



# The State Bar of California

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## **OPEN SESSION**

### **AGENDA ITEM 4.3**

**JULY 2024**

### **LEGAL SERVICES TRUST FUND COMMISSION**

### **PARTNERSHIP GRANTS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** July 16, 2024

**TO:** Members, Partnership Grants Committee

**FROM:** Angela O'Hara, Senior Program Analyst, Office of Access & Inclusion

**SUBJECT:** Approve 2025 Partnership Grant Funding Recommendations

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

For the 2025 Partnership Grants application cycle, 42 proposals were received from 26 Qualified Legal Services Projects (QLSPs) requesting a total of \$6,992,400 in funding. The Partnership Grants Committee (PG Committee) delegated authority to review teams comprised of committee members and staff to review and score all proposals using the 2025 Partnership Grants scoring rubric. The purpose of the July 16, 2024, meeting is to review all proposals and rubric scores to develop the 2025 Partnership Grant funding recommendations. The total funding amount available to allocate for 2025 is \$3,500,720.

The purpose of this memo is to provide background information on the proposals received and an overview of the 2025 application review process to aid the PG Committee's discussion in determining funding recommendations.

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### **BACKGROUND**

The State Budget Act establishes the Equal Access Fund "to improve equal access and the fair administration of justice." The Equal Access Fund is allocated to the Judicial Council and administered by the State Bar of California, through its Legal Services Trust Fund Commission (LSTFC). Ten percent of the Equal Access Fund is reserved for "joint projects of courts and legal services programs to make legal assistance available to pro per litigants."

Partnership Grants are awarded through a competitive process. The LSTFC oversees the administration of these grants, delegating primary responsibility for review and recommendations to the PG Committee. The LSTFC makes funding recommendations to the Judicial Council. Decisions of the LSTFC, as approved by the Judicial Council, are final; there is no appeals process. Due to the limited availability of funding, grant award allocations vary, and all proposals may not be funded. Consideration will also be given to ensure that this funding supports projects serving a diverse range of geographic areas, substantive issues, and client constituencies. Grants are awarded for a one-year period commencing January 1.

This funding opportunity is only available to QLSPs. To be considered for funding for the 2025 Partnership Grants, QLSPs and their proposed projects must meet eligibility requirements as outlined in the 2025 Partnership Grants Request For Proposal (RFP) (Attachment A). The RFP was released on April 4, 2024, with a deadline for submission of proposals of May 9, 2024.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **2025 PARTNERSHIP GRANTS REVIEW AND SCORING RUBRIC PROCESS**

On June 21, 2024, the LSTFC approved the 2025 Partnership Grants RFP, application, and scoring rubric, which had been streamlined and included an updated funding priorities section. The PG Committee and staff engaged in an initial calibration process to ensure consistency in applying the scoring rubric. This entailed each committee member and staff independently reviewing and scoring three selected proposals for discussion at the PG Committee's June 11, 2024, meeting<sup>1</sup>. The PG Committee discussed outlier scores, reasons for their own scores, and provided general guidance to the review team on how to apply the scoring rubric. Following initial calibration, the review team, comprised of staff and a rotating committee member(s), reviewed and scored the remaining 39 proposals, applying the guidance from the PG Committee.

### **2025 PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROPOSAL OVERVIEW**

Forty-two proposals were submitted requesting a total of \$6,992,400. Attachment B contains abstracts for all submitted proposals. In addition to the scoring rubric, which has specific criteria to evaluate the 2025 proposals, the PG Committee maintains its discretion when determining tentative funding recommendations and may consider other factors such as years funded, requested funding amounts, substantive areas, and counties served, as it has done in prior grant years.

### **Years Funded**

Thirty-two of the 42 proposed projects are currently funded. Years funded range from one year to 14 years. In prior years, new projects were prioritized, which the committee recognized had a negative impact on many long-standing projects. The revised funding priorities category gave reviewers more discretion to award points to new projects and those supporting underserved

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<sup>1</sup> The PG Committee calibrated its scoring prior to the LSTFC approving the 2025 Partnership Grant RFP due to the tight timing of the grant cycle.

communities while not directly disadvantaging existing projects. Therefore, the number of prior years funded did not impact a project's rubric score as much as it did in previous grant cycles.

### **Requested Funding Amounts**

For the 2025 Partnership Grants year, applicants requested funding amounts ranging from \$25,000 to \$439,000. The majority of applicants requested amounts between \$100,000 to \$199,000.

### **Substantive Areas**

The proposed projects would address 12 substantive areas, with most projects providing services in family/domestic violence (19), housing (17), and guardianship (9).

### **Counties Served**

The 42 proposed projects span 16 counties in California, with the majority of projects serving Los Angeles County (19), followed by Alameda County (5).

### **NEXT STEPS**

The scoring rubric and calibrated scores serve as a tool in the application review process, and the committee maintains discretion in determining all funding recommendations. Staff will provide possible approaches for the PG Committee to use to determine a funding allocation recommendation at its July 16, 2024, meeting (Attachment C). The PG Committee will provide its recommendation to the LSTFC for approval at its August 9, 2024, meeting. The Judicial Council will approve final funding amounts at its September 19-20, 2024, meeting.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

**RESOLVED**, that the Partnership Grants Committee recommends to the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission the 2025 Partnership Grant awards, as finalized during the Committee's July 16, 2024, meeting.

### **ATTACHMENTS LIST**

- A. 2025 Partnership Grant Request for Proposals
- B. 2025 Partnership Grant Project Abstracts
- C. 2025 Partnership Grant Rubric Scores and Funding Recommendations (to be completed on July 16, 2024)



# The State Bar of California

OFFICE OF ACCESS &amp; INCLUSION

## 2025 PARTNERSHIP GRANTS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

This document provides information for organizations interested in submitting proposals for Partnership Grants. Organizations should review this document to ensure that the proposed projects are eligible for this funding.

Partnership Grants are competitive and discretionary. Project proposals must be submitted on SmartSimple by **5:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 9, 2024.**

If you have any questions, please contact Angela O'Hara at [angela.ohara@calbar.ca.gov](mailto:angela.ohara@calbar.ca.gov).

## BACKGROUND

The State Budget Act establishes the Equal Access Fund "to improve equal access and the fair administration of justice." The Equal Access Fund is allocated to the Judicial Council and administered by the State Bar of California, through its Legal Services Trust Fund Commission (LSTFC). Ten percent of the Equal Access Fund is reserved for "joint projects of courts and legal services programs to make legal assistance available to pro per litigants."

Partnership Grants are awarded through a competitive process. Grants are awarded for a one-year period commencing January 1 and ending December 31. Decisions of the LSTFC, as approved by the Judicial Council, are final; there is no appeals process. Due to the limited availability of funding, grant award allocations vary, and all proposals may not be funded. For the 2024 grant year, 37 eligible projects were funded in a range from \$25,000 to \$262,000 for a total of \$4.69 million.

Consideration will be given to ensure this funding supports projects serving a diverse range of geographic areas, substantive issues, and client constituencies. At the conclusion of the grant year, grantees must submit a report and evaluation on the use and impact of these funds.

## 2025 PARTNERSHIP GRANTS SCORING RUBRIC

In an effort to provide transparency and equity in the review process, the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission uses a scoring rubric as a tool to help guide review of all proposals. The rubric

is comprised of four sections - Eligibility Requirements, Selection Criteria, Funding Priorities, and Innovation.

### Eligibility Requirements

This section is not weighted. Applicants must meet the following criteria to be eligible to submit a proposal:

- **Qualified Legal Services Projects (QLSPs):** Pursuant to Business & Professions Code 6210 et seq., only QLSPs are eligible to apply for Partnership Grants.
- **Joint Court/Qualified Legal Services Projects:** Proposals must be for projects jointly developed and implemented by California State courts and QLSPs. Partnership Grant funding may be used to support supervised settlement services to assist litigants in settling their litigation, so long as the settlement services are a component of court-based litigation and overseen by an attorney.
- **Indigent Persons:** Use of Partnership Grant funds is restricted to the provision of services to indigent persons as defined under Business and Professions Code §6213(d). “Indigent person” means a person whose income is (1) 200 percent or less of the current poverty threshold established by the United States Office of Management and Budget or (2) who is eligible for Supplemental Security Income or free services under the Older Americans Act or Developmentally Disabled Assistance Act.
- **Self-Represented Civil Litigants:** Partnership Grant funding is restricted to providing assistance to individuals who are or expect to be engaged in civil litigation without representation by counsel. These funds cannot be used to make court appearances on behalf of litigants. Self-represented litigants are not prohibited from forming a confidential relationship with a lawyer, so long as they are unrepresented when they appear in court and an attorney does not sign or appear on any of their court filings.

If the proposed project will be serving non-indigent persons or if individuals will be engaged in civil litigation, the project must identify non-Partnership Grant funds that will be used to cover this work.

### Selection Criteria (85 points)

Based on responses provided in the proposal, the LSTFC will evaluate the project based on the following categories: court involvement, project impact, administration, continuity planning, and evaluation. The LSTFC will score each category as “Exceeds Expectations,” “Meets Expectations,” or “Below Expectations” with corresponding multipliers for a maximum of 85 points. Generally, responses that provide relevant and detailed information, such as metrics or specific examples, would be scored favorably. Responses that do not appear responsive to the selection criteria’s description may be considered “below expectations.”

### Funding Priorities (15 points)

The LSTFC will exercise its discretion and score the project 1-3 based on funding priorities. That number will be multiplied by 5 for a maximum section score of 15 points.

In making decisions regarding funding priorities, the LSTFC will consider factors that include, but are not limited to:

- Whether the project is new. The LSTFC maintains discretion to determine what is considered a new project, and may consider factors, that include, but are not limited to, whether the project was previously or currently funded or proposes a substantial change to an existing service delivery model.
- Whether the project supports underserved populations. Whether a population is “underserved” may be based on factors such as unmet rural needs, or on the population comprising individuals with particular characteristics who are underserved in the particular county, including but not limited to characteristics based on race, ethnicity, age, limited English proficiency, disability status, and veteran status.

### Optional – Innovation (up to 5 points)

The LSTFC encourages innovative projects and may award up to 5 bonus points for innovation.

Examples of innovation may include:

- Projects exploring new ways of providing services or using technology to expand or improve services.
- Initial projects in a case type (first consumer program, first conservatorship program, etc.)
- Projects with models that were successful in other jurisdictions but are new to the court.
- Projects involving courts that have not had projects in a long time.

<b>ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS</b>			
Please select “yes” or “no” for each requirement.			
Applicant is a Qualified Legal Services Project.	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	
Proposal is jointly developed and implemented by a California State court.	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	
Proposed services will be provided only to indigent persons, as defined under Business and Profession Code §6213(d).	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	
If NO, has the project identified non-Partnership Grant funds that will cover this work?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Proposed services will be provided only to self-represented litigants (individuals who are or expect to be engaged in civil litigation without representation by counsel).	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	
If NO, has the project identified non-Partnership Grant funds that will cover this work?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A

<b>DEFINITIONS</b>	
<b>Exceeds Expectations</b>	Response is very high quality, addressing all questions in the request for proposal and all elements of the selection criteria. The identified strengths are substantial with minimal or no weaknesses. Any identified weakness has minimal effect on the overall quality of the response.

<b>Meets Expectations</b>	Response is good, effectively addressing most questions in the request for proposal and selection criteria. Strengths and weaknesses are identified that may balance each other in significance. Overall quality of response is satisfactory.
<b>Below Expectations</b>	Response is weak, neglecting to address questions in the request for proposal and elements of the criteria. The identified weaknesses hold significant weight, overshadowing the identified strengths. Overall quality of response is inadequate, with significant flaws in key elements.

**SELECTION CRITERIA (85 PTS)**

Checkmark the appropriate ranking for each category, and then multiply by the number below. Add sub-scores from A and B to get the total points for this section.

<b>CATEGORY &amp; DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>Exceeds Expectations</b>	<b>Meets Expectations</b>	<b>Below Expectations</b>
<b><u>Court Involvement</u></b> A successful proposal will indicate significant cooperation between the partner court and legal services organization, integration with other court-based services, and if the project's services are to be reserved for only one litigant role, such as petitioners but not respondents, this has been thoroughly explored with the court, and alternate legal resources that can provide meaningful if not equivalent levels of assistance to the opposing parties have been identified.			
<b><u>Project Impact</u></b> A successful proposal will clearly describe the needs of the targeted population and how anticipated outcomes and related budget of the proposed activity(ies) will have a meaningful impact on this population. Outcomes may include the number of people served, nature of the impact, and other project deliverables that will be achieved with this grant funding during the grant period.			
<b>A. Number of Check Marks</b>	<b>X20=</b>	<b>X15=</b>	<b>X10=</b>
<b>Subtotal (A)</b>			
<b><u>Administration</u></b> A successful proposal will demonstrate the ability and capacity to implement and manage the proposed activity(ies). Strong administration includes adequate staffing, leadership, and oversight of project monitoring, outreach, and resource development. An applicant's historical demonstration of its ability to meet goals from prior grants and timely reporting of results/outcomes will also be considered under this category.			
<b><u>Continuity Planning</u></b> A successful proposal will address whether or how its proposed services can continue with funds other than those provided by Partnership Grants and			

provide details of past efforts and future plans to secure such alternate funding.			
<b>Evaluation</b> A successful proposal will incorporate meaningful evaluation plans and metrics that effectively demonstrate whether and how the project's planned goals are being achieved. This may include a clear statement of the project goals, strategies to be used to achieve those goals, evaluation methods to be used to make any mid-course adjustments to the delivery model, and evaluation methods to gauge the project's success. Returning organizations applying for the same funding opportunity will also need to address prior evaluation outcomes and metrics.			
<b>B. Number of Check Marks</b>	<b>X15=</b>	<b>X10=</b>	<b>X5=</b>
<b>Subtotal (B)</b>			
<b>Selection Criteria Total (A+B)</b>			

**FUNDING PRIORITIES (15 PTS)**

Keeping the funding priorities in mind, determine the number of points you wish to score this project and then multiply by the number below.

<p>In making decisions regarding funding priorities, consider factors that include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whether the project is new. The LSTFC maintains discretion to determine what is considered a new project, and may consider factors, that include, but are not limited to, whether the project was previously or currently funded or proposes a substantial change to an existing service delivery model.</li> <li>Whether the project supports underserved populations. Whether a population is "underserved" may be based on factors such as unmet rural needs, or on the population comprising individuals with particular characteristics who are underserved in the particular county, including but not limited to characteristics based on race, ethnicity, age, limited English proficiency, disability status, and veteran status.</li> </ul>	3 2 1
<b>Funding Priority Total Score</b>	<b>X5 =</b>

**OPTIONAL - INNOVATION (up to 5 PTS)**

The LSTFC may exercise discretion in awarding points for innovation. Based on your review of the proposal, determine if you wish to score additional points for innovation and provide your reason(s) below.

In deciding to award additional points for innovation, consider factors such as whether the project explores new ways of providing services or using technology, offers an initial case type (first consumer program, first conservatorship program, etc.), or applies a model that was successful in another jurisdiction but is new to this court.	YES	NO
<b>Bonus Points Awarded (1-5 pts)</b>		
Reason(s) for awarding bonus points for innovation:		



## GRANTMAKING TIMELINE

Date(s)*	Activity
April 4, 2024	Application released
May 9, 2024	Applications due
May-July, 2024	LSTFC and staff review and score applications
August 9, 2024	LSTFC makes funding recommendations
September 19-20, 2024	Judicial Council approves grant recommendations
November 15, 2024	Applicants submit budgets and remaining application information (i.e., letter of support, MOUs)
December 31, 2024	Grant agreements signed
January 1, 2025	Grant period starts

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

## REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

At the end of the grant year, grantees must submit a comprehensive report and evaluation on the use and impact of the Partnership Grant funds, providing quantitative and qualitative data describing project activities.

Reporting requirements will include:

- A. **Expenditures:** Report actual expenditures for the grant period. Grantees with discrepancies in actual expenditures compared to the approved budget or approved budget modification must provide an explanation. Any Partnership Grant funds that remain unspent at the end of the grant period without an approved carryover must be returned to the State Bar. Grantees with approved carryovers are permitted to spend remaining Partnership Grant funds for up to an additional six months and will be required to close out the grant at that time.
- B. **Activities:** Report on all project activities funded by the Partnership Grant during the grant period, including project focus areas, demographic groups served, language services offered, project goals versus actuals, services provided, and number of individuals served.
- C. **Evaluation:** Report on evaluation efforts during the grant period, including how litigant feedback was obtained and how project impact was assessed. Grantees will also describe how project staff and partner court staff collaborated to provide services.

**Attachment B. 2025 Partnership Grant Project Abstracts**
*Recommended Amounts Pending July 16, 2024 Partnership Grants Committee Meeting*

#	Organization	Project Name	County	Project Abstract	Amount Requested	Final Grant Award
1	Alliance for Children's Rights	Permanency Benefits Clinic Court Partnership	Los Angeles	Public benefits for families impacted by foster care is a critical part of the stability and even viability of foster placements, especially those with relative and non-related extended family member (NREFM) caregivers. Yet, funding eligibility and rates are complex, opaque, and easily misunderstood. To address this need, and in partnership with the Edmund D. Edelman Children's Courthouse in Monterey Park, the Alliance has developed a Permanency Benefits Clinic to provide access to critical information for self-represented caregivers. The goals of the Clinic are to: 1) Provide information to self-represented caregivers regarding their rights and opportunities to access public benefits; 2) Help caregivers self-advocate to obtain public benefits to which the children are entitled based on their specific needs; and 3) Reduce delays for caregivers and children seeking to exit the foster care system by resolving the barriers to eligibility for funding through adoptions and legal guardianships. The Clinic will continue to be located at the Courthouse and virtual clinics, where Alliance attorneys and staff will provide consultation for self-represented caregivers. The Clinic will continue to be open once a week and alternate between in-person and virtual clinic days. The clinic is open on Wednesdays, 11a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Clinic staffers will provide caregivers with self-help materials in English and Spanish and refer cases to the Alliance Benefits Program for further advocacy. The Clinic's primary client population is caregivers of children in the foster care system; however, Clinic staff could provide consultation as needed to other counsel and the court.	\$ 185,000	TBD
2	Bet Tzedek Legal Services	Access to Supported Decision Making	Los Angeles	<p>Bet Tzedek proposes an Access to Supported Decision Making (ASDM) project to provide education and resources to potential conservatorship petitioners and potential conservatees about less restrictive decision-making options, such as Supported Decision Making (SDM). The project will align with the intentions of the newly passed AB 1663 to ensure litigants only enter into a conservatorship as a last resort. The bill establishes SDM as a legal tool in California and requires conservatorship petitioners to explore alternative options prior to filing. Through this project, Bet Tzedek will educate litigants on alternative decision-making tools; create pathways to self-help instruments such as SDM, Advanced Directives, and Education Authorization; and use technology to increase accessibility and usability of these tools for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). A 2025 grant would allow us to provide workshops and develop an enhanced technological platform that offers I/DD adults and their supporters highly interactive, accessible, step-by-step guidance on SDM and other alternative decision-making tools. The court will partner on evaluation, referrals, and outreach.</p> <p>The goal of this initiative is to ensure litigants have meaningful access to less restrictive, alternative decision-making tools in order to reduce the number of people who lose their rights under conservatorships.</p> <p>The ASDM initiative will be staffed by Self Help Conservatorship Clinic staff and a new Program Coordinator. The online platform with decision-making tools and workshop schedule will be available 24/7 for individuals to sign up. If in-person services are scheduled in a courthouse, we will endeavor to provide coverage as scheduled.</p>	\$ 140,000	TBD

3	Bet Tzedek Legal Services	Decedent Estate Clinic	Los Angeles	<p>Probate is a time-consuming and expensive process, but one that lends itself to a self-help model. In 2022, with State Bar Partnership funding, Bet Tzedek and the Los Angeles Superior Court established the County's only court-based clinic that provides free self-help services to litigants in decedent estate matters. The project, which is staffed by Decedent Estate Clinic staff, operates remotely from Stanley Mosk Courthouse (hours of operation determined in collaboration with court staff), with services available countywide. If in-person services are scheduled in a courthouse, we will endeavor to provide coverage as scheduled.</p> <p>In 2025, to expand the project in line with community need, Bet Tzedek will leverage technology to enhance litigants' ability to efficiently navigate the probate process. In collaboration with the court, we will identify common issues faced by litigants that lead to probate notes or multiple continuances. Our team will then create smart forms that generate pleadings ready to file, increasing overall efficiency and accessibility. Additionally, clinic staff and volunteers will continue to triage decedent's estate cases for litigants and provide legal information, self-help assistance, and/or referrals; help litigants determine if they need a full probate, summary probate procedure, or probate alternative; and provide self-help assistance with out-of-court procedures for small estates and summary court procedures for transferring property. Litigants who need to probate a decedent's estate will be referred to the private bar. The clinic will continue to work with the court to assess community need for other probate-related procedures and develop practicable self-help services.</p>	\$ 200,000	TBD
4	Bet Tzedek Legal Services	Pro Se Technology Initiative	Los Angeles	<p>Bet Tzedek is committed to building technology bridges for litigants in need. In 2022, with State Bar Partnership funding, Bet Tzedek and the Los Angeles Superior Court developed the Remote Pro Se Technology Initiative, which refined and expanded the reach of our virtual Self-Help Conservatorship Clinic (SHCC) and Elder Abuse Restraining Clinic (EAROC) services through technological innovations. The remote pro se assistance model has significantly increased access for the community, and in 2025 Bet Tzedek is committed to continuing this successful model and expanding the project's reach and capacity.</p> <p>Incorporating lessons learned through project evaluation, in 2025 Bet Tzedek will expand project services by serving as technology navigators both remotely and at supplemental in-person workshops, helping litigants access court-based e-services, including Guide &amp; File, remote hearings, and other services as needed. Components of the project will include remote SHCC and EAROC services, online video tutorials/modules, improvement of new technologies that support remote assistance, outreach to publicize remote services, in-person workshops to help litigants with Guide &amp; File, and remote EAROC Kiosk intake. Staff will continue to utilize evaluation results to identify pain points, improve piloted technologies, and maximize accessibility and efficiency. This initiative will increase access to justice and provide a model for effective remote services throughout California.</p> <p>The project will be staffed by SHCC and EAROC staff. The remote SHCC will operate Monday-Friday from 10:00am-3:00pm. Remote EAROC assistance is available Monday/Wednesday/Friday from 10:00am-3:00pm. If in-person services are scheduled in a courthouse, we will endeavor to provide coverage as scheduled.</p>	\$ 175,000	TBD

5	California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.	2025 San Joaquin County Housing Court Clinic Partnership	San Joaquin	<p>California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc. (CRLA) will provide one-on-one legal advice and/or information to San Joaquin County tenants with housing concerns, focusing on housing retention and prevention of homelessness. This project meets San Joaquin County tenants' high demand for legal assistance to address housing issues. Before this project's launch, the Court Self-Help Center was overwhelmed with requests from tenants and had limited capacity to address other legal issues faced by self-represented litigants.</p> <p>Legal advocates will provide tenants with individual phone consultations as well as providing in-person services at the CRLA Stockton office. CRLA will offer weekly answer and trial preparation clinics as needed, if demand exceeds the capacity to provide individual services. Clinics will be available to all San Joaquin County tenants and landlords.</p> <p>San Joaquin County tenants not eligible for CRLA services are given legal information, know your rights (KYR) print and video resources available in multiple languages, referrals, and access to weekly clinics. Landlords are offered information, KYR resources, access to our clinics, and referrals back to the Court Self-Help Center and the San Joaquin Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service for additional assistance. Additionally, tenants who do not meet CRLA residency requirements, as well as all landlords, are now eligible for warm referral to El Concilio through other CRLA grant partnerships. El Concilio will provide counsel and advice as well as document preparation assistance to eligible landlords and tenants. CRLA's helpline will be open Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Tuesday and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.. Answer clinics will be held once a week on-site at the courthouse.</p>	\$ 162,500	TBD
6	Central California Legal Services	CCLS Guardianship Project	Fresno	<p>This project enjoys a successful record of assisting eligible self-represented litigants obtain guardianship for minor children, many of whom are already living with family or referred by Child Protective Services. In 2024 the project returned to in-person services but retained some virtual services developed during Covid-19. Staff members from the Fresno Superior Court Probate Division, the Fresno County Law Library, and CCLS will participate in twice-monthly workshops presented on first and third Friday mornings; however, CCLS staff will primarily provide project services. During the workshops, the forms are explained to participants as they follow along on their own forms, filling in the required information and/or taking notes to complete the forms later. This allows the presentations to proceed within the workshop's timeframe, leaving sufficient time to respond to questions litigants may have. CCLS staff also provide one-on-one self-help assistance with guardianship forms. Once the forms are completed, litigants may contact CCLS and/or Probate Court staff for final review prior to submitting the forms to the Court for filing. This further ensures the forms are properly completed. The project serves all parties; however, those opposing guardianship rarely attend or inquire about services. The Court supports the partnership and values the direct benefit provided for those navigating the guardianship process. Participants accurately complete and timely file their documents, saving money and frustration.</p>	\$ 125,000	TBD
7	Central California Legal Services	Tenant/Landlord Housing Law Project	Fresno	<p>In partnership with the Fresno County Superior Court, CCLS's Project previously and successfully provided legal information and self-help assistance to unrepresented litigants in Unlawful Detainer (UD) matters.</p> <p>Litigants are screened for eligibility before receiving assistance. Self-represented litigants—tenants and landlords—obtain assistance with completing required Judicial Council forms; legal information about tenant/landlord rights and responsibilities, the UD process, and preparing for trial; and referrals to social service providers.</p> <p>The project will conduct four weekly sessions on Tuesday and Thursday, mornings and afternoons, at the Sisk Courthouse. The Thursday afternoon session focuses on trial preparation and is open to all parties scheduled for trial. Information packets on rights and responsibilities are updated for distribution at the clinic, online, and with community partners. When litigants are educated about the eviction process, the required "pro per" legal paperwork is more accurate, and litigants are in a better position to self-advocate during settlement and at trial.</p> <p>The project expands access to the courts, providing self-represented litigants with information giving them a better understanding of the UD process, requirements, short timeframes, and available resources. The project has supported the Court's neutral role, providing all parties access to legal information and assistance. During the pandemic, the sessions were suspended, and forms were made available on the Court's website.</p>	\$ 265,000	TBD

8	Community Legal Aid SoCal	Compton Self-Help Economic Expansion Project Year 3	Los Angeles	<p>Since its 2021 inception, the Compton Self-Help Center Economic Expansion Project (EEP) has increased its capacity in addressing consumer debt issues and COVID-19-related back rent small claims matters at the Compton Courthouse Self-Help Center. Following a notable increase in requests from self-represented litigants for support with landlord/tenant matters in 2022, the 2023 grant included an expanded focus to include housing assistance, directly addressing community needs. The project reported 201 litigants served with this funding in 2023.</p> <p>The EEP was established amidst the difficulties of COVID-19 to assist the SHC in navigating ongoing challenges posed by the pandemic and economic hardship. To this day, the project's goals are achieved by educating self-represented litigants on COVID-19-related back rent small claims, consumer debt, and the procedural complexities of eviction. Due to the economic and health disparities faced by the communities served by the Compton Courthouse, there is an urgent need for local resources to assist self-represented litigants with their civil legal cases.</p> <p>With 1.0 FTE Attorney dedicated to the project, staff can offer assistance to self-represented litigants either at SHC or remotely. CLA SoCal recognizes that self-help services scheduled in courthouses are considered essential, so we will strive to maintain coverage as scheduled. The primary goals are to demystify the legal process for litigants and ensure accurate document completion, thereby reducing roadblocks during court proceedings. Litigants requiring further assistance are directed to regional legal aid organizations based on zip codes, or to Los Angeles County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs.</p>	\$ 82,000	TBD
9	Community Legal Aid SoCal	Norwalk Consumer Debt 2025	Los Angeles	<p>Community Legal Aid SoCal (CLA SoCal) seeks continued funding to maintain its consumer debt workshop series at the Norwalk Courthouse. These workshops make the debt collection legal process more accessible and understandable to litigants by guiding them through any stage of the process. The proposed workshops will continue at the Los Angeles County Superior Courthouse in Norwalk four times per month at no cost to those in need. CLA SoCal recognizes that self-help services scheduled in courthouses are considered essential, so it will strive to maintain coverage as scheduled.</p> <p>The Norwalk Consumer Debt Series is designed to assist self-represented litigants starting at the earliest stage of the debt collection process, from the receipt of a letter demanding payment on a debt to those who have been served with a collection lawsuit and are preparing for trial. The project also educates litigants about collection and enforcement activities following entry of a collection judgment. CLA SoCal's four-workshop series guides litigants through the full litigation cycle, which includes Overview &amp; Answer, Discovery &amp; Motions, and Settlement/Evidence/Getting Ready for Trial. Litigants attending the Overview &amp; Answer workshops can request that project staff review their documents to ensure completeness.</p> <p>The project will be staffed by an attorney and bilingual paralegal to ensure that the linguistic needs of the community are met. Although the project is available to both debtors and creditors, it is focused on increasing equitable access to the justice system by helping low-income individuals/families facing opponents who have legal representation.</p>	\$ 31,000	TBD
10	Community Legal Aid SoCal	Orange County Consumer Debt Workshops	Orange	<p>Community Legal Aid SoCal (CLA SoCal) and Public Law Center (PLC) in partnership propose to maintain their consumer debt workshops for self-represented litigants by providing procedural information. These workshops are held at the Orange County (OC) Public Law Library near the OC Central Justice Center. They are provided at no-cost to ensure accessibility for all. The OC Debt Workshops help self-represented litigants to navigate the debt collection process from initial demand letters to collection lawsuits and trial preparation, with a focus on drafting and submitting an answer to the Court. To better meet litigant needs, and in consultation with the Court, the project transitioned from a series of workshops in previous years to offering the Answer &amp; Overview workshop four times per month. As part of the overview, the workshop includes discussion and information about settlement, claims of exemption, and responding to discovery. At these workshops no legal advice is provided, including not establishing an attorney client relationship. Self-Help Services will continue to provide procedural information to plaintiffs and defendants with consumer issues as requested. The project is staffed by attorneys and paralegals, at least one of whom is bilingual English/Spanish. Although the project is available to both debtors and creditors, its primary aim is to support low-income self-represented litigants facing opponents with legal representation. By enhancing litigants' courtroom understanding and ability to present their case, the project promotes a more equitable and efficient judicial process, ultimately improving access to justice for individuals and families.</p>	\$ 60,000	TBD

11	Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto	Preventing Homelessness: Mandatory Settlement Conference Clinic	San Mateo	<p>More tenants are being evicted in San Mateo County than in pre-pandemic years San Mateo County Superior Court and CLSEPA will meet this crisis with a sustainable and wide-reaching project that will prevent homelessness and promote housing stability. This partnership will operate a weekly Unlawful Detainer MSC Clinic, lasting approximately 4 hours, to settle eviction cases before they go to trial. Indigent, pro per litigants, both tenants and landlords, need more accessible legal help in order to navigate the eviction process. We will reach out directly before MSC, provide advice and sample templates for settlement purposes via video and text, and provide direct access to an attorney during MSC. The Court will provide indigent, pro per landlords access to an attorney. While this partnership has lasted over 8 years, with increased remote access and better use of technology, both the Court and CLSEPA have the experience, familiarity, and know-how to ensure this partnership will be responsive to the current eviction crisis in our community.</p> <p>Our MSC model offers advice, limited scope services, and will also leverage pro bono attorneys to maximize the capacity to meet the demand. Operationally, our goal is to decrease staff workload and Court trials, while providing high-quality legal services.</p> <p>Beyond MSC, CLSEPA will leverage free SMS texting and our social worker to connect families to resources like housing counselors and food banks. Our innovative legal/social work collaboration will help families move from crisis to safe landings.</p>	\$ 249,700	TBD
12	Elder Law & Advocacy	Imperial County Restraining Order and Unlawful Detainer Clinic	Imperial,	<p>The Imperial County Restraining Order and Unlawful Detainer Clinic is intended to serve older adult self-represented litigants, including those who are limited or non-English speakers, and offer services at the central Imperial County Superior Court. The goal for each participant is that they will be able to gain legal information regarding Restraining Orders or Unlawful Detainers, depending on what is appropriate for their situation, and successfully complete the necessary paperwork to submit a request and/or answer. The project will be an expansion of the 2023 and 2024 Partnership Clinic which created two Restraining Order kiosks located within the Imperial County Courthouse. Along with staff, the kiosks will guide eligible participants through the process of a restraining order in a step-by-step manner in order to facilitate accurate completion of the required forms. Elder Law &amp; Advocacy (EL&amp;A) will work to serve residents of this geographically large, diverse, and underserved county. Meetings between EL&amp;A and the Court will consist of in-depth discussions of matters concerning ongoing clinic operations and will result in changes where indicated.</p>	\$ 83,800	TBD
13	Elder Law and Disability Rights Center	Pro Se Litigant Workshop	Orange,	<p>Clearing probate notes presents the greatest barrier for self-represented litigants (SRL) from finishing their matters. Through direct-service and investigation of technology-based solutions, this program will increase efficiency and access to justice.</p> <p>Probate court covers many legal matters including guardianships and conservatorships. This is crucial for ensuring well-being of individuals impacted by age, illness, or incapacity. Courts implemented the process of clearing probate examiner's notes to expedite disposition of cases. This project expands on the Self-Help Service's (SHS) Clearing Probate Notes workshops which includes presentations and one-on-one meetings with procedural information. Services include assisting participants to understand probate notes, providing guidance on clearing probate notes, explaining judicial forms, and information on how to timely file documents. ELDR will teach SRLs to access the court's website for future probate notes. Through education, SRLs will more readily clear probate notes independently in the future.</p> <p>This collaboration will help ensure those with vulnerable issues including minors and special needs children can establish limited conservatorships and/or guardianships. Additionally, the workshop will indirectly address housing issues which have become a crisis for many individuals and families by assisting survivors to gain housing stability in the homes they inherit and settle estates. Through education and removing language-barriers, ELDR will empower SRLs to understand matters and the process to clear probate notes. This empowerment will provide peace-of-mind and enable SRLs to move their case to a final resolution. The goals are to increase access to justice and court efficiency by removing barriers for many SRLs in probate matters.</p>	\$ 134,000	TBD

14	Family Violence Law Center	Domestic Violence Pro Per (DVPP) Project	Alameda	<p>The DVPP Project is a well-established program delivered by Family Violence Law Center (FVLC) in partnership with Legal Access Alameda (LAA) and the Alameda County Superior Court's Self-Help Center (the SHC). The Project improves equal access to legal services and supports the fair administration of justice by providing legal assistance to indigent pro per litigants in Alameda County, with an emphasis on South Alameda County. Partners serve self-represented Petitioners and Respondents, providing information on legal options/court procedures as well as document preparation/review in Domestic Violence Prevention Act (DVPA) restraining orders, family and housing law. Partners will meet the needs of self-represented litigants, including those who are low income and/or limited English proficient, by implementing the following: (1) FVLC will provide Petitioner clinic services including legal information and document preparation for DVPA petitioners, staffed by the DVPP Project attorney, FVLC pro bono attorneys/law clerks and/or LAA pro bono attorneys; (2) If fully funded, FVLC's dedicated DVPP Project staff will provide follow-up, ongoing legal and procedural information and document preparation at all stages of litigation; (3) The SHC will provide legal information and document preparation to DVPA respondents and petitioners, and LAA will provide assistance to respondents and petitioners through LAA clinics; and (4) FVLC will accept warm referrals from SHC, LAA and clinics for leveraged legal representation in court as resources allow. As a result of Partnership services, Alameda County litigants will be better-equipped and prepared to pursue available court remedies in DVPA restraining orders, family law and housing matters.</p>	\$ 120,000	TBD
15	Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance	Partnership Shriver Grant	Kern	<p>Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance, Inc. (GBLA) and Kern County Superior Court (Court) respectfully request funding to support the Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Act Pilot Project (Project) in Kern County California. The purpose of this Project is to provide legal representation in civil matters in housing-related matters and improve court procedures and services for low-income litigants. Through this grant we propose to continue to assist low-income tenants with the daunting task of responding to and steering through the unlawful detainer action process. GBLA's focus is not just on assisting those we believe to be the most vulnerable, but also to assist the Court by finding ways to maximize judicial economy. To this end, the Court will continue its implemented pre-trial Mandatory Settlement Conference requirement in unlawful detainer actions.</p> <p>Initial intake is conducted at the Landlord Tenant Assistance Center (LTAC) located inside the Courthouse (near the UD Courtroom) in Bakersfield-Metropolitan Division, Kern County. Here, individuals are screened for eligibility and conflicts, and provided with case assessment and direction. Cases are evaluated for an array of services including (1) brief counsel and advice; (2) direct legal representation; (3) pro per assistance; (4) participation in Early Dispute Resolution; and (5) linkages to social services. The Shriver Partnership grant will support the Pro Se assistance component.</p> <p>Located at LTAC, GBLA's Intake &amp; Assessment Advocate is the first point of contact and provides eligibility and conflict screening. This position also provides eligible clients with meaningful linkages to an array of supportive social services and resources designed to help move them to greater self-sufficiency. The Intake &amp; Assessment Advocate is supervised by the Director of Litigation (or his/her designee). The Director of Litigation (DOL) receives, reviews and assigns the case to the most appropriate attorney. Along with the assignment the receiving advocate is also provided with a recommended litigation strategy for the case. Depending on the DOL's assessment, the case may either be assigned to the attorney handling pro se matters or to one of two Shriver housing attorneys who are available to accept full scale direct representation cases. Only the pro per assistance component will be charged to this Shriver Partnership grant.</p>	\$ 107,300	TBD

16	Inland Counties Legal Services	Consumer Rights Clinic EXPANDED	Riverside, San Bernardino	<p>Currently, the CRC is a successful and growing partnership between ICLS, the San Bernardino Superior Court, and the Riverside Superior Courts providing legal assistance to unrepresented indigent consumers with debt collection lawsuits. This application will support the already existing four clinics throughout both counties, and further expand the project to an additional courthouse, and incorporate direct referrals gained through ICLS' interview research results investigating why debtors fail to participate in the litigation process. One-Sided Litigation: Lessons from Civil Docket Data in California Debt Collection Lawsuits   Debt Collection Lab.</p> <p>The project will fund an attorney, a paralegal, and a legal assistant, and builds upon a document automation application created for the project that allows consumers to respond, propound discovery, and attempt settlement with opposing counsel. All documents produced are reviewed by an attorney. The San Bernardino Superior Court (at the Justice Center, Central District) and the Riverside Superior Court (at the Riverside Self Help Centers) will continue to provide space for ICLS to operate and make referrals to the Clinic. Staff will serve pro se defendants in the courthouses or virtually on a regular schedule preparing responsive pleadings and settlement offers. Staff will also attempt to settle/dismiss cases as soon as possible. ICLS will not represent the client on the record or appear in court on the client's behalf. Through counsel and advice and document preparation, ICLS will continue to increase access to justice for clients and alleviate the demand on the court's time by resolving cases expeditiously.</p>	\$ 274,600	TBD
17	Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco	Family Law Self-Help (FLASH) Project	San Francisco	<p>The Justice &amp; Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco (JDC) requests continued Partnership Grant support to operate the Family Law Assisted Self Help (FLASH) project, which provides legal assistance to indigent Self-Represented Litigants (SRLs) seeking marriage dissolutions at the San Francisco Superior Court (Court), via its ACCESS Self-Help Center. FLASH provides culturally sensitive and trauma-informed services in Spanish and English to DV survivors and other indigent SRLs who would otherwise be barred from access to justice.</p> <p>Services consist of direct legal assistance to SRLs who are referred by the ACCESS Center. ACCESS staff screen SRLs for income eligibility and prioritize cases where the SRL would benefit most from receiving FLASH services. The FLASH Attorney meets one-on-one with SRLs referred by the ACCESS Center at each stage of their cases until a judgment of dissolution is obtained. The FLASH Attorney provides information and guidance and drafts all necessary pleadings for SRLs who would not be able to complete their divorce paperwork without the assistance of FLASH.</p> <p>FLASH also provides day-of-court assistance to SRLs on the Family Centered Case Resolution (FCCR) Calendar, where the court calls cases that have failed to conclude within 18 months of the initial filing. Indigent SRLs who appear on this calendar have filed for divorce but have been unable to obtain a judgment. The FLASH Attorney works with income-qualified litigants on the day of this calendar and schedules individual appointments with these SRLs to complete their matters.</p> <p>As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, JDC has developed innovative methods to communicate and interact with SRLs. Our intake form has been converted to an electronic fillable document so the ACCESS Center can complete the initial set of pleadings for each SRL. Additionally, we have added text communication capability as most of the FLASH Attorney's low-income clients are unable to use video-conferencing. These practices continue, even as in-person services have resumed, since some clients prefer to meet remotely for their own convenience. For those SRLs who prefer in-person meetings, FLASH maintains a regular presence at the court within the ACCESS Center's offices.</p>	\$ 70,000	TBD



18	LACBA Counsel for Justice	Eviction Legal Services Project	Los Angeles	<p>The Eviction Legal Services Project (ELSP) is a new project that will assist self-represented defendants in UD cases. In LA County, 90% of tenants are self-represented due to insufficient income and a county-wide defense attorney deficit. The Court's Self-Help Centers (SHC) don't have capacity to address the volume of tenants needing assistance. The Project will provide legal information, referrals, and assistance with completing court forms. Volunteer attorneys and law students recruited, trained, and supervised by ELSP will remotely assist litigants located in and referred by staff at the SHC. SHC staff will send litigant paperwork to ELSP and connect litigants to a virtual conference where ELSP volunteers will provide services. After review by a project attorney, ELSP will submit the forms to Court staff to work with the litigant for signature and preparation for service, and filing, where available. ELSP will be a remotely-provided service for litigants in the SHC during SHC hours. ELSP will endeavor to provide coverage as scheduled on all days the SHC is open. ELSP will be staffed by an attorney, paralegal, and project coordinator. ELSP has been developed in collaboration with the Court and piloted for a 4-month period beginning March 2024. Throughout the project, the Court will be involved daily in making referrals, communicating with Project staff, and addressing issues as they arise. The goal of ELSP is to enable litigants to make informed choices about their legal problems and properly present their issues to the court, fostering an efficient and fair judicial process.</p>	\$ 195,200	TBD
19	LACBA Counsel for Justice	Domestic Violence Legal Services Project	Los Angeles	<p>The LACBA Counsel for Justice Domestic Violence Legal Services Project (DVP or Project) assists self-represented litigants in restraining order cases. DVP provides legal information, referrals, and individual services with court forms such as requests, responses, child custody mediation, and renewals. The main goal of the Project is to bridge the access to justice gap for restraining order litigants in these complex cases by providing information and forms preparation; thereby enabling litigants to make informed choices about their legal problems and properly present their issues to the court. DVP recruits and trains volunteer lawyers and law students who work one-on-one with litigants to prepare the court forms with review by the Project Attorney. DVP also assists litigants who prepare their own petitions before filing with form review and by printing evidence they wish to submit with their filing. DVP is located on the second floor of the Stanley Mosk Courthouse, along with the Restraining Order Center and Family Court Services. DVP is open Mondays-Thursdays 8:00-12:00 and 1:00-3:30, Fridays 8:00-12:00. DVP will endeavor to provide coverage as scheduled on days the Court is open. The Project is staffed by a Project Attorney and a Paralegal who work with litigants and assist and supervise volunteers. DVP's Directing Attorney is responsible for overall supervision and direction of the Project. The Project Coordinator assists with pro bono volunteer scheduling and data gathering. As it has for over 30 years, DVP works closely and continuously with the Court on issues including cross-referrals, program development, and evaluation.</p>	\$ 152,300	TBD
20	Legal Access Alameda	Family Law Day of Court	Alameda	<p>Legal Access Alameda's Family Law Day of Court Clinic (FLDOC) is an in-court clinic where staff and volunteers take referrals directly from the bench on the Family Law Pro Per Request for Order (RFO) calendars. In Alameda County, self-represented litigants (SRLs) RFOs are generally assigned a specific day on each Family Law Department's calendar. Each clinic is staffed by a supervisor, either the FLDOC Attorney or a Self-Help staff person, and one to three volunteers. Volunteers and clinic staff work closely with judicial officers and courtroom personnel. The clinic seeks to assist all SRLs whose cases are set on the RFO calendar and who appear for their hearing. The hearings are short-cause hearings that are generally for child custody, child visitation, and support.</p> <p>FLDOC provides assistance to the six non-DCSS family law departments on their pro per RFO calendars. These calendars occur in the morning six times per week. The FLDOC Attorney is onsite and the FLDOC clinic provides both in-person and remote services as necessary.</p> <p>The primary goal of the clinic is to provide SRLs with signed, clear, and enforceable orders as soon as possible after their hearing. Clinic staff and volunteers draft the orders immediately after the hearing and submit proposed orders for the judge's signature and filing by the courtroom clerk. FLDOC also assist SRLs by clarifying the newly issued orders, explaining legal terms and court procedures, completing necessary paperwork, providing referrals to other legal service organizations, and running child and temporary spousal support calculations.</p>	\$ 25,000	TBD

21	Legal Access Alameda	Family Law Status Conference Clinic	Alameda	<p>The Family Law Status Conference Clinic (“FLSC Clinic”) offers assistance to litigants appearing on special Self-Represented Litigant Family Law Status Conference calendars in a family law department. This program brings a Legal Access staff attorney (the FLSC Attorney) on-site to provide expanded services to litigants and oversight of volunteer attorneys.</p> <p>The FLSC clinic assists with Dissolution, Legal Separation, Nullity, and Parentage cases. Clinic staff (the FLSC attorney and Self-Help staff) and volunteer attorneys help low-income litigants understand case procedure and complete or correct necessary forms, with the ultimate goal of assisting litigants in moving their cases to a final resolution, either by completing a judgment or referring the case for trial setting. This helps the court with the status conference compliance requirement under CRC Rule 5.83(c)(2) and facilitates more efficient support to litigants with on-the-spot assistance and by identifying issues early in the process.</p> <p>Starting in mid-2020, the FLSC department began holding all hearings via Zoom video conference and consolidated all FLSC clinic cases to Tuesdays. While providing services remotely, clinic staff send litigants required forms electronically or by mail. The FLSC Attorney follows up with litigants after each clinic with materials, written instructions, and the forms completed during the clinic. When not clinic, the FLSC Attorney also reviews proposed judgments for completeness and assists litigants with submitting their forms for filing. Finally, the FLSC Attorney identifies cases in other family law departments that would benefit from clinic assistance and works with bench officers to facilitate referrals to the clinic.</p>	\$ 65,000	TBD
22	Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles	Remote Self Help Center Access Project	Los Angeles	<p>In rapid response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles nimbly partnered with the Los Angeles County Superior Court in 2020 to develop the first live self-help hotline to deliver remote services to self-represented litigants throughout Los Angeles County. To date, LAFLA has remotely served over 30,000 pro per litigants and remains the only Los Angeles Superior Court partner with a live telephone hotline that provides immediate remote assistance to low-income litigants facing legal crises with their housing stability, personal safety, and family-related matters. This project seeks continuing funding for one full-time-equivalent attorney (1) to sustain our unique live self-help telephone hotline for self-represented litigants, (2) in collaboration with the Court, to enhance our remote supervision of the Court’s JusticeCorps members who staff our joint remote Unlawful Detainer Answer Clinic, and (3) to expand our dynamic web-based and mobile-friendly interactive workshops to include emergent unmet litigant needs that are ripe for remote assistance, such as name change and civil harassment restraining order matters. As LAFLA entrenches its reputation as a regional leader in the development and implementation of hybrid self-help technologies, the project attorney will also collaborate with Court and legal service partners to cross-train and document best practices in remote self-help service delivery. LAFLA recognizes that self-help services scheduled in courthouses are considered essential. We will strive to maintain coverage as scheduled, in accordance and as long as we are in compliance with LAFLA’s collective bargaining agreement.</p>	\$ 124,600	TBD
23	Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles	Torrance Self Help Center Access Project	Los Angeles	<p>For 20 years, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA) has closely partnered with Los Angeles Superior Court to deliver high-quality, courthouse-based assistance to self-represented litigants. This application seeks continuing funding to supplement staffing at the Torrance Courthouse Self-Help Center. LAFLA received initial funding to augment this partnership in 2020, and for the past four years, has closely collaborated with the Court to nimbly provide self-represented litigants with critical family law, restraining order, and housing services. In light of the ongoing pandemic, our responsive approach has included virtual assistance to ensure that services continued, and hands-on, on-site assistance once in-person services resumed. In FY2025, LAFLA seeks to fully re-invest in on-site services, some of which have remained unavailable due to ongoing COVID-related impacts, and to expand our hybrid services to best assist low-income litigants within the Los Angeles’ South Bay region. Specifically, the project requests funding for one FTE attorney to (1) rebuild and resume onsite litigant workshops in cooperation with the Court, its JusticeCorps members, and the County Law Library, (2) expand the Center’s family law services to better align with Torrance judicial officer referrals, and (3) collaborate with the Court, LAFLA, and regional legal service providers’ self-help staff to enhance our emergent hybrid family law and domestic violence restraining order workshops. LAFLA recognizes that self-help services scheduled in courthouses are considered essential, so we will strive to maintain coverage as scheduled, in accordance and as long as we are in compliance with LAFLA’s collective bargaining agreement.</p>	\$ 152,200	TBD

24	Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County	Legal Resource Center Partnership	Santa Barbara	<p>LAFSBC proposes to continue Partnership funding for a self-help attorney for the civil Legal Resource Centers (LRC) and a part-time assistant. Until the hiring of a 3rd LRC attorney with Partnership funds in 2020, the staffing level of the Legal Resource Centers had not increased for at least 16 years. Santa Barbara County and the central coast continues to be underserved for civil legal needs for indigent people. Santa Barbara County has no ABA law schools, no international law firms, nor any local volunteer attorney services organization. In calendar year 2023, the LRCs countywide served a record-breaking number of over 8,000 self-represented litigants in civil matters. The LRC partnership attorney, who is bilingual in English and Spanish, will work 1 day per week in person at the Lompoc courthouse. For this year, we also plan to add 1 day per week in-person in Santa Barbara due to increasing demand for in-person services. On the remaining days, the bilingual LRC Partnership attorney will assist SRLs countywide by phone, email, or videoconference, with a focus on mid and south county residents. The LRC assistant will provide in-person bilingual Spanish language support to the LRC at the Santa Barbara courthouse.</p> <p>The other two attorneys, funded separately, will cover in-person services in Santa Barbara and Santa Maria. We believe that by providing a combination of remote and in-person services, we will best meet the needs of residents across the 75 mile length of our county.</p>	\$ 234,000	TBD
25	Legal Aid of Marin	UDMSC Partnership with Marin Superior Court	Marin	<p>The Marin Unlawful Detainer Mandatory Settlement Conference Program is a partnership between Marin Superior Court and Legal Aid of Marin (LAM) to provide critical pre-trial settlement negotiation services to pro per litigants involved in eviction cases. Supporting both tenants and landlords, the Program's target constituency is low-income or otherwise marginalized pro per litigants who live in Marin County and are unable to pay legal representation but are facing life-defining eviction proceedings. Without help negotiating settlement, pro per litigants run the risk of being forced to represent themselves at eviction trials, where the stakes are high and often result in litigants facing housing instability, displacement, homelessness, or substantial financial hardship. Unlawful detainer mandatory settlement conferences (UDMSCs) are required by the local rules of Marin Superior Court in all eviction cases, and LAM staffs these conferences with attorneys who help resolve eviction cases pretrial. UDMSCs are held via Zoom every Thursday starting at 1:30pm. In-house housing staff attorneys and pro bono attorneys support pro per litigants at UDMSCs. A Marin Superior Court judge presides over every UDMSC docket, aids in settlement negotiations, and approves proposed settlement agreements when reached by the parties. The main goals of the UDMSC program are to increase access to justice for pro per litigants, reduce housing instability, displacement, and the likelihood of homelessness faced by low-income and underserved tenants, ensure fairness to both landlords and tenants involved in eviction cases, encourage landlords and tenants to settle their disputes creatively and on their own terms, support judicial economy, and engage the private bar in volunteer activities that substantially increase access to legal assistance for Marin residents.</p>	\$ 120,300	TBD
26	Legal Aid of Marin	Marin Community Court Partnership	Marin	<p>Found nowhere else in California and a model for innovative partnership between the Judiciary and legal services, Marin Community Court (MCC) is a poverty alleviation program where non-criminal traffic, parking, and lifestyle infractions are diverted to a specialized docket offering participants the opportunity for waiver of fines and fees. Marin Superior Court and Legal Aid of Marin partner to help hundreds of the most marginalized Marin residents annually obtain relief from overwhelming fines and fees in exchange for participants completing restorative community service in Marin. MCC addresses non-criminal traffic, parking, and lifestyle infractions typically imposed on individuals who are experiencing poverty and economic instability. The target constituency includes low-income individuals, many of whom are experiencing housing instability or homelessness. Legal Aid of Marin (LAM) offers services from intake to case closure, guiding participants through the process of appearing before the Court, completing required community service hours, and finalizing the waiver of fines and fees once the Court's requirements are met. LAM also pairs participants with pro bono attorneys who advocate for them during MCC hearings before Marin Superior Court. LAM provides interpretation services to participants. Every MCC docket takes place on the second Tuesday of each month from 2pm-5pm via Zoom. Project staffing includes LAM's Administrative Advocate, LAM's Managing Attorney, LAM's Programs Officer, and several Marin Superior Court clerks. Marin Superior Court Judge Sheila Lichtblau presides over MCC. MCC's main goals are to alleviate poverty and eliminate barriers to self-sufficiency for extremely marginalized Marin community members.</p>	\$ 157,300	TBD

27	Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino	Caregivers and Small Estates Accessing Justice (CSEAJ)	San Bernardino	<p>The Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino collaborates with local courts to enhance the legal experience for Pro Se litigants handling Small Estates, Conservatorship, and Guardianship cases. Our initiatives focus on document preparation and providing case-specific guidance to reduce court backlogs and ease interactions within the legal system. This collaboration aims to minimize courthouse visits and alleviate the stress often associated with legal proceedings, thus enhancing system accessibility and efficiency.</p> <p>Our skilled team dedicates efforts to explain legal concepts, prepare and correct pleadings, and assist clients through pre- and post-hearing procedures to ensure smooth and prompt case management. We strive to make legal processes more comprehensible and manageable for all parties involved.</p> <p>The demand for our services has grown significantly, particularly among vulnerable families seeking to care for minors or aging adults. We have expanded our offerings to include the Fontana and Victorville Superior Courts. These services are available in both English and Spanish and include virtual and telephonic support, extending our reach, especially in rural areas where legal resources are limited.</p> <p>By streamlining case processing, providing procedural guidance, and enhancing service accessibility, our initiative not only expedites case resolution but also ensures vital care and support for disabled adults and minors. Our efforts represent a significant advancement towards a more navigable and responsive legal system, offering substantial relief to those in challenging circumstances.</p>	\$ 203,000	TBD
28	Legal Aid Society of San Diego	East County Restraining Order Clinic	San Diego	<p>In partnership with the San Diego Superior Court, Legal Aid Society of San Diego's (LASSD) Pro Bono Program seeks to continue offering a full-time Domestic Violence/Civil Harassment/Elder Abuse Restraining Order Clinic at the East County branch of the San Diego Superior Court. The Court has expressed a need for daily full-time services to be offered to East County residents who are seeking protection from violence, stalking, sexual assault, elder/dependent adult abuse, and severe harassment. The project will operate daily in the East County Regional Center branch court from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, providing assistance with court forms, explanation of the law, options and alternatives, and referrals.</p> <p>The project will be staffed with one staff attorney, one advocate, and volunteer attorneys and students. Ongoing communication with court personnel will create a collaborative program that benefits both the court and self-represented litigants in having appropriate paperwork processed efficiently.</p> <p>The main goals of the project are to help self-represented litigants access and fully participate in the legal system, and educate litigants so they can make more informed choices that result in effective and efficient filings for the litigant and the Court. Helping litigants complete necessary paperwork ensures that the Court is given the information necessary to render a decision on a temporary restraining order that day. By providing these services, the project assists pro per petitioners protect themselves from dangerous situations, and pro per respondents protect themselves from frivolous litigation.</p>	\$ 190,000	TBD

29	Legal Aid Society of San Diego	South Bay Restraining Order Project	San Diego	<p>In partnership with the San Diego Superior Court, the Legal Aid Society of San Diego (LASSD) Pro Bono Program seeks to offer the sole full-time Domestic Violence/Civil Harassment/Elder Abuse Restraining Order Clinic at the South County branch of the San Diego Superior Court. The Court has expressed the need for daily full-time services to assist the rising number of South County residents seeking protection from violence, stalking, sexual assault, elder/dependent adult abuse, and severe harassment. The project would operate daily in the South County Regional Center branch court from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, providing assistance with court forms, explanation of the law, options and alternatives, and referrals.</p> <p>The project will be staffed with one staff attorney, one advocate, and volunteer attorneys and students. Ongoing communication with court personnel will create a collaborative project that benefits both the court and self-represented litigants in having appropriate paperwork processed efficiently.</p> <p>The main goals of the project are to help self-represented litigants access and fully participate in the legal system, and educate litigants so they can make informed choices resulting in effective and efficient filings for the litigant and the Court. Helping litigants complete necessary paperwork ensures that the Court receives the information necessary to render a decision on a temporary restraining order that day. By providing these services, the project assists pro per petitioners protect themselves from dangerous situations, and pro per respondents protect their due process rights by properly responding to petitions.</p>	\$ 180,000	TBD
30	Legal Assistance for Seniors	Partnership to Assist Guardianship Litigants	Alameda	<p>The Partnership to Assist Guardianship Litigants is a collaborative effort of Legal Assistance for Seniors (LAS), Legal Access Alameda of the Alameda County Bar Association (LAA) and the Alameda County Superior Court. The Partnership will provide assistance to low income, pro per litigants in guardianship cases.</p> <p>There are currently no other resources to assist litigants with these complex cases in our county. Partners will assist with all aspects of these cases including temporary petitions, general petitions, objections, adding or removing co-guardians, petitions for visitation and petitions for termination. The partners will develop sample documents and instructions designed to fill in any potential gaps caused by the reduction in court services, including reduced filing hours and reduced Probate Examiner phone hours. The Partnership will hold two workshops a month at the Self Help Center to assist with the paperwork required for petitions and objections. A third monthly workshop at LAS will be dedicated to the complex notice requirements that often result in continuances. Workshops will be scheduled for two hours and will be staffed by LAA Volunteers, Self Help Staff and LAS attorneys and advocates.</p> <p>We will also assist litigants who are referred by the court for assistance with curing their procedural issues. This may be day of court assistance by volunteers or one-on-one assistance scheduled individually at LAS. The goal of this program is to navigate litigants through the complex procedural process required in guardianship cases, providing low-income litigants access to justice while also reducing continuances and preserving court resources.</p>	\$ 65,000	TBD

31	Legal Assistance for Seniors	Partnership to Assist Limited Conservatorship Litigants	Alameda	<p>The Partnership to Assist Limited Conservatorship Litigants is a collaborative effort of Legal Assistance for Seniors (LAS), Legal Access Alameda of the Alameda County Bar Association (LAA) and the Alameda County Superior Court. The Partnership will provide assistance to low income, pro per litigants in limited conservatorship cases. Limited conservatorship cases have complex procedural requirements that are daunting to pro per litigants.</p> <p>Many of the litigants in Alameda County do not speak English and have trouble navigating the legal system, which can lead to delays in their ability to provide adequate care. This Project allows the Partners to meet a currently unmet need in Alameda County as no other organization provides free assistance for these matters. Partners will assist with temporary petitions, general petitions, objections, orders after hearing and other petitions necessary to meet procedural requirements. The partners will develop sample documents and instructions to assist with local rules and the complicated procedural process. The litigants will be assisted at workshops at the Self-Help Center on the first and third Monday of the month from 1:30-4:00. An additional workshop dedicated to the complex notice requirements will be held monthly at LAS.</p> <p>One-on-one assistance will also be provided. LAA volunteers and LAS staff will assist litigants at their hearings when needed. The goal of the partnership is for the partners to use their experience assisting pro per litigants navigate with the complex procedural requirements of limited conservatorship cases and to avoid multiple continuances that take up court resources and frustrate litigants.</p>	\$ 60,000	TBD
32	Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice	Domestic Violence Resource Center	Los Angeles	<p>Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice (LACLJ) proposes a project in partnership with the Los Angeles Superior Court (LASC) to enhance information available to, and facilitate connection with, resources for self-represented litigants who are survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, or trafficking. Every day a high number of survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault seek help beyond the volume that Court Self-Help staff has capacity to assist. LACLJ's project aims to establish a survivor DV resource center phone line to connect survivors to resources and leverage technology to expedite access to crucial services. The DV resource center phone line would be staffed by a receptionist screening callers in a trauma informed and culturally responsive way and connecting them to community service providers offering restraining order preparation assistance or other related services. Additionally, for survivors seeking services after hours or online anytime, the project would create an online screening tool to generate tailored referrals and facilitate access to help. LACLJ will work with LASC offices such as the Self-Help Center and Family Law Facilitator to distribute information about the DV information/resource referral line which will be available during court hours. LACLJ will strive to keep that service open on all days the Court is open. By enhancing the efficiency and accuracy of information/referrals, we aim to empower individuals with timely and relevant support. LACLJ Director of Legal Services, Jimena Vasquez will be responsible for overseeing the project and coordinating activities with LASC staff.</p>	\$ 150,000	TBD
33	Mental Health Advocacy Services	Mental Health and CARE Court Clinic	Los Angeles	<p>Mental Health Advocacy Services proposes continuing and expanding its clinic with the Los Angeles County Mental Health Court to provide self-help legal services to individuals with mental health disabilities. The Mental Health and CARE Court Clinic will operate four days/week (M-Th) via phone and email and one day/week (T) in-person at the Norwalk Courthouse. The project will be staffed by at least two Staff Attorneys and one Case Manager. During the grant period, the Clinic will provide services to approximately 500 individuals. MHAS understands that, when scheduled to provide services in-person, our self-help staff qualify as essential court workers and will endeavor to provide coverage as scheduled.</p> <p>The Clinic will provide Court-approved information and resources about Mental Health and CARE Court proceedings to litigants and other members of the public. The Clinic will also offer legal information and referrals on a range of ancillary civil legal issues with a goal of helping litigants achieve greater overall stability, thus allowing them to move through their court proceedings with greater efficiency and success—and with less likelihood of returning. This will include helping litigants secure and maintain housing, access SSI or other public benefits, and obtain—or reinstate—their Driver's License or California ID, among other civil legal needs.</p> <p>Finally, the Clinic will offer quarterly workshops on Psychiatric Advance Directives (PADs). Used widely in other states, and growing in popularity in California, PADs promote increased autonomy and lead to better health and legal outcomes for people with mental health disabilities.</p>	\$ 310,000	TBD

34	Neighborhood Legal Services	POMONA - READY FOR TRIAL!	Los Angeles	<p>Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County (NLSLA) proposes the continuation of "Ready for Trial!", an intensive family law trial preparation project based in the Pomona Courthouse, that supports self-represented litigants. The project attorney has developed a two-part workshop that aims to prepare litigants for all aspects of their upcoming trial. The initial workshop prepares litigants for trial day by familiarizing them with the process, walking them through how to check-in upon arrival, informing them of the proper way to address the court, introducing them to trial brief forms, and more. In the second workshop, litigants receive assistance in completing their trial brief and other forms. The workshops are provided in English and Spanish and the workshop in Spanish will address unique issues facing non-English proficient litigants, like presenting evidence in a different language and working with court interpreters. Materials, curriculum and protocols developed in this project will be shared so that legal aid and court self-help staff can collaborate to implement its use in other self-help centers. The project will also create a video that provides an overview of trial day at family court, which can be easily shared across the County. The goal of the project is to demystify the Court processes and reduce the anxiety and stress litigants experience when going to trial. This project will give litigants information and confidence needed to represent themselves in court.</p>	\$ 118,000	TBD
35	Neighborhood Legal Services	PASADENA - CONTINUUM OF SERVICE	Los Angeles	<p>NLSLA proposes continuing its project in the Pasadena Courthouse to maintain assistance with UD Answers. Housing continues to be the state's number one priority and State and local leaders continue to work to provide critical services in the homeless prevention efforts. A Right to Counsel Project continues to take shape; the Stay Housed LA Project is overwhelmed with requests for representation from tenants facing eviction.</p> <p>The need continues to be great and even with Stay Housed L.A. resources, Legal Aids simply cannot meet the need and help all tenants with eviction cases at the Pasadena Courthouse. The Unlawful Detainer (UD) process is an expedited one and it is difficult to meet the needs of the numerous tenants who must file an Answer to the UD within the five-day response deadline under the statute. The Court whose primary focus is family law staffs the Pasadena Self-Help Center at the Courthouse. This NLSLA attorney can provide services and supervise volunteers to assist self-help walk-ins with housing services more quickly using the self-help model. To fill the gap in services, it is essential to continue to fund an attorney from NLSLA to help maintain the continuum of services for housing cases at the Pasadena Self-Help Center for at least four days a week, 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. NLSLA recognizes that when our self-help center staff are scheduled to provide in-person services, they are considered essential workers. We will strive to maintain coverage as scheduled, in accordance with NLSLA's Collective Bargaining Agreement.</p>	\$ 150,000	TBD
36	Neighborhood Legal Services	STABILIZING FAMILIES PROJECT	Los Angeles	<p>NLSLA proposes to continue operating "Stabilizing Families" to support self-represented litigants through the Probate Guardianship process. This project includes education on alternative options to guardianship, application preparation, service requirements, clearing probate notes, and preparing Letters and Orders. This service focuses on empowerment and education to litigants, who otherwise cannot afford legal representation throughout the long process of probate guardianship. The program helps litigants seeking information and support to obtain, object to, or terminate a legal guardianship, with resources and support offered at all stages.</p> <p>The program operates in conjunction with the Self-Help Center hours of operation: 8:30am – 4:30pm on Mondays-Thursdays and Fridays 8:30am – 12:00 pm. NLSLA recognizes that when our self-help center staff are scheduled to provide in-person services, they are considered essential workers. We will strive to maintain coverage as scheduled, in accordance with NLSLA's Collective Bargaining Agreement.</p> <p>An NLSLA attorney at the Antelope Valley courthouses will provide both remote and on-site support to litigants. Following the Self-Help model, there will be no attorney-client relationship between the attorney and litigants, no court appearances, and no legal advice is provided. The program's main goals are to alleviate the confusion with probate guardianships through targeted education and to support litigants who are navigating their ways through process without representation.</p>	\$ 113,000	TBD

37	Neighborhood Legal Services	REMOTE ACCESS - LA	Los Angeles	<p>NLSLA will expand and streamline the initial remote services NLSLA developed using telephone, e-mail, document assembly programs created by Pro Bono Net and the Judicial Council, Teams appointments, and other technologies. We use programs developed by the Court such as Justice Portal to obtain documents from the litigant's case to provide accurate information and assess next steps.</p> <p>The need for free legal assistance far outweighs the funding and staffing. To bridge the gap, this Project will expand use of technology to increase efficiency of its remote operations. The Project will look for ways to use Microsoft 365 Office Suite to automate and speed up administrative tasks, and the delivery of services. The Project will help litigants remotely in areas where there are gaps in services such as assistance with international service and service by posting.</p> <p>Litigants continue to seek alternatives to in-person services. In a county of over 10.2 million people, justice demands continued learning about creating bridges for our community. This means having robust in-person and remote services. This Project is critical to creating access to a population transformed by the pandemic, by learning to access services remotely, and considering their work and family schedules. This Project includes two lawyers, two paralegals and one secretary. We will provide high quality legal services, accommodation when needed and language access services. We will gather data to demonstrate that long-term funding for remote services is necessary to complement in-person self-help services.</p>	\$ 390,000	TBD
38	Neighborhood Legal Services	BRIDGE TO SELF-HELP	Los Angeles	<p>The Bridge to Self-Help ("B2SH") project will target populations facing extraordinary challenges that meaningfully limit their ability to access the courts and existing services, including litigants having physical, mental health, developmental, or learning challenges; litigants referred by healthcare providers or other care team member; litigants who are unhoused and referred by a Coordinated Entry System or LAHSA partner agency; and litigants with limited-English proficiency. The Project will continue remotely and off-site in collaboration with the Self Help Legal Access Centers ("SHLAC") and Court Self-Help Center staff. The hours of operation will be during SHLAC operating hours. The project's staffing will include NLSLA supervising attorney, staff attorney, two paralegals, and volunteers. The Court will collaborate by identifying and referring litigants and providing support on site as needed.</p> <p>Individuals with physical and mental health challenges require extra support to ensure meaningful access to justice through the courts. Health harming legal issues increase stress, keep patients from adherence to treatment plans, and further intensify instability.</p> <p>To respond to this need, NLSLA will expand partnerships with the Superior Court of California, Los Angeles ("Court") to continue the B2SH remote Project. The Project will offer self-help services in key legal areas including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Family/domestic violence,</li> <li>· Housing, and</li> <li>· Guardianship.</li> </ul> <p>· The Project will also identify and link key referral sources including healthcare facilities and agencies serving unhoused individuals; and</p> <p>· Evaluate the ongoing need for accommodations and additional supports needed to ensure meaningful access to the courts.</p>	\$ 426,000	TBD



39	Public Counsel	Appellate Clinic Innovation	Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura,	<p>The Appellate Clinic for Self-Represented Litigants, located at the Court of Appeal in downtown Los Angeles, operates five days a week to enhance access to justice for indigent, pro se litigants. Staffed by an experienced Supervising Attorney and a full-time Paralegal, supplemented by pro bono attorneys, the Clinic provides essential resources and guidance to help litigants effectively navigate the appellate process.</p> <p>Central to our mission is the Online Library of Resources and Materials. This digital library equips litigants with legal information and procedural guidance, enabling them to prepare accurate and persuasive briefs and reduce procedural errors that can delay Court proceedings.</p> <p>Our operations are closely coordinated with Court clerks and the Second District Justices to ensure alignment with judicial needs, enhancing the efficiency of the Court system. Regular communication with the Court ensures our services remain relevant and impactful.</p> <p>The Clinic's main goals are to empower indigent appellants with accessible, comprehensive legal resources, and to reduce judicial delays through better-prepared filings; and utilize digital tools, including potential future applications of generative AI, to expand the reach and impact of our services. A litigant praised the Clinic, stating it empowered him with helpful materials that are integral to his legal education and case handling, demonstrating the transformative effect of our support.</p>	\$ 319,200	TBD
40	Public Counsel	Guardianship Clinic	Los Angeles	<p>Established in 2001, Public Counsel's Pro Per Guardianship Clinic provides legal information, pro per assistance, and referrals to pro per litigants from throughout LA County who are seeking guardianships or other actions in the probate court. We propose to assist approximately 2,000 litigants annually by providing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Information about guardianships and other probate issues;</li> <li>* Screening to ensure that the litigant's legal matter is appropriate for filing in probate court;</li> <li>* Assistance in preparing pleadings;</li> <li>* Assistance with notices; and</li> <li>* User-friendly guides in English and Spanish to assist litigants with guardianship proceedings, including form pleadings, filing instructions, notice requirements, and information on appearing in court.</li> </ul> <p>The proposed grant would enable us to operate the Clinic from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Monday through Thursday at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse. All services are available in both English and Spanish. Services are provided on-site by Public Counsel staff and pro bono volunteers trained by Public Counsel, including college students, law students, and attorneys. Public Counsel recognizes that self-help services scheduled in courthouses are considered vital, so we will endeavor to finalize resources and plans in coordination with the Court to maintain coverage as scheduled.</p> <p>Clinic staff work closely with the court to ensure our services meet litigants' needs. We communicate informally with the clerk's office on an almost weekly basis and meet with the presiding probate judge twice per year, dependent on the current presiding judge's schedule and willingness to meet.</p> <p>Our ultimate goal is to provide the litigants we serve with the tools they need to understand their case and to obtain the outcome they hope to achieve.</p>	\$ 336,700	TBD

41	Public Law Center	Eviction Defense Clinic	Orange	<p>Public Law Center's (PLC) Eviction Defense Clinic aims to partner with the Court to serve diverse communities of low-income Orange County residents by providing procedural information to assist tenant defendants with completing answers to Unlawful Detainer (UD) complaints in a culturally-appropriate, linguistically-accessible and community-based environment. The Clinic's goal is to reduce the number of immediate evictions based on default judgments for all clinic attendees served with UD complaints, and to provide added support to the Self-Help Center in assisting tenant defendants. The Clinic will offer individual services and will provide legal procedural assistance to guide tenant defendants to understand the eviction process and to timely complete eviction answers. Another objective of the Clinic is to enhance the readiness of tenant defendants to effectively represent themselves in Court. This initiative aims to optimize Judicial and Court resources in adjudicating cases more efficiently. In this Clinic, no legal advice nor attorney/client relationship will be established with the tenant defendant.</p> <p>The Court will refer self-represented litigants to the Clinic via the Self-Help Center. Self-Help, as part of its standard business operations, will provide the necessary documents to tenant defendants as required. A PLC Staff Attorney and Paralegal/Administrative Assistant will assist litigants with completing their Answers and with completing Fee-Waivers, as deemed applicable by litigants. The Clinic will operate Monday/Wednesday/Thursday from 9AM-4PM (closed one hour for lunch), and Friday from 9AM-1PM at El Centro Cultural in Santa Ana, a short walk from the Court. The Clinic will assist at least 300 individuals annually.</p>	\$ 120,700	TBD
42	San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program	North County Restraining Order Clinic	San Diego	<p>The North County Restraining Order Clinic (NCROC) is a collaboration between San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, Inc. (SDVLP) and the San Diego County Superior Court (Court), to assist victims of abuse in obtaining legal protection and referrals for legal and social services providers. Rates of domestic violence are at an all-time high in North County - victims of domestic violence in this region account for 46% of the County's domestic violence-related homicides.</p> <p>The NCROC is located on the first floor of the Vista Courthouse at 325 South Melrose Drive Vista, CA 92081, and is open Monday through Friday during the Court's operating hours of 8:30a.m - 5:00p.m., excluding court holidays. The NCROC is staffed by one Senior Staff Attorney and a bilingual Legal Administrative Assistant, who are both on-site full-time. Additional support is provided by SDVLP volunteers, including attorneys and law student interns. The NCROC staff provide one-on-one assistance to victims of domestic violence, civil harassment, and elder abuse, by completing restraining order applications which victims file as self-represented litigants (SRLs). Litigants helped by the NCROC are also given access to SDVLP's online library of informational videos and webinars on how to identify relevant evidence and file it, how to prepare for a TRO hearing, what constitutes proper service and how to accomplish it, and technology abuse. SDVLP regularly collaborates with the Court through quarterly meetings with court staff, judicial officers, and other DV service providers, and yearly focus groups where court staff and judicial officers provide feedback on NCROC services.</p>	\$ 170,000	TBD
					\$ 6,992,400	TBD

## 2025 Partnership Grant Rubric Scores and Funding Recommendations

To be finalized at the July 16, 2024, Partnership Grants Committee Meeting

## ATTACHMENT C

<b>2025 Total Amount Requested:</b>	<b>\$6,992,400.00</b>
<b>2025 Amount Available for Distribution:</b>	<b>\$3,500,720.00</b>

Organization Name	Project Name	Selection Criteria (85pts)	Funding Priorities (15pts)	Optional Innovation (up to 5pts)	Total Rubric Score	Requested Grant Amount	Fund all projects at 50% (for reference)	OPTION A: Cap at \$155k 86pts and up at 70% >77-85pts at 60% 60-77pts at 50% <60pts = zero funding	OPTION B: Cap at \$168k 86pts and up at 70% >77-85pts at 60% 62-77pts at 50% <62pts = zero funding	PG Committee Funding Recommendations (as of 7/16/24)
Alliance for Children's Rights	Permanency Benefits Clinic Court Partnership	61.7	11.7	0.0	73.3	\$185,000.00	\$92,500.00	\$92,500.00	\$92,500.00	
Bet Tzedek Legal Services	Access to Supported Decision Making	80.0	10.0	3.5	93.5	\$140,000.00	\$70,000.00	\$98,000.00	\$98,000.00	
Bet Tzedek Legal Services	Pro Se Technology Initiative	80.0	5.0	1.8	86.8	\$175,000.00	\$87,500.00	\$122,500.00	\$122,500.00	
Bet Tzedek Legal Services	Decedent Estate Clinic	80.0	6.3	0.5	86.8	\$200,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$140,000.00	\$140,000.00	
California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.	2025 San Joaquin County Housing Court Clinic Partnership	67.5	5.0	0.0	72.5	\$162,500.00	\$81,250.00	\$81,250.00	\$81,250.00	
Central California Legal Services	Tenant/Landlord Housing Law Project	66.3	7.5	2.3	76.0	\$265,000.00	\$132,500.00	\$132,500.00	\$132,500.00	
Central California Legal Services	CCLS Guardianship Project	61.3	7.5	1.3	70.0	\$125,000.00	\$62,500.00	\$62,500.00	\$62,500.00	
Community Legal Aid SoCal	Orange County Consumer Debt Workshops	65.0	6.3	1.0	72.3	\$60,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	
Community Legal Aid SoCal	Norwalk Consumer Debt 2025	63.8	6.3	0.0	70.0	\$31,000.00	\$15,500.00	\$15,500.00	\$15,500.00	
Community Legal Aid SoCal	Compton Self-Help Economic Expansion Project Year 3	60.0	6.3	0.0	66.3	\$82,000.00	\$41,000.00	\$41,000.00	\$41,000.00	
Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto	Preventing Homelessness: Mandatory Settlement Conference	78.8	15.0	2.0	95.8	\$249,700.00	\$124,850.00	\$155,000.00	\$168,000.00	
Elder Law & Advocacy	Imperial County Restraining Order and Unlawful Detainer	61.0	14.0	0.0	75.0	\$83,800.00	\$41,900.00	\$41,900.00	\$41,900.00	
Elder Law and Disability Rights Center	Pro Se Litigant Workshop	61.3	10.0	0.5	71.8	\$134,000.00	\$67,000.00	\$67,000.00	\$67,000.00	
Family Violence Law Center	Domestic Violence Pro Per (DVPP) Project	73.8	8.8	0.0	82.5	\$120,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$72,000.00	\$72,000.00	
Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance	Partnership Shriver Grant	62.0	9.0	0.0	71.0	\$107,300.00	\$53,650.00	\$53,650.00	\$53,650.00	
Inland Counties Legal Services	Consumer Rights Clinic EXPANDED	71.3	10.0	3.8	85.0	\$274,600.00	\$137,300.00	\$155,000.00	\$164,760.00	
Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San	Family Law Self-Help (FLASH) Project	76.0	10.0	1.0	87.0	\$70,000.00	\$35,000.00	\$49,000.00	\$49,000.00	
LACBA Counsel for Justice	Domestic Violence Legal Services Project (DVP)	77.0	5.0	2.2	84.2	\$152,300.00	\$76,150.00	\$91,380.00	\$91,380.00	
LACBA Counsel for Justice	Eviction Legal Services Project	61.0	13.0	2.2	76.2	\$195,200.00	\$97,600.00	\$97,600.00	\$97,600.00	
Legal Access Alameda	Family Law Status Conference Clinic	77.5	5.0	0.0	82.5	\$65,000.00	\$32,500.00	\$39,000.00	\$39,000.00	
Legal Access Alameda	Family Law Day of Court	72.5	5.0	0.0	77.5	\$25,000.00	\$12,500.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	
Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles	Torrance Self Help Center Access Project	72.0	5.0	1.6	78.6	\$152,200.00	\$76,100.00	\$91,320.00	\$91,320.00	
Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles	Remote Self Help Center Access Project	70.0	5.0	3.0	78.0	\$124,600.00	\$62,300.00	\$74,760.00	\$74,760.00	
Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County	Legal Resource Center Partnership	72.5	10.0	0.5	83.0	\$234,000.00	\$117,000.00	\$140,400.00	\$140,400.00	
Legal Aid of Marin	Marin Community Court Partnership	71.3	15.0	5.0	91.3	\$157,300.00	\$78,650.00	\$110,110.00	\$110,110.00	
Legal Aid of Marin	UDMSC Partnership with Marin Superior Court	70.0	5.0	0.0	75.0	\$120,300.00	\$60,150.00	\$60,150.00	\$60,150.00	
Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino	Caregivers and Small Estates Accessing Justice (CSEAJ)	78.0	10.0	1.0	89.0	\$203,000.00	\$101,500.00	\$142,100.00	\$142,100.00	
Legal Aid Society of San Diego	South Bay Restraining Order Project	71.3	10.0	0.0	81.3	\$180,000.00	\$90,000.00	\$108,000.00	\$108,000.00	
Legal Aid Society of San Diego	East County Restraining Order Clinic	71.3	10.0	0.0	81.3	\$190,000.00	\$95,000.00	\$114,000.00	\$114,000.00	
Legal Assistance for Seniors	Partnership to Assist Limited Conservatorship Litigants	56.3	5.0	0.0	61.3	\$60,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00		
Legal Assistance for Seniors	Partnership to Assist Guardianship Litigants	56.3	5.0	0.0	61.3	\$65,000.00	\$32,500.00	\$32,500.00		
Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice	Domestic Violence Resource Center	60.0	10.0	3.5	73.5	\$150,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00	
Mental Health Advocacy Services	Mental Health and CARE Court Clinic	72.5	10.0	3.5	86.0	\$310,000.00	\$155,000.00	\$155,000.00	\$168,000.00	
Neighborhood Legal Services	PASADENA - CONTINUUM OF SERVICE	75.0	10.0	1.0	86.0	\$150,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$105,000.00	\$105,000.00	
Neighborhood Legal Services	STABILIZING FAMILIES PROJECT	70.0	10.0	1.0	81.0	\$113,000.00	\$56,500.00	\$67,800.00	\$67,800.00	
Neighborhood Legal Services	POMONA - READY FOR TRIAL!	62.5	10.0	1.0	73.5	\$118,000.00	\$59,000.00	\$59,000.00	\$59,000.00	
Neighborhood Legal Services	BRIDGE TO SELF-HELP	41.3	7.5	0.0	48.8	\$426,000.00	\$213,000.00			
Neighborhood Legal Services	REMOTE ACCESS - LA	36.3	5.0	1.0	42.3	\$390,000.00	\$195,000.00			
Public Counsel	Appellate Clinic Innovation	64.0	10.0	3.6	77.6	\$319,200.00	\$159,600.00	\$155,000.00	\$168,000.00	
Public Counsel	Guardianship Clinic	62.5	5.0	0.0	67.5	\$336,700.00	\$168,350.00	\$155,000.00	\$168,000.00	
Public Law Center	Eviction Defense Clinic	55.0	10.0	0.0	65.0	\$120,700.00	\$60,350.00	\$60,350.00	\$60,350.00	
San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program	North County Restraining Order Clinic	85.0	8.8	0.0	93.8	\$170,000.00	\$85,000.00	\$119,000.00	\$119,000.00	
26 Organizations	42 Projects				77 avg	\$6,992,400.00	\$3,496,200.00	\$3,506,770.00	\$3,506,030.00	

Total Available	\$	3,500,720.00	\$	3,500,720.00
Total Distributed	\$	3,506,770.00	\$	3,506,030.00
Total Remaining	\$	(6,050.00)	\$	(5,310.00)