



The State Bar of California

OPEN SESSION

AGENDA ITEM

APRIL 2024

LSTFC CARE COURT GRANTS COMMITTEE 4.3

DATE: April 11, 2024

TO: Members, Legal Services Trust Fund Commission (LSTFC) CARE Court Grants Committee

FROM: Christopher McConkey, Program Supervisor, Office of Access & Inclusion
Helen Yu, Senior Program Analyst, Office of Access & Inclusion

SUBJECT: Approve the 2024–2025 CARE Court Grants Request for Proposals

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act created a new court program (CARE Court) that launched in eight counties in 2023 and will launch in all remaining counties by December 2024.¹ The LSTFC administers funding to public defender offices, qualified legal services projects (QLSPs), support centers, and other entities participating in CARE Court this state fiscal year (July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024).² The LSTFC will need to administer similar funding for next fiscal year (July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025) soon after the Budget Act of 2024 (budget act) passes this spring or summer. To facilitate that timing, the LSTFC delegated to the CARE Court Grants Committee (Committee) authority to approve a request for proposals (RFP) for 2024–2025 CARE Court funds and to recommend awards to the LSTFC. This memo recommends an RFP (Attachment A) for the Committee’s meeting on April 11, 2024.

¹ Welfare and Institutions Code § 5970.5.

² See the Budget Act of 2023 at [leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB104](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB104).

BACKGROUND

Governor Newsom signed the CARE Act on September 14, 2022.³ It created a new court program where adults with qualifying, severe mental health issues can access behavioral health care, stabilization medication, housing, and other community services. The program launched October 1, 2023, in Glenn, Orange, Riverside, San Diego, San Francisco, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne Counties (cohort one). It launched December 1, 2023, in Los Angeles County. CARE Court must launch in all remaining counties (cohort two) by December 1, 2024.⁴

CARE Courts must appoint QLSPs to represent those who are the subject of a CARE Court petition (respondents). Where no QLSP has agreed to represent respondents, the court must appoint a public defender instead.⁵ Furthermore, the LSTFC must fund QLSPs to represent respondents “in CARE Act proceedings, matters related to CARE agreements and CARE plans.”⁶ The LSTFC must also fund support centers to provide related “training, support, and coordination.”⁷

The forthcoming budget act will provide the funding for these services starting on July 1, 2024. At least eight counties, however, will already have launched CARE Courts by that date. Releasing an RFP this spring would allow the LSTFC to determine 2024–2025 awards and funding for public defender offices by—or shortly after—June 30.

To estimate the funding that will be available, the RFP uses the Governor’s proposed amount of about \$51.7 million.⁸ The RFP also bases the process to distribute 2024–2025

³ Welfare and Institutions Code §§ 5970–87.

⁴ Welfare and Institutions Code § 5970.5. Los Angeles County is part of cohort two but launched its CARE Court one year early on December 1, 2023. Other cohort two counties might launch before December 1, 2024, as well. As of April 4, 2024, the State Bar is unaware of any cohort two counties—besides Los Angeles—that will launch before July 1, 2024. Staff recommends making 2024–2025 awards by that date provided that grants must become final after the Budget Act of 2024 passes.

⁵ Welfare and Institutions Code § 5977.

⁶ Welfare and Institutions Code section 5981.5 requires the LSTFC to fund QLSPs “to provide legal counsel appointed pursuant to subdivision (c) of [Welfare and Institutions Code] Section 5976...” Section 5976(c) states that respondents have the right to “counsel at all stages of a proceeding...regardless of the ability to pay.”

⁷ *Ibid.* On September 13, 2023, the Governor signed Senate Bill 104 (SB 104). SB 104 expanded eligibility for these funds in 2023–2024 to “other entities that have expertise in providing legal training and technical assistance to legal aid providers or public defenders.”

⁸ In the spring of 2023, the Governor proposed “\$51.6 million in 2024-25...[to] support public defender and legal service organizations that will provide legal counsel to CARE participants.” This total may account for QLSP, public defender office, and support center/other entity services, as well as Judicial Council of California and State Bar costs. The Governor’s January 2024 proposal supports a similar funding level. See, e.g., page 15 of the Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review’s “Summary of the Governor’s Proposed 2024-25 Budget,” available at [sbud.senate.ca.gov/sites/sbud.senate.ca.gov/files/Summary%20of%20the%20Governors%202024-](https://sbud.senate.ca.gov/sites/sbud.senate.ca.gov/files/Summary%20of%20the%20Governors%202024-25%20Budget.pdf)

funds on that for 2023–2024 funds.⁹ Before making awards to QLSPs, for instance, the Committee would determine an amount of funding available to represent respondents in each county (see the section “Distributing Funds by County,” below, for more information). Additionally, any funding not awarded to QLSPs to serve a county would go to that county’s public defender office to represent respondents.

DISCUSSION

On March 29, 2024, the LSTFC delegated authority to the Committee to approve an RFP for 2024–2025 CARE Court grants and to recommend awards to the LSTFC. A spring RFP must be subject to the forthcoming budget act and any changes to the CARE Act. With that caveat, this memo recommends a 2024–2025 RFP (Attachment A) following State Bar conversations with the Judicial Council of California, California Department of Finance, and other stakeholders.

Like other LSTFC awards, 2024–2025 CARE Court grants would be final and without appeal. The RFP describes the following timeline for making awards:

Table 1: 2024–2025 CARE Court Grant Timeline

Date(s)*	Activity
April 11, 2024	The Committee approves the RFP
April 12, 2024	The application releases
May 10, 2024	Applications are due
June 7, 2024	The Committee recommends awards to the LSTFC
June 21, 2024	The LSTFC approves awards
June–July 2024	Applicants sign grant agreements
July 1, 2024	Grant period starts
July 1, 2024	Services start for Glenn, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Diego, San Francisco, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne Counties
On/before December 1, 2024	For all other counties, services start by the launch of that county’s CARE Court

*Some dates would be approximate to accommodate applicant, LSTFC, and staff availability and needs.

[25%20Proposed%20Budget_Final.pdf](#). The budget act, however, might provide less funding. Data about the relevant funding needs in 2024–2025 is still emerging.

⁹ See, e.g., the Budget Act of 2023.

ELIGIBILITY TO APPLY

Subject to the budget act, the RFP would restrict eligibility for a 2024–2025 CARE Court grant to QLSPs, support centers, and other entities that have the relevant expertise (other entities).¹⁰ QLSPs and support centers would need to have received an Interest on Lawyers’ Trust Accounts (IOLTA) grant for 2024.¹¹

GRANT PARAMETERS

1. 2024–2025 CARE Court awards must fund only the work that the budget act permits. For the current fiscal year, QLSPs must “provide legal counsel pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 5976 of the Welfare and Institutions Code for representation in CARE Act proceedings, matters related to CARE agreements, and CARE plans.” Support centers and other entities must “provide legal training and technical assistance related to the implementation of the CARE Act.”¹²
2. These grants are not fund the wraparound services or supports (e.g., housing) that become part of respondents’ CARE agreements or plans.¹³ Additionally, for the current fiscal year, lobbying and legal services unrelated to CARE agreements and CARE plans (e.g., helping a client to apply for immigration status) fell outside the scope of the authorizing statute.
3. The RFP estimates an amount of funding that each county would receive. See the next section, “Distributing Funds by County,” for how the LSTFC would distribute funding for QLSPs and public defender offices in 2024–2025.

QLSPs would apply for some or all of each county’s allocation. In doing so, they would specify the amount of the allocation they are seeking and number of clients they would be available to represent in that county. When evaluating QLSP applications, the Committee would compare this information to each county’s funding (see Table 2, below) and—if available—case estimates.

¹⁰ See, e.g., Welfare and Institutions Code § 5981.5 and SB 104.

¹¹ QLSP and support center status is a requirement to receive IOLTA, Equal Access Fund, and some other state and federal funding to provide or support civil legal aid to indigent Californians. Nonprofit organizations and nonprofit law school clinics must reapply for QLSP and support center status every year. They are then subject to monitoring by and reporting to the LSTFC and State Bar. For more information, see Business and Professions Code sections 6210–6228.

¹² The Budget Act of 2023, as amended.

¹³ Welfare and Institutions Code section 5971 defines “CARE agreement” as “a voluntary settlement agreement...[that] includes the same elements as a CARE plan to support the respondent in accessing community-based services and supports.” A “CARE plan” is “an individualized, appropriate range of community-based services and supports, as set forth in this part, which include clinically appropriate behavioral health care and stabilization medications, housing, and other supportive services, as appropriate, pursuant to Section 5982.”

Support centers and other entities would have a separate allocation to serve some or all counties. The RFP keeps the maximum amount that a support center or other entity may request at \$500,000. There would be no minimum amount that QLSPs, support centers, and other entities may request.

4. Services must start—QLSPs, for example, must be ready to accept appointments—by July 1, 2024, for Glenn, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Diego, San Francisco, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne Counties.¹⁴ For all other counties, services must start by when that county launches CARE Court.¹⁵ Subject to the budget act, the grant period would end June 30, 2025.
5. CARE Courts may appoint QLSPs to represent non-indigent respondents. QLSPs would need to track their spending on services to non-indigent clients. Likewise, support centers would need to track their spending on activities other than legal training, legal technical assistance, or advocacy support without charge to QLSPs and/or other qualifying entities. This would be to calculate their qualified expenditures on their IOLTA application pursuant to Business and Professions Code sections 6213 and 6216.

DISTRIBUTING FUNDS BY COUNTY

The RFP provides a preliminary estimate of \$47,564,000 for QLSPs and public defender offices to represent respondents in 2024–2025.¹⁶ Additionally, it estimates the amount available in each county as follows:

1. **Allocate funds by general population:** Divide each county’s population by the total population of all counties. Multiply the resulting percentage by the total estimated funding for QLSPs and public defenders. This yields an initial estimate for each county.

¹⁴ Welfare and Institutions Code § 5970.5.

¹⁵ All other counties must launch by December 1, 2024. Welfare and Institutions Code § 5970.5. They may, however, choose to launch earlier. Kern and San Mateo Counties, e.g., may start their CARE Courts before December 2024. As of April 4, 2024, the State Bar is unaware of any other cohort two counties—besides Los Angeles—that will have launched before July 1, 2024.

¹⁶ The final amount is pending the budget act. In the meantime, the Governor has proposed about \$51,700,000 to support this work in 2024–2025. Of that amount, staff estimates:

- At least 92 percent (e.g., \$47,564,000) to represent respondents;
- Up to four percent (e.g., \$2,068,000) to provide legal training and technical assistance; and
- Up to four percent (e.g., \$2,068,000) to cover Judicial Council and/or State Bar administrative costs.

The budget act, however, might provide less funding. Data is still emerging about the relevant funding needs in 2024–2025.

2. **Provide for minimum funding:** If step 1 provides fewer than \$60,000 to a county, raise its allocation to \$60,000 and adjust the remaining counties' allocations proportionally.

Following discussions with the Department of Finance and other stakeholders, staff recommends keeping this year's (i.e., 2023–2024's) funding floor of \$60,000. Staff anticipates that this amount will continue to provide sufficient funding for small counties.

A preliminary estimate of \$47,564,000 would yield the allocations below. For reference, Appendix A to the RFP estimates each county's allocation at 75 percent, 50 percent, and 25 percent of the Governor's January 2024 proposal.

Table 2: Estimated Funding to Represent Respondents in Each County

County	Estimated funding ¹⁷
Alameda	\$1,993,623.75
Alpine	\$60,000
Amador	\$60,000
Butte	\$254,154.25
Calaveras	\$60,000
Colusa	\$60,000
Contra Costa	\$1,404,262
Del Norte	\$60,000
El Dorado	\$231,758.50
Fresno	\$1,206,515
Glenn	\$60,000
Humboldt	\$162,122.25
Imperial	\$208,773.25
Inyo	\$60,000
Kern	\$1,073,051
Kings	\$169,993.50
Lake	\$81,209
Lassen	\$60,000
Los Angeles	\$11,912,197.25
Madera	\$183,036.25
Marin	\$311,477
Mariposa	\$60,000
Mendocino	\$109,165
Merced	\$337,060.75
Modoc	\$60,000
Mono	\$60,000

¹⁷ All figures in this column are pending and subject to the budget act, which might pass in June 2024. The budget act might provide less funding. Data is still emerging about the relevant funding needs in 2024–2025.

County	Estimated funding ¹⁷
Monterey	\$512,945.50
Napa	\$163,961
Nevada	\$123,341.25
Orange	\$3,820,488.25
Placer	\$490,831
Plumas	\$60,000
Riverside	\$2,913,550
Sacramento	\$1,899,810.25
San Benito	\$78,345
San Bernardino	\$2,600,728.50
San Diego	\$3,902,064
San Francisco	\$1,020,289.50
San Joaquin	\$930,017.25
San Luis Obispo	\$326,375.50
San Mateo	\$911,333
Santa Barbara	\$517,600.75
Santa Clara	\$2,297,251.75
Santa Cruz	\$313,452.25
Shasta	\$217,747.75
Sierra	\$60,000
Siskiyou	\$60,000
Solano	\$537,462.50
Sonoma	\$586,581.75
Stanislaus	\$666,446.50
Sutter	\$119,471.50
Tehama	\$78,901.50
Trinity	\$60,000
Tulare	\$569,537.75
Tuolumne	\$63,051
Ventura	\$1,010,973
Yolo	\$255,263.50
Yuba	\$97,779.50
Total	\$47,563,999.75

The RFP estimates up to \$2,068,000 for support centers and other entities to provide legal training and technical assistance to implement the CARE Act. Any amount remaining would likely go to QLSPs and public defenders to represent respondents. For reference, Appendix A to the RFP also estimates the funding for support centers and other entities at 75 percent, 50 percent, and 25 percent of the Governor’s January 2024 proposal. The RFP estimates \$2,068,000 for the Judicial Council and State Bar to administer the grants.

SCORING CRITERIA

A successful proposal would persuasively describe the applicant’s ability to perform the proposed work. For QLSPs this includes, among other factors, the organization’s experience:

- Serving adults “experiencing a severe mental illness, as defined in paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of [Welfare and Institutions Code] Section 5600.3 and has a diagnosis identified in the disorder class: schizophrenia spectrum and other psychotic disorders, as defined in the most current version of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.”¹⁸
- Representing clients in mental health cases such as LPS conservatorships or assisted outpatient treatment matters.
- Helping clients to access the types of community-based services and supports that Welfare and Institutions Code section 5982 describes. This includes behavioral health care, housing, and other services.
- Litigating and negotiating (e.g., with county behavioral health agencies).

It should be clear how all grant-funded activities would comply with the CARE Act and budget act. For consistency, the RFP uses the same rubric as last year to guide deliberations (see Attachment A).

THE APPLICATION

A complete application would include the following:

1. **Project profile**
The project profile would include high-level information about the project such as its funding request, counties of focus, and abstract.
2. **Project description**
The project description would include information about the applicant’s qualifications and deliverables. This includes the project’s goals, activities, targets for representation, potential collaborators, and evaluation. It would also ask about the applicant’s qualifications and resources to perform the work safely and effectively.
3. **Project budget**
The budget would include information on how the applicant proposes to spend 2024–2025 CARE Court funds in each county for which they apply. Applicants would need to identify staff by their role (e.g., “Managing attorney”) and estimate the amount of time

¹⁸ Welfare and Institutions Code § 5972.

that these roles would spend on the project. The project staff, budget, and description should be consistent with one another.

4. Budget narrative

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

5. Project assurances

Each applicant would have to acknowledge that:

1. It agrees that it will use any funds it receives from a 2024–2025 CARE Court grant only for the purposes stated in its application. Should the State Bar of California (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 would 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.
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 a 2024–2025 CARE Court grant, and all documents submitted pursuant to issuance of 2024–2025 CARE Court 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 2024–2025 CARE Court grants. Consequently, grantees will 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

To help compare data between funding periods, the RFP for 2024–2025 funds generally uses the same reporting requirements as for 2023–2024 funds (see Attachment A). That framework is based on Equal Access Program reporting. CARE Court reporting remains subject to guidance from the Department of Finance, Judicial Council of California, and other agencies. As such, some requirements might become known to the State Bar at a later date.

CONCLUSION

The attached RFP anticipates the future budget act’s requirements and parameters for 2024–2025 CARE Court funds. Additionally, it would facilitate awards by or as soon as possible after July 1, 2024, when at least eight counties will continue to hear CARE Court cases.

RECOMMENDATION

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

RESOLVED, that the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission (LSTFC) CARE Court Grants Committee, acting on behalf of the LSTFC under its delegated authority, approves the request for proposals for 2024–2025 CARE Court grants as described herein, including Attachment A.

ATTACHMENT

A. 2024–2025 CARE Court Grant RFP



The State Bar of California

2024–2025 Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court Grant Request for Proposals

BACKGROUND

On September 14, 2022, Governor Newsom signed the Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act.¹ The CARE Act created a new court program (CARE Court) where adults with qualifying, severe mental health issues can access behavioral health care, stabilization medication, housing, and other community services. The program launched October 1, 2023, in Glenn, Orange, Riverside, San Diego, San Francisco, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne Counties (cohort one). It launched December 1, 2023, in Los Angeles County. CARE Court must launch in all remaining counties (cohort two) by December 1, 2024.²

CARE Courts must appoint qualified legal services projects (QLSPs) to represent those who are the subject of a CARE Court petition (respondents). Where no QLSP has agreed to represent respondents, the court must appoint a public defender instead.³ Furthermore, the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission (LSTFC) must fund QLSPs to represent respondents “in CARE Act proceedings, matters related to CARE agreements and CARE plans.”⁴ The LSTFC must also fund qualified support centers to provide related “training, support, and coordination.”⁵

¹ Welfare and Institutions Code § 5970–87.

² Welfare and Institutions Code § 5970.5. Los Angeles County is part of cohort two but launched its CARE Court one year early on December 1, 2023. Other cohort two counties might launch before December 1 2024, as well. As of April 4, 2024, the State Bar is unaware of any cohort two counties—besides Los Angeles—that will launch before July 1, 2024. Staff recommends making 2024–2025 awards by that date provided that grants must become final after the Budget Act of 2024 passes.

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⁵ *Ibid.* On September 13, 2023, the Governor signed Senate Bill 104 (SB 104). SB 104 expanded eligibility for these funds in 2023–2024 to “other entities that have expertise in providing legal training and technical assistance to legal aid providers or public defenders.”

The forthcoming Budget Act of 2024 (budget act) will provide the funding for these services starting on July 1, 2024. At least eight counties, however, will already have launched CARE Courts by that date. Releasing an RFP this spring allows the LSTFC to determine 2024–2025 awards and funding for public defender offices by—or shortly after—June 30.

To estimate the amount of funding that will be available, this RFP uses the Governor’s proposed amount of about \$51.7 million.⁶ The RFP also bases the process to distribute 2024–2025 funds on that for 2023–2024 funds.⁷ Before making awards to QLSPs, for instance, the LSTFC will determine an amount of funding available to represent respondents in each county (see the section “Distributing Funds by County,” below, for more information). Additionally, any funding not awarded to QLSPs to serve a county would go to that county’s public defender office to represent respondents.

The LSTFC CARE Court Grants Committee (committee) met on April 11, 2024, to discuss and approve this RFP. **The RFP is subject to changes in the law including, but not limited to, the forthcoming budget act and any changes to the CARE Act.** 2024–2025 CARE Court grant applications are due on the State Bar of California’s grants portal, SmartSimple, by May 10, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. (PDT).

ELIGIBILITY TO APPLY

Subject to the budget act, eligibility for a 2024–2025 CARE Court grant is restricted to QLSPs, support centers, and other entities that have expertise in providing legal training and technical assistance to legal aid providers or public defenders (other entities).⁸ QLSPs and support

⁶ In the spring of 2023, the Governor proposed “\$51.6 million in 2024-25...[to] support public defender and legal service organizations that will provide legal counsel to CARE participants.” This total may account for QLSP, public defender office, and support center/other entity services, as well as Judicial Council of California and State Bar costs. The Governor’s January 2024 proposal supports a similar funding level. See, e.g., page 15 of the Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review’s “Summary of the Governor’s Proposed 2024-25 Budget,” available at sbud.senate.ca.gov/sites/sbud.senate.ca.gov/files/Summary%20of%20the%20Governors%202024-25%20Proposed%20Budget_Final.pdf. The budget act, however, might provide less funding. Data about the relevant funding needs in 2024–2025 is still emerging.

⁷ The language of the Budget Act of 2023 is available at leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB104.

⁸ See, e.g., Welfare and Institutions Code § 5981.5 and SB 104.

centers must have received an Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) grant from the LSTFC for 2024.⁹

GRANT PARAMETERS

1. The 2024–2025 CARE Court awards may fund only the work that the budget act permits. For the current fiscal year, QLSPs must “provide legal counsel pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 5976 of the Welfare and Institutions Code for representation in CARE Act proceedings, matters related to CARE agreements, and CARE plans.” Support centers and other entities must “provide legal training and technical assistance related to the implementation of the CARE Act.”¹⁰
2. These grants are not to fund the wraparound services or supports (e.g., housing) that become part of respondents' CARE agreements or plans.¹¹ Additionally, for the current fiscal year, lobbying and legal services unrelated to CARE agreements and CARE plans (e.g., helping a client to apply for immigration status) fell outside the scope of the authorizing statute.
3. The budget act may require the LSTFC to determine an amount of funding that each county will receive. See the next section, “Distributing Funds by County,” for how the LSTFC would distribute funding for QLSPs and public defender offices in 2024–2025.

QLSPs may apply for some or all of each county's allocation. In doing so, they must specify the amount of the allocation they are seeking and number of clients they would be available to represent in that county. When evaluating QLSP applications, the committee will compare this information to each county's funding (see Table 1, below) and—if available—case estimates. Since case estimates for 2024–2025 are still pending as of the date of this RFP, applicants are encouraged to confer with other county stakeholders (e.g., behavioral health agencies and/or superior courts) to estimate the number of appointments next fiscal year.

⁹ QLSP and support center status is a requirement to receive IOLTA, Equal Access Fund, and some other state and federal funding to provide or support civil legal aid to indigent Californians. Nonprofit organizations and nonprofit law school clinics must reapply for QLSP and support center status every year. They are then subject to monitoring by and reporting to the LSTFC and State Bar of California. For more information, see Business and Professions Code sections 6210–6228.

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4. Services must start—QLSPs, for example, must be ready to accept appointments—by July 1, 2024, for Glenn, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Diego, San Francisco, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne Counties.¹² For all other counties, services must start by when that county launches CARE Court.¹³ Subject to the budget act, the grant period will end June 30, 2025.
5. CARE Courts may appoint QLSPs to represent non-indigent respondents. QLSP grantees must track their spending on services to non-indigent clients. Likewise, support centers must track their spending on activities other than legal training, legal technical assistance, or advocacy support without charge to QLSPs and/or other qualifying entities. This is to calculate their qualified expenditures on their annual IOLTA application pursuant to Business and Professions Code sections 6213 and 6216.

DISTRIBUTING FUNDS BY COUNTY

This RFP estimates \$47,564,000 for QLSPs and public defender offices to represent respondents in 2024–2025.¹⁴ The committee determined the estimated amount available in each county as follows:

1. **Allocate funds by general population:** Divide each county's population by the total population of all counties. Multiply the resulting percentage by the total estimated funding for QLSPs and public defender offices. This yields an initial estimate for each county.
2. **Provide for minimum funding:** If step 1 provides fewer than \$60,000 to a county, raise its allocation to \$60,000 and adjust the remaining counties' allocations proportionally.

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¹³ All other counties must launch by December 1, 2024. Welfare and Institutions Code § 5970.5. They may choose to launch earlier, however. Kern and San Mateo Counties, e.g., might start their CARE Courts before December 2024. As of April 4, 2024, the State Bar is unaware of any cohort two counties besides Los Angeles that will have launched before July 1, 2024.

¹⁴ The final amount is pending the budget act. In the meantime, the Governor has proposed about \$51,700,000 to support this work in 2024–2025. Of that amount, the LSTFC estimates:

- At least 92 percent (e.g., \$47,564,000) to represent respondents;
- Up to four percent (e.g., \$2,068,000) to provide legal training and technical assistance; and
- Up to four percent (e.g., \$2,068,000) to cover Judicial Council and State Bar administrative costs.

A total estimate of \$47,564,000 would yield the allocations below. **The budget act, however, might provide less funding. Data about the relevant funding needs in 2024–2025 is still emerging.** For reference, Appendix A estimates allocations at 75 percent, 50 percent, and 25 percent of the Governor’s January 2024 proposal.

Table 1: Estimated Funding to Represent Respondents in Each County

County	Estimated funding ¹⁵
Alameda	\$1,993,623.75
Alpine	\$60,000
Amador	\$60,000
Butte	\$254,154.25
Calaveras	\$60,000
Colusa	\$60,000
Contra Costa	\$1,404,262
Del Norte	\$60,000
El Dorado	\$231,758.50
Fresno	\$1,206,515
Glenn	\$60,000
Humboldt	\$162,122.25
Imperial	\$208,773.25
Inyo	\$60,000
Kern	\$1,073,051
Kings	\$169,993.50
Lake	\$81,209
Lassen	\$60,000
Los Angeles	\$11,912,197.25
Madera	\$183,036.25
Marin	\$311,477
Mariposa	\$60,000
Mendocino	\$109,165
Merced	\$337,060.75
Modoc	\$60,000
Mono	\$60,000
Monterey	\$512,945.50
Napa	\$163,961
Nevada	\$123,341.25
Orange	\$3,820,488.25

¹⁵ All figures in this column are pending and subject to the budget act, which might pass in late June 2024.

County	Estimated funding ¹⁵
Placer	\$490,831
Plumas	\$60,000
Riverside	\$2,913,550
Sacramento	\$1,899,810.25
San Benito	\$78,345
San Bernardino	\$2,600,728.50
San Diego	\$3,902,064
San Francisco	\$1,020,289.50
San Joaquin	\$930,017.25
San Luis Obispo	\$326,375.50
San Mateo	\$911,333
Santa Barbara	\$517,600.75
Santa Clara	\$2,297,251.75
Santa Cruz	\$313,452.25
Shasta	\$217,747.75
Sierra	\$60,000
Siskiyou	\$60,000
Solano	\$537,462.50
Sonoma	\$586,581.75
Stanislaus	\$666,446.50
Sutter	\$119,471.50
Tehama	\$78,901.50
Trinity	\$60,000
Tulare	\$569,537.75
Tuolumne	\$63,051
Ventura	\$1,010,973
Yolo	\$255,263.50
Yuba	\$97,779.50
Total	\$47,563,999.75

This RFP estimates up to \$2,068,000 for support centers and other entities to provide legal training and technical assistance to implement the CARE Act. Any amount remaining from this allocation would go to QLSPs and public defender offices to represent respondents. For reference, Appendix A also estimates the funding for support centers and other entities at 75 percent, 50 percent, and 25 percent of the Governor's January 2024 proposal. The RFP estimates \$2,068,000 for the Judicial Council and State Bar to administer the grants.

SCORING CRITERIA

LSTFC award decisions are final and without appeal. A successful proposal will persuasively describe the applicant's ability to perform the proposed work. For QLSPs this includes, among other factors, the organization's experience:

- Serving adults “experiencing a severe mental illness, as defined in paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of [Welfare and Institutions Code] Section 5600.3 and has a diagnosis identified in the disorder class: schizophrenia spectrum and other psychotic disorders, as defined in the most current version of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.”¹⁶
- Representing clients in mental health cases such as LPS conservatorships or assisted outpatient treatment matters.
- Helping clients to access the types of community-based services and supports that Welfare and Institutions Code section 5982 describes. This includes behavioral health care, housing, and other services.
- Litigating and negotiating (e.g., with county behavioral health agencies).

Additionally, it should be clear how all grant-funded activities would comply with the CARE Act and budget act.

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

Category	Exceeds Expectation	Meets Expectation	Below Expectation	Not Addressed
Impact: The applicant describes how it will significantly and directly perform the role of QLSP or support center under the CARE Act and Budget Act.				
Qualifications: The applicant demonstrates that it has the qualifications (e.g., knowledge, experience, and relationships) that it needs to accomplish the proposal's goals.				
Number of check marks	X21-25 points	X11-20 points	X1-10 points	X0 points
Subtotal				

¹⁶ Welfare and Institutions Code § 5972.

Category	Exceeds Expectation	Meets Expectation	Below Expectation	Not Addressed
Administration: The applicant demonstrates that it has the organizational capacity (e.g., supervision structure and resources) that it needs to meet the proposal objectives.				
Evaluation: The applicant details how it will acquire and use data to measure the effectiveness of its services and meet reporting requirements.				
Number of check marks	X15 points	X10 points	X5 points	X0 points
Subtotal				
Total				

The rubric is a tool to guide committee and LSTFC discussion of proposals. A comparatively high score does not guarantee funding. The committee and LSTFC may still exercise discretion in making awards that best accomplish the statutory goals of this funding.

The following explanations refer to the rubric:

- **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.
- **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.” For example, 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.

GRANTMAKING TIMELINE

Table 2: 2024–2025 CARE Court Grant Timeline

Date(s)*	Activity
April 11, 2024	The committee approves the RFP
April 12, 2024	The application releases
May 10, 2024	Applications are due
June 7, 2024	The committee recommends awards to the LSTFC
June 21, 2024	The LSTFC approves awards
June–July 2024	Applicants sign grant agreements
July 1, 2024	Grant period starts
July 1, 2024	Services start for Glenn, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Diego, San Francisco, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne Counties
On/before December 1, 2024	For all other counties, services start by the launch of that county’s CARE Court

*Some dates are approximate to accommodate applicant, LSTFC, and staff availability and needs.

THE APPLICATION

A complete 2024–2025 CARE Court application will include the components below. Please see the application instructions for detailed guidance.

1. Project profile

The project profile will include high-level information about the project such as its funding request, counties of focus, and abstract.

2. Project description

The project description will include information about the applicant’s qualifications and deliverables. This includes the project’s goals, activities, targets for representation, potential collaborators, and evaluation. It will also ask about the applicant’s qualifications and resources to perform the work safely and effectively.

3. Project budget

The budget will include information on how the applicant proposes to spend 2024–2025 CARE Court funds in each county for which they apply. Applicants 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 one another.

4. 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. Project assurances

Each applicant will have to acknowledge that:

1. It agrees that it will use any funds it receives from a 2024–2025 CARE Court grant only for the purposes stated in its application. Should the State Bar of California (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.
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 a 2024–2025 CARE Court grant, and all documents submitted pursuant to issuance of 2024–2025 CARE Court 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 2024–2025 CARE Court 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 their clients and activities. This data will include case outcomes tied to individual characteristics.

The 2024–2025 CARE Court grants generally uses the existing framework for Equal Access Program reporting except where necessary to meet other state requirements. Reporting requirements are subject to guidance from the Department of Finance, Judicial Council of California, and other agencies. As such, some requirements might become known to the State Bar at a later date.

QLSPs, public defender offices, support centers, and other entities will report data through the State Bar’s portal, SmartSimple.

1. Quarterly reports

All recipients of CARE Court funds must report quarterly on expenditures and services.

CARE Court grantees only: In addition to the quarterly expenditures required of all funding recipients, if awarded a CARE Court grant you must also report budget variances exceeding 10 percent of the approved grant budget to the State Bar as soon as possible. Variances exceeding 10 percent of the approved grant budget require an official budget revision request and State Bar or LSTFC approval.

QLSPs and public defenders only: For those providing legal representation, this includes reporting quarterly on new, ongoing, and/or closed representation of clients:

- A. Client demographics such as race/ethnicity, gender identity, age, disability status, veteran status, limited English Proficiency status, and housing status.
- B. Petitioner status (e.g., family member, first responder, etc.).
- C. Legal outcomes that are relevant to the CARE Act, including CARE plans and agreements.

- D. Legal resolutions that are relevant to the CARE Act, including CARE plans and agreements.
- E. (To the extent possible) Economic benefits for cases that resulted in an award for or savings to the client.
- F. Information about CARE Court workloads. This may include, e.g., the time it takes to represent clients in CARE Court proceedings (i.e., in-court hours), the total time it takes to serve clients (e.g., to prepare for hearings, attend hearings, help client access services, and otherwise implement the CARE Act, including CARE plans and agreements), and similar information to gauge grantee and public defender office workloads and funding needs.
- G. Any other quarterly data necessary to comply with state reporting requirements.

Support centers and other entities providing legal trainings and/or technical assistance to counsel for respondents only: Must report quantitative data about trainings, convenings, research, and other support for QLSPs, public defenders, courts, county behavioral health agencies, and others.

2. A final evaluation

All recipients of CARE Court funds must submit a final evaluation about:

- A. Impact (i.e., how services affected the people served).
- B. Evaluations (the processes used to assess the effectiveness of services and the lessons learned about the services or the community).
- C. Legal service delivery successes and challenges.
- D. Publications (any publication or distribution plans for materials resulting from grant activities/this funding).
- E. Any other final evaluation data necessary to comply with state reporting requirements.

FOR QUESTIONS

For questions about the 2024–2025 CARE Court grants, please contact Helen Yu, Senior Program Analyst, at (213) 765-1074 or helen.yu@calbar.ca.gov.

APPENDIX A

Table 3: Allocation Estimates for 75 Percent of the Governor's January 2024 Proposal

County	Estimated funding
Alameda	\$1,484,925.25
Alpine	\$60,000
Amador	\$60,000
Butte	\$189,303.50
Calaveras	\$60,000
Colusa	\$60,000
Contra Costa	\$1,045,946.75
Del Norte	\$60,000
El Dorado	\$172,622.25
Fresno	\$898,657.25
Glenn	\$60,000
Humboldt	\$120,754.75
Imperial	\$155,502.25
Inyo	\$60,000
Kern	\$799,248.25
Kings	\$126,617.50
Lake	\$60,487.50
Lassen	\$60,000
Los Angeles	\$8,872,648.25
Madera	\$136,332.25
Marin	\$231,999.75
Mariposa	\$60,000
Mendocino	\$81,310
Merced	\$251,055.50
Modoc	\$60,000
Mono	\$60,000
Monterey	\$382,061
Napa	\$122,124.25
Nevada	\$91,869.25
Orange	\$2,845,642
Placer	\$365,589.25
Plumas	\$60,000
Riverside	\$2,170,120.50
Sacramento	\$1,415,049.50
San Benito	\$60,000
San Bernardino	\$1,937,119.50

County	Estimated funding
San Diego	\$2,906,402.50
San Francisco	\$759,949.75
San Joaquin	\$692,711.50
San Luis Obispo	\$243,096.75
San Mateo	\$678,794.75
Santa Barbara	\$385,528.25
Santa Clara	\$1,711,078.75
Santa Cruz	\$233,471
Shasta	\$162,186.50
Sierra	\$60,000
Siskiyou	\$60,000
Solano	\$400,322
Sonoma	\$436,908
Stanislaus	\$496,394.25
Sutter	\$88,986.75
Tehama	\$60,000
Trinity	\$60,000
Tulare	\$424,213
Tuolumne	\$60,000
Ventura	\$753,010.50
Yolo	\$190,129.75
Yuba	\$72,829.75
Total	\$35,673,000

If the budget act provides 75 percent of the Governor's January 2024 proposal, the RFP estimates up to \$1,551,000 for support centers and other entities to provide legal training and technical assistance for implementing the CARE Act. Similarly, the RFP estimates \$1,551,000 for the Judicial Council and State Bar to administer the grants at this percentage.

Table 4: Allocation Estimates for 50 Percent of the Governor's January 2024 Proposal

County	Estimated funding
Alameda	\$972,806
Alpine	\$60,000
Amador	\$60,000
Butte	\$124,016.75
Calaveras	\$60,000
Colusa	\$60,000
Contra Costa	\$685,221.75
Del Norte	\$60,000
El Dorado	\$113,088.50

County	Estimated funding
Fresno	\$588,729.50
Glenn	\$60,000
Humboldt	\$79,109
Imperial	\$101,872.75
Inyo	\$60,000
Kern	\$523,604.50
Kings	\$82,949.75
Lake	\$60,000
Lassen	\$60,000
Los Angeles	\$5,812,659.75
Madera	\$89,314
Marin	\$151,988
Mariposa	\$60,000
Mendocino	\$60,000
Merced	\$164,471.75
Modoc	\$60,000
Mono	\$60,000
Monterey	\$250,296.25
Napa	\$80,006.25
Nevada	\$60,185.50
Orange	\$1,864,240.25
Placer	\$239,505.25
Plumas	\$60,000
Riverside	\$1,421,692
Sacramento	\$927,029
San Benito	\$60,000
San Bernardino	\$1,269,048
San Diego	\$1,904,046
San Francisco	\$497,859.25
San Joaquin	\$453,810
San Luis Obispo	\$159,257.75
San Mateo	\$444,692.75
Santa Barbara	\$252,567.75
Santa Clara	\$1,120,963.75
Santa Cruz	\$152,951.75
Shasta	\$106,252
Sierra	\$60,000
Siskiyou	\$60,000
Solano	\$262,259.50
Sonoma	\$286,227.75
Stanislaus	\$325,198.25

County	Estimated funding
Sutter	\$58,297
Tehama	\$60,000
Trinity	\$60,000
Tulare	\$277,910.75
Tuolumne	\$60,000
Ventura	\$493,313
Yolo	\$124,558
Yuba	\$60,000
Total	\$23,781,999.75

If the budget act provides 50 percent of the Governor's January 2024 proposal, the RFP estimates up to \$1,034,000 for support centers and other entities to provide legal training and technical assistance for implementing the CARE Act. Similarly, the RFP estimates \$1,034,000 for the Judicial Council and State Bar to administer the grants at this percentage.

Table 5: Allocation Estimates for 25 Percent of the Governor's January 2024 Proposal

County	Estimated funding
Alameda	\$451,318
Alpine	\$60,000
Amador	\$60,000
Butte	\$57,535.75
Calaveras	\$60,000
Colusa	\$60,000
Contra Costa	\$317,898
Del Norte	\$60,000
El Dorado	\$60,000
Fresno	\$273,131.75
Glenn	\$60,000
Humboldt	\$60,000
Imperial	\$60,000
Inyo	\$60,000
Kern	\$242,918
Kings	\$60,000
Lake	\$60,000
Lassen	\$60,000
Los Angeles	\$2,696,692.25
Madera	\$60,000
Marin	\$70,512.50
Mariposa	\$60,000

County	Estimated funding
Mendocino	\$60,000
Merced	\$76,304
Modoc	\$60,000
Mono	\$60,000
Monterey	\$116,121
Napa	\$60,000
Nevada	\$60,000
Orange	\$864,885
Placer	\$111,114.75
Plumas	\$60,000
Riverside	\$659,571.75
Sacramento	\$430,080.50
San Benito	\$60,000
San Bernardino	\$588,755
San Diego	\$883,352.25
San Francisco	\$230,974
San Joaquin	\$210,538
San Luis Obispo	\$73,885.25
San Mateo	\$206,308.25
Santa Barbara	\$117,174.75
Santa Clara	\$520,053.50
Santa Cruz	\$70,959.50
Shasta	\$60,000
Sierra	\$60,000
Siskiyou	\$60,000
Solano	\$121,671.25
Sonoma	\$132,790.75
Stanislaus	\$150,870.75
Sutter	\$60,000
Tehama	\$60,000
Trinity	\$60,000
Tulare	\$128,932.50
Tuolumne	\$60,000
Ventura	\$228,864.75
Yolo	\$57,786.75
Yuba	\$60,000
Total	\$11,891,000.50

If the budget act provides 25 percent of the Governor's January 2024 proposal, the RFP estimates up to \$517,000 for support centers and other entities to provide legal training and

technical assistance for implementing the CARE Act. Similarly, the RFP estimates \$517,000 for the Judicial Council and State Bar to administer the grants at this percentage.

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