadership skills, the ability to work collaboratively and efficiently, who are committed to the community, dedicated to serving others, and willing to be flexible to meet our clients' needs.</p> <p>We will recruit for this position as we have for other employment openings. We also have two relatively new internal post-law school staff members who may be considered for this position. Both of these candidates are people of color.</p>

GRANT BUDGET	
Months of Funding	14

Personnel				
	PLL Grant	Other SB Monies	Other Funding	Total
PLL Salary	\$70,000	\$0	\$0	\$70,000
PLL Payroll Taxes and Benefits	\$21,000	\$0	\$0	\$21,000
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$91,000	\$0	\$0	\$91,000

**PROVISIONALLY LICENSED LAWYERS GRANT
APPLICATION PROFILE**

Organization Name	OneJustice		
	Total Amount Requested	PLL Start Date (Actual or Anticipated)	PLL End Date (Actual or Anticipated)
	\$55,000	02/24/2021	12/24/2021
County(ies) Served	Alameda, Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Los Angeles, Madera, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Mono, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Placer, Plumas, Riverside, Sacramento, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, Ventura, Yolo, Yuba		
Substantive Area(s)	Consumer/Finance; Family/Domestic Violence; Education; Employment; Health and Long-term Care; Housing; Immigration; Income Maintenance		
Impact (PLL's Work)	<p>The PLL has been with OneJustice since January 2019. Since then, her work has included the administration and coordination of many of our training programs for legal services organizations, including the Capacity Building Academy and our Webinar series. Additionally, the PLL now covers much of our IOLTA work including providing technical assistance and resources to the QLSP's we serve. An example of her project listings include the Immigration Legal Service Provider convenings, Social Workers in Legal Aid project, Legal Aid Compensation Survey, and state and federal policy work.</p> <p>During the grant period, the PLL will continue providing consulting and technical assistance to legal services organizations, with a focus on QLSP's. Based on the Justice Gap needs shown by the 2017 national Justice Gap Study and the 2019 state Justice Gap Study, an additional project the PLL will work on will be a detailed landscape scan of how COVID-19 has further impacted the justice gap and how legal aid has adjusted to meet the needs of their clients.</p> <p>This includes, but is not limited to, an analytical look into the practice areas of housing, income maintenance, and family law. The research will start with the Justice Gap studies and use additional existing research from the California Shriver Civil Counsel Act Evaluation and the Access to Justice Commission to analyze where the civil justice system was before the pandemic and how it has been impacted since.</p> <p>Possible outputs include trainings, written resources, cohort building sessions, and a formal report tailored to the specific needs of the legal aid community. An emphasis will be placed on how the pandemic has impacted different geographic regions in California and take into account additional factors such as natural disasters and attorney density in these areas.</p>		
Impact (Organization's Expertise)	<p>As a support center and capacity building organization, OneJustice has undertaken similar projects in the past with great success. For example, the PLL began her career at OneJustice by performing a landscape scan of the state of children and youth in California and how they receive legal services. This project included interviewing many legal services organizations that serve children and youth in the state, extensive research on the legal services children and youth can access, and ended with a final convening that brought together key community stakeholders to discuss the work they were doing and how to work together.</p> <p>In addition, as a recipient of a State Bar Bank Grant, OneJustice undertook a three-year project designed to impact the training and development of rising leaders in immigration legal services organizations throughout the state. This project created the Capacity Building Academy, which trained hundreds of QLSP staff members throughout the three-years in nonprofit and pro bono program management.</p> <p>The PLL led the final nonprofit management cohort on this project and generated reports on the project's impact on legal aid advocates and surveyed past participants.</p>		

Support (Support for PLL)	<p>The PLL is being supervised by OneJustice's CEO, Phil Hwang, who has over 24 years of legal experience, including having worked at legal aid organizations as a housing, economic security, and immigrants rights attorney. Phil has worked with dozens of legal fellows throughout his career and will ensure that the PLL receives OneJustice's full support in accessing professional development opportunities.</p> <p>OneJustice puts a strong emphasis on professional development and support. The PLL will have access to funds and support to find external trainings in diversity and inclusion, cultural humility, project management, empirical research, and any other required skills based trainings needed to undertake her work. This also includes providing opportunities for the PLL to participate in external trainings that will deepen her substantive expertise in legal areas handled by QLSPs. OneJustice is also well-connected to legal experts throughout the legal aid community statewide and will connect the PLL with experts to provide additional support and mentorship.</p>
Safeguards (Protections for PLL and Clients)	<p>The PLL and her supervisor meet on a biweekly basis to discuss project management and professional development. In addition, the PLL will continue to meet with any other supervisor on her existing projects on a regular basis. At the moment, these meetings take place virtually but can be transitioned to in office meetings when in-office work continues. The PLL has been provided with the necessary technical equipment to achieve these goals while working remotely. The PLL's supervisor regularly analyzes the PLL's work progress and products to ensure the highest quality of outputs.</p>
Recruitment (Strong and Diverse Pool of Candidates)	<p>The PLL is an existing OneJustice staff member. Her work will continue on many of her existing projects but she was asked to contemplate and develop the proposed project based on her professional development goals, expertise, and needs of the legal aid sector.</p>

GRANT BUDGET

Months of Funding	10			
Personnel				
	PLL Grant	Other SB Monies	Other Funding	Total
PLL Salary	\$46,610	\$1,731	\$0	\$48,341
PLL Payroll Taxes and Benefits	\$8,390	\$311	\$0	\$8,701
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$55,000	\$2,042	\$0	\$57,042

**PROVISIONALLY LICENSED LAWYERS GRANT
APPLICATION PROFILE**

Organization Name	Public Counsel		
	Total Amount Requested	PLL Start Date (Actual or Anticipated)	PLL End Date (Actual or Anticipated)
	\$69,000	06/01/2021	06/01/2022
County(ies) Served	Alameda, Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Los Angeles, Madera, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Mono, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Placer, Plumas, Riverside, Sacramento, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, Ventura, Yolo, Yuba		
Substantive Area(s)	Disability Rights; Health and Long-term Care; Housing; Income Maintenance; Other - Public Counsel assists veterans and their families with removing barriers to employment, healthcare, and benefits through discharge upgrade advocacy (removing derogatory information from their military separation documents) and representation in court to resolve traffic tickets, quality of life citations, and expungements/ dismissal of eligible past convictions.		
Impact (PLL's Work)	<p>The COVID pandemic has highlighted extreme discrepancies in services to People of Color (POC) and diverse communities, including access to economic resources, employment, healthcare, and housing. Specifically for veterans, recent studies show that POC are more than twice as likely to be reprimanded and unfavorably discharged, and more likely to have mental health issues leaving the military. These circumstances negatively affect their civilian lives. Public Counsel's Center for Veterans' Advancement (CVA) clients are disproportionately POC and reside in low-income and rural communities in Los Angeles County. To bridge the gaps in resources, the PLL will provide direct legal assistance to low-income, unhoused, and at-risk veterans with disabilities to help them access VA compensation benefits and health and mental health care, and to correct unfavorable discharges. To support clients' economic advancement, the PLL attorney will also provide direct legal representation to obtain the dismissal of tickets and citations and their fines and fees for these veterans. Public Counsel intends to leverage the PLL by seeking an advocate with professional skills and experiences in social and human services; with a holistic care perspective and a trauma-informed approach to legal services; who is familiar with community partners and resources; who understands the intersectionality between judicial and sociocultural systems; who is aware of mental health stigmas and military cultural humility that may impede the veteran from seeking support. Such a PLL would not only understand the client's legal needs, but would be able to most effectively communicate those needs, including relevant symptoms, with legal reasoning in administrative and court proceedings.</p>		
Impact (Organization's Expertise)	<p>The CVA project was created with the objective that veterans will have access to essential benefits, housing resources and services, and financial stability. They are more likely to receive these safety nets if they have legal services in the essential stages of their case. Since 2009, CVA has assisted 4,680 clients, handled 8,648 matters, and placed 315 cases with pro bono counsel. CVA has two full-time attorneys with over 20 years' combined experience in social services and legal aid; one of CVA's staff attorneys has a Master in Social Work (MSW), with experience on trauma-informed and holistic care. CVA attorneys are accredited by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and are active within the state and local bar and subject matter associations. They have provided training to attorneys on veterans' law, and are considered experts in this field. In terms of impact litigation, CVA has partnered with a prominent law firm to file a Writ and pending class action lawsuit before the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC) on the VA's denial of due process rights in the Post 9/11 Caregiver Program. Oral arguments have been heard before the CAVC; this litigation is currently pending a key decision.</p> <p>CVA routinely conducts legal clinics for the veteran community. Before the pandemic, we held regular clinics on the VA campus and at Coordinated Entry Events for unhoused veterans, and we conducted an in-person discharge upgrade clinic linking veterans with less</p>		

	<p>than honorable discharges to pro bono attorneys to assist them in applying for an upgrade, including writing persuasive and empathetic personal statements. CVA has successfully transitioned the in-person clinic to a remote model. The PLL will have continued training and support with the discharge upgrade clinic, the CEE clinics, our current impact litigation, and all aspects of the job by CVA staff.</p>
<p>Support (Support for PLL)</p>	<p>The PLL will be an integral member of the CVA Team and will receive oversight and mentorship in all aspects of the PLL's work from the Directing Attorney, Supervising Attorney, and Senior Staff Attorney for the project.</p> <p>The following training will be provided to the PLL, all of which is available online: Practical Tactics for Trauma-Informed Legal Advocacy; A Guide to Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder for Advocates: How to Effectively Address PTSD in Matters Involving Veterans and Others Affected by Trauma; Advocating for Veterans: The Basics on VA Benefits, Discharge Upgrades, Veteran Cultural Competency, and Marginalized Veteran Populations; and Restoring Veteran Status and Eligibility for VA Benefits Through Character of Discharge Review.</p> <p>Additional professional development would include relevant subject matter webinars in VA benefits advocacy from the National Veterans Legal Services Program, as funding allows. Because Public Counsel has strong relationships with large law firms, the PLL would be invited to all trainings offered by these firms.</p> <p>Because of our extensive pro bono program, we maintain a library of training materials, samples, and online resources on veterans' law, tickets, and expungements. Public Counsel will provide access to these materials for the PLL, who will be expected to study and gain a greater understanding of the legal issues of the cases they are working on. As required by the State Bar ethics rules, the PLL will need to stay on top of changes in the law to be competent in their practice. This is accomplished through the aforementioned research and study when working on cases.</p> <p>The CVA team has weekly case reviews with a standing agenda item for professional development. During these meetings, as a member of the team, the PLL could share ideas about additional training needs and opportunities, as well as address any other support they may need.</p>
<p>Safeguards (Protections for PLL and Clients)</p>	<p>The PLL will be onboarded and treated the same as any other member of the Public Counsel staff and the veterans' team. They will be required to complete a background check since they will be working directly with clients and will have access to case files.</p> <p>Public Counsel continues to deliver the majority of our services to clients remotely, using telephone and email extensively, and exchanging documents via email or courier service. Some of our employees continue to make court appearances as required, although for most matters the courts are closed. Within this remote environment, the PLL will be fully onboarded by our Human Resources and IT Departments, ensuring effective access to a computer, internet, phone, email, video conferencing, our case management database, our encrypted file storage website, and our legal publication and training resources. They will be fully integrated into the organization's communication network via all-staff emails, public emails, regular project updates to all staff, all-staff meeting, veterans' team meetings, and our inter-office chat forums.</p> <p>Regarding training, Public Counsel will provide access to and verify that the PLL has undergone, at minimum, the above training. During weekly case review, the PLL will have the opportunity to bring any questions or concerns about their cases to the CVA team. Prior to the submission of any final work product or claim for VA benefits, a CVA staff attorney will checking the quality of the product and provide substantive, constructive feedback to the PLL, as needed.</p> <p>Regarding goals, the PLL will have a goal setting meeting with their supervisor at the beginning of their term, and a constructive performance evaluation at the end. The PLL will be able to share their successes and positive impacts with their peers in monthly project reports that go out to all staff.</p>

Recruitment (Strong and Diverse Pool of Candidates)	The Human Resources department has approved the attached job description for this position, and has posted it on Public Counsel's website and commonly used employment search websites. Public Counsel has received completed applications from several excellent candidates, many of whom are veterans themselves. Public Counsel is deeply invested in the prospect of providing invaluable experience to a PLL who is themselves a veteran, as this individual would contribute an essential and unique perspective to our work. All eligible candidates will be weighed in accordance with the job description. Staff have been trained on equitable hiring processes that minimize implicit bias.
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GRANT BUDGET				
Months of Funding		12		
Personnel				
	PLL Grant	Other SB Monies	Other Funding	Total
PLL Salary	\$57,000	\$0	\$0	\$57,000
PLL Payroll Taxes and Benefits	\$11,970	\$0	\$0	\$11,970
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$68,970	\$0	\$0	\$68,970

**PROVISIONALLY LICENSED LAWYERS GRANT
APPLICATION PROFILE**

Organization Name	Riverside Legal Aid		
	Total Amount Requested	PLL Start Date (Actual or Anticipated)	PLL End Date (Actual or Anticipated)
	\$50,000	05/03/2021	01/03/2022
County(ies) Served	Riverside		
Substantive Area(s)	Conservatorship; Consumer/Finance; Family/Domestic Violence; Guardianship; Housing; Immigration; Income Maintenance		
Impact (PLL's Work)	<p>The PLL will be hired to act as a supervised attorney is most or all of the work that Riverside Legal Aid engages in. Briefly those areas of law which are IOLTA funded have always included family law, landlord tenant, probate, conservatorship, guardianship, consumer protection and other appropriate general civil. Additionally RLA operates a federal clinic which includes bankruptcy and federal cases and funded by the federal court attorney admissions fund and American college of bankruptcy. Most recently RLA has opened a DACA preparation and citizenship preparation service. This service is completely unfunded and run exclusively by volunteers. The PLL whose resume is attached has prior housing experience and has expressed a strong interest in probate and conservatorship. She is currently being trained in Probate and conservatorship. The PLL is an immigrant who speaks 3 foreign languages and will be able to show a strong presence for RLA in the much underserved immigrant community which we target in many of our efforts. The PLL will be looking for full time employment in the legal profession and it is hoped that her talents and training she will receive during her PLL employment would make her an ideal candidate to continue at Riverside Legal Aid in the future.</p>		
Impact (Organization's Expertise)	<p>As I stated before all of the projects that Riverside Legal does at this time are areas we have have several years of experience in and as far as bankruptcy/federal is concerned we are the only legal aid in the inland empire doing work directly at the federal court. The only exception is DACA/citizenship. That is a project recently created in the summer of 2020. Every area that we serve has both experienced attorneys and experienced paralegals working for many years in these areas, including the DACA/citizenship volunteer attorney. Our homelessness prevention attorneys have all done litigation in that field. Our family law attorneys have done clinics and court appearances, hearings and trials in family law. All of the other areas of law are similarly staffed. All of these attorneys will oversee the PLL as she navigates through the various areas of law. The ED will also provide guidance and review.</p>		
Support (Support for PLL)	<p>Currently RLA in conjunction with our partner court Riverside Superior Court is doing a 8 hour training on Thursdays (2 hours each date) with mcle credit. The PLL is attending. She is also receiving training in Probate from our contract attorney who specializes in this area. The paralegal in probate is also helping. Another volunteer has recommended a PLI training in family law for legal aid which she will participate in as well. RLA has free access to PLI for all employees including volunteer and their trainings are excellent. Much of the training will be provided OJT by supervised participation interviewing clients at clinics. The supervisors will be the attorney specialists assigned to the clinics. PLI also has programs which address the issues of diversity, equity and inclusion, trauma-informed care, and cultural humility. The cultural background of the PLL should be helpful in the trainings in these areas.</p>		
Safeguards (Protections for PLL and Clients)	<p>All of our clinics and services are still being performed remotely with several exceptions and partial exceptions. The federal and bankruptcy clinic has reopened completely to clients at the federal court in a patio location for safety. Each clinic is supervised by 2 expert attorneys and 1 paralegal expert in bankruptcy. The probate attorney who is currently training the PLL is doing so by phone and video when he is speaking to clients and on court calls. The family clinic is partially opened. The attorneys and paralegals come into the office and speak to the clients by telephone. This makes it easy to train as the trainee can observe all the work being done and also hear and speak to a client on speaker. As more services are performed by the PLL and she is trained in them it will be done in person or partially in person or remotely if necessary as circumstances in the pandemic develop.</p>		
Recruitment (Strong and Diverse Pool of Candidates)	<p>RLA currently has 4 PLL volunteers working. 2 are male, 2 are female. Two are immigrants. 2 are persons of color. 1 is Spanish speaking. Another speaks 3 Indian/Pakistani languages. 3 are younger, 1 is middle-aged. One has a strong military and police background. The pool of PLL's who have been recruited are about as diverse as possible in</p>		

	such a small group. Diversity is applicable and necessary to all of our projects because of language issues and cultural sensitivity as to all. Our new and yet unfunded DACA/Citizenship clinic is particularly targeted to a diverse population of attorneys and other employees.
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GRANT BUDGET				
Months of Funding	8			
Personnel				
	PLL Grant	Other SB Monies	Other Funding	Total
PLL Salary	\$45,000	\$0	\$0	\$45,000
PLL Payroll Taxes and Benefits	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$5,000
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$50,000

**PROVISIONALLY LICENSED LAWYERS GRANT
APPLICATION PROFILE**

Organization Name	Santa Clara University Alexander Law Center		
	Total Amount Requested	PLL Start Date (Actual or Anticipated)	PLL End Date (Actual or Anticipated)
	\$90,000	07/01/2021	06/01/2022
County(ies) Served	Santa Clara		
Substantive Area(s)	Consumer/Finance;Immigration		
Impact (PLL's Work)	<p>The Katharine & George Alexander Community Law Center (KGACLC) is pleased to engage a Provisionally-Licensed Lawyer (PLL) to provide and expand legal assistance, education, and outreach for Santa Clara County immigrant communities. Our goal is to empower through education, advocacy, and service.</p> <p>Under the supervision of the Immigration Practice Director, the PLL will carry an immigration caseload including but not limited to assistance and orientation regarding T-Visas, U-Visas, acquired citizenship, political asylum, deferred action for childhood arrivals, and various aspects of citizenship matters. In addition to handling immigration cases, the PLL will advance legal redress for immigrant communities by staffing the immigration brief advice clinic and conducting know-your-rights community education and outreach events. The PLL will also staff the consumer debt clinic housed at the Santa Clara County Superior Court to specifically aid immigrants with consumer issues. Low-income and limited-English-speaking immigrants are particularly vulnerable to deprivations of consumer rights because of language and cultural barriers. COVID-19 has had a particularly adverse impact on the immigrant communities as well. Working with their supervisor, the PLL will learn from and collaborate with existing networks and community-based organizations serving immigrant populations to holistically address legal needs.</p> <p>The selected PLL is particularly qualified to do this work, as she was the recipient of a competitive 2019 KGACLC law student summer fellowship for a similar project. As a law student summer fellow she carried an immigration caseload along with the associated challenges of ever-changing laws. She skillfully and thoughtfully approached each matter; providing excellent client-centered service. Since that time, the PLL has been tireless in her efforts to empower and educate the immigrant community. She will leverage and further develop the important work and relationships already built for a successful PLL engagement at KGACLC.</p>		
Impact (Organization's Expertise)	<p>KGACLC was founded over twenty-five (25) years ago with a two fold mission: to train law students to be social justice advocates and to provide free legal services for low-income individuals. KGACLC serves 1,000 clients each year through 1) community outreach, 2) advice clinics, 3) educational workshops, and 4) full-representation cases, including court and administrative hearings. KGACLC practice areas include consumer law, immigration, and workers' rights. Our staff also serve as leaders in collaborative efforts to increase access to the legal system for low-income individuals and communities, and participate in media appearances, presentations, and training events.</p> <p>The PLL will work under the supervision of KGACLC's immigration and consumer law practice directors. Each has over 20 years of experience in their respective areas and are sought out experts in their field. Because KGACLC is a clinical program, we will provide the rich training, mentorship, and oversight needed for a successful PLL engagement, while expanding the availability of legal services for the low-income immigrant community.</p>		
Support (Support for PLL)	<p>KGACLC is uniquely positioned to provide the PLL with exceptional support. As a clinical program that trains law students and volunteer attorneys, we have a fully developed model that teaches community lawyering, legal skills, and the substantive law necessary to handle matters in each of our practice areas. We utilize both in-house developed resources (practice guides and templates) as well as online resources including commercial tools. In alignment with the academic schedule, a new training session begins three-times per year. The training is front-loaded at the beginning of the period, readying both students and volunteers to assist clients with maximum effectiveness. The anticipated PLL has already participated in much of the standard training; thus, continued engagement would mean advanced learning and</p>		

	<p>enhanced opportunities to serve the client community. Together with their supervisor, the PLL will identify needed training.</p> <p>Additionally, the law school and university, offer a plethora of trainings, panel discussions, and workshops each week during the academic year. Recent topics include: responding to anti-Asian violence in the U.S.; coded bias; bystander intervention; build your network; stress management; and mindfulness (to name a few). The PLL will have the flexibility to participate in personal and/or professional development trainings offered on campus.</p> <p>Outside of the campus offerings, the PLL will have access to the many community-based organizations that we partner with who host substantive law and/or other trainings.</p> <p>KGACLC is an environment that promotes and actively supports continuous learning.</p>
Safeguards (Protections for PLL and Clients)	<p>The PLL is well acquainted with the overall culture, mission, and procedures of the KGACLC office and will be able to immediately begin focusing on advancing the project. The supervisor(s) will have a regularly scheduled weekly meeting with the PLL, with additional availability on an as needed basis. Initial meetings will focus on developing a solid work plan that includes goals and objectives, desired outcomes, deliverables, timelines, potential resources (people, partners, technology, financial), and evaluation. Early on, the PLL will work with the supervisor to identify key stakeholders and community collaborators, scheduling introductions and meetings, as appropriate. Additionally, the PLL will have ready access to the KGACLC executive director who will help facilitate community connections and provide support.</p> <p>The PLL has already received extensive training through KGACLC's clinical program about delivering safe, effective, and sensitive client-centered legal services. She has had the opportunity to shadow attorneys and has also been observed interacting with clients. The PLL has experience working with and in community-based organizations that collaborate with KGACLC and who refer clients for legal services. She is quite familiar with our client base and thus can provide effective service.</p> <p>Lastly, over the last year, KGACLC successfully transitioned to remote client services. We utilize Zoom, telephone, and other online tools to connect with our clients and volunteers. We also conduct advice clinics and legal trainings online. Staff come to the office to perform essential services as needed (i.e. to receive original client documents). The PLL will be assigned a fully equipped individual office for use throughout the one-year engagement that includes a computer, telephone, hardware, software and other office equipment. The PLL will have access to the office on a limited basis for essential tasks until COVID-19 restrictions are lifted and will otherwise use remote resources for work as all KGACLC staff members do.</p>
Recruitment (Strong and Diverse Pool of Candidates)	<p>The PLL is a former KGACLC Cindy Avitia Immigration Justice Summer Fellow, selected and vetted through a competitive process that included staff, advisory board, and the foundation funder. She successfully completed the fellowship, our clinical course, and is a frequent volunteer. The PLL work is directly related to and an extension of the work of that was began during the fellowship.</p> <p>The selected PLL is exceptionally qualified for the role. She has a demonstrated commitment to public interest and social justice, connections to immigrant communities, fluency in Spanish, and experience executing the proposed project. Given the abbreviated grant application timeline and specific PLL criteria, we are quite pleased to have such an exceptional candidate.</p>

GRANT BUDGET				
Months of Funding	11			
Personnel				
	PLL Grant	Other SB Monies	Other Funding	Total
PLL Salary	\$67,164	\$0	\$0	\$67,164

ATTACHMENT 4

PLL Payroll Taxes and Benefits	\$22,836	\$0	\$0	\$22,836
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$90,000	\$0	\$0	\$90,000

**PROVISIONALLY LICENSED LAWYERS GRANT
APPLICATION PROFILE**

Organization Name	Senior Citizens Legal Services		
	Total Amount Requested	PLL Start Date (Actual or Anticipated)	PLL End Date (Actual or Anticipated)
	\$87,000	05/01/2021	06/01/2022
County(ies) Served	San Benito, Santa Cruz		
Substantive Area(s)	Consumer/Finance;Disability Rights;Health and Long-term Care;Housing;Income Maintenance;Other - Property Rights and rebuilding efforts of fire victims.		
Impact (PLL's Work)	<p>Senior Citizens Legal Services (SCLS) is pleased to have located a highly qualified PLL who is already well-versed with our services. Karin McGuire (PLL) was a prior volunteer in 2019 and has lived and worked in Santa Cruz county for many years. She graduated from Monterey College of Law in May 2020 and is eligible to apply for the PLL program. McGuire is presently once again volunteering with SCLS and will be hired with the funds from this grant. SCLS does not otherwise have funding to hire.</p> <p>In addition to expanding SCLS capacity in all our regular case services, our PLL will help SCLS focus needed services on our primarily Spanish-speaking clients in South county Santa Cruz and will assist fire victims in navigating administrative hurdles to obtaining rebuilding permits. SCLS has long had offices in both North and South counties within Santa Cruz, but for the past year has not had adequate funding to maintain rent and staffing in our South county office. South county residents are predominately Hispanic and have been the hardest hit by Covid-19. SCLS will leverage this PLL position to enable our Spanish-speaking paralegal to once again utilize our office in the Watsonville Senior Center and offer in-person weekly intakes.</p> <p>SCLS has experienced a large increase in requests for assistance since April 2020 and approximately 38% of our current cases involve Covid related concerns. The PLL will handle cases from start to finish under the direct supervision of our Director of Litigation and help us meet this increased service need. The PLL will help provide direct legal representation in judicial and administrative proceedings for cases involving residential care patient rights, tenant rights, unlawful detainers, financial and physical elder abuse, Social Security and SSI, Medicare and Medi-Cal; consumer problems, debt collection defense, and age discrimination.</p>		
Impact (Organization's Expertise)	<p>SCLS has been providing high quality legal services to persons aged 60 and older who reside in Santa Cruz and San Benito counties for nearly 50 years. Our Agency has long thrived on the model of utilizing high quality volunteer services who receive close supervision and training from our staff and directing attorneys. The new PLL position fits easily into our already established systems, and this is especially so where the selected PLL has prior volunteer experience at SCLS. The PLL will directly support projects which SCLS has offered our communities for decades. We are highly experienced with the subject matters our office handles and have a strong, well-established staff. We are also well connected with other service and community organizations.</p> <p>SCLS endeavors to provide a work environment that encourages professional development while supporting the PLL and their need for a sustainable work/life balance. The PLL will be provided with daily guidance and support from the core full-time staff consisting of Executive Director, Tanya Ridino; the Director of Litigation Melia Powell; and the Executive Assistant/Paralegal, Claudia Uribe. Ms. Ridino has nearly 20 years legal experience and over a decade working in the non-profit sector. Ms. Powell will offer the primary supervision for McGuire and has supervised all SCLS interns for the last 6 years. Ms. Uribe has been with our office for 7 years and will readily offer technical support to our PLL. The PLL will attend weekly staff meetings as well as a weekly one-on-one meeting with either Ridino or Powell who will provide mentoring and on-the-job training aimed at navigating the PLL through the transition from student to practicing lawyer. The PLL will also be encouraged to collaborate with SCLS legal advocates on specific cases to cultivate growth and achievement.</p>		

<p>Support (Support for PLL)</p>	<p>SCLS has rich professional development opportunities. We also value staff collaboration and utilize weekly case review meetings to leverage the existing expertise within our offices for training purposes. Each new client intake is discussed during these meetings to determine whether the case is a good fit for SCLS and next steps regarding legal representation. The meetings provide the opportunity for the PLL to brainstorm ideas with the staff and address potential challenges that may arise during representation. One on one check-ins throughout the case continue with our Director of Litigation and all case closures are carefully reviewed by her.</p> <p>As a non-profit organization on a limited budget, we utilize many free training opportunities. Our PLL may attend CANHR'S Spring Webinar Series, NCLER's senior legal training programs and utilize LAAC's on-line training database. All trainings will be provided in our conference room/library and also streamed via our "discord" account. Our PLL will also be offered the opportunity to attend CANHR's Annual Elder Law Conference in November 2021. Finally, our local Bar Association also has a rich program of MCLE materials including diversity, equity, and trauma-informed care that our PLL can download and self-study.</p> <p>SCLS also has robust internal systems which our PLL will have full access to including Microsoft 365 Office Suite, PIKA client management system and our local shared document drives where legal templates, samples, and other training materials are stored. The PLL will also have access to LexisNexis and FastCase for legal research. Finally, SCLS is fortunate to have strong connections throughout our legal community and a healthy, supportive board. Our PLL will have the opportunity to reach out to local attorneys and our board members for additional mentorship and learning opportunities. We understand that a well-supported PLL will best serve our organization and our community at large.</p>
<p>Safeguards (Protections for PLL and Clients)</p>	<p>SCLS has already hired a stellar candidate to fill the PLL role contingent on grant funding. The PLL is currently serving as a volunteer for us and working remotely from her home office. She has completed most of the steps for onboarding and has been sufficiently oriented to SCLS and its employees. Fortunately, this PLL served previously as an SCLS volunteer so on-boarding was efficient, and she has already begun participating in our weekly conference calls offering her important voice to the conversation about each new case in our office.</p> <p>Typically, each new employee goes through a two-step training process before beginning client interactions. The first step involves one-on-one training where the new hire listens in on an experienced staff member's client intake call. The second step involves answering any questions that may have arose, and then the new hire is supervised during her client intake call. In this particular case, our PLL had already gone through this training procedure, so she has begun her client intakes without need for additional training.</p> <p>Each client intake is then presented at our weekly case conference to ensure the matter is appropriate for SCLS assistance and to establish the next steps and level of service needed. Thereafter, the PLL supervisor is available on a daily basis. In addition to formal, regular meetings, supervision will take place through informal, unplanned interactions that arise from quick questions and conversations over the phone or email. These events will provide teachable moments that can be as instructive and meaningful as formal supervision sessions. We also have robust tools for working remotely including collaborating via Teams videoconferencing, email and "Slack" text messaging, so we are well-prepared to work with our PLL remotely, or in person, as she feels best.</p>
<p>Recruitment (Strong and Diverse Pool of Candidates)</p>	<p>As explained above, SCLS has already successfully completed the recruitment process for our PLL position. Claudia Uribe, our Paralegal/Executive Assistant has been with SCLS since February 2016 and previously served as our Office Manager. She truly is the link to all our moving pieces. Uribe is well versed in our recruiting and hiring procedures and posted the SCLS PLL advertisement on Ideal and Craigslist, our normal channels of recruitment. Ridino and Powell interviewed two candidates, but the hiring choice was made easy when Karin McGuire, our prior SCLS volunteer and recent law school graduate, expressed interest in the position. McGuire had actually been suggested as a possible candidate by an SCLS board member who remembered her previous position at SCLS. Uribe was in the process of trying to locate her contact information when McGuire emailed her responding to the Ideal</p>

	<p>job posting. SCLS is very pleased to be able to support McGuire in obtaining her full license while increasing our service capacity at the same time.</p> <p>SCLS has strongly felt the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. We saw a staggering increase in client calls for services, while simultaneously losing all our volunteer support for almost an entire year. Our county has been hard hit by the volume of Covid cases, with our large numbers of low-income Hispanics and agricultural workers suffering the most. The CZU Lightening Complex fires last year added an intensity to the need for help that our office had never experienced before. We are very pleased to have the opportunity for grant funding to bring on much-needed staff to our small team in order to best serve the needs of our community.</p>
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GRANT BUDGET				
Months of Funding	13			
Personnel				
	PLL Grant	Other SB Monies	Other Funding	Total
PLL Salary	\$72,800	\$0	\$0	\$72,800
PLL Payroll Taxes and Benefits	\$14,200	\$0	\$0	\$14,200
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$87,000	\$0	\$0	\$87,000

**PROVISIONALLY LICENSED LAWYERS GRANT
APPLICATION PROFILE**

Organization Name	Social Justice Collaborative		
	Total Amount Requested	PLL Start Date (Actual or Anticipated)	PLL End Date (Actual or Anticipated)
	\$65,000	05/31/2021	05/31/2022
County(ies) Served	Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus		
Substantive Area(s)	Guardianship; Immigration		
Impact (PLL's Work)	<p>The provisionally licensed lawyer working at SJC will provide direct legal representation for clients in immigration court. The work primarily consists of working directly with clients to prepare them for immigration hearings, prepare and review substantive applications and supporting documentation for filing in court, and litigate cases in immigration court. The PLL will work within the SJC team, directly with both legal support staff and other attorneys, under direct supervision of the Legal Director, to engage in zealous representation and advocacy for SJC's immigrant clients.</p> <p>With an additional lawyer, SJC will complete additional cases that were backlogged due to the coronavirus pandemic and resulting court closures. As court slowly opens up, current staff will be overwhelmed with the rescheduling of court cases that had been cancelled during the pandemic. The PLL would take advantage of training materials and courses that were created by SJC in late 2020 to hit the ground running. The PLL would then be prepared to go to court and represent clients in removal proceedings, allowing SJC to fully take advantage of the PLL program.</p> <p>The PLL will also participate in SJC's Pro Bono Program, by providing day-of assistance during monthly clinics. With immigration reform on the horizon, the remote clinic model that SJC pioneered in 2020 will be an essential tool to responding to changes in the law. The PLL's engagement in the Pro bono Program will allow it to grow while maintaining its high quality.</p> <p>The PLL would focus on the monolingual Spanish and Mam communities in California where SJC primarily works—in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus Counties. SJC is one of the few agencies with a physical presence in the Central Valley, and SJC would leverage the PLL to continue the zealous representation of marginalized communities in the Central Valley.</p>		
Impact (Organization's Expertise)	<p>SJC is an expert removal defense immigration provider in California. SJC has been providing direct legal representation to immigrants since 2012, primarily focusing on humanitarian law (asylum, special immigrant juvenile status, U and T visa, VAWA, etc.). Since 2012, SJC has hired and supervised many new law school graduates and newly licensed entry-level attorneys. SJC is accustomed to working with new lawyers or recent graduates who have limited experience in immigration law.</p> <p>The primary supervision of the PLL will be handled by the Legal Director at SJC, who generally oversees the provision of legal services. SJC's Program Manager supports the Legal Director in ensuring that all cases are assigned in a timely manner and that deadlines are communicated and respected. She also provides detailed case supervision and technical assistance.</p> <p>SJC has developed various types of technology to help staff work collaboratively to get work done. Because SJC has been working remote for the last year, staff is accustomed to working together to meet deadlines, provide feedback, review drafts, and finalize immigration court filings. The in-house expertise in this area will contribute greatly to the success of the PLL, who can rely on any number of staff members for help and guidance in administrative duties.</p> <p>SJC has deep experience working with underserved and marginalized communities. Many of SJC staff members are immigrants or were raised in immigrant families, and are deeply</p>		

	<p>rooted in the communities they serve. SJC staff is overwhelming fluent in Spanish, and many are trilingual, speaking Mam, English, and Spanish. This enables SJC to be culturally competent as we provide holistic legal services to clients.</p>
<p>Support (Support for PLL)</p>	<p>SJC has invested serious time and effort into developing internship and fellowship programs of various types of the years—from experiences for high schoolers to law students and post-grad fellowships. SJC has supervised so-called “bridge” fellows (post-grad law students who are waiting for bar results), including has supervised a fully remote fellow in 2020 that through the Legal Services Funders Network grant. SJC is committed to developing the next generation of social justice lawyers, and has taken its role as mentor very seriously through the years. We see the PLL Program in the same light as these experiences.</p> <p>SJC has developed varied training materials to train the next group of social justice lawyers. The training spans a variety of topics, from litigation to the basics of asylum law and removal defense, to direct and cross-exam, oral argument, brief writing, cultural humility and trauma-informed lawyering, secondary trauma, etc. These materials enable SJC to train fellows and new lawyers without taxing the current staff too heavily.</p> <p>These training materials have been created both in-house and taken from other leading sources, such as Pro Bono Training Institute, the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), and other experts such as Center for Gender and Refugee Studies, etc. The purpose of these trainings is to give new lawyers (or lawyers who are new to immigration law) a broad knowledge of immigration law and prepare them to represent the vulnerable population that SJC works with.</p> <p>SJC staff have access to CaseText, a commercial research database. SJC also has access to the trainings provided by the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), and has sponsored its attorneys to attend the California and/or national conference each year. SJC also has a huge database of motions, briefs, templates, and samples that are shared and used for the benefit of all staff.</p>
<p>Safeguards (Protections for PLL and Clients)</p>	<p>All SJC staff and interns go through a rigorous online training module through a web-based education platform. The trainings incorporate quizzes to assess comprehension, and management is able to view and track progress towards completion, as well as weak points in the assessment. The trainings developed for SJC attorneys are in-depth and range from trial advocacy and nuts and bolts of substantive law, to cultural humility and trauma informed lawyering.</p> <p>Besides the required onboarding training, SJC has built-in infrastructure to ensure that all interns, fellows, and new lawyers have the support they need to succeed. This involves weekly office hours which are held by upper management, including the Legal Director and Program Manager, and are open to everyone.</p> <p>Communication can be more challenging in a remote world, when staff can’t just drop in on supervisors to ask questions (and vice-versa). While dedicated office hours starts to address that need, SJC has also implemented other techniques to ensure that staff is well-supported and well-supervised. Slack is used for all interoffice communication, and Airtable is used to collaborate on substantive work for filing. Salesforce, SJC’s CRM, is used to track all important hearing dates, deadlines, and client information, and the sophisticated reporting allows supervisors to keep track of the direct reports’ assigned cases and caseload.</p> <p>All work is subject to quality control by management as well as the Legal Director. SJC staff all currently utilize peer-review systems to ensure that all work is reviewed once by a peer before it is reviewed by supervisors. All of the work of new lawyers and fellow is reviewed by experienced lawyers at SJC before it is submitted to court.</p>
<p>Recruitment (Strong and Diverse Pool of Candidates)</p>	<p>SJC has already posted job postings with local Bay Area (and beyond) law schools for the PLL position, and has posted the position on our website as well as Indeed.com. These avenues have typically been successful in attracting candidates to jobs at SJC. SJC will also utilize, if necessary, additional job search websites such as Idealist and Craigslist, which have also provided candidates for positions in the past.</p>

	<p>SJC uses a variety of criteria when evaluating candidates, and to that end, uses a variety of tools. In the past 6 months, SJC has developed an online assessment which has been utilized to evaluate legal assistants and case manager applicants, and SJC will use a similar assessment to evaluate the PLL candidate. This assessment was developed to evaluate the practical ability of candidates for open positions.</p> <p>SJC incorporates a written assessment for all applicants applying for attorney positions at SJC. The written assessment is developed to test the rigor of the legal analysis, issue spotting ability, and quality of writing of the lawyer applicant.</p>
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GRANT BUDGET				
Months of Funding		12		
Personnel				
	PLL Grant	Other SB Monies	Other Funding	Total
PLL Salary	\$50,000	\$0	\$10,000	\$60,000
PLL Payroll Taxes and Benefits	\$14,683	\$0	\$0	\$14,683
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$64,683	\$0	\$10,000	\$74,683

**PROVISIONALLY LICENSED LAWYERS GRANT
APPLICATION PROFILE**

Organization Name	UC Davis School of Law Legal Clinics		
	Total Amount Requested	PLL Start Date (Actual or Anticipated)	PLL End Date (Actual or Anticipated)
	\$89,000	06/01/2021	06/01/2022
County(ies) Served	Sacramento, Solano, Yolo, Yuba		
Substantive Area(s)	Family/Domestic Violence;Immigration;Other - Civil Rights		
Impact (PLL's Work)	<p>The PLL will work with the directors of the Immigration Law Clinic (ILC), Civil Rights Clinic (CRC), and Family Protection and Legal Assistance Clinic (FPC), performing legal research, document drafting, appearing in court, and assisting in the supervision of clinical law students.</p> <p>The ILC is one of a handful of providers offering high quality representation to indigent immigrants. The ILC was one of the first of its kind in the United States. Given its proximity to the Central Valley, California's agricultural center, the ILC is in a unique position to serve the state's large community of both documented and undocumented immigrants. The ILC has represented clients from all over the world, seeking release on bond, challenging removal orders, or seeking discretionary relief from deportation.</p> <p>The CRC advocates for the rights of prisoners and other indigents. Cases have addressed far-reaching constitutional issues in federal district courts and the Ninth Circuit. Issues have included claims of denial of medical or dental care, correctional officer misconduct, denial of freedom of religion, violation of due process, excessive force, and false imprisonment. CRC students also are encouraged to investigate matters involving gender, employment, education, housing, and police practices that may give rise to civil rights claims on behalf of indigent clients.</p> <p>The FPC is the only provider of free legal services to victims of intimate partner violence and sexual assault in Yolo County. Since opening in 1999, the FPC has represented hundreds of low-income victims in Yolo County and helped clients obtain restraining orders, financial support, and child custody. FPC further provides holistic legal advice and advocacy to victims on a wide array of legal areas impacted by abuse, including housing, employment, campus adjudicatory hearings, victims' compensation, and criminal matters.</p>		
Impact (Organization's Expertise)	<p>For fifty years, the UC Davis School of Law Clinical Program has provided legal services without charge to indigent persons, particularly client groups that have traditionally lacked significant legal representation, such as non-citizens, victims of domestic violence, and prisoners. At the same time, the Clinical Program provides opportunities for students to practice law under the supervision of attorneys and to learn about the justice gap in California for underserved populations.</p> <p>The PLL will work with the ILC, CRC, and FPC. These award-winning clinics have earned national and international acclaim for both their high-quality public service and their unique pedagogical value within the law school curriculum. The clinics are directed by experienced attorneys who excel both in the substantive fields of law, and in their ability to teach students. Professor Amagda Perez has co-directed the ILC since 2007 and practiced immigration law since 1993. Co-director Holly Cooper joined the clinic in 2006. Professor Carter White has directed the Civil Rights Clinic for 22 years. Professor Kelly Behre has directed domestic violence clinics since 2009, and joined the FPC in 2014. Accordingly, the Fellow will have the opportunity to work with and be mentored by lawyers with deep experience both in the practice of law and in training junior colleagues.</p>		
Support (Support for PLL)	<p>We expect to hire a PLL with Immigration, Civil Rights, and/or Domestic Violence experience through summer employment, clinical courses, or externships, and will provide any necessary additional training on substantive law in-house based on the training currently offered to clinical law students. The PLL will participate in the full-day orientation provided to clinical law students, taught by the clinic directors, which will include a range of practice issues, including confidentiality, trauma-informed practice, and client relations. The PLL will have the opportunity for direct mentoring and training from the clinic directors, who will</p>		

	provide feedback on the PLL's research, written work product, and oral advocacy. In addition, the PLL will mentor and supervise clinical law students, under the direct supervision of the clinic directors. The clinic directors will provide feedback on the PLL's feedback to the law students. In addition, the PLL may have the opportunity to participate in lectures, workshops, seminars, and conferences taking place at the law school.
Safeguards (Protections for PLL and Clients)	The PLL will never work on a case or matter that is not also under the direct supervision of one of the clinic directors. Accordingly, an experienced, fully-licensed attorney will review all of the PLL's written documents, statements in court, or oral client advisements, and offer any necessary suggestion, comment, or correction. Before any court appearance or client consultation, the PLL will talk it through with a clinic director. The PLL's work will be supported by three legal assistants working for the clinics. The PLL will interact with other attorneys, students, and support staff on a daily basis. In addition, the overall clinical program is directed by Gabriel J. Chin, Edward L. Barrett Jr. Chair and Martin Luther King Jr. Professor of Law at the School of Law, a faculty member with extensive clinical teaching experience. Professor Chin is in turn supervised by the Dean of the School of Law, Kevin R. Johnson, who is also a member of the clinical faculty. The clinics have successfully operated remotely since March, 2020. Accordingly, the clinical program is experienced in collaborative and cooperative work without being in the same physical space.
Recruitment (Strong and Diverse Pool of Candidates)	We will seek applicants with a J.D. degree, relevant experience in summer employment, clinics, externships, or pre-law-school employment, Spanish or other language skills, and a demonstrated commitment to support under-served communities. UC Davis School of Law has been very successful in recruiting. We have strong networks among lawyers interested in public interest practice, and among diverse groups of lawyers. We are one of the few, if only, law schools in the United States with both a majority minority student body, and a majority minority faculty.

GRANT BUDGET				
Months of Funding	12			
Personnel				
	PLL Grant	Other SB Monies	Other Funding	Total
PLL Salary	\$58,000	\$0	\$0	\$58,000
PLL Payroll Taxes and Benefits	\$31,000	\$0	\$0	\$31,000
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$89,000	\$0	\$0	\$89,000

PROVISIONALLY LICENSED LAWYERS GRANT
APPLICATION PROFILE

Organization Name	Veterans Legal Institute		
	Total Amount Requested	PLL Start Date (Actual or Anticipated)	PLL End Date (Actual or Anticipated)
	\$67,000	04/16/2021	04/16/2022
County(ies) Served	Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino,		
Substantive Area(s)	Family/Domestic Violence;Income Maintenance;Other - Veterans Law		
Impact (PLL's Work)	<p>Veterans Legal Institute (VLI) is hiring Chris Asmar, a former VLI volunteer, who currently holds a temporary provisional license issued by the State Bar. As a PLL, Mr. Asmar will be assisting with veterans benefits, discharge upgrades, and family law. His role will be as other first year attorneys in advice and counsel, document preparation, limited representation, conducting clinics in family law and veterans benefits, and placing cases through Veterans Legal Institute's pro bono attorney network which includes several family law mediators and the legal firm Sheppard Mullin.</p> <p>Veterans Legal Institute will leverage his provisional license to its full advantage by using Mr. Asmar's understanding of administrative processes.</p> <p>Mr. Asmar's work will focus on free legal aid for homeless, disabled, and indigent veterans, many of whom are survivors of post traumatic stress, traumatic brain injury, or military sexual trauma. COVID has drastically increased their anxiety and confusion because of the job losses, evictions, access to healthcare, needs for pandemic parenting plans, and government agency closures. For example, the Veterans Administration had been fielding over 30,000 calls a day about veterans benefits and the National Archives have been closed, limiting essential access to records. All of these stressors have placed our vulnerable veteran population at greater risk of homelessness and suicide.</p> <p>Mr. Asmar is particularly qualified to do this work as he is a former VLI volunteer Senior Law Clerk which gave him extensive knowledge and field experience in military cultural competency. In March 2021, Mr. Asmar approached VLI and asked to volunteer as a temporarily provisionally licensed attorney. Further, his background includes multiple volunteer positions in public interest law that includes self-help clinics, the Public Defender, and Public Law Center.</p>		
Impact (Organization's Expertise)	<p>VLI is one of the very few public interest law firms in the nation dedicated to veterans. All of the management, staff, and volunteers are veterans, military family members, or passionate veteran advocates. VLI's mission is holistic legal care founded in compassionate and strategic free legal services that is military specific. Since inception, VLI has provided free legal services to homeless, disabled, and low-income veterans using a small staff leveraging its pro bono attorney network. Practice areas include consumer law, family law, employment, estate planning, housing, veterans benefits, and discharge upgrades. In order to reach veterans who may be isolated because of transportation and communication challenges, VLI provides over 40 clinic dates a year in the Counties of Orange, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and Riverside. For years, VLI has held monthly clinics in family law and veterans benefits to meet the ever increasing demand for these practice areas. Senior Staff Attorney Nancy Jones, a USMC Military Spouse who volunteered for over four years at VLI before coming on staff, will supervise Mr. Asmar. Mrs. Jones has an extensive and successful background in veterans benefits, including appeals. She is currently supervising other staff attorneys and one other PLL who is volunteering at VLI. One of her recent wins is conducting a hearing with the Board of Veterans Appeals on behalf of a veteran suffering from post traumatic stress as a result of a shooting in the 1990s. Mrs. Jones presented medical evidence and persuasive arguments to the board that the VA incorrectly decided against the Veteran. The Board of Veterans Appeals sided with the Veteran and VLI granting service connection for PTSD. This resulted in a retroactive award of over \$109,000 dating back to 2013. The veteran's PTSD was subsequently rated 70% by the VA. He will receive \$1,567/month in benefits.</p>		
Support (Support for PLL)	Support will include internal trainings on military cultural competency, trauma-informed trainings that cover DEI issues including but not limited to veteran suicide and military sexual		

	trauma, LexisNexis, Clio, PLI, membership in the Orange County Bar Association its trainings and mentorship programs, listserves, and VLI's database of veteran benefit and family law forms and responses.
Safeguards (Protections for PLL and Clients)	PLL Chris Asmar will onboard as other VLI first year attorneys. This includes initial training, sitting in multiple hours of observation for professional client interaction, attending PLI trainings, assisting in clinics, using templates of form work, and having access to VLI's pro bono network. As a result of COVID-19, VLI maintains two phone call staff meetings and one zoom call per week. The team also communicates daily through Basecamp, emails, texts, and phone calls which provides a collaborative and cohesive network of support for clients. Senior Staff Attorney Jones will be able to ensure PLL Asmar provides safe, effective, and sensitive legal services to our veterans with daily in person communication, tracking of tasks in Clio, and regular one on one meetings to review his professional development and the progress of client outcomes.
Recruitment (Strong and Diverse Pool of Candidates)	Early in 2021, at least four PLL candidates approached VLI to volunteer. VLI chose two whose personal and professional aspirations were deeply connected to preventing veteran homelessness and suicide.

GRANT BUDGET				
Months of Funding	12			
Personnel				
	PLL Grant	Other SB Monies	Other Funding	Total
PLL Salary	\$59,000	\$0	\$0	\$59,000
PLL Payroll Taxes and Benefits	\$8,000	\$0	\$0	\$8,000
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$67,000	\$0	\$0	\$67,000

PROVISIONALLY LICENSED LAWYERS GRANT
APPLICATION PROFILE

Organization Name	Worksafe, Inc.		
	Total Amount Requested	PLL Start Date (Actual or Anticipated)	PLL End Date (Actual or Anticipated)
	\$105,000	02/01/2021	06/01/2022
County(ies) Served	Alameda, Contra Costa, Los Angeles, Marin, Orange, Sacramento, San Francisco, Santa Clara, Solano, Sonoma		
Substantive Area(s)	Employment; Income Maintenance		
Impact (PLL's Work)	<p>Since Worksafe is a statewide and national expert on occupational safety and health (OSH), our work to ensure stronger protections for workers at risk for COVID-19 has been in high demand. AnaStacia will be addressing this need by providing: (1) technical assistance, (2) impact litigation in collaboration with QLSPs and LSCs, (3) labor and employment training on COVID specific worker rights, (4) policy and administrative advocacy focused on ensuring worker protection during the pandemic, and (5) support and capacity building for impacted and at-risk Black workers. Data and studies are clear that Black workers are among the most at risk for employment and labor abuses, exploitation, and workplace hazard exposure.</p> <p>AnaStacia has extensive experience with representation of clients in unemployment insurance cases from her work for the past four years at the Sacramento-based Workers Rights Center, where she managed wage and hour cases, including representing clients at DLSE hearings and settlement conferences. AnaStacia also provided services on a range of employment issues to indigent clients through the Center's outreach clinics.</p> <p>Under the supervision of Jora Trang, AnaStacia will receive in-depth training on legal and policy advocacy specific to OSH protections for workers experiencing COVID-19 exposure as well as workers engaged in disaster relief, construction, wildfire disaster recovery, hotel hospitality, restaurant, warehousing, and the temporary and gig economies.</p> <p>As Staff Attorney, AnaStacia will provide legal assistance and representation at the request of QLSPs. In the pandemic, the majority of these will include filing complaints under the new COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) and the Wildfire Smoke Standard, which Worksafe helped pass. AnaStacia will also be co-leading coalitions to ensure effective enforcement of these standards.</p> <p>Worksafe is the current Bay Area Regional Coordinator working with the Labor & Workforce Development Agency on outreach to workers throughout the Bay Area on COVID-19-specific protections.</p>		
Impact (Organization's Expertise)	<p>Worksafe is the only statewide support center providing expertise and technical assistance to QLSPs and legal support centers (LSC) on occupational safety and health (OSH) issues. During the pandemic, IOLTA and EAF funded organizations have been working to provide COVID-19 specific resources and assistance to their clients. Worksafe has been at the heart of providing training and technical assistance regarding COVID-19 specific labor and employment remedies. Worksafe is also a statewide expert for OSH issues during disasters, disaster relief, and (in particular) wildfires.</p> <p>Worksafe's mission is to prevent worker injury and death by making workplaces safer for workers, and we are the only statewide legal services organization in California that works to protect people from job-related hazards and empower them to advocate for their right to a safe and healthy workplace. Worksafe promotes occupational safety and health with a focus on eliminating workplace hazards and workplace-created toxic hazards that impact at-risk communities in California. As a legal services support center, Worksafe focuses on protecting California's most vulnerable workers by providing advocacy, technical and legal assistance and training to legal services programs that directly serve the community.</p> <p>For almost 40 years, Worksafe has led campaigns that made California a national leader in workplace health and safety laws and regulations. Some of our victories include one of the nation's first COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards, the Injury and Illness Prevention</p>		

	<p>Plan, the Outdoor and Indoor Heat standards, the Wildfire Smoke Standard, and the Workplace Violence in Healthcare standard. AnaStacia will be supervised by our Chief of Staff, Jora Trang, who has 20 years of legal experience, and 10 years of expertise in OSH law. She will be supported by our staff members who all have expertise in public health, OSH, and race equity in social justice work.</p>
<p>Support (Support for PLL)</p>	<p>AnaStacia will receive in-house training in the following legal substantive areas: OSH, labor and employment, wage and hour, worker's compensation, public health, and public benefits. In addition, Worksafe's Chief of Staff has expertise in race equity issues and will provide in-house training on race, equity, diversity, and inclusion issues as well as cultural humility and implicit bias in legal work.</p> <p>Worksafe has an internal Race Equity Committee, which AnaStacia is currently an active member of. We are embracing opportunities to create implicit bias and race equity trainings that explore the critical importance of creating community and legal programming that is trauma-informed and incorporates cultural humility.</p> <p>Worksafe's legal team utilizes a shared leadership model; thus, AnaStacia will be incorporated immediately into a collaborative team environment where her leadership skills will be amplified in all assignments. Worksafe also incorporates an interactive professional evaluation and growth process. All staff receive immediate feedback on their work and are evaluated annually. New staff are evaluated after three months. These evaluations are supported by a process of continuous feedback.</p> <p>AnaStacia will meet 1:1 with her supervisor on a weekly basis to address professional growth. She will engage with the legal team on a daily and weekly basis to ensure that she has support for her legal work and to ensure a high level of supervision and quality control on all legal work.</p> <p>Worksafe is invested in AnaStacia's professional development. Worksafe's attorneys are encouraged and supported to attend trainings, conferences and MCLE sessions throughout the year that support their professional growth. These trainings include advanced and intensive trial advocacy skills training through the National Institute for Trial Advocacy, Class Action lawsuits with the Impact Fund, and legal workshops through professional coalitions and legal affiliations.</p>
<p>Safeguards (Protections for PLL and Clients)</p>	<p>As Staff Attorney, AnaStacia reports to Worksafe's Chief of Staff and Equity, Jora Trang. Jora is a 10-year veteran of Worksafe and was recently recognized with the California Lawyers Association statewide Loren Miller Legal Services Award. AnaStacia's onboarding to her position is taking place under a carefully planned and staged process designed by Jora with participation of all staff. Jora's supervisory management plan includes regular one-on-one check-ins, weekly Legal Team meetings, and involvement in Worksafe's daily "Power Meetings" and weekly staff meetings.</p> <p>AnaStacia is already integrated into Worksafe's existing accountability and evaluation process, including being assigned to an experienced attorney, Jora, who is responsible for the oversight and supervision of her work. The legal team is provided with mentorship and supervision as well by the Executive Director.</p> <p>Worksafe has worked remotely with a high degree of effectiveness for more than a year now; we do look forward to renewing in-person interactions during the grant period. We use Zoom, Google Meet and Google Chat, and other tech tools to bridge the divide as we are unable to meet in person.</p>
<p>Recruitment (Strong and Diverse Pool of Candidates)</p>	<p>Worksafe underwent a rigorous search from December to February when we screened dozens of candidates. During this process we held lengthy interviews over a three-tiered process. The first screening process engaged two dozen candidates who participated in telephonic interviews. The top candidates from these phone interviews were selected for "in-person" zoom interviews with our legal staff which took place over zoom. Three top candidates emerged from this second level. These three finalists then underwent an intensive interviewing process with all of our staff until we selected AnaStacia as our top candidate.</p> <p>AnaStacia was the standout candidate with over ten years of legal and litigation experience. We were delighted to have her join us as a colleague on Feb. 10, 2020. Worksafe is integrating AnaStacia into our administrative and policy work with supervision from the Chief</p>

	of Staff and Equity and Executive Director as well as peer support from her fellow Staff Attorney, Karin Umfrey, and other Worksafe colleagues.
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GRANT BUDGET				
Months of Funding	16			
Personnel				
	PLL Grant	Other SB Monies	Other Funding	Total
PLL Salary	\$84,500	\$0	\$0	\$84,500
PLL Payroll Taxes and Benefits	\$20,500	\$0	\$0	\$20,500
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$105,000	\$0	\$0	\$105,000

Recommended PLL Grant Recipients by Area of Law

Substantive Area	Program
Conservatorship	Elder Law & Advocacy
Consumer/Finance	Elder Law & Advocacy Legal Access Alameda Santa Clara University Alexander Law Center Senior Citizens Legal Services
Disability Rights	Child Care Law Center Elder Law & Advocacy Mental Health Advocacy Services Public Counsel Senior Citizens Legal Services
Education	Child Care Law Center
Employment	Elder Law & Advocacy Public Counsel Worksafe, Inc.
Family/Domestic Violence	Community Legal Aid SoCal Elder Law & Advocacy Family Violence Law Center Inland Counties Legal Services Legal Access Alameda Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice UC Davis School of Law Legal Clinics Veterans Legal Institute
Guardianship	Elder Law & Advocacy
Health and Long-term Care	Elder Law & Advocacy Mental Health Advocacy Services Public Counsel Senior Citizens Legal Services
Housing	Bet Tzedek Legal Services California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc. Child Care Law Center Elder Law & Advocacy Eviction Defense Collaborative Inner City Law Center Legal Access Alameda Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles Mental Health Advocacy Services Public Counsel Senior Citizens Legal Services
Immigration	Elder Law & Advocacy Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice Santa Clara University Alexander Law Center UC Davis School of Law Legal Clinics
Income Maintenance	Child Care Law Center Elder Law & Advocacy Mental Health Advocacy Services Public Counsel Senior Citizens Legal Services Veterans Legal Institute Worksafe, Inc.



The State Bar of California

OPEN SESSION

AGENDA ITEM

JANUARY 2023

LSTFC LAW SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP GRANTS COMMITTEE 3.1

DATE: January 23, 2023

TO: Members, Law School Fellowship Grants Committee

FROM: Dennis Tim Yee, Senior Program Analyst, Office of Access & Inclusion
Elizabeth Hom, Program Director, Office of Access & Inclusion

SUBJECT: Selection Criteria and Other Parameters for the 2023 Law School Fellowship Grants

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On September 18, 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill 2958 (AB 2958).¹ AB 2958 amends section 6140.03 of the Business and Professions Code to increase by five dollars the contribution collected as part of the attorneys' annual license fee to support Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) funded organizations. According to the amended statute, the additional five dollars "shall be allocated to qualified legal services projects [QLSPs] or qualified support centers... to fund law student summer fellowships for the purpose of supporting law students interested in pursuing a career in legal services for indigent persons."²

AB 2958 specifies that grants for law student summer fellowships shall be allocated pursuant to a competitive grant process administered by the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission (LSTFC). The State Bar must use the IOLTA funding formula to reallocate to QLSPs and support centers any funds that remain as of January 1, 2025.³

¹ See AB 2958, https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB2958

² Business and Professions Code section 6140.03(b)(1).

³ Business and Professions Code section 6140.03(b)(2)-(4). The IOLTA funding formula is in Business and Professions Code section 6216.

This memo recommends to the Law School Fellowship Grants Committee selection criteria and other parameters for administering these competitive awards for summer 2023.

BACKGROUND

There is a significant gap in access to civil legal assistance for low-income individuals and households in the state, which is compounded by the legal aid sector's recruitment and retention crisis.⁴ Low legal aid salaries, high student debt load, and other factors impact attorneys'—particularly attorneys of color—ability to remain long-term in legal aid jobs. This has significant impacts on access to justice for low-income Californians, including the costs of time and resources to recruit and train new attorneys, additional workload for remaining attorneys and advocates, and ultimately, on availability of much needed legal services for clients in need. To bridge the justice gap, it is important to address recruitment and retention challenges, support the pipeline of legal aid professionals, and encourage careers in public interest organizations. According to the California Justice Gap Study, interning at a public interest organization is the strongest predictor of whether a law student will continue to pursue a public interest career after graduation. Providing funding for summer fellowships can encourage law students to consider careers in public interest and increase the pipeline of attorneys into legal aid.

For several years, the Legislature authorized a \$40 contribution as part of lawyers' annual licensing fees for the support of legal services. Attorneys are permitted to "opt out" of paying this \$40. In 2021 and 2022, the Legislature increased the amount of this opt-out by \$5 to fund competitive grants for QLSPs and support centers to hire participants in the State Bar's Provisional Licensure Program. The Legislature continued the \$5 increase of opt-out amount in 2023 and 2024 to allocate competitive grants for QLSPs and support centers to fund law student summer fellowships. Any funds left over from the grants as of January 1, 2025, will go to QLSPs and supports centers via the IOLTA funding formula.⁵

To supplement the 2023 Law School Fellowship grants, the State Bar is partnering with California ChangeLawyers (ChangeLawyers,) a statewide foundation that provides scholarships, skills-based workshops, programming, and mentorship to support law students and recent law

⁴ See 2019 *California Justice Gap Study*, <https://www.calbar.ca.gov/Access-to-Justice/Initiatives/California-Justice-Gap-Study>; *Justice at Risk: More Support Needed for Legal Aid Attorneys in California*, <https://www.dropbox.com/s/i0j9w6zyyxyqsb/CA%20RR%20Report%20final%20revised%20021420.pdf?dl=0>; and *Legal Aid Recruitment, Retention, and Diversity: A Report to the State Bar of California*, <https://calatj.org/publication/legal-aid-recruitment-retention-and-diversity-2022/>

⁵ Business and Professions Code section 6140.03(b)(1). The statute further instructs that the entire five-dollar increase from each licensee who contributes must go to QLSPs and support centers without any deductions for State Bar costs. *Id.*

students graduates in public interest careers. Fellows selected by grantees for the 2023 Law School Fellowship grants will join ChangeLawyers's cohort of fellows and be able to participate in workshops, training, and networking opportunities to support their professional and career development.

To gather information about current summer law student programs, the Legal Aid Association of California (LAAC) conducted a survey among IOLTA-funded organizations, which covered topics including the number of summer law students, the duration of the program, compensation amounts and methods, plans for the 2023 summer internship program, and how outside funding is considered. The unpublished responses showed that IOLTA organizations have diverse approaches to their summer law student programs. Of the 44 organizations that responded, 40 had summer programs in 2022. These summer programs ranged from 6 to 19 weeks, with a majority (24 organizations) offering 10 weeks. The number of summer law students at organizations varied widely, with a range of 1 to 40, and the majority (31 organizations) hosting 1 to 6 summer law students. Of the 40 responding organizations, 23 provided compensation to their summer law students while 17 did not. Of those that compensate law students, 7 organizations considered outside funding and scholarships when determining the level of compensation, and contributed additional funds to ensure all summer law students receive the same amount. Compensation for summer law students at these organization ranged from \$1,000 to \$12,000.

Staff has also received informal feedback from grantees who were generally supportive of the goals of the fellowship program but expressed concerns that compensating one summer law student at a significantly higher rate than other law students would create equity issues. Some grantees also shared that they would not be able to accept a fellowship grant award if they could not compensate all of their summer law students equally.

On November 16, 2022, LSTFC created the Law School Fellowship Grants Committee and delegated authority to Law School Fellowship Grants Committee to approve the Request for Proposals (RFP), including scoring rubric, for the 2023 Law School Fellowship grants, and delegated authority to the committee to consider and approve the award determinations.⁶ The LSTFC invited members of the State Bar's Council on Access and Fairness (COAF) to participate on the committee to leverage their expertise and experience with diversity, equity, and

⁶ The resolution passed by the LSTFC passed reads:

RESOLVED, that the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission, acting under its authority to administer these competitive grants, creates the Law School Fellowship Grants Committee.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the commission delegates authority to the Law School Fellowship Grants Committee to approve the Request for Proposals, including scoring rubric, for the 2023 Law School Fellowship grants, and delegates authority to this committee to consider and approve the award determinations.

inclusion and recruitment and retention issues impacting the legal aid community. As such, the committee is comprised of two LSTFC members and two COAF members. This memo invites the Law School Fellowship Grants Committee's approval of staff's recommendations at its January meeting about the 2023 Law School Fellowship grant selection criteria and other parameters.

DISCUSSION

GRANT TIMELINE

AB 2958 is effective from January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2024. The State Bar anticipates two Law School Fellowship grant funding opportunities in 2023 and 2024. For first funding opportunity in 2023, staff recommends an award period of May 15, 2023, to September 30, 2023. This award period allows grantees to maximize the summer timeframe and provides flexibility for organizations to accommodate law students attending schools with either a semester (typically early to mid-May to mid- to late-August) or quarterly (typically early to mid-June to September) academic year.

Staff recommends setting a deadline of June 1, 2023, for successful grantees to select a fellow. If a grantee has yet to recruit the fellow by that date, then it would be required to return its award so that staff can reallocate the funding to another applicant. Any funds left over when the 2023 Law School Fellowship grants ends on September 30, 2023, will be carried over for allocation in the 2024 Law School Fellowship grants.

Table 1. Proposed Timeline

Date(s)	Activity
January 23, 2023	(Committee) Reviews and approves RFP and other grant parameters
February 6, 2023	(Staff) Release the application in SmartSimple
March 10, 2023	(Applicants) Submit applications in SmartSimple
Week of March 20, 2023	(Committee) Meeting to calibrate application review and scoring
March 13–April 7, 2023	(Committee and staff) Review and score applications
March 24, 2023	(Committee) Request LSTFC delegate authority for the LSTFC Executive Committee to approve final grant awards ⁷
Week of April 24, 2023	Committee meeting to review and recommend grant awards. Executive Committee meeting to review and approve recommended grant awards

⁷ Business & Professions Code section 6210.5 defines various tasks the LSTFC is entrusted with, including individual grant decisions, which are self-executing without any need for approval by the Board of Trustees. Because there are non-commissioners participating as members of this committee, it is appropriate for the commission or the Executive Committee, if authority is delegated to it, to approve the committee's recommendations.

First week of May 2023	(Staff) Notify applicants about awards
May 15, 2023	Grant period starts
June 1, 2023	(Applicants) Deadline to confirm the fellow or return funds
Early to mid-August 2023	(Staff) Release evaluations to fellows
September 30, 2023	(Staff and Applicants) Grant period ends. Fellow evaluations are due. Release grantee financial reports and evaluations
October 31, 2023	(Applicants) Grantee financial reports and evaluations due, and last day to return unused funds

REVENUE PROJECTIONS AND GRANT AWARDS

The number and size of awards will depend on how much the State Bar collects from the \$5 increase during the 2023 and 2024 fee cycles, which depends on how many State Bar licensees opt out of that contribution. During the similar \$5 increase for the Provisionally Licensed Lawyers (PLL) Grant, the State Bar received approximately \$768,000 for 2021 and \$792,000 for 2022. Staff projects similar figures for the 2023 fee cycle.

After careful review of various existing fellowship programs and feedback from stakeholders, staff proposes two award options for the committee's consideration. Compensation for both award options are higher than is typically offered. However, because of the acute recruitment and retention issues in the sector and disparities in compensation between the legal aid sector and others, the options seek to encourage law students to pursue careers in legal aid by providing a meaningful amount of compensation, inspire legal aid organizations to either increase compensation or begin to compensate law students, and ultimately increase the pipeline to legal aid.

Option 1: Applicants may apply for multiple grants each for \$12,500 with \$10,000 to be used solely for the compensation of one summer law student fellow and up to \$2,500 to cover payroll taxes, benefits and other direct or indirect costs associated with the fellow.

Option 2: Applicants may apply for multiple grants each for \$10,000 with \$7,500 to be used solely for the compensation of one summer law student fellow and up to \$2,500 to cover payroll taxes, benefits and other direct or indirect costs associated with the fellow.

Compensation at both \$7,500 and \$10,000 for a summer fellowship is higher than the average compensation (\$6,350) for summer law students as reported in the LAAC survey. Compensation at \$7,500 is above the highest minimum wage amount for California cities over a ten-week

period.⁸ Compensation at \$10,000 is above the California living wage for a single adult over a ten-week period.⁹ However, anecdotally \$10,000 in compensation for a summer law student is rare for any legal aid organization. Offering either amount could encourage organizations that to not currently work with summer law students to begin summer programs and could encourage organizations with existing programs to increase compensation for all law students. For organizations concerned about parity among their law students, the organization could outreach to law students specifically for this fellowship opportunity in advance and apply for funding with an identified law student. The State Bar could assist with outreach efforts to law schools, if needed.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Unlike other discretionary awards that the State Bar administers, AB 2958 does not limit Law School Fellowship grants to averting or redressing specific legal harms. Instead, the statute states that “funds shall be allocated pursuant to a competitive grant process administered by the LSTFC and not through the formula set forth in section 6216.”¹⁰ In addition, “preference shall be given to fund proposals for fellowships serving rural or underserved communities and that serve clients regardless of immigration or citizenship status.”¹¹ Staff recommends that the Law School Fellowship Grants Committee approve selection criteria that will direct awards toward those applicants best equipped to support their fellow on a compelling project, thereby maximizing the fellow’s access to civil justice contribution while protecting consumers.

Staff recommends looking at the organization’s ability and plan to recruit, train, mentor, guide, and supervise its fellows on projects that fall within its existing experience and expertise. Staff proposes that a successful response to the RFP persuasively and in detail describe:

1. How the organization will leverage the fellow on a project that is well within the organization’s experience and expertise vis-à-vis areas of law and client communities.
2. How the organization will protect the experiences of both its clients and the fellow through supervision and quality assurance safeguards for the fellow’s legal work.

⁸ Mountain View has the highest minimum wage in California at \$18.15 per hour. See California City and County Current Minimum Wages, <https://laborcenter.berkeley.edu/inventory-of-us-city-and-county-minimum-wage-ordinances/>

⁹ The living wage for California is \$8,800 for a 10-week period. There are variations by county. For example, in Los Angeles County, the living wage is equivalent to the California living wage. A living wage in San Bernardino is \$7,600 for a 10-week period; In Alameda County, it is \$9,600; and in San Francisco County, it is at \$12,000. See Living Wage Calculator, <https://livingwage.mit.edu/states/06/locations>

¹⁰ Business and Professions Code section 6140.03(b)(2).

¹¹ Business and Professions Code section 6140.03(b)(3).

3. How the organization will train, mentor, and otherwise develop the fellow.
4. How the organization will support—or, if the organization has already selected a fellow, supported—fellow’s engagement through a recruitment process to locate and evaluate a strong and diverse pool of law student candidates.
5. How clients in “rural or underserved communities and... clients regardless of immigration or citizenship status” will be effectively targeted and served, if applicable.

Criterion One seeks information about how the organization will make the highest use of its fellow to help ameliorate the civil justice gap. Criterion Two prioritizes supervision and oversight to protect consumers because fellows have yet to complete law school and are not licensed to practice law. Criterion Three emphasizes onboarding, professional development, mentorship, and other developmental support for the fellow to maximize the fellow’s value to and experience at the organization. Criterion Four seeks to ensure that host organizations can or did select an enthusiastic and qualified candidate. Last, Criterion Five adheres to the statutory preference for fellowships serving rural or underserved communities and that serve clients regardless of immigration or citizenship status.

Staff recommends the scoring rubric and guidance below to assist with evaluating proposals. The proposed rubric is based on the 2021 PLL Grants rubric in concept and considers commissioner feedback and lessons learned from other State Bar discretionary grant review processes. The rubric is a tool to guide discussion of proposals. The committee maintains discretion to recommend awards even where that means funding an application(s) that scored lower on the rubric and not funding an application(s) that scored higher.

Table 2. Proposed Scoring Rubric

SELECTION CRITERIA (88 PTS)				
Checkmark the appropriate ranking for each category, and then multiply by the number below.				
Category	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Below Expectations	Not Addressed
Impact: Applicant envisions work that will leverage the fellow on a project that is well within the organization’s experience and expertise.				
Supervision: Applicant articulates robust supervision and other quality assurance measures to protect the				

experiences of both its clients and the fellow.				
Support: Applicant describes a thoughtful plan to provide onboarding, training, networking, and mentorship to the fellow.				
Recruitment: Applicant lists thoughtful steps to select a motivated and qualified candidate (even if it has already selected a qualified candidate) from a strong and diverse pool.				
Number of check marks	X22 points	X16 points	X10 points	X0 points
Subtotal A				
FUNDING PREFERENCES (12 PTS)				
Checkmark the appropriate ranking for each category, and then multiply by the number below.				
Preference Category	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Below Expectations	Not Addressed
Serves rural populations: Applicant articulates the fellow's focus on serving rural communities.				
Serves underserved populations: Applicant articulates the fellow's focus on serving underserved communities.				
Serves clients regardless of immigration or citizenship status: Applicant articulates the fellow's focus on serving clients regardless of immigration or citizenship status.				
Number of check marks	X4 points	X3 points	X2 points	X0 points
Subtotal B				
Total (Subtotal A + Subtotal B)				

Staff proposes to include the following explanations in the RFP along with the rubric:

- **Impact:** Applicants should describe in detail the legal work that the fellow will perform

over the grant period (from May 15, 2023, to September 30, 2023). In the response, they should describe the types of cases with which the fellow will be assisting and the fellow's role in those cases. In addition, applicants should describe their organization's experience and expertise in the fellow's proposed projects—the interventions themselves (e.g. clinics vs. litigation), the areas of law, and the communities they serve.

- **Supervision:** Applicants should describe in detail how they will safeguard the quality of their fellow's services to clients as well as the fellow's own experience at the organization. In the response, they should state the supervisor and their experience with the project and supervising others. In addition, applicants should explain the steps that the supervisor will take to ensure that the fellow provides safe, effective, and sensitive legal services to clients.
- **Support:** Applicants should describe in detail how they will support and develop the fellow over the course of the fellowship and in encouraging a career in legal services for indigent persons. They should explain how the fellow will onboard, receive trainings, meet with their supervisor, network, and collaborate with other staff. Applicants should describe with specificity the substantive law, legal skills, other (e.g. diversity, equity, and inclusion, trauma-informed care, and cultural humility) trainings, and other supports (e.g. access to legal templates and commercial research databases) that will be provided to the fellow to assist them in their work.
- **Recruitment:** Applicants should describe how they recruited or will recruit and hire their fellow by June 1, 2023. They should explain how they plan to seek a strong and diverse pool of candidates and gauge the candidates' interest in pursuing a career in legal services for indigent persons. Applicants should note whether/how their evaluation criteria on recruiting the fellow relate to the proposed project. If already selected the fellow, applicants should note if anything makes this fellow particularly qualified to perform the work proposed.
- **Serves rural populations:** Applicants should describe the extent to which they would serve rural communities.¹²

¹² The State Bar typically relies on the California Access to Justice Commission's (Access Commission) definition of rural. The Access Commission recommends defining "rural" as areas that meet the medical service study area (MSSA) standard for "rural" or "frontier." The California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development identifies MSSAs using sub-county clusters of census tracts. The Access Commission argues that MSSA categories of rural and frontier—as opposed to urban—are better suited than counties to classify rural areas. Rural MSSAs have 50,000 or fewer residents and population densities below 250 people per square mile. "Frontier" MSSAs have population densities of fewer than 11 people per square mile.

- **Serves underserved populations:** Applicants should describe the extent to which they would serve underserved communities.

These funds are limited to serving those who are statutorily indigent. Therefore, applicants should explain how the targeted underserved population faces even higher barriers to accessing civil justice than do indigent people generally. Since “serves rural populations” is a separate criterion, “serves underserved populations” refers to serving other populations that are underserved relative to the indigent generally. Such populations may be defined with respect to categories including but not limited to race, ethnicity, age, limited English proficiency, disability status, and veteran status.

- **Serves clients regardless of immigration or citizenship status:** Applicants should describe the extent to which they serve clients regardless of immigration or citizenship status. They should elaborate on their policies and practices, including outreach efforts, to serve clients regardless of immigration or citizenship status.

The following provide guidance for “not addressed,” “below expectations,” “meets expectations,” and “exceeds expectations:”

- **Not addressed:** A proposal that scores “not addressed” in a category/criterion fails to satisfy that criterion in a meaningful way or lacks the relevant nexus. A proposal might fail to satisfy a criterion in a meaningful way if it articulates only a vague intention to do so. A response might lack the relevant nexus to “serves rural populations,” for instance, if it would serve only in an urban community.
- **Below expectations:** A proposal that scores “below expectations” in a category/criterion addresses that criterion but is insufficiently competitive or persuasive to justify a score of “meets expectations.” The proposal might aspire to do too little, for instance, such as only occasionally serving rural clients for the “serves rural populations” criterion. Or the proposal might lack sufficient detail, explanation, or basis in fact to demonstrate its contours or likelihood of success. Since such a proposal might still articulate a feasible fellowship, this score confers some points.
- **Meets expectations:** A proposal that scores “meets expectations” in a category/criterion is competitive and persuasive with respect to that row of the rubric. To be competitive, the proposal will be sufficiently ambitious and/or compelling to merit the use of competitive funds. To be persuasive, the proposal will describe circumstances sufficiently probative of the applicant’s intention and ability to accomplish its stated objectives in that criterion.

- **Exceeds expectations:** A proposal that scores “exceeds expectations” in a category/criterion satisfies the standard for “meets expectations” while standing out as particularly compelling or impressive. An application might be especially compelling, for instance, because it provides a unique opportunity for the law student to engage in special trainings or mentorship and/or to participate in an unusually impactful case or project. Or the proposal might be exceptionally detailed, thorough, evidence-driven, or otherwise well-conceived and convincing.

Staff recommends that the committee use its best efforts to distribute grants statewide. This would entail a geographic comparison of the highest scoring proposals. To the extent that particular regions might be under-represented among top-scoring applications, the committee could exercise discretion still to recommend awards to those areas. In doing so, the committee might observe that a strong—although slightly lower scoring—proposal would provide high quality and badly needed services to communities that funding would otherwise fail to reach.

Further, staff recommends the committee to exercise its discretion to prioritize funding for applications where a summer fellow is already identified. While the application will not require host organizations to apply for funding with an identified summer fellow, because law students typically secure summer positions in winter/spring, and the timing of this application process is late in that cycle, staff recommends that the committee encourage applicants to confirm their law student fellow early and include their materials in the application, if possible. Applications with identified summer fellows also increases the likelihood that grant funds will be expended timely.

APPLICATION COMPONENTS

Staff proposes that the 2023 Law School Fellowship grant application include the components below:

1. Form A: Project Profile

The project profile would include high-level information about the project such as its award request, length of fellowship, and project areas.

2. Form B: Project Description

The project description would include detailed information about the project. This includes the project’s impact, supervision, support, recruitment, and preference categories. It would also ask for detailed narratives about the applicant’s qualifications and resources for the project.

3. Form C: Project Budget

The project budget will collect information on the State Bar-funded fellow's compensation, and the amounts for the benefits, payroll taxes, and other indirect costs. Applicants can include costs between May 15, 2023, and September 30, 2023.

4. Form D: Budget Narrative

The budget narrative would include information about the summer law students' benefits, payroll taxes, and other indirect costs of the fellowship, if applicable.

5. Form E: Fellow's Application Materials

If already selected, applicants can upload the cover letter and/or resume of the fellow.

6. Form F: Project Assurances

Staff proposes that the 2023 Law School Fellowship grants use similar assurances to those for other State Bar-funded grant awards. Programs would have to acknowledge that:

- A. Applicant will use the funds only for "law student summer fellowships for the purpose of supporting law students interested in pursuing a career in legal services for indigent persons." California Business and Professions Code section 6140.03(b)(1).
- B. Applicant will return any unused 2023 Law School Fellowship grant funds within one month of the end of the award period (by October 31, 2023).
- C. Applicant will immediately notify the State Bar if the grant-funded fellow leaves the organization before it has finished spending down its award. Grantees that are unable to hire a fellow by June 1, 2023, must return their unused funds unless the State Bar, in its sole discretion, makes an exception.
- D. Applicant will not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disability, age, marital or domestic partnership status, medical condition, or sexual orientation.
- E. Applicant will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local employment laws as well as all other applicable laws and regulations.
- F. Applicant will make available to the fellow resources that are similar to those it provides to its other summer law students such as a space to work, computer

hardware, computer software, furniture, supplies, telecommunications, online services, etc.

- G. Applicant will comply with fiscal management and quality control procedures adopted by the State Bar of California.
- H. Applicant will file program and financial reports, as may be required by the State Bar, and cooperate with other data collection requests by the State Bar for this grant project.
- I. Any proposal submitted for a Law School Fellowship grant, and all documents submitted pursuant to issuance of this funding, are public documents, and may be disclosed to any person.
- J. The State Bar is permitted, in its sole discretion, to adjust Applicant's award at any time to reflect the actual amount of funding available for Law School Fellowship grants. Consequently, grantees shall not be guaranteed any specific dollar amount in grant funds, or any grant funds at all, if funds received are insufficient or unavailable to the State Bar.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Demonstrating effective use of these funds is critical to supporting future funds. Grantees must, therefore, report quantitative and qualitative data describing their clients and activities. Grantees will have to file a final financial report and program evaluation to describe the types of cases or matters on which the fellow worked, including notable outcomes.

Financial Reporting

Organizations that receive a Law School Fellowship grants will have to submit a final financial report documenting their payments to fellows. To ensure compliance with the authorizing statute, the State Bar reserves the right to require proof, at any time, of the amount, timing, and nature of payments towards fellow salaries, payroll taxes, and benefits. Proof might include paystubs, third-party payroll processor reports, benefits invoices, etc. that show the organization's payments for its fellow's work during the grant period.

Evaluation

At the end of the grant period, organizations must submit a report describing the contributions of its grant-funded fellow to the organization's services. The report will likely seek information

about the following topics, among others:

- The scope of work that the fellow performed during the grant period, including the fellow's greatest accomplishments;
- The effect that the fellow's work had on the organization's services to QLSPs or low-income Californians, especially notable case outcomes; and
- The organization's experiences during the award period.

In addition, a survey will be sent to grant-funded fellows to share their experiences during the fellowship. The questions will likely seek information about the following topics, among others:

- Fellow's experiences and learnings at the organization and as a part of the California ChangeLawyers cohort;
- Fellow's future career plans; and
- Fellow's demographic information.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Should the committee concur with staff's proposal, passage of one of the following resolutions is recommended:

RESOLVED, that the Law School Fellowship Grants Committee, acting on behalf of LSTFC under its delegated authority, approves the 2023 Law School Fellowship grants timeline, request for proposals, scoring rubric, and grant parameters, including allowing applicants to apply for multiple grant awards, each for \$12,500, as described in staff's January 23, 2023, memorandum to the Law School Fellowship Grants Committee.

Or,

RESOLVED, that the Law School Fellowship Grants Committee, acting on behalf of LSTFC under its delegated authority, approves the 2023 Law School Fellowship grants timeline, request for proposals, scoring rubric, and grant parameters, including allowing applicants to apply for multiple grant awards, each for \$10,000, as described in staff's January 23, 2023, memorandum to the Law School Fellowship Grants Committee.

ATTACHMENT(S) LIST

- A. 2023 Law School Fellowship Grant Request for Proposals



The State Bar of California

2023 Law School Fellowship Grant Request for Proposals

Application available in SmartSimple: Monday, February 6, 2023

Deadline to submit application in SmartSimple: Friday, March 10, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. (PT)

Background

On September 18, 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill 2958 (AB 2958).¹ AB 2958 amends section 6140.03 of the Business and Professions Code to increase by five dollars the contribution collected as part of the attorneys' annual license fee to support Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) funded organizations. According to the amended statute, the additional five dollars "shall be allocated to qualified legal services projects [QLSPs] or qualified support centers... to fund law student summer fellowships for the purpose of supporting law students interested in pursuing a career in legal services for indigent persons."²

AB 2958 specifies that grants for law student summer fellowships shall be allocated pursuant to a competitive grant process administered by the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission (LSTFC). The State Bar must use the IOLTA funding formula to reallocate to QLSPs and support centers any funds that remain as of January 1, 2025.³ The following is an excerpt of AB 2958's relevant language:

Section 6140.03 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

6140.03.

(a) The board shall increase each of the annual license fees fixed by Sections 6140 and 6141 by an additional forty-five dollars (\$45), to be allocated only for the purposes established pursuant to Section 6033 and subdivision (b), except to the extent that a licensee elects not to support those activities.

¹ See AB 2958, https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB2958

² Business and Professions Code section 6140.03(b)(1).

³ Business and Professions Code section 6140.03(b)(2)-(4). The IOLTA funding formula is in Business and Professions Code section 6216.

(b) (1) Five dollars (\$5) of the forty-five-dollar (\$45) fee shall be allocated to qualified legal services projects or qualified support centers, as defined in Section 6213, to fund law student summer fellowships for the purpose of supporting law students interested in pursuing a career in legal services for indigent persons. The State Bar shall not make any deductions from the five dollars (\$5) for any reason, including, but not limited to, administrative fees, costs, or expenses of the State Bar.

(2) Except as provided in paragraphs (4) and (5), funds shall be allocated pursuant to a competitive grant process administered by the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission and not through the formula set forth in Section 6216.

(3) In awarding these grants, preference shall be given to fund proposals for fellowships serving rural or underserved communities and that serve clients regardless of immigration or citizenship status.

(4) Any funds under paragraph (1) not allocated as of January 1, 2025, shall be distributed to qualified legal services projects and support centers pursuant to the formula set forth in Section 6216.

(5) The allocation described in this subdivision shall remain in effect until December 31, 2024, and after that date, the entire forty-five dollars (\$45) shall be allocated only for the purposes established pursuant to Section 6033.

(c) The invoice provided to licensees for payment of the annual license fee shall provide each licensee the option of deducting forty-five dollars (\$45) from the annual license fee if the licensee elects not to have this amount allocated for the purposes established pursuant to Section 6033.

(d) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2023.

AB 2958 is effective from January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2024. The State Bar anticipates two Law School Fellowship grant funding opportunities in 2023 and 2024. The first funding opportunity in 2023 will have an award period of May 15, 2023, to September 30, 2023.

June 1, 2023, is the deadline for successful grantees to select a fellow. If a grantee has yet to recruit the fellow by that date, then it would be required to return its award so that the State Bar can reallocate the funding to another applicant. Any funds left over when the 2023 Law

School Fellowship grants ends on September 30, 2023, will be carried over for allocation in the 2024 Law School Fellowship grants.

Eligibility

AB 2958 specifies that only current California QLSPs and support centers—those “defined in [California Business and Professions Code] section 6213”—may receive a competitive Law Student Summer Fellowship Program grant. Interested organizations must submit their grant proposal via the State Bar’s grants management platform, SmartSimple, by **Friday, March 10, at 5:00 p.m. (PT)**. No extensions will be granted.

Competitive Grant Parameters

1. 2023 Law Student Summer Fellowship Grant awards must be used to fund law student summer fellowships for the purpose of supporting law students interested in pursuing a career in legal services for indigent persons.
2. Grant funds must be used to provide services to indigent Californians, as defined by California Business and Professions Code section 6213(d).
3. (This section has two options. It will be finalized when the Law School Fellowship Grants Committee approves grant parameters.)

Applicants may apply for multiple grants each for \$12,500 with \$10,000 to be used solely for the compensation of one summer law student fellow and up to \$2,500 to cover payroll taxes, benefits and other direct or indirect costs associated with the fellow.

Or,

Applicants may apply for multiple grants each for \$10,000 with \$7,500 to be used solely for the compensation of one summer law student fellow and up to \$2,500 to cover payroll taxes, benefits and other direct or indirect costs associated with the fellow.

4. Applicants that serve rural or underserved communities and that serve clients regardless of immigration or citizenship status shall receive preference, as required by AB 2958.

5. Before June 1, 2023, organizations will need to submit the organization's written offer to the law student fellow, which the fellow has accepted.

Award Information

The number and size of awards will depend on how much the State Bar collects from the \$5 increase during the 2023 and 2024 fee cycles, which depends on how many State Bar licensees opt out of that contribution. During the similar \$5 increase for the Provisionally Licensed Lawyers (PLL) Grant, the State Bar received approximately \$768,000 for 2021 and \$792,000 for 2022. The State Bar projects similar figures for the 2023 fee cycle.

Grantees will have to return any unused portion of their award after the end of the 2023 Law Student Summer Fellowship Program by October 31, 2023. Extensions will be unavailable. Funds returned to the State Bar after the 2023 Law Student Summer Fellowship Program will be carried over for allocation in the 2024 Law Student Summer Fellowship Program. Grant payment will arrive in one installment during the grant period and State Bar staff will monitor spend down in the final financial report.

Support Provided

To supplement the 2023 Law School Fellowship grants, the State Bar is partnering with California ChangeLawyers (ChangeLawyers,) a statewide foundation that provides scholarships, skills-based workshops, programming, and mentorship to support law students and recent law students graduates in public interest careers. Fellows selected by grantees for the 2023 Law School Fellowship grants will join ChangeLawyers's cohort of fellows and be able to participate in workshops, training, and networking opportunities to support their professional and career development.

Selection Criteria

Award decisions are final and without appeal. Unlike other discretionary awards that the State Bar administers, AB 2958 does not limit Law School Fellowship grants to averting or redressing specific legal harms. The Law School Fellowship Grants Committee has therefore set selection criteria that will direct awards toward those applicants best equipped to support their fellow on a compelling project, thereby maximizing the fellow's access to civil justice contribution while protecting consumers. This includes looking at the organization's ability and plan to recruit, train, mentor, guide, and supervise its fellows on projects that fall within its existing experience and expertise.

A successful response to the RFP will persuasively and in detail describe:

1. How the organization will leverage the fellow on a project that is well within the organization's experience and expertise vis-à-vis areas of law and client communities.
2. How the organization will protect the experiences of both its clients and the fellow through supervision and quality assurance safeguards for the fellow's legal work.
3. How the organization will train, mentor, and otherwise develop the fellow.
4. How the organization will support—or, if the organization has already selected a fellow, supported—fellow's engagement through a recruitment process to locate and evaluate a strong and diverse pool of law student candidates.
5. How clients in "rural or underserved communities and... clients regardless of immigration or citizenship status" will be effectively targeted and served, if applicable.

The Law School Fellowship Grants Committee will use their best efforts to distribute grants statewide. Additionally, the Committee has adopted the following rubric to guide its deliberations:

SELECTION CRITERIA (88 PTS)				
Checkmark the appropriate ranking for each category, and then multiply by the number below.				
Category	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Below Expectations	Not Addressed
Impact: Applicant envisions work that will leverage the fellow on a project that is well within the organization's experience and expertise.				
Supervision: Applicant articulates robust supervision and other quality assurance measures to protect the experiences of both its clients and the fellow.				
Support: Applicant describes a thoughtful plan to provide onboarding, training, networking, and mentorship to the fellow.				
Recruitment: Applicant lists thoughtful steps to select a motivated and qualified candidate (even if it has already				

selected a qualified candidate) from a strong and diverse pool.				
Number of check marks	X22 points	X16 points	X10 points	X0 points
Subtotal A				
FUNDING PREFERENCES (12 PTS)				
Checkmark the appropriate ranking for each category, and then multiply by the number below.				
Preference Category	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Below Expectations	Not Addressed
Serves rural populations: Applicant articulates the fellow's focus on serving rural communities.				
Serves underserved populations: Applicant articulates the fellow's focus on serving underserved communities.				
Serves clients regardless of immigration or citizenship status: Applicant articulates the fellow's focus on serving clients regardless of immigration or citizenship status.				
Number of check marks	X4 points	X3 points	X2 points	X0 points
Subtotal B				
Total (Subtotal A + Subtotal B)				

Note: The rubric is a tool to guide discussion of proposals. The committee maintains discretion to recommend awards even where that means funding an application(s) that scored lower on the rubric and not funding an application(s) that scored higher.

The following explanations accompany the rubric:

- **Impact:** Applicants should describe in detail the legal work that the fellow will perform over the grant period (from May 15, 2023, to September 30, 2023). In the response, they should describe the types of cases with which the fellow will be assisting and the fellow's role in those cases. In addition, applicants should describe their organization's experience and expertise in the fellow's proposed projects—the interventions themselves (e.g. clinics vs. litigation), the areas of law, and the communities they serve.

- **Supervision:** Applicants should describe in detail how they will safeguard the quality of their fellow’s services to clients as well as the fellow’s own experience at the organization. In the response, they should state the supervisor and their experience with the project and supervising others. In addition, applicants should explain the steps that the supervisor will take to ensure that the fellow provides safe, effective, and sensitive legal services to clients.
- **Support:** Applicants should describe in detail how they will support and develop the fellow over the course of the fellowship and in encouraging a career in legal services for indigent persons. They should explain how the fellow will onboard, receive trainings, meet with their supervisor, network, and collaborate with other staff. Applicants should describe with specificity the substantive law, legal skills, other (e.g. diversity, equity, and inclusion, trauma-informed care, and cultural humility) trainings, and other supports (e.g. access to legal templates and commercial research databases) that will be provided to the fellow to assist them in their work.
- **Recruitment:** Applicants should describe how they recruited or will recruit and hire their fellow by June 1, 2023. They should explain how they plan to seek a strong and diverse pool of candidates and gauge the candidates’ interest in pursuing a career in legal services for indigent persons. Applicants should note whether/how their evaluation criteria on recruiting the fellow relate to the proposed project. If already selected the fellow, applicants should note if anything makes this fellow particularly qualified to perform the work proposed.
- **Serves rural populations:** Applicants should describe the extent to which they would serve rural communities.

The State Bar typically relies on the California Access to Justice Commission’s (Access Commission) definition of rural. The Access Commission recommends defining “rural” as areas that meet the medical service study area (MSSA) standard for “rural” or “frontier.” The California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development identifies MSSAs using sub-county clusters of census tracts. The Access Commission argues that MSSA categories of rural and frontier—as opposed to urban—are better suited than counties to classify rural areas. Rural MSSAs have 50,000 or fewer residents and population densities below 250 people per square mile. “Frontier” MSSAs have population densities of fewer than 11 people per square mile.

- **Serves underserved populations:** Applicants should describe the extent to which they would serve underserved communities.

These funds are limited to serving those who are statutorily indigent. Therefore, applicants should explain how the targeted underserved population faces even higher barriers to accessing civil justice than do indigent people generally. Since “serves rural populations” is a separate criterion, “serves underserved populations” refers to serving other populations that are underserved relative to the indigent generally. Such populations may be defined with respect to categories including but not limited to race, ethnicity, age, limited English proficiency, disability status, and veteran status.

- **Serves clients regardless of immigration or citizenship status:** Applicants should describe the extent to which they serve clients regardless of immigration or citizenship status. They should elaborate on their policies and practices, including outreach efforts, to serve clients regardless of immigration or citizenship status.

The following provide guidance for “not addressed,” “below expectations,” “meets expectations,” and “exceeds expectations:”

- **Not addressed:** A proposal that scores “not addressed” in a category/criterion fails to satisfy that criterion in a meaningful way or lacks the relevant nexus. A proposal might fail to satisfy a criterion in a meaningful way if it articulates only a vague intention to do so. A response might lack the relevant nexus to “serves rural populations,” for instance, if it would serve only in an urban community.
- **Below expectations:** A proposal that scores “below expectations” in a category/criterion addresses that criterion but is insufficiently competitive or persuasive to justify a score of “meets expectations.” The proposal might aspire to do too little, for instance, such as only occasionally serving rural clients for the “serves rural populations” criterion. Or the proposal might lack sufficient detail, explanation, or basis in fact to demonstrate its contours or likelihood of success. Since such a proposal might still articulate a feasible fellowship, this score confers some points.
- **Meets expectations:** A proposal that scores “meets expectations” in a category/criterion is competitive and persuasive with respect to that row of the rubric. To be competitive, the proposal will be sufficiently ambitious and/or compelling to merit the use of competitive funds. To be persuasive, the proposal will describe circumstances

sufficiently probative of the applicant’s intention and ability to accomplish its stated objectives in that criterion.

- **Exceeds expectations:** A proposal that scores “exceeds expectations” in a category/criterion satisfies the standard for “meets expectations” while standing out as particularly compelling or impressive. An application might be especially compelling, for instance, because it provides a unique opportunity for the law student to engage in special trainings or mentorship and/or to participate in an unusually impactful case or project. Or the proposal might be exceptionally detailed, thorough, evidence-driven, or otherwise well-conceived and convincing.

2023 Law Student Summer Fellowship Grantmaking Timeline:

Date(s)	Activity
February 6, 2023	Application is released in SmartSimple
March 10, 2023	Deadline to submit applications in SmartSimple
First week of May 2023	Awards notification
May 15, 2023	Start of grant period
June 1, 2023	Deadline to confirm the fellow or return funds
Early to mid-August 2023	Evaluations are released to fellows
September 30, 2023	Grant period ends. Fellow evaluations are due. Grantee financial reports and evaluations are released
October 31, 2023	Grantee financial reports and evaluations due, and last day to return unused funds

RFP Application

A complete 2023 Law Student Summer Fellowship grant application will include the components below. Please see the application instructions for detailed guidance

1. Form A: Project Profile

The project profile would include high-level information about the project such as its award request, length of fellowship, and project areas.

2. Form B: Project Description

The project description would include detailed information about the project. This includes the project’s impact, supervision, support, recruitment, and preference categories. It would also ask for detailed narratives about the applicant’s qualifications and resources for the project.

3. Form C: Project Budget

The project budget will collect information on the State Bar-funded fellow's compensation, and the amounts for the benefits, payroll taxes, and other indirect costs. Applicants can include costs between May 15, 2023, and September 30, 2023.

4. Form D: Budget Narrative

The budget narrative would include information about the summer law students' benefits, payroll taxes, and other indirect costs of the fellowship, if applicable.

5. Form E: Fellow's Application Materials

If already selected, applicants can upload the cover letter and/or resume of the fellow.

6. Form F: Project Assurances

Programs will have to acknowledge the following:

- A. Applicant will use the funds only for "law student summer fellowships for the purpose of supporting law students interested in pursuing a career in legal services for indigent persons." California Business and Professions Code section 6140.03(b)(1).
- B. Applicant will return any unused 2023 Law School Fellowship grant funds within one month of the end of the award period (by October 31, 2023).
- C. Applicant will immediately notify the State Bar if the grant-funded fellow leaves the organization before it has finished spending down its award. Grantees that are unable to hire a fellow by June 1, 2023, must return their unused funds unless the State Bar, in its sole discretion, makes an exception.
- D. Applicant will not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disability, age, marital or domestic partnership status, medical condition, or sexual orientation.
- E. Applicant will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local employment laws as well as all other applicable laws and regulations.
- F. Applicant will make available to the fellow resources that are similar to those it provides to its other summer law students such as a space to work, computer hardware, computer software, furniture, supplies, telecommunications, online services, etc.

- G. Applicant will comply with fiscal management and quality control procedures adopted by the State Bar of California.
- H. Applicant will file program and financial reports, as may be required by the State Bar, and cooperate with other data collection requests by the State Bar for this grant project.
- I. Any proposal submitted for a Law School Fellowship grant, and all documents submitted pursuant to issuance of this funding, are public documents, and may be disclosed to any person.
- J. The State Bar is permitted, in its sole discretion, to adjust Applicant's award at any time to reflect the actual amount of funding available for Law School Fellowship grants. Consequently, grantees shall not be guaranteed any specific dollar amount in grant funds, or any grant funds at all, if funds received are insufficient or unavailable to the State Bar.

Reporting Requirements

Demonstrating effective use of these funds is critical to supporting future funds. Grantees must, therefore, report quantitative and qualitative data describing their clients and activities. Grantees will have to file a final financial report and program evaluation to describe the types of cases or matters on which the fellow worked, including notable outcomes.

Financial Reporting

Organizations that receive a Law School Fellowship grants will have to submit a final financial report documenting their payments to fellows. To ensure compliance with the authorizing statute, the State Bar reserves the right to require proof, at any time, of the amount, timing, and nature of payments towards fellow salaries, payroll taxes, and benefits. Proof might include paystubs, third-party payroll processor reports, benefits invoices, etc. that show the organization's payments for its fellow's work during the grant period.

Evaluation

At the end of the grant period, organizations must submit a report describing the contributions of its grant-funded fellow to the organization's services. The report will likely seek information about the following topics, among others:

- The scope of work that the fellow performed during the grant period, including the

fellow's greatest accomplishments;

- The effect that the fellow's work had on the organization's services to QLSPs or low-income Californians, especially notable case outcomes; and
- The organization's experiences during the award period.

In addition, a survey will be sent to grant-funded fellows to share their experiences during the fellowship. The questions will likely seek information about the following topics, among others:

- Fellow's experiences and learnings at the organization and as a part of the California ChangeLawyers cohort;
- Fellow's future career plans; and
- Fellow's demographic information.

For Technical Support

If you have any questions, please contact Dennis Tim Yee at 415-538-2240 or dennis.yee@calbar.ca.gov

Attachment H: Proposed Revisions to State Bar RulesArticle 3. Applications and distributions

Rule 3.680 Application for Trust Fund Program grants

To be considered for a Trust Fund Program grant, a qualified legal services project or qualified support center seeking a Trust Fund Program grant must submit a timely and complete application for funding in the manner prescribed by the Commission. The applicant must agree to use any grant in accordance with grant terms and legal requirements.

...

(F) Qualified legal services projects and support centers may apply for competitive discretionary grants if they meet threshold eligibility requirements for those funding opportunities. A scoring rubric will be utilized to aid in the review and evaluation of competitive discretionary grant applications. The scoring rubric may consist of general selection criteria such as Impact, Administration, and Evaluation as well as other grant-specific considerations. Selection criteria, point allocations, and implementation of the scoring rubric will be at the discretion of the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission.

Attachment B: Proposed Revisions to State Bar RulesArticle 3. Applications and distributions

Rule 3.680 Application for Trust Fund Program grants

To be considered for a Trust Fund Program grant, a qualified legal services project or qualified support center seeking a Trust Fund Program grant must submit a timely and complete application for funding in the manner prescribed by the Commission. The applicant must agree to use any grant in accordance with grant terms and legal requirements.

...

(F) Qualified legal services projects and support centers may apply for competitive discretionary grants if they meet threshold eligibility requirements for those funding opportunities. A scoring rubric will be utilized to aid in the review and evaluation of competitive discretionary grant applications. The scoring rubric should, absent an explanation from the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission, consist of the general selection criteria, Impact, Administration, and Evaluation, as well as other grant-specific criteria. Selection criteria, point allocations, and implementation of the scoring rubric will be at the discretion of the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission.



The State Bar of California

OPEN SESSION
AGENDA ITEM 3.5
AUGUST 2023
LEGAL SERVICES TRUST FUND COMMISSION

DATE: August 10, 2023

TO: Members, Legal Services Trust Fund Commission

FROM: Members, Legal Services Trust Fund Commission Rules Committee

SUBJECT: Recommend Codifying Requirements for Law School Clinical Programs

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This memo is part of the continuing work of the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission (LSTFC) to revise the State Bar Rules for the Legal Services Trust Fund Program (rules). The overarching goal of these revisions is to ensure accuracy, clarity, transparency, and consistency in grants administration for applicants, grantees, the LSTFC, and State Bar staff.

Law School Clinical Programs (LSCPs) are a type of qualified legal services project (QLSP). However, because of the unique structure of LSCPs and their relationships to law schools, some rules that govern QLSPs generally may not be suitable for LSCPs. Specifically, this memo asks six questions related to LSCPs:

1. How should LSCPs demonstrate they are an “identifiable law school unit?”
2. What documentation must a LSCP submit to establish nonprofit status?
3. How is duration of operations calculated for LSCPs?
4. How should LSCPs document community support and cash funding?
5. How should teaching time be handled on applications and spending reports?
6. How can LSCPs fulfill their obligation to submit audits?

The working group sought preliminary advice about these topics through three focus groups. Two focus groups were composed primarily of law school clinics that have never been Interest on Lawyers’ Trust Accounts (IOLTA) grantees. The third focus group was composed of current LSCP grantees. The working group also circulated proposals to the legal aid community via the

Legal Aid Association of California (LAAC) for three weeks. This memo describes the Committee's recommendations for the LSTFC meeting on August 10, 2023.

BACKGROUND

CODIFICATION PROCESS

In 2019, at the recommendation of the State Bar Board of Trustees, State Bar staff and the LSTFC agreed to engage in a multi-phase process to revise and/or codify grantmaking decision points for IOLTA, Equal Access Fund (EAF), and other Legal Services Trust Fund Program awards. The intent is to increase transparency about the process and consistency in administering funds.

Commissioners form working groups to investigate and develop preliminary recommendations on the questions in the Committee's work plan. The working group circulates preliminary recommendations to the legal aid community for feedback through LAAC. The working group and Committee consider that feedback before making a final recommendation to the LSTFC and, in turn, the State Bar Board of Trustees. Per Business and Professions Code section 6210.5, the Board of Trustees shall approve LSTFC recommendations for rules related to grant administration and to determine applicants' eligibility for awards unless the Board makes a written finding that the recommendation conflicts with a statutory, fiduciary, or legal obligation of the State Bar.

GOVERNING AUTHORITIES AND GUIDANCE

The IOLTA statute¹ specifically enumerates that LSCPs are QLSPs. However, because of their unique structure and relationship to law schools, LSCPs work differently than other QLSPs. Generally, the IOLTA statute discusses LSCPs sparingly. The IOLTA statute states that LSCPs must operate exclusively in California as part of a nonprofit law school with State Bar of California accreditation.² It also must have expenses of at least \$20,000 per year. The IOLTA statute explains that LSCPs, like all QLSPs, must provide free civil legal services to indigent persons as their primary purpose and function.³ Additionally, the IOLTA statute's requirements for all QLSPs govern LSCPs. The rules refer to LSCPs even more sparingly, and only mention LSCPs when quoting the IOLTA statute. The Legal Services Trust Fund Program Eligibility Guidelines for Legal Services Projects (Eligibility Guidelines) say similarly little regarding LSCPs.

This section outlines the specific governing authorities and guidance related to each of the six LSCP codification issues for which the working group recommends changes.

Identifiable Law School Unit

¹ In this memo, the "IOLTA statute" refers to California Business and Professions Code sections 6210-6228.

² Business and Professions Code § 6213(a)(2).

³ Business and Professions Code § 6213(a)(2)(A).

The IOLTA statute states that LSCPs must be identifiable law school units whose primary purpose and function is providing free civil legal services to indigent persons.⁴ Additionally, programs must have operated for at least two years at a cost of at least \$20,000 per year prior to each application.⁵ In practice, the LSTFC has determined whether a LSCP demonstrates identifiability by weighing factors such as administration, facilities, fiscal practices, and the presence of a board or other oversight mechanism. The Committee seeks to create a standardized list of required criteria that establish whether an LSCP applicant is an identifiable law school unit to avoid confusion.

Nonprofit Status

As mentioned above, the IOLTA statute mandates that a QLSP must either be a nonprofit that is incorporated and operated exclusively in California or a program operated exclusively in California by a nonprofit law school.⁶

The commentary to Eligibility Guideline 2.1 states that an organization must provide certified copies of its Articles of Incorporation, a current Certificate of Status proving the corporation's good legal standing, and determination letters from the Internal Revenue Service and the State Franchise Tax Board. Office practice allows LSCPs to provide these documents from the Law School or University. The Committee seeks to codify this practice.

Duration of Operations

According to the IOLTA statute, the LSCP must have been in operation for at least two years and must cost at least \$20,000 per year.⁷ The rules do not address duration of operations for QLSPs. LSTFC practice has been to look two years back from the application due date to ensure the program has sufficient experience and longevity to justify receipt of IOLTA funds. The Committee seeks to codify this practice.

Community Support and Cash Funding

Projects that satisfy the criteria of the IOLTA statute section 6213(a) and receive funding from the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) or the Older Americans Act (OAA) are presumed to be QLSPs.⁸ Applicants without LSC or OAA funding must fulfill items one and two, below, among other requirements:

- (1) They receive at least \$20,000 in cash funds per year from other sources to support free legal representation to indigent persons.
- (2) They have demonstrated community support.⁹

⁴ Business and Professions Code § 6213(a)(2). Rule 3.670(A) repeats this requirement. See also the August 12, 2022, memo, "Codifying Grant Administration Practices: Defining Civil Legal Services" from the Rules Committee available at <https://board.calbar.ca.gov/docs/agendaitem/Public/agendaitem1000029523.pdf> (Attachment A, p. 18-19) for proposed revisions to the definition of "civil legal services."

⁵ Business and Professions Code § 6213(a)(2)(A).

⁶ Business and Professions Code § 6213(a)(1). See the definition of identifiable law school unit in the "Governing Authorities" section, *supra*.

⁷ Business and Professions Code § 6213(a)(2)(A).

⁸ Business and Professions Code § 6214(a).

⁹ Business and Professions Code § 6214(b).

The LSTFC has not counted funds received from a parent law school toward the minimum “other sources” of required funding, because each LSCP is part of the law school. The Committee seeks to clarify whether this interpretation accurately reflects the structure of LSCPs, and to codify language to ensure parity between LSCPs and non-LSCP QLSPs regarding community support and cash funding.

Teaching Time

The IOLTA statute and rules do not discuss teaching time. However, the IOLTA statute states that “the State Bar shall distribute all moneys...for the provision of civil legal services to indigent persons.”¹⁰ The working group seeks to clarify whether and when teaching time may be considered “civil legal services to indigent persons.”¹¹ Like all QLSPs and support centers, LSCPs also need to know how to calculate their qualified expenditures on their IOLTA/EAF applications. The LSTFC calculates qualified expenditures based on tracking all qualifying and nonqualifying costs. The LSTFC uses this calculation to determine the program’s primary purpose and function, and therefore their threshold eligibility for funding.¹² Qualified expenditures also determine each organization’s share of the total IOLTA funding for their county or counties, per Section 6216(b)(1)(A).

Rule 3.673(A) permits QLSPs and support centers to use funds received from the State Bar to provide services to the indigent or to QLSPs. The Committee seeks to codify a practice where qualifying teaching time may count as a program expense similar to professional development services or trainings for non-LSCP QLSPs.

Audits

The IOLTA statute requires grant recipients to submit financial statements to the State Bar annually. That must include an audit from a certified public accountant or a State Bar-approved fiscal review. It also must include a report demonstrating the programs on which the grantee spent IOLTA funds, a report on their compliance with the requirements of Section 6217, and progress in meeting the service expansion requirements of Section 6221.¹³ Section 6217 requires organizations to ensure: they maintain quality service and professional standards; expend funds in accordance with the provisions of the IOLTA statute; preserve attorney-client privilege and protect the integrity of the adversary process from any impairment in providing legal assistance to indigent persons; and no one interferes with attorneys funded by the IOLTA statute in carrying out their professional responsibility to their clients. Section 6221 requires QLSPs to try to spend 20 percent of IOLTA funds to increase the availability of services to the elderly, the disabled, juveniles, or other indigent persons who belong to disadvantaged and underserved groups within their service areas.

Rule 3.680(E)(1) further clarifies that programs must submit audits for the fiscal year that ended in the prior calendar year. Furthermore, applicants may submit financial reviews—rather than

¹⁰ Business and Professions Code § 6216.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² See the August 12, 2022, memo “Codifying Grant Administration Practices: Defining Civil Legal Services” from the Rules Committee available at <https://board.calbar.ca.gov/docs/agendaitem/Public/agendaitem1000029523.pdf>. (p. 3).

¹³ Business and Professions Code § 6222.

audits— when their “gross corporate expenditures were less than the amount specified in the Schedule of Charges and Deadlines.” The Schedule of Charges and Deadlines (Appendix A to the Rules of the State Bar of California) specifies that organizations with gross expenditures of \$500,000 or more must submit audits. Organizations with gross expenditures below \$500,000 may submit “independent CPA-audited or reviewed statements.” The LSTFC permits LSCPs to submit audits prepared on behalf of the law school and an independently audited schedule for the clinic, regardless of the program’s gross expenditures. The Committee seeks to codify this practice.

FOCUS GROUPS

To collect preliminary input from stakeholders about how codifying the above topics would affect LSCPs, the working group convened three focus groups. The first focus group consisted of one current LSCP grantee and four non-grantee law school clinics and met once. The second focus group consisted of six current LSCP grantees and met twice. Five respondents attended both sessions, and a sixth respondent only attended the first session. The third focus group was composed of two participants from non-grantee law school clinics and met once.

State Bar staff aimed for geographic cross-sections and similar numbers of participants in each discussion. Staff sought opinions from a mixture of grantees and non-grantees. The current grantees shared their perspectives on the current rules as well as how proposed changes would affect their continued eligibility for, and level of, IOLTA/EAF funding. Non-grantee participants provided invaluable insights into barriers to applying for IOLTA/EAF funding as a law school clinic.

Areas of community consensus and disagreement emerged from the focus groups. The following themes were particularly helpful in crafting the proposal:

- (Consensus) Funds received from the law school or university should count toward the \$20,000 minimum in cash funds per year required in Business and Professions Code Section 6214(b). If the LSCP is an identifiable unit, then funds from the parent organization should count as separate.
- (Consensus) Office practice allowing LSCPs to submit either an audit for the clinic or a schedule from the law school’s audit should continue.
- (Consensus) In order to demonstrate their nonprofit status, LSCPs must continue to provide copies of their host institution’s Articles of Incorporation and determination letters from the Internal Revenue Service and the State Franchise Tax Board.
- (Differing views) Participants disagreed about what criteria to require to determine identifiability as a law school unit, and whether identifiability should be decided through a fixed list or more loosely based on meeting some of the predetermined categories.
- (Differing view) While all focus group participants agreed that teaching time should be included, opinions about which classes to include differed between LSCPs and non-grantees.
- (Differing views) While there was consensus that a traditional governing board does not make sense as a requirement for LSCPs, ideas varied regarding appropriate alternatives

to ensure proper oversight.¹⁴

- (Differing views) While current grantees supported requiring two years of audits to demonstrate duration of operations, non-grantees noted this requirement could pose a hardship for applicants.

DISCUSSION

HOW TO DEFINE IDENTIFIABLE LAW SCHOOL UNIT IN THE STATE BAR RULES

The rules do not define “identifiable law school unit” as that phrase appears in the IOLTA statute. Historically, the LSTFC has determined whether a LSCP demonstrates identifiability based on the following factors:

1. Physical location of the law school clinic and its relation to the University, Law School, and other Law School Clinics;
2. Fiscal separation of the specific law school clinic and University, Law School, and other Law School Clinics; and
3. Separation of oversight and supervision of the law school clinic from the University, Law School, and other Law School Clinics.

Furthermore, the application requires information about topics such as supervisory structure and case opening and closing procedures to determine that programs meet quality control requirements.

The Committee recommends codifying a modified version of the current approach to determining identifiability for LSCPs. The Committee proposes a bright-line rule where LSCPs must satisfy all the following criteria:

1. An identifiable and dedicated location associated with a law school designed to provide civil legal services to indigent Californians;
2. Dedicated staffing (whether full- or part-time) whose job duties exclusively serve the law school clinical program;
3. A clinical director (regardless of title) with authority over operations and staffing of non-faculty positions;
4. Segregation of fiscal records and activities (including, but not limited to, the ability to provide audited confirmation of clinical expenditures); and
5. Proof of institutional oversight such as by identifying specific position(s) and/or mechanisms.

A bright-line approach would standardize office practice, promoting consistency in determinations. Refining the factors to reflect the realities of LSCPs (e.g., faculty staffing and law school oversight) would promote accuracy in determinations.

¹⁴ LSTFC practice has been to require QLSPs and support centers to demonstrate that they are governed by a board of directors to demonstrate proper oversight. However, most LSCPs do not have a board of directors and are permitted to demonstrate oversight through a dean of the law school or similar. While a future memo will discuss this topic when rules around board oversight are codified, it is mentioned here because board oversight has been used to determine law school identifiability.

An identifiable and dedicated location conforms to the current practice. Specifying that the location must be designed to provide civil legal services to indigent Californians reflects the purpose of this identifiable and dedicated location. While the working group recommended specifying that the location may be either physical or a website, moving away from defining the form a space may take better accounts for contemporary service delivery models.

Requiring dedicated staffing increases identifiability and stipulates that staff must focus on the clinical program. Requiring a clinical director also further increases identifiability and provides parity with non-LSCP QLSPs, who identify an executive director with similar authority. Requiring segregation of fiscal records and activities helps demonstrate identifiability and satisfy audit requirements, as described below. Finally, requiring proof of institutional oversight helps demonstrate the law school unit by situating the clinic as part of the law school which provides oversight and has authority over the clinic. Because the rules do not address identifiability, the Committee proposes revising Rule 3.680(A) to include the above definition as part of the statutory criteria required for LSCPs.

REVISIONS TO THE DEFINITION OF CORPORATE STATUS IN THE STATE BAR RULES

Although the rules define corporate status, including in relation to LSCPs, the definition does not currently specify how LSCPs must demonstrate they meet the statutory requirement. Eligibility Guideline 2.1 states that an organization must provide certified copies of its Articles of Incorporation, a current Certificate of Status demonstrating the corporation's good legal standing, and determination letters from the Internal Revenue Service and the State Franchise Tax Board. However, LSCPs are unable to provide these documents for their clinics because they are not standalone nonprofit organizations. Accordingly, the working group recommends codifying additional language to specify how LSCPs may demonstrate corporate status: "Law school clinical programs must provide copies of their or their host institution's Articles of Incorporation and determination letters from the Internal Revenue Service and the State Franchise Tax Board to evidence their nonprofit status."

To clarify how LSCPs must demonstrate corporate status, the Committee proposes revising Rule 3.670(A) to include the above definition. This recommendation would ensure that LSCPs can comply with the rules while acknowledging their unique organizational structures differ from non-LSCP QLSPs.

REVISIONS TO THE DEFINITION OF DURATION OF OPERATIONS IN THE STATE BAR RULES

Currently, the IOLTA statute and rules do not specify how to calculate whether a program has been in operation for at least two years. LSTFC practice has been to look two years back from the application due date to ensure the program has sufficient experience and longevity to justify receipt of IOLTA funds. The Committee proposes codifying this practice, along with specific records that may be used to satisfy this requirement:

- Audited financial statements and schedules;
- Budgets;
- Staff lists;
- Class rosters;
- Clinic enrollment records; or

- Functional equivalent.

These six options including a catchall offer LSCPs several ways to demonstrate that they have been in operation for at least two years. It is unnecessary for LSCPs to provide all these records. Rather, this list presents applicants with a combination of documents they already need to provide to satisfy other requirements (such as audited financial statements and schedules) as well as novel mechanisms (such as class rosters and enrollment records) to demonstrate the program's experience and stability.

The Committee proposes revising rule 3.680(A) to include the above clarification about how LSCPs can demonstrate duration of operations.

HOW TO DEFINE COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND CASH FUNDING IN THE STATE BAR RULES

The rules do not define "community support" or "cash funds," as those terms appear in the IOLTA statute. Historically, the LSTFC has not counted funds received from the law school toward the LSCP's minimum funding from "other sources" because the LSCP is part of the law school. Similarly, the LSTFC has not counted funds received from related entities (e.g., affiliated county bar associations) toward the minimum funding from "other sources" for non-LSCP QLSPs. However, the working group finds that excluding funds received from the law school likely creates an unfair hardship for LSCPs. Unlike other QLSPs, which are organizations, LSCPs are unlikely to have staff and a Board that fundraises. The reality is that most LSCPs fundraise through their law school.

Focus group participants unanimously agreed that the exclusion of funds received from the law school disadvantages LSCPs. Therefore, the Committee proposes codifying that LSCPs may count funds received from parent or affiliate entities: "Law school clinical programs may include funds received from parent or affiliate entities and organizations towards the \$20,000 or more in cash funds per year from other sources as required by Business and Professions Code Section 6214(b)(1)." The Committee proposes revising rule 3.680(A) to include this language about demonstrating community support and cash funding. Like for all QLSPs, LSCPs would continue to be able to count the dollars they receive under Business and Professions Code section 6214(b)(1) toward community support in Business and Professions Code section 6214(b)(2).

HOW TO DEFINE TEACHING TIME IN THE STATE BAR RULES

The IOLTA statute states, "The State Bar shall distribute all [IOLTA] moneys...for the provision of civil legal services to indigent persons."¹⁵ The statute and rules do not discuss whether/when teaching time counts as "civil legal services to indigent persons."¹⁶ The LSTFC has allowed grantees to use funds for teaching classes that directly correlate to LSCP clinic activities. However, in the absence of rules related to teaching time, the LSTFC has needed to judge on a case-by-case basis whether individual classes should count as qualifying.

While all focus group participants reached consensus that teaching time should qualify, opinions differed among participants about how to decide which classes to include. All

¹⁵ Business and Professions Code § 6216.

¹⁶ Ibid.

participants agreed that clinic classes should be included, in keeping with current practice. For example, if a LSCP with an immigration law clinic requires all clinical students to enroll in the immigration clinic class, that class should count as a qualified legal expenditure.

The working group invited the legal services community to provide input on whether other classes may count as qualifying work. Some focus group members compared non-LSCP classes that are, nonetheless, related to the LSCP, to minimum continuing legal education (MCLE) for legal aid attorneys. For example, should an immigration law class that is required for a clinic but that has a mix of clinic and non-clinic students qualify? Several focus group participants and one member of the working group find the MCLE comparison to be apt, and that such courses have a primary function of clinic placement.

On the other hand, differences—such as time commitments and the purpose of—MCLEs and law school classes can undermine the comparison. Whereas teaching an MCLE might take just a few hours, teaching a semester-long class might take dozens or over a hundred hours to prepare, teach, and grade. Moreover, while a legal aid attorney, paralegal, or other legal aid employee taking a MCLE likely helps their provision of legal aid to indigent people, teaching students a semester-long non-clinical class on immigration law is perhaps too attenuated. The State Bar’s Office of General Counsel has raised concerns that treating non-clinical classes as qualifying may violate the IOLTA statute, including because these classes may not be part of the “identifiable law school unit” that a LSCP must constitute under Business & Professions Code section 6213(a)(2) and because spending State Bar funds on such classes is too attenuated from the provision of free legal services to the indigent to satisfy the requirements of Business & Professions Code section 6218(a).

After considering these perspectives, the Committee proposes codifying that LSCPs may include clinical classes in which only clinic students can enroll, and in which clinic participation is an expectation of the course. Additionally, the class must advance the clinic’s provision of civil legal services to indigent persons pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 6218(a). While law school clinical programs may perform other teaching activities, only the teaching activities described in this paragraph may count toward qualifying expenditures for the purposes of the IOLTA application.

Counting only clinical classes ensures they are directly related to “the provision of civil legal services to indigent persons.”¹⁷ This in turn ensures that these classes are qualifying expenditures.¹⁸ Prohibiting the funding of nonqualifying work with State Bar grant monies helps LSCPs maintain their primary purpose and function.¹⁹ Like for all IOLTA-funded work done by QLSPs, LSCPs need to track their spending on qualifying versus nonqualifying instruction. Requiring the exclusion of classes that are not directly part of providing free civil legal aid also helps maintain parity between LSCPs and other QLSPs. This is because for non-LSCP QLSPs, most professional development trainings for staff enable the provision of civil legal services to the indigent. In law schools, clinic faculty often teach classes that do not train students to work in a clinic (e.g., a first-year writing class).

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ See footnote 13, *supra*.

¹⁹ Rule 3.671.

The LSTFC's grants support legal services for individuals who are facing significant legal problems often related to the loss of basic rights, and a part of that is training the advocate effectively. However, as described above, work that does not provide legal aid may not qualify for funding. The Committee proposes revising rule 3.673(A) to include the above criteria as a qualifying expenditure for LSCPs.

REVISIONS TO THE DEFINITION OF AUDITS IN THE STATE BAR RULES

The IOLTA statute, rules, and Eligibility Guidelines require QLSPs and support centers to submit audits for all organizations with gross expenditures over \$500,000. Recognizing that submitting audits poses a hardship for many LSCPs, the LSTFC permits LSCPs to submit audits prepared on behalf of the law school and an independently audited schedule for the clinic, regardless of the program's gross expenditures. Focus group participants unanimously supported codifying this practice. Therefore, the Committee proposes codifying language to allow LSCPs to submit either an audit for the clinic, or an audit for the law school along with a schedule for the clinic: "Law school clinical programs may submit audited financial statements for the clinic or law school, provided the latter include a schedule for the clinical program showing its revenues and expenditures."

The Committee proposes revising rule 3.680(E)(1) to include the above definition for LSCP audits.

FEEDBACK FROM THE LEGAL AID COMMUNITY

The working group sought the legal services community's feedback on the proposed definitions from April 17, 2023, to May 8, 2023. The Committee is thankful to LAAC for its time and care in circulating a draft of this memo, meeting with its members, and writing a letter to the working group (Attachment B). LAAC's letter expressed support for allowing LSCPs to include funds received from parent or affiliate entities and organizations toward the \$20,000 or more in cash funds as required by Business and Professions Code section 6214(b)(1), noting that it "makes sense and is overdue."

LAAC also asked for clarity regarding the proposed rule change for the permissible use of funds in Rule 3.673. Specifically, LAAC asked for greater clarity defining "teaching" versus "instructor" roles, as well as clarifying what it meant by "supplantation." LAAC also asked for clarification about whether the IOLTA statute prohibits other organizations from covering existing expenditures like the proposed rule change suggested. Finally, LAAC noted division within the community regarding whether teaching of "classes ... [that are] required of clinical students, even if [they are] open to other students" should count for funding. LAAC believes this should not count, but notes that some law schools want the inclusion of these classes.

The Committee also thanks University of California, Irvine School of Law (UC Irvine), a non-grantee focus group participant, for their email to the working group (Attachment C). UC Irvine asked for clarification regarding "whether applications can be submitted by a clinic, a clinical program, or both" since many schools have multiple clinics, but not all clinics may engage in qualifying work.

COMMITTEE'S RESPONSE TO THE COMMUNITY'S FEEDBACK

The Committee agrees with LAAC that the previously circulated rule change for permissible use of funds related to teaching time—in particular, the words “supplant,” “teaching,” and “instructor”—could be clearer. Additionally, the no supplantation clause placed LSCPs at a disadvantage over QLSPs, who regularly use IOLTA funds to cover existing expenditures. To clarify this, the working group removed the sentence “[t]he law school clinical program must attest that any grant monies funding a qualifying class will fund existing teaching costs, rather than increase instructor salaries or supplant expenditures.”²⁰ Eliminating this sentence also eliminated the need to clarify the terms “teaching” and “instructor.”

The Committee understands that the legal services community remains divided regarding whether to count non-clinical classes as qualifying. Nonetheless, it upholds its original proposal to limit permissible use of funds to those clinical classes in which all clinic students must enroll, and in which clinic participation is an expectation of the course. This would establish the clinic's provision of legal services to indigent persons pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 6218(a).

Finally, the Committee appreciates UC Irvine's question about whether a law school clinical program may include just one or some clinics within a law school, or if all clinics within a school must apply and qualify. The question of nonqualifying work applies to all QLSP applicants. QLSPs often engage in both qualifying and nonqualifying activities. Like other QLSPs, when a LSCP applies for IOLTA funding, the LSTFC reviews all their work to ensure they meet primary purpose. Then, the LSTFC deducts nonqualifying work when calculating their award. Indeed, several current LSCP grantees have one or more clinics at their law schools that do not receive IOLTA funding.

CONCLUSION

Attachment A shows the proposed revisions to the rules. These changes would provide clear guidance in grants administration for LSCPs and other QLSPs, as well as to applicants, the LSTFC, and State Bar staff. By providing clarity, these rule changes would ensure greater interpretive consistency and compliance with the governing authorities and guidance. These changes would also balance the unique needs and circumstances of LSCPs, while maintaining parity between LSCPs and other QLSPs where possible. Finally, these changes may help increase access to civil justice through the funding of civil legal aid by providing clearer expectations for applicants interested in pursuing State Bar grants.

FISCAL/PERSONNEL IMPACT

²⁰ When LAAC circulated the working group's memo, the proposed rule change read:

For law school clinical programs, clinical classes in which all clinical students must enroll, and in which clinic participation is an expectation of the class, and which advance the clinic's provision of civil legal services to indigent persons pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 6218(a) are assumed to qualify. The law school clinical program must attest that any grant monies funding a qualifying class will fund existing teaching costs, rather than increase instructor salaries or supplant expenditures.

None

RECOMMENDATIONS

Should the LSTFC agree with the Committee's recommendation, passage of the following resolution is recommended:

RESOLVED, that the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission adopts the amendments to State Bar Rules 3.670(A), 3.673(A), 3.680(A), and 3.680(E)(1) as set forth in the Committee's August 10, 2023, memo, including Attachment A.

ATTACHMENTS LIST

- A. Proposed Revision to State Bar Rules 3.670(A), 3.673(A), 3.680(A), and 3.680(E)(1).
- B. Letter from LAAC.
- C. Letter from UC Irvine.

Rule 3.670 Operation in California by qualified entities

(A) A qualified legal services project is required by statute to be a nonprofit corporation operating exclusively in California or a program operated exclusively in California by a nonprofit law school accredited by the State Bar. A qualified legal services project that is a California nonprofit corporation with operations outside California may be considered as meeting the statutory requirement if it otherwise meets Trust Fund Requirements and expends Trust Fund Program grant funds only in California.

(1) Law school clinical programs must provide copies of their or their host institution's Articles of Incorporation and determination letters from the Internal Revenue Service and the State Franchise Tax Board to evidence their nonprofit status.

(B) A qualified support center is required by statute to be an incorporated nonprofit legal services center that provides through an office in California a significant level of legal support services to qualified legal services projects on a statewide basis.¹

Rule 3.670 adopted effective March 6, 2009.

Rule 3.673 Permissible uses of funds

(A) A qualified legal services project or qualified support center must use funds received under Business and Professions Code section 6216 to provide legal assistance to indigent persons or qualified legal services projects as defined by statute.² Reasonable administrative expenditures and overhead required to deliver such services meet the statutory requirement. For law school clinical programs, clinical classes in which only clinic students can enroll, and in which clinic participation is an expectation of the class, and which advance the clinic's provision of civil legal services to indigent persons pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 6218(a) are assumed to qualify.

(B) No recipient may use an allocation made under Business and Professions Code section 6216 to provide services in a fee-generating case, except as described in Business and Professions Code section 6213(e)(1)-(4). If a recipient determines that a case is not fee generating because it qualifies for a statutory exemption,³ the recipient must maintain records reflecting the facts that led to that conclusion and any action taken to confirm it. Client reimbursements of nominal costs or expenses are not considered fees. If attorney fees are generated in cases funded by Trust Fund Program grants, the fees

¹ Business & Professions Code § 6213(b).

² Business & Professions Code § 6216 and 6223.

³ Business & Professions Code § 6213(e)(1).

must be used only for purposes permitted by statute.⁴ Recipients must maintain complete records of all such fees.

Rule 3.673 adopted effective March 6, 2009.

Rule 3.680 Application for Trust Fund Program grants

To be considered for a Trust Fund Program grant, a qualified legal services project or qualified support center seeking a Trust Fund Program grant must submit a timely and complete application for funding in the manner prescribed by the Commission. The applicant must agree to use any grant in accordance with grant terms and legal requirements.

(A) A qualified legal services project must meet statutory criteria.

- (1) A law school clinical program must demonstrate that it meets all of the following criteria: an identifiable and dedicated location designed to provide civil legal services to indigent Californians; dedicated staffing (whether full- or part-time) whose job duties exclusively serve the law school clinical program; a clinical director (regardless of title) with authority over operations and staffing of non-faculty positions; segregation of fiscal records and activities (including, but not limited to, the ability to provide audited confirmation of clinic expenditures); and proof of institutional oversight such as by identifying specific position(s) and/or mechanisms.
- (2) A law school clinical program must demonstrate it has been in operation for at least two years as of the date on which its application is due. Law school clinical programs may provide a combination of audited financial statements and schedules, budgets, staff lists, class rosters, clinic enrollment records, or functional equivalent.
- (3) Law school clinical programs may include funds received from parent or affiliate entities and organizations towards the \$20,000 or more in cash funds per year from other sources as required by Business and Professions Code section 6214(b)(1).

(B) A qualified support center must agree to offer support services in two or more of the following ways: consultation, representation, information services, and training. The board of directors of the support center must establish priorities for providing such services after consulting with legal services attorneys and other relevant stakeholders.

(C) A support center not in existence prior to December 31, 1980 must demonstrate that it is deemed to be of special need by a majority of qualified legal services projects in accordance with Trust Fund Program procedures. Upon request, the Commission must

⁴ Business & Professions Code § 6223.

make available to the applicant a list of all the names and addresses of qualified legal services projects.

(D) A nonprofit corporation that believes it meets the criteria for a qualified legal services project and qualified support center may submit two applications, one as a project and one as a support center, indicating in each application whether it is to be considered the primary or secondary application. The Commission will consider the secondary application only if the primary application is not approved. No applicant may receive a grant as a qualified legal services project and as a qualified support center.

(E) An application must include

- (1) an audited financial statement by an independent certified public accountant for the fiscal year that concluded during the prior calendar year. A financial review in lieu of an audited financial statement may be submitted by an applicant whose gross corporate expenditures were less than the amount specified in the Schedule of Charges and Deadlines. Law school clinical programs may submit audited financial statements for the clinic or law school, provided the latter include a schedule for the clinical program showing its revenues and expenditures;
- (2) information about the maintenance of quality service and professional standards and how the applicant maintains standards, such as internal quality control and review procedures; experience and educational requirements of attorneys and paralegals; supervisory structure, procedures, and responsibilities; job descriptions and current salaries for all filled and unfilled professional and management positions; and fiscal controls and procedures.
- (3) A budget and budget narrative, which must be submitted within thirty days of receipt of a notice of tentative allocation, which must be submitted within thirty days of receipt of a notice of tentative allocation, explaining how funds will be used to provide civil legal services to indigent persons, especially underserved client groups such as, the elderly, the disabled, juveniles, and non-English-speaking persons within the applicant's service area; and
- (4) Information about program activities, such as substantive practice areas, extent and complexity of services, a summary of litigation, and populations served.

Rule 3.680 adopted effective March 6, 2009; amended effective January 25, 2019.

Legal Aid Fights for Justice. We Fight for Them.



May 8, 2023

Jennifer Zelnick
[The State Bar of California](#)
 845 South Figueroa Street
 Los Angeles, CA 90017

Re: Law School Clinic & IOLTA codification issues

Dear Jennifer,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to respond to the proposal to make changes to rules impacting law school clinics' ability to receive IOLTA funding. We reached out to members and heard only minor concerns, which we are passing on to you.

We support the change in the \$20k requirement. This makes sense and is overdue. Thank you for that analysis.

We request for clarity in the memo: Rule 3.673 proposed change is a bit confusing.

"For law school clinical programs, clinical classes in which all clinic students must enroll, and in which clinic participation is an expectation of the class, and which advance the clinic's provision of civil legal services to indigent persons pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 6218(a) are assumed to qualify. **The law school clinical program must attest that any grant monies funding a qualifying class will fund existing teaching costs, rather than increase instructor salaries or supplant expenditures.**"

LAAC suggestion on the highlighted portion: I think it may be helpful to more clearly define "teaching" vs "instructor" roles. Law schools may think more of the clinical seminar instruction vs. "podium" teaching classes. I think that you've used the visa versa here, that the instructor is the "podium" instructor and the teacher is the clinical seminar teacher. I'm not sure that there is an agreed-upon nomenclature, unless it came up in your focus groups. Also, some clinical leaders may mainly focus on the clinical supervision, some may teach the required clinical seminar, and some may need to also teach a "podium" class for their required teaching "load." So it may help to define a way for the schools to divide up salary costs when one person may do all three things in the course of one academic year. Even if currently-funded law school clinics have a method, adding clarity will help for transparency so new clinics may apply.

I think they would also need more clarity on what supplanting means in the context of a law school, where even the clinical director may not have much authority over their own budget. And if the IOLTA funds are meant to cover "existing" teaching costs, then that would be supplantation by definition if there are currently other funds being used for that purpose. A related question is: do other (non law school clinics) organizations have a limitation on supplanting expenditures like this proposed change?

There is a split in our membership on whether "podium" teaching of clinical required classes should count. LAAC believes it should not.

You captured this well in your memo - some law schools want the poverty law or immigration law class to be covered if it's required of clinical students, even if it's open to other students. I believe our community (outside of law schools) would largely be in opposition. The connection to actual legal services provided to indigent Californians is too remote. By contrast, clinical seminar instruction time, open to only clinical students, and focused on how to provide those services, should certainly count. If the State Bar were to decide to be more expansive, IOLTA funds could be used directly for "podium" classes in which only a small handful of students were participating as a "prerequisite." This could have the unintended consequence of law school clinics determining that more classes were necessary in order to ensure funding for those professors through IOLTA funds. I do not assume this would be for any ill intent - the clinical directors may want their students to be fully prepared to serve clients with cultural humility and substantive knowledge, and additional courses would support that.

Hope this is helpful - happy to hop on a zoom to discuss, too.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Salena Copeland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Salena" being more prominent and the last name "Copeland" following in a similar style.

Salena Copeland
Executive Director
Legal Aid Association of California

Zelnick, Jennifer

From: Annie Lai <alai@law.uci.edu>
Sent: Saturday, April 22, 2023 8:15 AM
To: Zelnick, Jennifer
Subject: Re: Draft of Law School Clinical Programs Codification Memo (Feedback Requested by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 5, 2023)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Jennifer,

Thank you again for the convening the focus group and for sharing the draft with us.

My only comment at this time is that it may be helpful for the rules to specify whether applications can be submitted by a clinic, a clinical program, or both. A number of schools have programs that contain multiple clinics, some of which do work that may qualify for funding and some of which may not. If only an entire program can apply, then I might allow for the possibility that the program may include some clinics that are not seeking funding.

Best,

Annie

From: Zelnick, Jennifer <Jennifer.Zelnick@calbar.ca.gov>
Date: Monday, April 17, 2023 at 1:39 PM
To: Zelnick, Jennifer <Jennifer.Zelnick@calbar.ca.gov>
Subject: Draft of Law School Clinical Programs Codification Memo (Feedback Requested by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 5, 2023)

Hello,

Thank you again for participating in the Law School Clinical Program Codification Focus Group. Attached, please find the draft memo and draft rule changes.

Participants are invited to provide comments by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 5, 2023. Comments will be shared with the working group and will be attached to the final memo. The final memo will be posted to the State Bar's website five days before it is discussed, first at the June 21, 2023, Rules Committee meeting, and then for the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission meeting and Board of Trustees meeting after that.

Although comments do not guarantee changes will be made, they help shape the final memo and are an important part of the codification process. Of course, providing feedback is entirely optional.

While this memo is being shared with focus group participants and to legal aid organizations, we ask that you do not circulate the memo to anyone else at this time.

Please let me know if you have any questions, and thank you again for your time.

Sincerely,
Jennifer

Jennifer Zelnick (she/her/hers)
Senior Program Analyst, Office of Access & Inclusion
[The State Bar of California](#) | 845 South Figueroa Street | Los Angeles, CA 90017
213-765-1210 | jennifer.zelnick@calbar.ca.gov

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Proposed Revisions to Rules of the State Bar Regarding the Legal Services Trust Fund Program – Redline

Rule 3.670 Operation in California by qualified entities

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- (B) A qualified support center is required by statute to be an incorporated nonprofit legal services center that provides through an office in California a significant level of legal support services to qualified legal services projects on a statewide basis.

Rule 3.670 adopted effective March 6, 2009; amended effective XX.

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- (A) A qualified legal services project or qualified support center must use funds received under Business and Professions Code section 6216 to provide legal assistance to indigent persons or qualified legal services projects as defined by statute.⁷ Reasonable administrative expenditures and overhead required to deliver such services meet the statutory requirement. For law school clinical programs, clinical classes in which only clinic students can enroll, and in which clinic participation is an expectation of the class, and which advance the clinic's provision of civil legal services to indigent persons pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 6218(a) are assumed to qualify.
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such fees. Recipients must certify, with their annual IOLTA/EAF application, that any fee generating case which received IOLTA/EAF funds is exempt.

- (C) Except as described in Business and Professions Code section 6213(e)(1)-(4), a fee-generating case means any case or matter which, if undertaken on behalf of an eligible client by an attorney in private practice, reasonably may be expected to result in a fee for legal services from an award to a client.

Rule 3.673 adopted effective March 6, 2009; amended effective XX.

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Rule 3.680 Application for Trust Fund Program grants

To be considered for a Trust Fund Program grant, a qualified legal services project or qualified support center seeking a Trust Fund Program grant must submit a timely and complete application for funding in the manner prescribed by the Commission. The applicant must agree to use any grant in accordance with grant terms and legal requirements.

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- (C) A support center not in existence prior to December 31, 1980 must demonstrate that it is deemed to be of special need by a majority of qualified legal services projects in accordance with Trust Fund Program procedures. Upon request, the Commission must make available to the applicant a list of all the names and addresses of qualified legal services projects.

- (D) A nonprofit corporation that believes it meets the criteria for a qualified legal services project and qualified support center may submit two applications, one as a project and one as a support center, indicating in each application whether it is to be considered the primary or secondary application. The Commission will consider the secondary application only if the primary application is not approved. No applicant may receive a grant as a qualified legal services project and as a qualified support center.
- (E) An application must include
- (1) an audited financial statement by an independent certified public accountant for the fiscal year that concluded during the prior calendar year. A financial review by an independent certified public accountant in lieu of an audited financial statement may be submitted by an applicant whose gross corporate expenditures, excluding in-kind donated services, were less than the amount specified in the Schedule of Charges and Deadlines. Law school clinical programs may submit audited financial statements for the clinic or law school, provided the latter include a schedule for the clinical program showing its revenues and expenditures;
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 - (4) information about program activities, such as substantive practice areas, extent and complexity of services, a summary of litigation, and populations served.
- (F) State Bar staff may accept application materials, except for audited financial statements or financial reviews, which are addressed in Appendix A of these Rules, submitted up to one business day after the posted deadline. The Commission or a committee of its members may accept, accept with conditions, or reject application materials that are submitted beyond one business day after the posted deadline or that are submitted up to one business day after the posted deadline but not accepted by State Bar staff. Factors that the Commission or committee may consider when determining whether to accept a late application include, but are not limited to
- (1) how late after the deadline the submission was received;
 - (2) the completeness of the submission;
 - (3) the reasonableness of the applicant's explanation for the delay;

- (4) any mitigating factors that the applicant provides to the committee; and
- (5) the number of late application or reporting submissions made by the applicant in the preceding three years.

(G) Qualified legal services projects and support centers may apply for competitive discretionary grants if they meet threshold eligibility requirements for those funding opportunities. A scoring rubric will be utilized to aid in the review and evaluation of competitive discretionary grant applications. The scoring rubric should, absent an explanation from the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission, consist of the general selection criteria, Impact, Administration, and Evaluation, as well as other grant-specific criteria. Selection criteria, point allocations, and implementation of the scoring rubric will be at the discretion of the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission.

Rule 3.680 adopted effective March 6, 2009; amended effective January 25, 2019; amended effective July 1, 2023; amended effective XX.

...

Rule 3.683 Determination of IOLTA Distribution Amounts

(A) The Legal Services Trust Fund Commission will annually recommend to the Board of Trustees the amount of IOLTA funds to be distributed and the amount to be held in reserve the next year.¹ The Commission will set the current year's projected IOLTA revenue total as the target distribution amount after deducting State Bar administrative costs and any amount set aside for the reserve. Instead of setting aside an amount for reserve, the Commission may increase the distribution with contributions from the reserve.

(B) The reserve will be established as a restricted fund account that may be accessed to increase planned IOLTA grant distributions or to ensure sufficient funds for the State Bar to fulfill current-year IOLTA grant disbursements.

(1) A minimum of 5 percent of current year revenue should be added to the reserve each year, subject to the maximum reserve balance set forth below, unless revenue is projected to fall, in which case the Commission may direct a smaller percentage of revenue, or none, to the reserve for the following year.

(a) The Commission may increase the amount of revenue directed to the reserve, unless it would exceed the maximum allowable balance.

(2) The maximum reserve balance will be set at \$25 million.

(a) The Commission may periodically choose to increase the maximum allowable reserve balance to account for inflation, as reflected by the overall percentage increase in the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index.

(b) If the reserve has reached the maximum allowable balance, all revenue remaining after administrative costs will be distributed as grants. However, if the Commission determines that the grant distribution will be at least double the distribution of the prior year, and the size of the distribution cannot be

effectively or efficiently used by grant recipients within the grant period, the Commission may increase the reserve by an amount not to exceed a total of \$40 million.

(C) The Commission will determine whether to access funds held in reserve as part of the planned IOLTA grant distribution. Factors for consideration include, but are not limited to,

- (1) Catastrophic events or other emergency circumstances resulting in significantly decreased IOLTA revenue and/or legal aid funding generally;
- (2) Catastrophic events or other emergency circumstances resulting in significantly increased need for legal aid services; or
- (3) IOLTA revenue decreases of more than 15 percent.

(D) If IOLTA revenue yields insufficient funds for the State Bar to disburse quarterly IOLTA grant payments, the Commission will authorize use of the reserve to fulfill existing grant obligations.

(E) IOLTA funds shall be distributed on an annual basis. However, the Commission may authorize yearly IOLTA grant distributions to be spent over a period of multiple years.

Rule 3.683 adopted effective XX.

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- (G) Qualified legal services projects and support centers may apply for competitive discretionary grants if they meet threshold eligibility requirements for those funding opportunities. A scoring rubric will be utilized to aid in the review and evaluation of competitive discretionary grant applications. The scoring rubric should, absent an explanation from the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission, consist of the general selection criteria, Impact, Administration, and Evaluation, as well as other grant-specific criteria. Selection criteria, point allocations, and implementation of the scoring rubric will be at the discretion of the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission.

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 - (1) A minimum of 5 percent of current year revenue should be added to the reserve each year, subject to the maximum reserve balance set forth below, unless revenue is projected to fall, in which case the Commission may direct a smaller percentage of revenue, or none, to the reserve for the following year.
 - (a) The Commission may increase the amount of revenue directed to the reserve, unless it would exceed the maximum allowable balance.
 - (2) The maximum reserve balance will be set at \$25 million.
 - (a) The Commission may periodically choose to increase the maximum allowable reserve balance to account for inflation, as reflected by the overall percentage increase in the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index.
 - (b) If the reserve has reached the maximum allowable balance, all revenue remaining after administrative costs will be distributed as grants. However, if the Commission determines that the grant distribution will be at least double the distribution of the prior year, and the size of the distribution cannot be

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ATTACHMENT B

Comment #	Name or Organization	Licensure Status	Rules	Position (A/AM/D/NP) ¹	Public comment
1	Legal Aid Association of California	Attorney	Rule 3.670 - Law School Clinical Programs Rule 3.673 - Law School Clinical Programs, Fee-Generating Work, and Contingency Fee Arrangements Rule 3.680 - Law School Clinical Programs, Request for Proposals Review Process for Discretionary Grants New Rule 3.683 - IOLTA Reserve Policy	Rules 3.670, 3.673, 3.680, and 3.683: A	See attached
2	OneJustice	Attorney	Rule 3.670 - Law School Clinical Programs Rule 3.673 - Law School Clinical Programs, Fee-Generating Work, and Contingency Fee Arrangements Rule 3.680 - Law School Clinical Programs, Request for Proposals Review Process for Discretionary Grants New Rule 3.683 - IOLTA Reserve Policy	Rules 3.670, 3.673, 3.680, and 3.683: AM	See attached

¹ A = Agree with proposal; AM = Agree if modified; D = Disagree with proposal; NP = No position on proposal

Legal Aid Fights for Justice. We Fight for Them.



October 23, 2023

Legal Services Trust Fund Commission

State Bar of California
180 Howard Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

RE: Revised Proposed Amendments to State Bar Rules Related to Grants Administration

Dear Commissioners:

We are writing on behalf of the Legal Aid Association of California (LAAC) regarding the revised proposed amendments to State Bar Rules related to grants administration. Current rules revision topics include those around the IOLTA reserve policy, fee generating work and contingency fee arrangements, the review process for competitive discretionary grants, and law school clinical programs.

LAAC is the statewide membership association of over 100 public interest law nonprofits that provide free civil legal services to low-income people and communities throughout California. LAAC member organizations provide legal assistance on a broad array of substantive issues, ranging from general poverty law to civil rights to immigration, and also serve a wide range of low-income and vulnerable populations. LAAC is California's unified voice for legal services and a zealous advocate advancing the needs of the clients of legal services on a statewide level regarding funding and access to justice.

LAAC has worked extensively with the Bar's Legal Services Trust Fund Commission (LSTFC) committees and Bar staff to help coordinate comments and feedback on the proposed amendments to the rules related to grants administration from the organizations who will be directly impacted by these changes. We applaud the Bar's efforts to understand what the legal aid community thinks about the proposals by providing memos in advance, giving us time to get feedback. Here, we collect all of our comments to provide the LSTFC with the thoughts and opinions that we synthesized and developed throughout the duration of the rules revision process for this year.

IOLTA Reserve Policy

We support the currently proposed policy.

Our overall message remains that it makes sense to hold back some funding for lean times because we know those times will come. With that, organizations have strongly supported two year grants to allow them to hire with the increase and spend the funding responsibly. Keeping some funding, with an already big distribution for 2023, to smooth it out down the line—including year to year for some consistency—makes sense to us. There is a huge need for increased funding, and we recognize that the distribution will be big as is.

One main point is that no organization feels comfortable hiring with an IOLTA increase if there is a risk it is a one-year increase. There are too many unknowns in our national funding environment to know what other funders are doing, too. We have heard repeatedly and directly from foundations that many of them are decreasing grants and are being cautious, due to the volatile stock market, so even though IOLTA is stable, some organizations are worried about significant losses in the next few years from other funders and need IOLTA to remain flexible. In sum, all of this is to say that we support two-year grants, and feel that the prudence of reserving some of the IOLTA funding, as described by Bar staff, is a good course of action, to both use some of the increased funding now while also storing some away for leaner times in the near future. Stabilizing funding through an (up to) \$25 million reserve fund is a positive step.

Fee Generating Work and Contingency Fee Arrangements

We support the currently proposed policy. During the rules revision process, State Bar staff followed our recommendation to remove the requirement to provide documentation for every case and instead are following the “self-certification” process we recommended (and also what the Legal Services Corporation requires).

Review Process for Competitive Discretionary Grants

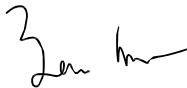
We support the currently proposed policy. After several outreach attempts, we received no comments back from the community on this topic. Usually, this means there are no red flags or otherwise big issues with the proposal from the legal aid community's point of view. In addition to any comments we gave in 2021, we can say that we generally support the review process for discretionary grants, as proposed, as it appears to standardize and streamline in positive ways.

Law School Clinical Programs

See letter below.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to provide comment. Please contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,



Zach Newman
Directing Attorney
Legal Aid Association of California

Legal Aid Fights for Justice. We Fight for Them.



May 8, 2023

Jennifer Zelnick
[The State Bar of California](#)
845 South Figueroa Street
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Re: Law School Clinic & IOLTA codification issues

Dear Jennifer,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to respond to the proposal to make changes to rules impacting law school clinics' ability to receive IOLTA funding. We reached out to members and heard only minor concerns, which we are passing on to you.

We support the change in the \$20k requirement. This makes sense and is overdue. Thank you for that analysis.

We request for clarity in the memo: Rule 3.673 proposed change is a bit confusing.

"For law school clinical programs, clinical classes in which all clinic students must enroll, and in which clinic participation is an expectation of the class, and which advance the clinic's provision of civil legal services to indigent persons pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 6218(a) are assumed to qualify. The law school clinical program must attest that any grant monies funding a qualifying class will fund existing teaching costs, rather than increase instructor salaries or supplant expenditures."

LAAC suggestion on the highlighted portion: I think it may be helpful to more clearly define "teaching" vs "instructor" roles. Law schools may think more of the clinical seminar instruction vs. "podium" teaching classes. I think that you've used the visa versa here, that the instructor is the "podium" instructor and the teacher is the clinical seminar teacher. I'm not sure that there is an agreed-upon nomenclature, unless it came up in your focus groups. Also, some clinical leaders may mainly focus on the clinical supervision, some may teach the required clinical seminar, and some may need to also teach a "podium" class for their required teaching "load." So it may help to define a way for the schools to divide up salary costs when one person may do all three things in the course of one academic year. Even if currently-funded law school clinics have a method, adding clarity will help for transparency so new clinics may apply.

I think they would also need more clarity on what supplanting means in the context of a law school, where even the clinical director may not have much authority over their own budget.

350 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza Suite 701 | Oakland, CA 94612 | (510) 893-3000
LAAOnline.org LawHelpCA.org

And if the IOLTA funds are meant to cover "existing" teaching costs, then that would be supplantation by definition if there are currently other funds being used for that purpose. A related question is: do other (non law school clinics) organizations have a limitation on supplanting expenditures like this proposed change?

There is a split in our membership on whether "podium" teaching of clinical required classes should count. LAAC believes it should not.

You captured this well in your memo - some law schools want the poverty law or immigration law class to be covered if it's required of clinical students, even if it's open to other students. I believe our community (outside of law schools) would largely be in opposition. The connection to actual legal services provided to indigent Californians is too remote. By contrast, clinical seminar instruction time, open to only clinical students, and focused on how to provide those services, should certainly count. If the State Bar were to decide to be more expansive, IOLTA funds could be used directly for "podium" classes in which only a small handful of students were participating as a "prerequisite." This could have the unintended consequence of law school clinics determining that more classes were necessary in order to ensure funding for those professors through IOLTA funds. I do not assume this would be for any ill intent - the clinical directors may want their students to be fully prepared to serve clients with cultural humility and substantive knowledge, and additional courses would support that.

Hope this is helpful - happy to hop on a zoom to discuss, too.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Salena Copeland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Salena" being more prominent and the last name "Copeland" following in a similar style.

Salena Copeland
Executive Director
Legal Aid Association of California



October 23, 2023

Board of Trustees
State Bar of California
180 Howard Street

San Francisco, CA 94105

Submitted Via Online Portal, <https://fs22.formsite.com/sbcta/z1fr6aalk6/index>

RE: Revised Proposed Amendments to State Bar Rules Related to Grant Administration

Dear Trustees of the State Bar of California:

OneJustice writes to comment on the revised proposed amendments to the State Bar rules related to grant administration. OneJustice largely supports the proposed amendments, and provides just a few comments to further clarify and improve the rules.

OneJustice works to ensure a thriving, effective legal services sector that advances a just and equitable society. We advance justice and equity by equipping the sector with skills and tools to maximize impact, championing robust and reliable legal service resources, convening the sector to harness its wisdom and power; and sharing analyses and insights about systemic trends and challenges. OneJustice helps the sector garner the people, funding, expertise and other assets it needs to be successful. State funding for legal services is incredibly important so that the sector can deepen its impact on individuals, families, and communities statewide. OneJustice supports funding sources that allow legal services to serve their communities most efficiently and effectively, with rules and reporting requirements that are equitable and accessible.

IOLTA Reserve Policy

OneJustice appreciates that the State Bar is making it clear when IOLTA funds will be reserved and why they are being reserved. The guidance on when funds can be reserved, and when funds can be accessed will also be very helpful for grantees.

OneJustice believes that the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission should also articulate which reasons they are relying on when they decide to reserve or access funds so that the community is clear when decisions are being made.

Fee Generating Work

We appreciate that the State Bar aligned the rules regarding fee-generating work with the Legal Services Corporation rules. It greatly reduces the burden on grantees to have reporting requirements aligned among grantees.

OneJustice would like to clarify that programs must maintain documentation for all fee-generating cases, but do not need to provide that documentation for each individual fee-generating case to the State Bar with their reporting each year. It would be a substantial burden

for programs to report on each individual fee-generating case for each report. It would make a lot more sense to confirm documentation through an audit by the State Bar.

OneJustice also suggests that the LSTFC may want to provide a sample certification, or at least sample language, to ensure that programs are able to train their staff on collecting and reporting sufficient information to meet the LSTFC criteria. There may be a sample from an LSC-funded organization that could be used for this purpose.

Review Process for Competitive Grants

OneJustice appreciates the plan to create a more standardized scoring rubric. Such a tool will greatly help legal services organizations understand the evaluation criteria, and will allow the organizations to better evaluate their likelihood of success on a particular grant application.

At the same time, based on our experience with the various funding streams that have been released recently, there will likely need to be variations. We encourage the Commission to build in some flexibility to the rubric, and to make clear that there is a “base” rubric that may be augmented with various grant-specific requirements. For instance, in the past couple of years, there have been grants that require subgrants, some that encourage but don’t require subgrants, and others that prohibit subgrants. So, the scoring for that section will have to vary depending on the particular underlying funding stream.


Law School Clinical Programs

OneJustice agrees with the amendments related to law school clinical programs. Because this is not our area of expertise, the only comment is that consistency and clarity is incredibly helpful in ensuring the clinical programs understand when they are (or are not) eligible for funding.

We appreciate the time that the Commission has put in to revising these rules, and in particular, the effort to streamline the work so that the State Bar, the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission, and the grantees all have a better understanding of the decisions being made, funding eligibility determinations for specific programs, and reporting requirements.

Sincerely,
ONEJUSTICE

Dana Richardson
Dana Marquez Richardson
Senior Staff Attorney


Leigh E. Ferrin
Program Director

Proposed Revisions to Rules of the State Bar Regarding the Legal Services Trust Fund Program – Redline

Rule 3.661 Duties of the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission

- (A) The Commission must determine an applicant's eligibility for grants and notify each grant applicant that its application has been approved or denied. If the Commission tentatively approves an application, it issues a notice of the grant award, including the tentative allocation. If the notice requires submission of additional information, the Commission considers the application incomplete pending receipt of the information.
- (B) The Commission must monitor and evaluate a recipient's compliance with Trust Fund Requirements and grant terms. The evaluation may be based on
 - (1) application information, grant reports, and additional information reasonably necessary to determine compliance with Trust Fund Requirements;
 - (2) reasonable site visits scheduled upon adequate notice;
 - (3) an evaluation of a recipient by an impartial third party designated and funded by the Commission; or
 - (4) information from other sources, such as an evaluation provided by the Legal Services Corporation or other funding entity.
- (C) The most recent version of the Standards for the Provision of Civil Legal Aid adopted by the American Bar Association's House of Delegates ~~on August 7, 2006~~, as limited by the general introduction to the standards, are the guidelines used by the Commission in approving the quality control procedures and reviewing and evaluating the maintenance of quality service and professional standards of applicant and recipient programs. With due notice, the Commission may also rely on other standards that are consistent with law and generally accepted access to justice principles in the legal aid community.
- (D) The Commission may terminate a grant for noncompliance or take other action in accordance with Article 4 of this chapter.

Rule 3.661 adopted effective March 6, 2009; amended effective XX.

...

Rule 3.670 Operation in California by qualified entities

- (A) A qualified legal services project is required by statute to be a nonprofit corporation operating exclusively in California or a program operated exclusively in California by a nonprofit law school accredited by the State Bar.² A qualified legal services project that is a California nonprofit corporation with operations outside California may be considered as meeting the statutory requirement if it otherwise meets Trust Fund Requirements and expends Trust Fund Program grant funds only in California.

(1) Law school clinical programs must provide copies of their or their host institution's Articles of Incorporation and determination letters from the Internal Revenue Service and the State Franchise Tax Board to evidence their nonprofit status.

- (B) A qualified support center is required by statute to be an incorporated nonprofit legal services center that provides through an office in California a significant level of legal support services to qualified legal services projects on a statewide basis.

Rule 3.670 adopted effective March 6, 2009; amended effective XX.

...

Rule 3.673 Permissible uses of funds

- (A) A qualified legal services project or qualified support center must use funds received under Business and Professions Code section 6216 to provide legal assistance to indigent persons or qualified legal services projects as defined by statute.⁷ Reasonable administrative expenditures and overhead required to deliver such services meet the statutory requirement. For law school clinical programs, clinical classes in which only clinic students can enroll, and in which clinic participation is an expectation of the class, and which advance the clinic's provision of civil legal services to indigent persons pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 6218(a) are assumed to qualify.
- (B) No recipient may use an allocation made under Business and Professions Code section 6216 to provide services in a fee-generating case, except as described in Business and Professions Code section 6213(e)(1)-(4). If a recipient determines that a case is not fee generating because it qualifies for a statutory exemption,⁸ the recipient must maintain records reflecting the facts that led to that conclusion and any action taken to confirm it. Client reimbursements of nominal costs or expenses are not considered fees. If attorney fees are generated in cases funded by Trust Fund Program grants, the fees must be used only for ~~purposes permitted by statute~~ free civil legal services to indigent clients in California.⁹ Recipients must maintain complete records of all such fees. Recipients must certify, with their annual IOLTA/EAF application, that any fee generating case which received IOLTA/EAF funds is exempt.
- (C) Except as described in Business and Professions Code section 6213(e)(1)-(4), a fee-generating case means any case or matter which, if undertaken on behalf of an eligible client by an attorney in private practice, reasonably may be expected to result in a fee for legal services from an award to a client.

Rule 3.673 adopted effective March 6, 2009; amended effective XX.

...

Rule 3.680 Application for Trust Fund Program grants

⁷ Business & Professions Code §§ 6216 and 6223

⁸ Business & Professions Code § 6213(e)(1)

⁹ Business & Professions Code § 6223

To be considered for a Trust Fund Program grant, a qualified legal services project or qualified support center seeking a Trust Fund Program grant must submit a timely and complete application for funding in the manner prescribed by the Commission. The applicant must agree to use any grant in accordance with grant terms and legal requirements.

(A) A qualified legal services project must meet statutory criteria.

(1) A law school clinical program must demonstrate that it meets all of the following criteria: an identifiable and dedicated location designed to provide civil legal services to indigent Californians; dedicated staffing (whether full- or part-time) whose job duties exclusively serve the law school clinical program; a clinical director (regardless of title) with authority over operations and staffing of non-faculty positions; segregation of fiscal records and activities (including, but not limited to, the ability to provide audited confirmation of clinic expenditures); and proof of institutional oversight such as by identifying specific position(s) and/or mechanisms.

(2) A law school clinical program must demonstrate it has been in operation for at least two years as of the date on which its application is due. Law school clinical programs may provide a combination of audited financial statements and schedules, budgets, staff lists, class rosters, clinic enrollment records, or functional equivalent.

(3) Law school clinical programs may include funds received from parent or affiliate entities and organizations towards the \$20,000 or more in cash funds per year from other sources as required by Business and Professions Code section 6214(b)(1).

(B) A qualified support center must agree to offer support services in two or more of the following ways: consultation, representation, information services, and training. The board of directors of the support center must establish priorities for providing such services after consulting with legal services attorneys and other relevant stakeholders.

(C) A support center not in existence prior to December 31, 1980 must demonstrate that it is deemed to be of special need by a majority of qualified legal services projects in accordance with Trust Fund Program procedures. Upon request, the Commission must make available to the applicant a list of all the names and addresses of qualified legal services projects.

(D) A nonprofit corporation that believes it meets the criteria for a qualified legal services project and qualified support center may submit two applications, one as a project and one as a support center, indicating in each application whether it is to be considered the primary or secondary application. The Commission will consider the secondary application only if the primary application is not approved. No applicant may receive a grant as a qualified legal services project and as a qualified support center.

(E) An application must include

(1) an audited financial statement by an independent certified public accountant for the fiscal year that concluded during the prior calendar year. A financial review by an independent certified public accountant in lieu of an audited financial statement may be submitted by an applicant whose gross corporate expenditures, excluding in-kind

donated services, were less than the amount specified in the Schedule of Charges and Deadlines. Law school clinical programs may submit audited financial statements for the clinic or law school, provided the latter include a schedule for the clinical program showing its revenues and expenditures;

- (2) information about the maintenance of quality service and professional standards and how the applicant maintains standards, such as internal quality control and review procedures; experience and educational requirements of attorneys and paralegals; supervisory structure, procedures, and responsibilities; job descriptions and current salaries for all filled and unfilled professional and management positions; and fiscal controls and procedures.
- (3) a budget and budget narrative, which must be submitted within thirty days of receipt of a notice of tentative allocation, explaining how funds will be used to provide civil legal services to indigent persons, especially underserved client groups such as, the elderly, the disabled, juveniles, and non-English-speaking persons within the applicant's service area; and
- (4) information about program activities, such as substantive practice areas, extent and complexity of services, a summary of litigation, and populations served.

(F) State Bar staff may accept application materials, except for audited financial statements or financial reviews, which are addressed in Appendix A of these Rules, submitted up to one business day after the posted deadline. The Commission or a committee of its members may accept, accept with conditions, or reject application materials that are submitted beyond one business day after the posted deadline or that are submitted up to one business day after the posted deadline but not accepted by State Bar staff. Factors that the Commission or committee may consider when determining whether to accept a late application include, but are not limited to

- (1) how late after the deadline the submission was received;
- (2) the completeness of the submission;
- (3) the reasonableness of the applicant's explanation for the delay;
- (4) any mitigating factors that the applicant provides to the committee; and
- (5) the number of late application or reporting submissions made by the applicant in the preceding three years.

(G) Qualified legal services projects and support centers may apply for competitive discretionary grants if they meet threshold eligibility requirements for those funding opportunities. A scoring rubric will be utilized to aid in the review and evaluation of competitive discretionary grant applications. The scoring rubric should, absent an explanation from the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission, consist of the general selection criteria: Impact, Administration, and Evaluation, as well as other grant-specific criteria. Selection criteria, point allocations, and implementation of the scoring rubric will be at the discretion of the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission.

Rule 3.680 adopted effective March 6, 2009; amended effective January 25, 2019; amended effective July 1, 2023; amended effective XX.

...

Rule 3.683 Determination of IOLTA Distribution Amounts

(A) The Legal Services Trust Fund Commission will annually recommend to the Board of Trustees the amount of IOLTA funds to be distributed and the amount to be held in reserve the next year.¹ The Commission will set the current year's projected IOLTA revenue total as the target distribution amount after deducting State Bar administrative costs and any amount set aside for the reserve. Instead of setting aside an amount for reserve, the Commission may increase the distribution with contributions from the reserve.

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(B) The reserve will be established as a restricted fund account that may be accessed to increase planned IOLTA grant distributions or to ensure sufficient funds for the State Bar to fulfill current-year IOLTA grant disbursements.

(1) A minimum of 5 percent of current year revenue should be added to the reserve each year, subject to the maximum reserve balance set forth below, unless revenue is projected to fall, in which case the Commission may direct a smaller percentage of revenue, or none, to the reserve for the following year.

(a) The Commission may increase the amount of revenue directed to the reserve, unless it would exceed the maximum allowable balance.

(2) The maximum reserve balance will be set at \$25 million.

(a) The Commission may periodically choose to increase the maximum allowable reserve balance to account for inflation, as reflected by the overall percentage increase in the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index.

(b) If the reserve has reached the maximum allowable balance, all revenue remaining after administrative costs will be distributed as grants. However, if the Commission determines that the grant distribution will be at least double the distribution of the prior year, and the size of the distribution cannot be effectively or efficiently used by grant recipients within the grant period, the Commission may increase the reserve by an amount not to exceed a total of \$40 million.

(C) The Commission will determine whether to access funds held in reserve as part of the planned IOLTA grant distribution. Factors for consideration include, but are not limited to,

(1) Catastrophic events or other emergency circumstances resulting in significantly decreased IOLTA revenue and/or legal aid funding generally;

(2) Catastrophic events or other emergency circumstances resulting in significantly increased need for legal aid services; or

(3) IOLTA revenue decreases of more than 15 percent.

(D) If IOLTA revenue yields insufficient funds for the State Bar to disburse quarterly IOLTA grant payments, the Commission will authorize use of the reserve to fulfill existing grant obligations.

(E) IOLTA funds shall be distributed on an annual basis. However, the Commission may authorize yearly IOLTA grant distributions to be spent over a period of multiple years.

Rule 3.683 adopted effective XX.

Proposed Revisions to Rules of the State Bar Regarding the Legal Services Trust Fund Program – Clean

Rule 3.661 Duties of the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission

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 - (2) the completeness of the submission;
 - (3) the reasonableness of the applicant's explanation for the delay;
 - (4) any mitigating factors that the applicant provides to the committee; and
 - (5) the number of late application or reporting submissions made by the applicant in the preceding three years.
- (G) Qualified legal services projects and support centers may apply for competitive discretionary grants if they meet threshold eligibility requirements for those funding opportunities. A scoring rubric will be utilized to aid in the review and evaluation of competitive discretionary grant applications. The scoring rubric should, absent an explanation from the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission, consist of the general selection criteria: Impact, Administration, and Evaluation, as well as other grant-specific criteria. Selection criteria, point allocations, and implementation of the scoring rubric will be at the discretion of the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission.

Rule 3.680 adopted effective March 6, 2009; amended effective January 25, 2019; amended effective July 1, 2023; amended effective XX.

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Rule 3.683 Determination of IOLTA Distribution Amounts

- (A) The Legal Services Trust Fund Commission will annually recommend to the Board of Trustees the amount of IOLTA funds to be distributed and the amount to be held in reserve the next year.¹ The Commission will set the current year's projected IOLTA revenue total as the target distribution amount after deducting State Bar administrative costs and any amount set aside for the reserve. Instead of setting aside an amount for reserve, the Commission may increase the distribution with contributions from the reserve.
- (B) The reserve will be established as a restricted fund account that may be accessed to increase planned IOLTA grant distributions or to ensure sufficient funds for the State Bar to fulfill current-year IOLTA grant disbursements.
 - (1) A minimum of 5 percent of current year revenue should be added to the reserve each year, subject to the maximum reserve balance set forth below, unless revenue is projected to fall, in which case the Commission may direct a smaller percentage of revenue, or none, to the reserve for the following year.
 - (a) The Commission may increase the amount of revenue directed to the reserve, unless it would exceed the maximum allowable balance.
 - (2) The maximum reserve balance will be set at \$25 million.
 - (a) The Commission may periodically choose to increase the maximum allowable reserve balance to account for inflation, as reflected by the overall percentage increase in the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index.
 - (b) If the reserve has reached the maximum allowable balance, all revenue remaining after administrative costs will be distributed as grants. However, if the Commission determines that the grant distribution will be at least double the distribution of the prior year, and the size of the distribution cannot be effectively or efficiently used by grant recipients within the grant period, the Commission may increase the reserve by an amount not to exceed a total of \$40 million.
- (C) The Commission will determine whether to access funds held in reserve as part of the planned IOLTA grant distribution. Factors for consideration include, but are not limited to,
 - (1) Catastrophic events or other emergency circumstances resulting in significantly decreased IOLTA revenue and/or legal aid funding generally;
 - (2) Catastrophic events or other emergency circumstances resulting in significantly increased need for legal aid services; or
 - (3) IOLTA revenue decreases of more than 15 percent.

- (D) If IOLTA revenue yields insufficient funds for the State Bar to disburse quarterly IOLTA grant payments, the Commission will authorize use of the reserve to fulfill existing grant obligations.
- (E) IOLTA funds shall be distributed on an annual basis. However, the Commission may authorize yearly IOLTA grant distributions to be spent over a period of multiple years.

Rule 3.683 adopted effective XX.