

Legal Services Trust Fund Commission

Mission:

The Legal Services Trust Fund Commission is dedicated to closing the justice gap in California by increasing equitable access to legal services for low-income and underserved communities.

Purpose:

The commission responsibly administers grant programs that fund local and statewide civil legal aid organizations to advance its mission. As a commission of the State Bar of California, our work advances the State Bar's efforts to support greater access to, and inclusion in, the legal system.

**Legal Services Trust Fund Commission
Proposed Strategic Priorities**

Strategic Priority 1: Develop a mission statement that defines and guides the Commission's work.

- Identify and define the Commission's "north star" through this process, which should guide the Commission's strategic approach.
- Communicate the mission statement to the Commission's internal and external stakeholders.
- Identify and define the Commission's place in the legal aid funding ecosystem—including a clarification of roles/functions with other entities who may be doing similar or complementary work.

Strategic Priority 2: Formalize and clarify functions and roles for Commission members and staff.

- Create a working group that will develop a proposed framework and implementation plan, with feedback from the Commission, to advance and formalize functions and roles.
- Identify opportunities to bring more diverse voices to the table to advance the Commission's mission.
- Implement the approved framework and make organizational changes to ensure increased efficiency and effectiveness at the Commission.

Strategic Priority 3: Establish a recurring series of collaborative discussions with philanthropic organizations to collect input and share feedback to identify best practices and opportunities to advance the Commission's mission.

- Establish the Commission as a convenor of these conversations.
- Incorporate learnings from these discussions into LSTFC functions and roles.

Strategic Priority 4: Explore new avenues for the Commission to enhance its impact on closing the justice gap for underserved and low-income Californians.

- Determine what role, if any, the Commission should establish in the advocacy space.
- Identify opportunities to increase resources and enhance impact by diversifying sources of funding and diversifying grant fund distributions.

Strategic Priority 5: Establish processes and protocols to increase accountability and transparency around the Commission's work.

- Improve data collection and tracking systems around outcomes for grantees and programs supported by the Commission, including tools for grantees' outcomes evaluation and reporting.
- Enhance communications around grantee and program outcomes to demonstrate the Commission's impact to key audiences (e.g., grantees, legislators).