



The State Bar of California

OPEN SESSION

AGENDA ITEM

JUNE 2024

LEGAL SERVICES TRUST FUND COMMISSION (LSTFC) CARE COURT GRANTS COMMITTEE 4.3

DATE: June 7, 2024

TO: Members, LSTFC CARE Court Grants Committee

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

SUBJECT: Recommend 2024–2025 CARE Court Awards and Amounts for County Public
Defender Offices, Subject to the Budget Act of 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The LSTFC administers funding to public defender offices, qualified legal services projects (QLSPs), support centers, and other entities participating in Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court this state fiscal year (July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024).¹ 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 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.

The Committee approved an RFP (Attachment A) on April 11, 2024, and applications were due on May 10, 2024. This memo describes the process for scoring those proposals and presents the scoring team’s award recommendations. The memo also recommends that the Committee seek authority to adjust 2024–2025 awards and other amounts for respondent’s counsel (i.e., the funding allocation formula) to ensure sufficient funding in each county and to comply with the future Budget Act of 2024.

¹ 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, 2022.² 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, 2024.³

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.⁴ Furthermore, the LSTFC funds QLSPs to represent respondents “in CARE Act proceedings, matters related to CARE agreements and CARE plans.”⁵ The LSTFC also funds qualified support centers to provide related “training, support, and coordination.”⁶

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. The Committee released the RFP this spring to allow the LSTFC to determine 2024–2025 awards and funding for public defender offices by—or shortly after—June 30.

DISCUSSION

2024–2025 FUNDING

To estimate the funding that will be available, the RFP used the Governor’s January 2024 proposal of about \$51.7 million.⁷ The RFP also based the process to distribute 2024–

² Welfare and Institutions Code §§ 5970–87.

³ 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 May 28, 2024, Kern and San Mateo counties plan to launch before December 1, 2024.

⁴ Welfare and Institutions Code § 5977.

⁵ 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.”

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ In the spring of 2023, the Governor proposed “\$51.7 million in 2024-25...[to] support public defender and legal service organizations that will provide legal counsel to CARE participants.” This total may have accounted for QLSP,

2025 funds on that for 2023–2024 funds.⁸ 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,” in Attachment A, for more information).

On May 14, 2024, the Governor decreased his proposal for representing respondents in 2024–2025 to \$16,750,000. He also decreased his proposal for providing legal training and technical assistance to \$838,000.⁹ Later, on May 29, the Legislature released its own budget plan.¹⁰ Staff is closely tracking the Budget Act’s progress to help the Committee calculate final funding figures for QLSPs, public defender offices, and others.

SCORING CRITERIA

On April 11, 2024, the Committee 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				

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 supported 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.

⁸ See, e.g., the Budget Act of 2023.

⁹ On May 14, 2024, the Department of Finance released a letter detailing adjustments to the Governor’s January 2024 proposal. The letter is available at <https://dof.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/352/2024/05/LJE.pdf>.

¹⁰ On May 29, 2024, the Assembly Budget Committee released a Subcommittee Report on the Legislature’s Budget Plan. The Subcommittee Report is available at <https://abgt.assembly.ca.gov/system/files/2024-05/subcommittee-report-of-the-2024-25-budget.pdf>.

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 RFP states that 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 to make 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.

REVIEW PROCESS

The State Bar received applications from four QLSPs and one support center. No other entities applied. QLSPs applied to serve San Bernadino, San Francisco, and San Mateo counties. Please see Attachment B for profile sheets summarizing the applications.

The scoring team consisted of three committee members and two staff members. The team arrived at a rounded, average score for each applicant and applied the same minimum score that the Committee used for 2023–2024 funds. To recommend funding, an application must score at least 56—out of 80—points. That is 70 percent of the points available.

SCORES

CARE Court serves exclusively adults experiencing a serious mental disorder.¹¹ Many—if not almost all—respondents will be homeless or at risk of homelessness. The scoring team assessed whether proposals demonstrated an ability to serve this particularly high-need population effectively. The scoring team also discussed how projects would collect and evaluate data and collaborate with partners, particularly public defender offices. For one applicant, the team assessed how it would screen for conflicts of interest in the role of respondent’s counsel.¹²

Overall, the scoring team considered whether each proposal demonstrated the ability to:

- Represent adults who are experiencing a serious mental disorder.
- Represent clients in mental health cases specifically.
- Help clients to access the types of community services and supports that Welfare and Institutions Code section 5982 describes (e.g., behavioral health care and housing).
- Litigate and negotiate (e.g., with county behavioral health agencies).
- Supervise, staff, and strategize services effectively.

Two applicants—Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco and Legal Assistance to the Elderly—currently represent CARE respondents in San Francisco County. With a minimum score of 56 points to recommend funding, the scoring team recommends all five proposals for an award:

¹¹ Welfare and Institutions Code § 5972.

¹² LASSB described representing a CARE petitioner—a respondent’s family member—in Riverside County. Staff reviewed LASSB’s written conflict of interest policy during the scoring process. LASSB also provided written assurance that it would follow State Bar Rules regarding potential conflicts of interest for CARE cases.

Table 1. Award Recommendations

Applicant	Score	Recomm.	Amount
Scores of 56–80 (recommend for funding)			
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF)	64	Yes	\$25,000
Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco (JDC)	74	Yes	\$429,501*
Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino (LASSB)	61	Yes	\$463,693
Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County (LASSMC)	62	Yes	\$224,830
Legal Assistance to the Elderly (LAE)	76	Yes	\$496,078*

* This sum of these amounts may exceed the funding that will be available for San Francisco County. Therefore, the LSTFC or Committee may need to revise this award to comply with the Budget Act and LSTFC’s allocation formula for the funds to represent respondents. All awards are subject to the Budget Act.

The scoring team recommends that each applicant receive the amount that it requested pending the forthcoming Budget Act. The scoring team is aware that since it reviewed applications, the Governor has proposed to reduce 2024–2025 funding for respondent’s counsel from an estimated \$47,564,000 to about \$16,750,000. At the new amount, the RFP’s county allocation formula would still allow LASSB and LASSMC to receive their full requests. The amounts for JDC and LAE, however, would exceed the funds available to San Francisco County.

Staff recommends that the Committee seek authority to adjust 2024–2025 awards and other amounts for respondent’s counsel (i.e., the county allocation formula) to ensure sufficient funding in each county and to comply with the future Budget Act of 2024. In the meantime, Table 2 compares each county’s estimate in the RFP, which used the Governor’s January 2024 proposal, to a figure that uses the Governor’s May 2024 proposal.

REALLOCATING THE FUNDS FOR SUPPORT CENTERS AND OTHER ENTITIES

Subject to the Budget Act, any funds remaining from the amount for support centers and other entities will go to QLSPs and public defender offices to represent respondents. Only one support center, DREDF, applied for a 2024–2025 grant. Column three in Table 2 includes this remaining amount (\$813,000) from the Governor’s May 2024 proposal.

**Table 2: Comparing Estimated Allocations Using the Governor’s January and May Proposals
(for Reference Only)**

County	Initial/RFP estimate (Jan. 2024 amount)	Revised estimate (May 2024 amount)	Difference
Alameda	\$1,993,623.75	\$702,472.75	-\$1,291,151
Alpine	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$0
Amador	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$0
Butte	\$254,154.25	\$89,553.75	-\$164,600.50
Calaveras	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$0
Colusa	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$0
Contra Costa	\$1,404,262	\$494,805.25	-\$909,456.75

County	Initial/RFP estimate (Jan. 2024 amount)	Revised estimate (May 2024 amount)	Difference
Del Norte	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$0
El Dorado	\$231,758.50	\$81,662.25	-\$150,096.25
Fresno	\$1,206,515	\$425,127.25	-\$781,387.75
Glenn	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$0
Humboldt	\$162,122.25	\$60,000	-\$102,122.25
Imperial	\$208,773.25	\$73,563.25	-\$135,210
Inyo	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$0
Kern	\$1,073,051	\$378,100	-\$694,951
Kings	\$169,993.50	\$60,000	-\$109,993.50
Lake	\$81,209	\$60,000	-\$21,209
Lassen	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$0
Los Angeles	\$11,912,197.25	\$4,197,378	-\$7,714,819.25
Madera	\$183,036.25	\$64,494.50	-\$118,541.75
Marin	\$311,477	\$109,752	-\$201,725
Mariposa	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$0
Mendocino	\$109,165	\$60,000	-\$49,165
Merced	\$337,060.75	\$118,766.75	-\$218,294
Modoc	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$0
Mono	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$0
Monterey	\$512,945.50	\$180,741.25	-\$332,204.25
Napa	\$163,961	\$60,000	-\$103,961
Nevada	\$123,341.25	\$60,000	-\$63,341.25
Orange	\$3,820,488.25	\$1,346,186	-\$2,474,302.25
Placer	\$490,831	\$172,949	-\$317,882
Plumas	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$0
Riverside	\$2,913,550	\$1,026,617.50	-\$1,886,932.50
Sacramento	\$1,899,810.25	\$669,416.50	-\$1,230,393.75
San Benito	\$78,345	\$60,000	-\$18,345
San Bernardino	\$2,600,728.50	\$916,392	-\$1,684,336.50
San Diego	\$3,902,064	\$1,374,930	-\$2,527,134
San Francisco	\$1,020,289.50	\$359,509	-\$660,780.50
San Joaquin	\$930,017.25	\$327,700.50	-\$602,316.75
San Luis Obispo	\$326,375.50	\$115,001.50	-\$211,374
San Mateo	\$911,333	\$321,117	-\$590,216
Santa Barbara	\$517,600.75	\$182,381.75	-\$335,219
Santa Clara	\$2,297,251.75	\$809,459	-\$1,487,792.75
Santa Cruz	\$313,452.25	\$110,448	-\$203,004.25
Shasta	\$217,747.75	\$76,725.50	-\$141,022.25
Sierra	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$0
Siskiyou	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$0
Solano	\$537,462.50	\$189,380	-\$348,082.50

County	Initial/RFP estimate (Jan. 2024 amount)	Revised estimate (May 2024 amount)	Difference
Sonoma	\$586,581.75	\$206,687.75	-\$379,894
Stanislaus	\$666,446.50	\$234,829	-\$431,617.50
Sutter	\$119,471.50	\$60,000	-\$59,471.50
Tehama	\$78,901.50	\$60,000	-\$18,901.50
Trinity	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$0
Tulare	\$569,537.75	\$200,682.25	-\$368,855.50
Tuolumne	\$63,051	\$60,000	-\$3,051.00
Ventura	\$1,010,973	\$356,226.25	-\$654,746.75
Yolo	\$255,263.50	\$89,944.50	-\$165,319
Yuba	\$97,779.50	\$60,000	-\$37,779.50
Total	\$47,563,999.75	\$17,563,000	-\$30,000,999.75

CONCLUSION

The recommended QLSPs have extensive experience serving their counties' communities that may qualify for CARE Court. They have also demonstrated expertise litigating and advocating for clients to access the types of services and supports for which the CARE Act provides. The recommended support center has likewise demonstrated its ability to provide the relevant expertise through trainings and technical assistance to respondent's counsel across the state.

RECOMMENDATION

Should the Committee concur, 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, recommends the 2024–2025 CARE Court Grant recipients and amounts, subject to the Budget Act of 2024, as described herein; and it is

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the LSTFC CARE Court Grants Committee recommends that the LSTFC delegate to the Committee authority to adjust the 2024–2025 CARE Court awards and amounts for county public defender offices or their equivalents (i.e., the county allocation formula) to ensure sufficient funding for representation in each county and compliance with the Budget Act of 2024.

ATTACHMENTS LIST

- A. 2024–2025 CARE Court Grant RFP
- B. Profile Sheets for the 2024–2025 CARE Court Grant Applications
- C. Breakdown of Scores for the 2024–2025 CARE Court Grant Applications



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.

³ Welfare and Institutions Code § 5977.

⁴ 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.”

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.” Other civil legal services for CARE Court respondents qualify provided there is a nexus to a respondent’s CARE agreement or CARE plan. 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.

¹⁰ The Budget Act of 2023, as amended.

¹¹ 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 will have a separate allocation to serve some or all counties. The maximum amount that a support center or other entity may request is \$500,000. There is no minimum amount of funding 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.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.

¹² Welfare and Institutions Code § 5970.5.

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.

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.

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.

The tables in Attachment A show the impact if the funding is reduced. These tables are examples only. The Commission will approve final funding levels following the final budget numbers. The Commission will consider if adjustments to the funding floor are needed for counties of different population sizes.

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

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
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
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 serious mental disorder, 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.,				

¹⁶ Welfare and Institutions Code § 5972.

Category	Exceeds Expectation	Meets Expectation	Below Expectation	Not Addressed
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				
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

The tables in Attachment A show the impact if the funding is reduced. These tables are examples only. The Commission will approve final funding levels following the final budget numbers. The Commission will consider if adjustments to the funding floor are needed for counties of different population sizes.

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

County	Estimated funding
Riverside	\$2,170,120.50
Sacramento	\$1,415,049.50
San Benito	\$60,000
San Bernardino	\$1,937,119.50
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	\$972,732.25
Alpine	\$60,000
Amador	\$60,000
Butte	\$124,007.25
Calaveras	\$60,000

County	Estimated funding
Colusa	\$60,000
Contra Costa	\$685,170
Del Norte	\$60,000
El Dorado	\$113,080
Fresno	\$588,684.75
Glenn	\$60,000
Humboldt	\$79,103
Imperial	\$101,865
Inyo	\$60,000
Kern	\$523,564.75
Kings	\$82,943.50
Lake	\$60,000
Lassen	\$60,000
Los Angeles	\$5,812,219.25
Madera	\$89,307.25
Marin	\$151,976.50
Mariposa	\$60,000
Mendocino	\$60,000
Merced	\$164,459.25
Modoc	\$60,000
Mono	\$60,000
Monterey	\$250,277.25
Napa	\$80,000.25
Nevada	\$60,180.75
Orange	\$1,864,099
Placer	\$239,487
Plumas	\$60,000
Riverside	\$1,421,584.25
Sacramento	\$926,958.75
San Benito	\$60,000
San Bernardino	\$1,268,951.75
San Diego	\$1,903,901.50
San Francisco	\$497,821.50
San Joaquin	\$453,775.50
San Luis Obispo	\$159,245.75
San Mateo	\$444,659
Santa Barbara	\$252,548.50
Santa Clara	\$1,120,878.75
Santa Cruz	\$152,940.25
Shasta	\$106,243.75
Sierra	\$60,000

County	Estimated funding
Siskiyou	\$60,000
Solano	\$262,239.50
Sonoma	\$286,206
Stanislaus	\$325,173.75
Sutter*	\$60,000
Tehama	\$60,000
Trinity	\$60,000
Tulare	\$277,889.75
Tuolumne	\$60,000
Ventura	\$493,275.75
Yolo	\$124,548.75
Yuba	\$60,000
Total	\$23,781,999.75

* The RFP describes the formula for allocating by county the estimated funding to represent respondents (see "Distributing Funds by County," pp. 4–5). At 50% of the Governor's proposal, step one of the formula would leave this county just above the funding floor of \$60,000. In adjusting its allocation proportionally (step two), this county would then fall just below the floor. This table corrects for that by ensuring that all counties, including this one, would still receive at least \$60,000.

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	\$451,106.50
Alpine	\$60,000
Amador	\$60,000
Butte*	\$60,000
Calaveras	\$60,000
Colusa	\$60,000
Contra Costa	\$317,748.75
Del Norte	\$60,000
El Dorado	\$60,000
Fresno	\$273,003.75
Glenn	\$60,000
Humboldt	\$60,000

County	Estimated funding
Imperial	\$60,000
Inyo	\$60,000
Kern	\$242,804.25
Kings	\$60,000
Lake	\$60,000
Lassen	\$60,000
Los Angeles	\$2,695,427.75
Madera	\$60,000
Marin	\$70,479.25
Mariposa	\$60,000
Mendocino	\$60,000
Merced	\$76,268.25
Modoc	\$60,000
Mono	\$60,000
Monterey	\$116,066.50
Napa	\$60,000
Nevada	\$60,000
Orange	\$864,479.50
Placer	\$111,062.50
Plumas	\$60,000
Riverside	\$659,262.25
Sacramento	\$429,878.75
San Benito	\$60,000
San Bernardino	\$588,478.75
San Diego	\$882,938
San Francisco	\$230,865.75
San Joaquin	\$210,439.25
San Luis Obispo	\$73,850.50
San Mateo	\$206,211.50
Santa Barbara	\$117,120
Santa Clara	\$519,809.75
Santa Cruz	\$70,926.25
Shasta	\$60,000
Sierra	\$60,000
Siskiyou	\$60,000
Solano	\$121,614
Sonoma	\$132,728.50
Stanislaus	\$150,800
Sutter	\$60,000
Tehama	\$60,000
Trinity	\$60,000

County	Estimated funding
Tulare	\$128,872
Tuolumne	\$60,000
Ventura	\$228,757.50
Yolo*	\$60,000
Yuba	\$60,000
Total	\$11,890,999.75

* The RFP describes the formula for allocating by county the estimated funding to represent respondents (see "Distributing Funds by County," pp. 4–5). At 25% of the Governor's proposal, step one of the formula would leave this county just above the funding floor of \$60,000. In adjusting its allocation proportionally (step two), this county would then fall just below the floor. This table corrects for that by ensuring that all counties, including this one, would still receive at least \$60,000.

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.

Profile Sheets for the 2024–2025 CARE Court Grant Applications

Organization Name	Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund
Project Name	Support for Accessible Representation for Care Court Respondents
Amount Requested	\$25,000
County(ies) Served	Statewide
Services Dates	July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025 (cohort one, Los Angeles, and cohort two counties starting services on July 1, 2024) December 1, 2024–June 30, 2025 (all remaining counties)
Project Abstract	This project will offer four webinar trainings (one per quarter) to staff of QLSPs and public defender offices that are representing Care Court respondents. One training will be on readily accessible legal services, including effective communication and supported decision-making, with Care Court respondents. One training will be on existing services and supports that are potentially available to Care Court respondents and will give respondents' counsel guidance on how to request these services and supports. The remaining two trainings will build on the first two as well as feedback from attendees. One of the two will likely review the impact of Prop 1 on Care Court. The trainings will have professional captioning and will be recorded and made available to respondents' counsel with QLSPs and public defender offices. In addition to the quarterly trainings, the project will collect guidance from people who have diagnoses of schizophrenia or psychotic disorders about effective communication and relevant services and supports. DREDF will share this guidance with respondents' counsel through video and/or factsheets.
Organizational Experience (Clients with a Serious Mental Disorder)	DREDF currently provides support services to QLSPs and public defender offices that are representing Care Court respondents through its existing IOLTA and EAF grants. DREDF provides training on how to make legal services readily accessible for Care Court respondents. DREDF makes itself available for technical assistance related to representing Care Court respondents. DREDF was a co-sponsor of AB 1663 (The Probate Conservatorship Reform and Supported Decision-Making Act) and works on its implementation through trainings and technical assistance throughout the legal services and disability communities. DREDF has provided comment on Care Court implementation and on related legislation. DREDF has trained and participated in panels with state and local judges on issues related to Care Court. DREDF shares peer-reviewed research and best practices regarding services and supports for people with schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders.
Organizational Experience (Community-Based Services Advocacy)	DREDF has expertise and provides trainings on access to the types of community-based services and supports that are described in Welfare and Institutions Code section 5982. For example, DREDF has trained and provided written materials on In-Home Supportive Services, Regional Center Services, CalAIM and Enhanced Case Management, Specialty

Profile Sheets for the 2024–2025 CARE Court Grant Applications

Organization Name	Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund
	Mental Health Services, Full Service Partnership, Peer Support, Psychiatric Advanced Directives (PADs), and Supported Decision-Making.
Organizational Experience (Litigation and Negotiations)	DREDF has extensive experience with complex litigation and related negotiations including pre-litigation negotiations. Examples of DREDF's litigation and negotiation experience are reported in DREDF's ILAW reports submitted as a Support Center. One example is DREDF's litigation with Disability Rights California and the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law and private lawyers brought on behalf of certain adult Alameda County residents who have serious mental health disabilities. The case alleges that members of this legal services-eligible client population are being subjected to unnecessary and illegal segregation into the County's psychiatric institutions, or are at serious risk of being needlessly institutionalized. This results from the County's failure to ensure that people with disabilities are provided the services they need to live in the community. The case settled in 2023 and is currently in monitoring.
Organizational Experience (Mental Health Cases)	This does not apply to us.
Organizational Capacity	DREDF has ten lawyers and fellows. Legal Director Claudia Center and now-Skadden Fellow Kavya Parthiban will be primarily responsive for the Support Center legal services to be performed under this grant. Kavya will become a Staff Attorney at DREDF in Fall of 2024. Claudia is Kavya's overall supervisor and will supervise Kavya on this grant. Claudia and Kavya will work with DREDF's certified paralegal Ally Cline and our Communications Director Tina Pinedo in producing the activities to be provided under this grant. Tina, who reports to the Executive Director, is a skilled videographer and digital content creator. As Legal Director, Claudia also reports to the Executive Director. In June 2024, Nicole Bohn will join DREDF as Executive Director. Ally is a certified paralegal who reports to Deputy Legal Director Michelle Uzeta who in turn reports to Claudia.

Profile Sheets for the 2024–2025 CARE Court Grant Applications

Organization Name	Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco
Project Name	SF - CARE Court Implementation
Amount Requested	\$429,501
County(ies) Served	San Francisco
Services Dates	July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025
Project Abstract	<p>HAP attorneys will continue to represent respondents in San Francisco’s CARE Court and throughout the CARE Court process. We will engage with referred clients, help them understand the CARE Court process, evaluate their needs and options, facilitate their participate in the development of CARE plans that meet their needs, and guide them to make informed decisions about how to proceed. We will work with clients on an ongoing basis to help make sure that they are able to access the services that they need, both by engaging effectively with clients and advocating effectively with providers and Behavior Health.</p> <p>HAP staff will attend all CARE Court hearings, file all required pleadings and forms, and gather and report on all required client data. A Legal Advocate will assist in preparing the legal documents and will assist the attorneys in providing legal representation by helping to communicate with clients, assisting clients in attending court hearings and other required meetings, and assisting in the collection and reporting of data. A Licensed Clinical Social Worker will assist with legal representation by providing expertise and assistance engaging with respondents and advising on the most appropriate CARE Court services.</p>
Organizational Experience (Clients with a Serious Mental Disorder)	<p>The target population for CARE Court is composed of exactly the clients we prioritize at HAP – severely mentally ill persons, many of whom are houseless. Many of our clients have a diagnosis of schizophrenia and/or other psychotic disorders. We have been representing this client population for more than three decades and are acutely aware of the extreme need for adequate services, as well as the profound challenges in working with these clients and accessing services. We hope CARE Court representation will help these clients effectively access and engage with the services they so desperately need.</p> <p>We have a Licensed Clinical Social Worker on staff who assists the attorneys in providing effective legal representation to this client population. We also provide all of our staff with training on specific approaches to working effectively with clients who have certain specific diagnoses, as well as trainings on de-escalation, trauma-informed care, secondary trauma, relevant professional ethics, and substance abuse issues.</p>
Organizational Experience (Community-Based Services Advocacy)	<p>Because we have a holistic approach to legal services, all of our work seeks to address the underlying issues that are causing our clients’ legal problems. As such, it is integral to our approach to advocacy for our clients to access mental health services, substance abuse treatment, housing, housing</p>

Profile Sheets for the 2024–2025 CARE Court Grant Applications

Organization Name	Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco
	<p>transfers, in-home support services, deep cleans, or any other service or benefit that they need in order to improve their situations. We have many years of experience successfully providing advocacy to clients for these services.</p> <p>We have a Licensed Clinical Social Worker on staff, and her expertise is crucial in effectively working with this client population. We strongly believe that she needs to be involved in CARE Court representation, not to do case management, but to utilize her expertise to support attorney staff in engaging effectively with severely mentally ill clients, to share her deep knowledge of the services available in San Francisco, and to help the attorneys determine which services are most appropriate for each client. We also provide the subject matter expertise for the San Francisco Service Guide (sfserviceguide.org), which lists the vast array of services available in San Francisco and will be helpful in development of appropriate CARE plans.</p> <p>This is a client population that can be very difficult to serve, and who by definition are not already engaged in services, so it will be particularly important that they be served by experienced, knowledgeable staff.</p>
Organizational Experience (Litigation and Negotiations)	<p>HAP has an extensive litigation practice, primarily but not exclusively conducting unlawful detainer defense, handling full-scope litigation at all stages of the proceedings. Our attorneys appear in court regularly. We also provide representation and advocacy in administrative proceedings, with the Social Security Administration, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), the San Francisco Rent Board, and other agencies.</p> <p>Since most of our cases settle before going to trial, negotiation is a substantial part of our litigation practice, as well as an important aspect of securing supporting services for our clients. We have an excellent track record of negotiating successful results for our clients, not only in resolving their initial legal issues, but also providing ongoing support to clients in obtaining and maintaining services and stability. HAP attorneys have been representing respondents in CARE Court since the inception of the program in October of 2023.</p> <p>Outside of HAP, JDC's many other projects regularly conduct litigation in family court, immigration proceedings, tax matters, and a range of other civil legal issues.</p>
Organizational Experience (Mental Health Cases)	<p>HAP Attorneys have been representing Respondents in CARE Court since October of 2023. In addition, while we do not usually represent clients in in LPS conservatorships or in hearings to determine whether clients will be released from 5150 or 5250 holds, we often coordinate with the attorneys</p>

Profile Sheets for the 2024–2025 CARE Court Grant Applications

Organization Name	Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco
	<p>who are providing that representation to shared clients. What is happening in the conservatorship or involuntary commitment context is often very relevant to the parallel proceedings in which we are representing the clients, such as eviction cases or applications for disability benefits, and it is important that we work together in our shared clients' best interests. We are experienced and comfortable working with this client population in CARE Court proceedings before the Superior Court.</p>
Organizational Capacity	<p>The Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco (JDC) follows its mission to advance fairness and equality by providing pro bono legal services to low-income people and educational programs that foster diversity in the legal profession.</p> <p>JDC is one of the largest and most distinguished legal services providers in San Francisco. JDC's primary goal is to assist the community's most vulnerable low-income members to resolve issues related to houselessness, housing, public benefits, immigration, domestic violence, and family and economic stability including debt, credit, and tax problems. JDC addresses these issues by providing free legal services and supporting social services to approximately 9,000 low-income clients each year through an innovative service delivery model that is inexpensive, highly effective, and deeply impactful.</p> <p>JDC's HAP has served the low-income, houseless, disabled, and severely mentally ill populations of San Francisco for more than 30 years. HAP provides a unique mix of legal and social services to surround each client and address the underlying issues that cause each client's legal issues. While we utilize this experience and expertise in the operation of JDC's CARE Court project, the project will only provide legal services to CARE Court clients.</p>

Profile Sheets for the 2024–2025 CARE Court Grant Applications

Organization Name	Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino
Project Name	C.A.R.E. Court Representation Initiative (CCRI)
Amount Requested	\$463,693
County(ies) Served	San Bernardino
Services Dates	December 1, 2024–June 30, 2025
Project Abstract	<p>The Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino (LASSB) introduces the C.A.R.E. Court Representation Initiative (CCRI), aiming to enhance legal advocacy for 60 adults and seniors with disabilities in San Bernardino County. This initiative will be conducted in partnership with the San Bernardino Public Defender's office, enabling comprehensive seamless referral and conflict services for those with severe mental illnesses and other disabilities.</p> <p>LASSB is recognized for its substantial expertise in representing marginalized groups, particularly in cases involving domestic violence, guardianship, and conservatorship. Our approach combines robust litigation with strategic advocacy across multiple platforms—including courtrooms and administrative agencies—to secure vital community-based services for our clients. These services include behavioral healthcare and housing, embodying a holistic strategy to legal challenges.</p> <p>In 2023 alone, LASSB assisted 6325 households, addressing diverse needs such as language barriers—with 32.88% of our clients having limited English proficiency—and working to prevent homelessness in 34.1% of cases. Our efforts also extend to supporting a significant number of disabled (32.88%) and veteran (4.42%) clients within predominantly Hispanic, Black, and White communities.</p> <p>The CCRI seeks funding for two full-time attorneys and a legal advocate to strengthen our capacity for effective advocacy and client representation. This initiative reinforces LASSB's commitment to safeguarding client rights, ensuring their informed participation in care court plans, and zealously advocating for their autonomy. This dedication is crucial to our mission of providing equitable access to legal resources and upholding the dignity of those we serve, ensuring no one is left without robust legal support in facing their challenges.</p>
Organizational Experience (Clients with a Serious Mental Disorder)	<p>The Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino (LASSB) has significant experience in serving adults diagnosed with serious mental disorders, specifically those outlined in paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of Section 5600.3. Our expertise encompasses a broad spectrum of psychiatric conditions, including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and other severe mental illnesses as categorized in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.</p>

Profile Sheets for the 2024–2025 CARE Court Grant Applications

Organization Name	Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino
	<p>LASSB's approach is deeply rooted in a compassionate and effective legal advocacy framework that addresses the complex needs of this vulnerable population. Over the years, we have successfully navigated numerous cases involving clients with serious mental disorders, providing them with comprehensive legal representation tailored to their unique circumstances. Our services extend beyond legal advice to include connecting clients to essential community-based resources that support their mental health and overall well-being.</p> <p>Our client engagements often involve intricate case management, where we ensure that individuals receive not only legal representation but also access to healthcare services, housing, and social support systems. This holistic method is crucial for the stabilization and improvement of our clients' lives, helping them to manage their conditions more effectively and maintain their dignity and rights under the law.</p>
Organizational Experience (Community-Based Services Advocacy)	<p>The Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino (LASSB) has a robust track record of advocating for client access to essential community-based services and supports, as outlined in Welfare and Institutions Code section 5982. Our efforts focus on securing behavioral health care, stable housing, and other critical services that support the well-being of our clients.</p> <p>LASSB's advocacy is rooted in a deep understanding of the systemic barriers that often hinder access to necessary services for the most vulnerable populations. By leveraging our legal expertise and extensive network of community partnerships, we ensure that our clients not only receive legal representation but also gain access to the vital services they need to improve their life circumstances.</p> <p>Our work includes navigating complex systems to connect clients with behavioral health services that are crucial for managing mental health conditions. Additionally, we address the urgent need for housing, advocating for rights and resources that prevent homelessness and promote stable living conditions. LASSB also facilitates access to a variety of other supports, such as educational programs, job training, and social services, enhancing the overall resilience and sustainability of our client's lives.</p>
Organizational Experience (Litigation and Negotiations)	<p>The Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino (LASSB) has a strong track record in litigation and negotiation, particularly in dealings with county behavioral health agencies. Under the leadership of an Executive Director with significant experience from Inland Counties Legal Services, LASSB has excelled in complex legal environments. Our team has successfully represented clients in eviction defenses, initiated lawsuits to prevent</p>

Profile Sheets for the 2024–2025 CARE Court Grant Applications

Organization Name	Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino
	<p>foreclosures, and advocated for seniors with housing issues exacerbated by mental health conditions.</p> <p>Our Deputy Director, skilled in managing multifaceted litigation cases, enhances our capabilities. These cases include elder abuse, consumer rights, domestic violence, and guardianships. In 2023, LASSB assisted 6,325 households, with 441 receiving direct representation in diverse legal challenges such as homelessness prevention, securing reasonable accommodations, and robust foreclosure defenses, thus ensuring continued housing security for vulnerable clients.</p> <p>One notable instance involved LASSB representing a petitioner in a CARE court petition where our intervention helped the client's daughter avoid incarceration by facilitating a voluntary agreement for treatment. This case exemplifies our ability to adeptly represent both petitioners and respondents, providing comprehensive legal support tailored to the needs of each client.</p> <p>LASSB's litigation efforts span several crucial areas including eviction defense, housing preservation, consumer debt protection, and addressing domestic violence. Our deep legal expertise and strategic approach empower us to effectively protect the rights and welfare of those we serve, reinforcing our position as a leading advocate for the underrepresented and at-risk populations.</p>
Organizational Experience (Mental Health Cases)	<p>While LASSB does not typically engage in representing clients in LPS Conservatorships, our extensive experience in handling conservatorship matters uniquely positions us to adeptly navigate complexities inherent in such cases. While Conservatorships primarily entail loved ones seeking legal rights over aging or mentally ill adults, often with the aim of ensuring care, our approach prioritizes the voluntary participation of all parties involved.</p> <p>Drawing from our leadership's robust litigation background, LASSB confidently stands ready to serve participants of care courts. Our nuanced understanding of both the legal intricacies and the human dynamics involved equips us to be staunch advocates for care court participants. Leveraging our history of successfully administering diverse legal programs and tailoring our case management systems to meet funding criteria and grant mandates, we are well-prepared to support families in preventing homelessness, accessing essential resources such as food, and obtaining spiritual counseling.</p> <p>Central to our approach is the commitment to onboard attorneys who possess not only legal expertise but also a profound understanding of</p>

Profile Sheets for the 2024–2025 CARE Court Grant Applications

Organization Name	Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino
	serious mental illnesses. These attorneys are adept at building rapport and fostering collaboration, ensuring that the most vulnerable receive compassionate and effective representation. By combining legal acumen with empathetic advocacy, LASSB is poised to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those navigating mental health challenges within the realm of the law.
Organizational Capacity	<p>Since 1958, LASSB brings a wealth of experience to project administration, ensuring seamless execution and attainment of grant objectives. Our seasoned administration possesses the expertise to spearhead project establishment, articulate goals to staff, and oversee recruitment, all while providing continuous evaluation, particularly in the project's early stages. Membership in the Practicing Law Institute supplements our staff's proficiency through professional training, complemented by onsite trainers and compliance analysts who facilitate seamless onboarding and ongoing skill enhancement.</p> <p>LASSB's fosters partnerships with legal and non-legal aid entities to deliver holistic client services. Collaborations with the Courts, attest to our ability to serve vulnerable populations effectively in diverse legal domains. Under the stewardship of Executive Director Pablo Ramirez, supported by Deputy Director Gregory Armstrong, our leadership embodies decades of legal aid experience and adept program management. Complemented by staff attorney Kevin Ford's comprehensive legal acumen and managerial prowess, our team stands poised to navigate multifaceted project demands.</p> <p>Our services include client representation across court and administrative arenas, alongside robust community legal education initiatives. Strong ties with city resource centers, veterans' administrations, and medical-legal partnerships reinforce our commitment to comprehensive service delivery.</p> <p>Our administration's adeptness in managing diverse programs with distinct eligibility and financial requisites underscores our capacity to navigate project complexities. Specifically tailored for CARE Court, our advocates will contain expertise in interfacing with individuals grappling with serious mental illnesses. Collaborations with SB Public Defender and Legal Assistance to the Elderly enhance our expertise, ensuring project success through ongoing learning and partnership synergy.</p>

Profile Sheets for the 2024–2025 CARE Court Grant Applications

Organization Name	Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County
Project Name	CARE Court Representation for San Mateo County Respondents
Amount Requested	\$224,830
County(ies) Served	San Mateo
Services Dates	December 1, 2024–June 30, 2025
Project Abstract	<p>Legal Aid SMC will represent 30 respondents at all stages of CARE Act proceedings and in matters related to CARE agreements and CARE plans, including providing other civil legal services where there is a nexus to a CARE agreement or plan. Legal Aid SMC will meet with clients to determine their needs and negotiate with the county behavioral health agency to reach CARE agreements that meet client needs whenever possible. We will advocate for our clients to receive the services they need from the behavioral health agency and other providers. We will collaborate with the San Mateo County Private Defender Program and community agencies serving clients with mental health disabilities.</p> <p>Legal Aid SMC’s Elder Rights/Client’s Rights Advocate Supervising Attorney, Jerron Harding, will lead the CARE Court project. Mr. Harding has over 7 years of experience representing clients with severe mental disabilities including schizophrenic and other psychotic disorders. This experience includes two years at the Homeless Action Center in Alameda County representing clients experiencing hallucinations, grossly disorganized thinking, and catatonia. His current Social Security/SSI caseload includes clients with severe psychotic disorders. He has experience successfully navigating obstacles that are common with representing clients with severe mental disorders such as communication barriers, transportation issues, and inaccessibility due to homelessness.</p>
Organizational Experience (Clients with a Serious Mental Disorder)	<p>Legal Aid SMC has extensive experience serving adults experiencing serious mental health disorders. The housing team prioritizes clients struggling to maintain subsidized tenancies, many of whom have severe mental health disabilities. One client became homeless because he moved out of his subsidized unit without clearing his account with his former landlord. The Housing Authority would not transfer his Section 8 voucher to a new unit until the issue was resolved. Our attorney worked with the client, his social worker at a local mental health agency, the landlord, and the Housing Authority to resolve the issue.</p> <p>The housing team prevented the eviction of another client, “Oliver”, who is diagnosed with schizophrenia. Oliver received an eviction notice after an incident with neighbors. The attorney obtained information from Oliver’s mental health practitioner to support a request for reasonable accommodation based on his disability. The attorney successfully advocated</p>

Profile Sheets for the 2024–2025 CARE Court Grant Applications

Organization Name	Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County
	<p>with the landlord's attorney and Oliver stayed in his home. The housing attorney also connected Oliver and his social worker to attorneys in our Health Consumer Center (HCC) to get Oliver Medi-Cal coverage, essential for him to get the medication and mental health care he needs.</p> <p>Our Elder Rights/CRA attorneys serve older adults and adults with disabilities, including psychotic disorders, whose Social Security/SSI benefits are reduced or terminated. The HCC team assists adults who qualify for the Protective Supervision service under the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program because they are unable to remain safely in their home without 24-hour supervision due to a mental impairment.</p>
Organizational Experience (Community-Based Services Advocacy)	<p>Legal Aid SMC's Health Consumer Center and Family Advocacy Program (FAP) advocate for access to behavioral health services and medications through Medi-Cal and private health plans. The housing team advocates for client access to housing resources described in section 5982(3) including the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Program and the HUD Housing Choice Voucher program. Various Legal Aid SMC programs including Elder Rights/CRA, LIBRE (Linking Immigrants to Benefits Resources and Education), and FAP advocate for client access to Supplemental Security Income, Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI), CalWORKs, California Food Assistance Program, In-Home Supportive Services, CalFresh, and General Assistance.</p>
Organizational Experience (Litigation and Negotiations)	<p>Legal Aid SMC has deep experience in administrative law at all levels from negotiating with local agencies to filing complaints with state oversight agencies to litigating class actions. Our HCC, FAP, and LIBRE teams regularly negotiate with the county Medi-Cal plan, the behavioral health services agency, IHSS, and the Human Services Agency to help clients access public benefits. Our attorneys are prepared to represent clients at hearing when necessary, but they are able to negotiate resolutions in most cases.</p> <p>Legal Aid SMC also has decades of litigation experience. The housing team works to negotiate settlements with landlords and represents clients in court when necessary to save a sustainable tenancy. The Elder Rights/CRA team has developed expertise in administrative law through the Social Security benefits caseload and in litigation through the elder and dependent adult abuse prevention caseload. The team negotiates with Social Security staff to achieve resolution without a hearing whenever possible. The attorneys regularly appear in court to secure restraining orders for older adults and adults with disabilities.</p>
Organizational Experience (Mental Health Cases)	<p>Legal Aid SMC does not currently represent clients in LPS conservatorships or assisted outpatient treatment matters. However, three of our attorneys have past experience exclusively representing clients with mental health</p>

Profile Sheets for the 2024–2025 CARE Court Grant Applications

Organization Name	Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County
	<p>disabilities, including in involuntary detention proceedings. Our Housing Directing Attorney served as Director for the Law Foundation of Silicon Valley's Mental Health Advocacy Project (MHAP) for two years. The FAP Supervising Attorney/Legal Director served MHAP clients for five years, representing clients on involuntary holds in psychiatric facilities and in Social Security matters. Our HCC Senior Staff Attorney spent three years representing clients in challenges to involuntary detention and forced medication administration and defending clients against patients' rights violations in jail and county mental health facilities in Santa Clara County.</p>
Organizational Capacity	<p>The Executive Director oversees Legal Aid SMC's legal work and supervises the managing attorney of each program team, the Director of Operations, and the Director of Development and Communications. The Director of Operations oversees Legal Aid SMC's administrative and finance functions and supervises the Office Manager, Bookkeeper, and Contracts Administrator. The Director of Operations also manages Legal Aid SMC's relationship with its outside accounting contractor.</p> <p>Each staff attorney reports directly to one of the managing attorneys, who are available for ongoing consultation on cases. Each supervising attorney holds regular case review meetings with staff in their program areas. All Legal Aid SMC attorneys meet biweekly to discuss issues that cut across program lines.</p> <p>Each program team has one or more bilingual (English/Spanish) project coordinators who provide administrative support, screen and schedule potential clients, assist with client outreach, and interpret for Spanish-speaking clients. The Office Manager supervises a receptionist and an administrative assistant who provide organizational administrative support.</p>

Profile Sheets for the 2024–2025 CARE Court Grant Applications

Organization Name	Legal Assistance to the Elderly
Project Name	CARE Court Representation for San Francisco Seniors and Persons with Disabilities
Amount Requested	\$496,078
County(ies) Served	San Francisco
Services Dates	July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025
Project Abstract	<p>Legal Assistance to the Elderly proposes to provide CARE Court representation to at least 75 seniors and adults with disabilities in San Francisco during the one-year grant period. This is a continuation of the representation we currently provide in CARE Court.</p> <p>Through our representation we will engage respondents, help them understand the CARE Court process, evaluate their needs and options, work with them to develop and evaluate CARE plans and agreements, and support them as they make informed decisions about their future. This will include advocating for them as they navigate the web of treatment and social service options available. Our staff will represent our clients in all CARE Court hearings, file all required pleadings and forms, and gather and report all required client data. A Legal Advocate will assist in preparing the legal documents and will assist the attorneys in providing legal representation by helping to communicate with clients, assisting clients in attending court hearings and other required meetings, and assisting in the collection and reporting of data. A Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Social Worker intern will assist with legal representation by providing expertise and assistance engaging with respondents and advising on the most appropriate CARE Court services.</p> <p>We will continue to work in collaboration with the other QLSP applicant in San Francisco, Homeless Advocacy Project, and the Public Defender's office. Funding will support two full-time attorney positions, a full-time legal advocate, a part-time social work intern and supervision.</p>
Organizational Experience (Clients with a Serious Mental Disorder)	<p>We have extensive experience representing clients with serious mental health disabilities, including 200+ clients in 2023. As respondents' counsel in CARE Court proceedings, we work with clients who have qualifying "serious mental disorder(s)" and are experiencing acute psychiatric distress. Our staff is trained in how to communicate and respectfully engage with clients who have mental illness including psychotic and substance use disorders on legal issues and treatment resources.</p> <p>Our expertise has allowed us to provide meaningful counsel to CARE Court respondents. About half of our CARE Court clients have been chronically unhoused and others are at imminent risk of eviction. Some are housed, but completely isolated. Extensive training has enabled our staff to build</p>

Profile Sheets for the 2024–2025 CARE Court Grant Applications

Organization Name	Legal Assistance to the Elderly
	<p>trust with these clients, which is key to engaging them in services. We start by listening without judgement and learning our clients' goals, not just in CARE Court, but life. Then, we work backwards to see how CARE Court can develop a plan to help them achieve these goals. To provide meaningful legal representation, our lawyers work in tandem with our social workers, who help clients navigate the legal case and venue, evaluate their treatment and housing options, and provide psychosocial support. This allows the attorneys to negotiate CARE plans that are in line with clients' goals. This support is also key to guiding our clients through the CARE Court proceedings, which is stressful, particularly for clients who have been through the criminal justice system, and don't initially distinguish between CARE Court and a criminal court.</p>
<p>Organizational Experience (Community-Based Services Advocacy)</p>	<p>LAE has extensive experience helping connect clients to services, including advocating for client access to community-based supports. We use a holistic approach to the provision of legal services, seeking to address the underlying issues that are causing our clients' legal problems. Advocating for clients' access to mental health services, substance abuse treatment, housing, housing transfers, in-home support services, deep cleans, and other services and benefits is integral to addressing their legal problems. We are successful in getting clients' "buy-in" for service plans and then advocating to get them services despite long waitlists and a complicated and disconnected network of providers.</p> <p>LAE has many years of experience successfully providing advocacy to clients for these services. CARE Court clients are especially challenging to reach and to serve because they are by definition not yet engaged in services. We have a Licensed Clinical Social Worker on staff, and her expertise and the support of a MSW social work intern are crucial to our ability to work effectively with this client population. We strongly believe that our social services team needs to be involved in CARE Court representation, not in order to provide case management to clients, but to provide expertise to LAE's attorney staff in how to engage effectively with severely mentally ill clients, share their encyclopedic knowledge of the services available, and help attorneys determine which services are appropriate for each client.</p>
<p>Organizational Experience (Litigation and Negotiations)</p>	<p>LAE has extensive experience in litigation and advocacy in court, in front of administrative agencies, and in many contexts including advocating for services from county behavioral health agencies. Ninety percent of our 2,000 cases each year involve negotiation, and over 700 matters each year are litigated in San Francisco Superior Court. Our areas of litigation include eviction/Unlawful Detainer defense, affirmative housing preservation and fair housing actions, consumer debt defense, financial elder abuse matters, foreclosure and title matters. We also work in administrative court</p>

Profile Sheets for the 2024–2025 CARE Court Grant Applications

Organization Name	Legal Assistance to the Elderly
	<p>advocating for health and income benefits, including disability based benefits. Additionally, we have extensive experience navigating the complicated network of County social services and housing opportunities, and are well versed in the effective advocacy needed to get our clients the services they need.</p>
Organizational Experience (Mental Health Cases)	<p>LAE Attorneys have been representing respondents in CARE Court since October of 2023. LAE, as an organization, does not represent clients in LPS Conservatorships or court ordered assisted outpatient treatment. In San Francisco, this representation is handled by the Public Defender's Office. However, because San Francisco has adopted SB43 and the new conservatorship standards, we have worked very closely with the Public Defender's Office to understand these programs and the relationship between them and CARE Court. In order to better understand the interplay between these two systems our attorneys have deepened their knowledge of LPS Conservatorship and court ordered assisted outpatient treatment standards. Further, some of our attorneys are on a panel of attorneys who are appointed to represent individuals in probate conservatorships.</p>
Organizational Capacity	<p>LAE's mission is to protect and advance the right of San Francisco's seniors and adults with disabilities to be housed, healthy, financially stable, and safe. LAE was founded to serve the unmet legal needs of San Francisco seniors in 1979. In 2003, we expanded our services to include adults with disabilities. We've taken on over 53,000 cases since our founding. When eviction, elder abuse, termination of benefits or aggressive creditors threaten our clients, LAE is their lifeline.</p> <p>In FY 2024, LAE will help 2,000 seniors and adults with disabilities hold on to their homes, fight off debt collectors, keep their public benefits, or escape physical and financial abuse. LAE is the only legal services organization in San Francisco that focuses solely on the legal needs of seniors and adults with disabilities. Ninety five percent of our clients are low-income, nearly two-thirds are people of color, and 60% have a physical or mental disability.</p> <p>LAE is requesting funding for three full-time positions. A supervising attorney and a staff attorney will provide full-scope representation to CARE Court respondents and collaborate with other QLSPs and the Public Defender. A legal advocate will provide support for attorneys and clients, conduct intakes, handle filings and draft pleadings, and identify appropriate community-based services. Additionally, we have included part of our Licensed Clinical Social Worker and a MSW-intern to support this team and our client's social service needs. Our Executive Director and Grants Manager will handle grants administration.</p>

Breakdown of Scores for the 2024–2025 CARE Court Grant Applications

Organization	Impact	Qualifications	Administration	Evaluation	Total score (rounded)	Funding recommend.
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund	21.4	21.4	11	10	64	\$ 25,000
Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco	23.2	24.2	15	12	74	\$ 429,501
Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino	19	19.6	11	11	61	\$ 463,693
Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County	20.4	21.4	10	10	62	\$ 224,830
Legal Assistance to the Elderly	23.6	23.6	14	15	76	\$ 496,078

Total \$ 1,639,102

Rubric Points Awarded

	Impact	Qualifications	Administration	Evaluation
Exceeds Expectations	21-25	21-25	15	15
Meets Expectations	11-20	11-20	10	10
Below Expectations	1-10	1-10	5	5
Not Addressed	0	0	0	0