



# Judicial Council of California

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## REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

*Item No.: 24-164*

For business meeting on September 20, 2024

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**Title**

Equal Access Fund: Distribution of Funds for IOLTA-Formula Grants and Partnership Grants

**Agenda Item Type**

Action Required

**Effective Date**

September 20, 2024

**Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes Affected**

None

**Date of Report**

August 26, 2024

**Recommended by**

Judicial Council staff  
Charlene Depner, Director  
Center for Families, Children & the Courts

**Contact**

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### Executive Summary

Judicial Council staff recommend approving the distribution of up to \$40,487,700 to the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission of the State Bar of California for the Equal Access Fund Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA)-Formula Grants and Partnership Grants as authorized by the Budget Act of 2024. The commission will distribute the funds as grants to legal services providers and support centers to be used for legal services in civil matters for indigent persons and self-represented litigants to improve equal access and the fair administration of justice, as authorized by the Budget Act.

### Recommendation

Judicial Council staff recommend that the Judicial Council, effective September 20, 2024:

1. Approve the distribution of up to \$40,487,700 to the State Bar of California for the Equal Access Fund IOLTA-Formula Grants and Partnership Grants (Link A) as authorized by the Budget Act of 2024 (Assem. Bill 107 (Gabriel)), including:
  - Up to \$772,600 for administration of the program by the State Bar;

- 90 percent of the total after administrative costs, or up to \$36,438,930, to be allocated through IOLTA-Formula Grants to legal services providers to provide legal services in civil matters for indigent persons and 15 percent of the allocation to support centers to provide technical and legal assistance to the legal services providers;
  - 10 percent of the total after administrative costs, or \$4,048,770, to be allocated through Partnership Grants to legal services providers for projects conducted jointly with the courts to provide legal assistance to self-represented litigants; and
2. Approve the grant awards recommended by the commission. The proposed IOLTA-Formula Grant recipients are on pages 43–45 and the proposed Partnership Grant recipients are on pages 52–55 of the commission’s distribution report (Attachment A).

### **Relevant Previous Council Action**

The Judicial Council has approved the distributions and awards of IOLTA-Formula and Partnership Grant funds for each of the past 24 years, consistent with the state Budget Act.

### **Analysis/Rationale**

Since 1999, the state Budget Act has appropriated funds to the Equal Access Fund and directed the Judicial Council to distribute the funds through the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission to qualified legal services providers and support centers to improve equal access and the fair administration of justice. Under the Budget Act, the Equal Access Fund may be augmented in accordance with Government Code section 68085.3(c)(3), which provides a distribution of \$4.80 per filing fee to the Equal Access Fund (Link B). The Judicial Council also approves the awards recommended by the commission (Attachment A).

The Budget Act provides that 90 percent of the appropriated funds remaining after administrative costs be distributed through IOLTA-Formula Grants to legal services agencies according to a statutory formula set out in Business and Professions Code section 6216 (Link C). The formula distributes funds among qualified legal services providers based on the poverty population in the county and the amount an organization spent providing free legal services to indigent persons in that county in the prior calendar year. Projects that use volunteers as the principal means of delivering legal services share an additional pro bono allocation, and support centers that provide technical and legal assistance to the legal services providers receive 15 percent of the IOLTA-Formula Grant funds.

The Budget Act provides that 10 percent of the appropriated funds remaining after administrative costs be distributed through Partnership Grants to legal services providers for projects conducted jointly with the courts to provide legal assistance to self-represented litigants. Partnership Grants are awarded based upon a competitive application process.

The commission’s recommended funding allocations are detailed in Attachment A. The commission determined that the proposed budget of each grant complies with statutory and other

guidelines. The commission will distribute IOLTA-Formula and Partnership Grants funds on a calendar-year basis beginning January 1, 2025. If filing fees exceed projected revenues, the commission will hold the funds in reserve to cover disbursement delays or future shortfalls in projections.

The commission is required to report on the Equal Access Fund programs to the Judicial Council, which is then required to submit the report to the Department of Finance. The report submitted on December 29, 2023, was provided to the Judicial Council in January 2024 (Link D).

### **Policy implications**

The recommendation supports Goal I of the Strategic Plan for California’s Judicial Branch—Access, Fairness, Diversity, and Inclusion—by increasing representation for low-income persons and services to self-represented litigants, and by ensuring equal access to the courts, court proceedings, and programs.

### **Comments**

Public comments were not solicited for this proposal because the recommendations are within the Judicial Council’s purview to approve without circulation.

### **Alternatives considered**

No alternatives were considered because the funding is allocated as directed by the Budget Act.

### **Fiscal and Operational Impacts**

The IOLTA-Formula Grants require no court implementation. Partnership Grants require the courts that have elected to participate in joint projects with local legal services providers to collaborate in the manner proposed in their grant applications.

Judicial Council staff will work with the staff of the commission to oversee administration of the Equal Access Fund, including fulfillment of requirements for reports on the commission’s evaluation of the Equal Access Fund.

### **Attachments and Links**

1. Attachment A: *Equal Access Fund: Distribution of Funds for IOLTA-Formula Grants, Partnership Grants, and Care Court Grants under the Budget Act of 2024*
2. Link A: Budget Act of 2024 (Assem. Bill 107; Stats. 2024, ch. 22),  
[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202320240AB107](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB107)
3. Link B: Gov. Code, § 68085.3,  
[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=68085.3.&nodeTreePath=33.1&lawCode=GOV](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=68085.3.&nodeTreePath=33.1&lawCode=GOV)
4. Link C: Bus. & Prof. Code, § 6216,  
[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=6216.&nodeTreePath=5.9.25&lawCode=BPC](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=6216.&nodeTreePath=5.9.25&lawCode=BPC)

5. Link D: Judicial Council report, December 22, 2023, Item 24-055, *Report to the Department of Finance: Equal Access Fund*,  
<https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=12540649&GUID=FA5F1F69-5049-4613-AD13-8729C480403A>



# The State Bar of California

## OFFICE OF ACCESS & INCLUSION

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### ATTACHMENT A to the report: Equal Access Fund: Distribution of Funds for IOLTA-Formula Grants, Partnership Grants, and CARE Court Grants under the Budget Act of 2024

**DATE:** August 14, 2024

**TO:** The Judicial Council of California

**FROM:** Doan Nguyen, Program Director, Office of Access & Inclusion

**CC:** Erica Connolly, Chair, Legal Services Trust Fund Commission

**SUBJECT:** Equal Access Fund: Distribution of Funding for IOLTA-Formula Grants, Partnership Grants, and CARE Court Grants Under the Budget Act of 2024

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Equal Access Fund (EAF) is distributed in two parts: (1) 90 percent of the funds are distributed according to the statutory Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts ("IOLTA") formula and, (2) 10 percent of the funds are distributed as Partnership Grants, i.e., discretionary grants for joint projects between court and legal service programs to provide legal assistance at or near court houses to pro per litigants.

The purpose of this memo is to provide an overview of the EAF grants administered on behalf of the Judicial Council by the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission and the State Bar in 2024. The State Bar also requests that the Judicial Council approve a distribution of \$40,487,700 for the 2025 EAF IOLTA-Formula Grants and Partnership Grants authorized by the Budget Act of 2024, which will be administered in the 2025 calendar year, and EAF reserves. This distribution amount includes:

- (1) \$35,007,200 of funding for Equal Access Fund grants, comprised of a General Fund allocation of \$34,507,200 and additional filing fee revenue of \$500,000 under the Uniform Civil Fees and Standard Fee Schedule Act. By the terms of the Budget Act, \$31,506,480 (90 percent) of these funds is allocated to EAF IOLTA-Formula Grants and \$3,500,720 (10 percent) is allocated to Partnership Grants.
- (2) \$772,600 for administrative costs<sup>1</sup> to the State Bar pursuant to the Budget Act.

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<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to the Budget Act, the Judicial Council receives one third of the administrative cost allocation, estimated at \$386,300 for the 2025 distribution year.

- (3) The remaining \$4,707,900 of filing fees will be retained as EAF reserve funds, used to cover any future disbursements delays or shortfalls in filing fee projections.
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## BACKGROUND

In 1999, the State Budget Act established the Equal Access Fund (EAF) in the judicial branch budget to provide grants for free legal assistance to indigent Californians. The Budget Act identifies two separate uses for the money appropriated to the EAF:

- Ninety percent of the grant funds are to be distributed to IOLTA-eligible legal services providers according to a formula set forth in California’s IOLTA statute. These are known as “IOLTA-Formula” Grants.
- Ten percent of the grant funds are set aside for Partnership Grants to IOLTA-eligible legal services providers for “joint projects of court and legal services programs to make legal assistance available to pro per litigants.”

These grants are administered through the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission (LSTFC) of the State Bar of California (see Attachment A1), but recommendations for the distribution of the grant funds must be approved by the Judicial Council. Relevant portions of the Budget Act of 2024 are included in Attachment A2.

The initial appropriation for the EAF in 1999 was \$10 million. This amount has since been increased with the addition of State Appropriation Limit funding for a few years, filing fee revenue,<sup>2</sup> and in more recent years, the appropriation of additional general fund monies.<sup>3</sup> In the 2024–2025 state budget, the Legislature maintained its baseline appropriation of \$35 million for the EAF general fund, and included an additional \$18 million to fund legal assistance for the Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court program.

## THE LEGAL SERVICES TRUST FUND PROGRAM

### Eligibility for EAF IOLTA-Formula Grants

The Budget Act requires that 90 percent of the Equal Access Fund (EAF) grants be distributed “to qualified legal services projects and support centers as defined in Sections 6213 to 6215, inclusive, of the Business and Professions Code.” Those provisions establish the basic eligibility requirements for the two categories of organizations that are entitled to receive IOLTA funding:

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<sup>2</sup> Since 2006, the Budget Act has allocated \$4.80 from first paper filing fees to the Equal Access Fund, with 90 percent of these funds directed to IOLTA-Formula Grants and 10 percent reserved for Partnership Grants.

<sup>3</sup> In 2016, the EAF general fund was increased by \$5 million to \$10,392,000. In 2017, it was increased by an additional \$5 million to \$20,392,000. In 2019 the Legislature also provided an increase of \$20 million to fund homelessness prevention activities. In 2021, the Legislature increased the appropriations by \$50 million, \$45 million of which was distributed through the LSTFC, and further included \$40 million for additional homelessness prevention activities. In 2022, the Legislature maintained its baseline appropriation of \$35 million for the EAF general fund but included an additional \$15 million for consumer debt legal assistance and \$30 million for homelessness prevention funding.

- “Legal Services Projects,” which have as their primary purpose the provision of civil legal services directly to indigent clients without charge [Business and Professions Code §6213(a)]; and
- “Support Centers,” which provide legal training, technical assistance, and advocacy support to legal services projects on a statewide basis. [Business and Professions Code § 6213(b)]

All legal services projects and support centers receiving IOLTA and EAF funding must be nonprofit corporations, maintain quality control procedures approved by the LSTFC, and meet minimum funding and service criteria that are set out in Business and Professions Code sections 6214–6215. Business and Professions Code sections 6210–6228 (referred to as the IOLTA statute) require recipient legal services projects to use these grants to provide free civil legal services to indigent persons in the counties for which the funds are allocated. In addition, legal services projects must make extra efforts to increase services to especially disadvantaged and underserved client groups. Recipient support centers must publicize the availability of their services and demonstrate that they actually provide legal support without charge to qualified legal services projects on a statewide basis.<sup>4</sup>

### **Administration and Oversight**

Applicants are required to complete an extensive application for funding, which includes detailed information about the organization’s activities and services. The application also requires that an audit (or reviewed financial statement if an organization’s gross expenditures are less than \$500,000) by an independent certified public accountant accompanies the application to verify reported qualified expenditures.

State Bar staff reviews all applications to confirm eligibility and compliance with governing authorities. Complex eligibility issues are elevated to be reviewed and addressed by the LSTFC’s Eligibility & Budget Review Committee. The LSTFC then makes a determination of eligibility and the allocation of IOLTA-Formula Grant amounts. Once determined eligible, applicants are required to submit a proposed budget for use of the allocated funds, with a narrative description of the services to be provided and how the efficacy and impact of those services will be measured and maximized.

The LSTFC reviews this budget to ensure that it complies with the requirements noted above before any funds are distributed. Requirements regarding eligibility and use of funds are reflected in regulating rules and grant conditions approved by the State Bar and are incorporated into a written grant agreement with each grant recipient.

Funding is then distributed to qualified organizations under the statutory allocation formula found at Business and Professions Code section 6216:

- Fifteen percent of the grant money is reserved for Support Centers and is divided among those organizations equally.

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<sup>4</sup> Business and Professions Code §§ 6218, 6220, 6221, 6223.

- The remaining eighty-five percent of the funds is allocated among all California counties based on poverty population, and then within each county among legal services projects based on the amount each such organization spent in the prior calendar year providing free legal services to the indigent in that county. Programs that utilize volunteers as their principal means of delivering legal services share an additional pro bono allocation in each county where they so qualify.

After the grant year concludes, grant recipients provide written reports of their expenditure of grant funds, services provided, clients or customers served, and the impact of their services. Monitoring visits supplement review of the application and budget documentation to ensure compliance with statutory requirements and grant conditions as well as to evaluate provider effectiveness and validate the provider's fiscal practices for the handling of grant funds. State Bar staff, sometimes joined by LSTFC members and Judicial Council staff, conduct these visits on a three-year cycle. While monitoring has typically been conducted on-site, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and in coordination with the Judicial Council, most are currently being conducted by videoconference. We anticipate resuming on-site visits in the upcoming grant years.

### **Eligibility for Partnership Grants**

The Budget Act reserves up to 10 percent of the Equal Access Fund for joint projects of court and legal services programs to make legal assistance available to pro per litigants. Under Business and Professions Code section 6213(a), Partnership Grants are restricted to Qualified Legal Services Projects (QLSPs).

The Budget Act identifies four requirements for Partnership Grants:

- (1) Recipients must be eligible for Legal Services Trust Fund Program grants.
- (2) The funds must be used for joint projects of legal services programs and courts.
- (3) The services must be for "indigent persons."
- (4) The services must be for self-represented litigants.

At the conclusion of each grant year, recipient organizations are required to submit an evaluation report on the use and impact of Partnership Grant funds. In conjunction with the Judicial Council, the LSTFC articulates funding priorities to guide the allocation of available funding among eligible proposals. In prior years, the primary focus of these grants was to "seed" new projects with start-up funding for up to five years. For the 2025 grant year, the primary focus of these grants is to fund new projects and projects that supports underserved populations.

### **Administration and Oversight of Partnership Grants**

Applicants are required to complete a project proposal with a requested funding amount. The proposal includes detailed information on how the project plans to serve indigent self-represented litigants, a letter of support from the Partner Court's Presiding Judge, a written Memorandum of Understanding between the applicant and the Partner Court, staffing



information, anticipated service goals, a proposed budget, evaluation plans, and demonstrated efforts for project continuity.

Partnership Grants are awarded through a competitive process. The Partnership Grants Committee is charged with reviewing all proposals and making tentative funding recommendations to the LSTFC for final approval by the Judicial Council. State Bar staff confirms eligibility, and the Partnership Grants Committee utilizes a scoring rubric as a tool to guide review of all eligible proposals and to make funding recommendations. Unlike the EAF IOLTA-Formula Grants, the Partnership Grants Committee is given discretion to make specific funding award recommendations. If selected for funding, applicants must submit a project budget describing how Partnership Grant monies will be used during the grant period.

Because all recipients of the Partnership Grants receive IOLTA and EAF IOLTA-Formula Grants through the State Bar, they are already subject to the oversight processes in place, including monitoring visits to each organization every three years and submitting an evaluation report at specified reporting periods during and at the end of grant year.

### **Eligibility for CARE Court Grants**

Governor Newsom signed the CARE Act on September 14, 2022. It created a new court program where adults with qualifying, severe mental health issues can access behavioral health care, stabilization medication, housing, and other community services. The program launched October 1, 2023, in Glenn, Orange, Riverside, San Diego, San Francisco, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne Counties (cohort one). It launched December 1, 2023, in Los Angeles County. CARE Court must launch in all remaining counties (cohort two) by December 1, 2024. CARE Courts must appoint QLSPs to represent those who are the subject of a CARE Court petition (respondents). Where no QLSP has agreed to represent respondents, the court must appoint a public defender instead. The LSTFC must fund QLSPs to represent respondents in CARE Act proceedings, matters related to CARE agreements and CARE plans. It must also fund qualified support centers and other entities that have expertise in providing legal training and technical assistance to legal aid providers or public defenders to provide related training, support, and coordination.

The Budget Act provides the funding for these QLSPs, public defender, support center, and other entity services. Eligibility to apply for a CARE Court grant is restricted to QLSPs and support centers as defined in Business and Professions Code section 6213 and other entities that have expertise in providing legal training and technical assistance to legal aid providers or public defenders (other entities). QLSPs and support centers must have received an IOLTA grant from the LSTFC to be eligible for a CARE Court grant. Any funding not awarded to QLSPs to serve a county will go to that county's public defender office to represent respondents.

### **Administration and Oversight of CARE Court Grants**

CARE Court grants are awarded through a competitive process. Applicants are required to complete a project proposal with a requested funding amount. The CARE Court Grants

Committee utilizes a scoring rubric to review all eligible proposals and to make funding recommendations.

The Budget Act requires that the data collected is “consistent and comparable across Judicial Council and Legal Services Trust Fund data.”<sup>5</sup> CARE Court reporting, therefore, must be consistent with what the LSTFC requires for other funds. Under its delegated authority, the CARE Court Grants Committee approved the reporting requirements on August 23, 2023. QLSPs, public defender offices, support centers, and other entities receiving CARE Court funds must submit quarterly reports. These reports collect data about the previous quarter’s CARE Court expenditures, services, respondents, legal outcomes, and other information. All recipients of CARE Court funds must also submit a final evaluation about the program’s impact, effectiveness of services, legal services delivery, and any publications as a result of the funding.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **2024 GRANTS ADMINISTRATION**

Pursuant to the Judicial Council’s approval of recommended EAF grants last year, the State Bar is currently administering the 2023–2024 CARE Court Grants, 2024 EAF IOLTA-Formula, and 2024 Partnership Grants. In addition, the 2024–2025 CARE Court Grants must be administered beginning 2024.

### **2024 EAF–IOLTA Formula Grants**

The approved \$31,506,480 for 2024 IOLTA-Formula Grants provides support to a total of 110 QLSPs and support centers. The funds help the most vulnerable Californians when they face critical, life-changing legal issues affecting basic needs, safety, and security. Grantees handle a wide variety of legal issues, including but not limited to elder abuse, domestic violence, family support, housing, and access to health care. Among those served are the working poor, children, people who live in isolated rural areas, veterans, people with limited English proficiency, people suffering abuse, people with disabilities, and the elderly. The lingering effects of the pandemic have only exacerbated the severity of these issues and made funded legal services that much more valuable. A list of the 2024 grant recipients under the Budget Act of 2023 is included as Attachment A3.

### **2024 Partnership Grants**

The approved \$4,685,297<sup>6</sup> for 2024 Partnership Grants provides support for 37 projects from 23 organizations that enhance the ability of unrepresented litigants to pursue justice in civil courts across California. These projects offer services in a variety of substantive areas, including but not limited to, housing, family, guardianship, estate planning, and small claims. In response

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<sup>5</sup> The text of AB 107 is available at [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202320240AB107](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB107).

<sup>6</sup> The total approved amount for 2024 Partnership Grants was \$4,694,497. However, one project requested an award reduction of \$9,200 of its 2024 Partnership Grant award prior to the start of the grant.

to the court closures due to the pandemic, most programs have pivoted from initial plans and are currently providing remote and/or hybrid services to litigants. A list of the 2024 Partnership Grant recipients is included as Attachment A4.

### **2023–2024 CARE Court Grants**

The approved \$20,400,000 for 2023–2024 CARE Court Grants provides support to two QLSPs and eight Public Defender offices to represent respondents in CARE Court. These funds help adults with qualifying, severe mental health issues access behavioral health care, stabilization medication, housing, and other community services. Support centers and other entities could receive up to \$1,020,000 to provide legal training and technical assistance to implement the CARE Act. One other entity was awarded a 2023–2024 CARE Court Grant. No support centers applied. Recipients of 2023–2024 CARE Court funds are permitted to spend down through December 31, 2024, and continue to report on services and expenditures on a quarterly basis.

On March 24, 2023, the LSTFC created the CARE Court Grants Committee to approve a Request for Proposals (RFP) and recommend awards for 2023–2024.<sup>7</sup> A list of the 2023–2024 grant recipients is included as Attachment A5.

### **2024–2025 CARE Court Grants**

The LSTFC needs to administer funding for the 2024–2025 state fiscal year soon after the Budget Act of 2024 passed. To facilitate that timing, it delegated to the CARE Court Grants Committee authority to approve an RFP for 2024–2025 CARE Court funds and to recommend awards to the LSTFC. The CARE Court Grants RFP and grant application were released on April 12, 2024, with a subsequent webinar held on April 19, 2024. Applications for 2024–2025 CARE Court grants were due May 10, 2024. The RFP is included as attachment A10. A team of three committee members and two staff members scored applications in May.

The State Bar received applications from four QLSPs and one support center. No other entities applied. QLSPs applied to serve San Bernardino, San Francisco, and San Mateo counties. A team of three committee members and two staff members scored applications in May. Therefore,

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<sup>7</sup> The LSTFC resolution states:

**RESOLVED**, that the [LSTFC] (commission) creates a CARE Court Grants committee (committee); and it is

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the commission delegates authority to the committee to approve a timeline and application for making 2023 CARE Court grants and—if consistent with the Budget Act of 2023—a request for proposals, scoring rubric, and reporting requirements; and it is

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a commissioner-staff team will review the 2023 CARE Court grant applications in consultation with the committee and that the committee will make award recommendations to the commission.

county public defender offices will be appointed to represent all respondents in the remaining counties.

The Governor's January 2024 budget proposal included \$51.7 million for CARE Court representation and legal training and technical assistance (TTA). On June 13, 2024, after the scoring team met, the Legislature decreased the Governor's proposal for representing respondents in 2024–2025 to \$16,750,000. It also decreased his proposal for providing TTA to \$838,000. Furthermore, it provides that if funds remain after any grants to support centers or other entities, the state Department of Finance may order that up to \$275,000 be transferred to the State Public Defender to provide TTA to QLSPs or public defender offices. On June 26, 2024, the Governor signed the Budget Act, which incorporated those decreases.

On June 21, 2024, the LSTFC approved the 2024–2025 CARE Court Grant recipients and delegated authority to the CARE Court Grants Committee to finalize the 2024–2025 CARE award amounts and amounts for county public defender offices (or their equivalents). That is because the Budget Act had not passed yet. The CARE Court Grants Committee met on July 15, 2024, to finalize the 2024–2025 CARE Court award amounts and amounts for county public defender offices (i.e., the county allocation formula).

The total amount available to represent respondents in 2024–2025 is \$17,288,000. Remaining funds after all payments to support centers, other entities, and the State Public Defender go to QLSPs and public defender offices to represent respondents. Attachment A11 includes a list of 2024–2025 CARE Court Grant recipients.<sup>8</sup>

To assist with CARE Court implementation, staff has provided regular updates to public defender offices regarding Budget Act's progress and ongoing technical assistance. This includes explaining each county's statutory responsibilities and options for respondent representation.

## **2025 GRANTS ADMINISTRATION**

### **2025 EAF IOLTA-Formula Grants**

The 2025 EAF IOLTA-Formula Grant applications were released on April 4, 2024, and due on May 15, 2024. From May through July, State Bar staff and the Eligibility & Budget Review Committee will review applications to determine if applicants (1) meet primary purpose; (2) have identified appropriate qualified expenditures; and (3) have adequate quality controls in place, as determined by the State Bar, to ensure proper oversight and service.

The State Bar received 119 applications for funding for grant year 2025. There were 110 renewal applications and 9 new applications for funding. The LSTFC met on August 9, 2024, to vote on eligibility for the 97 qualified legal services provider and 22 support center applicants.

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<sup>8</sup> The requests from San Francisco QLSP applicants exceeded the funds available to San Francisco County. Award amounts for have been adjusted proportionally to reflect the funding to represent respondents in San Francisco County.

The State Bar will then calculate the grant award for each program based on funds available for EAF IOLTA-Formula Grants under the Budget Act of 2024. Staff will notify the organizations of their tentative grant award and request a program budget. Proposed budgets will be reviewed by State Bar staff to ensure grantee compliance with the statute, rules and guidelines, prior to distribution of grant funds. Proposed budgets will be presented to the LSTFC for approval at its November 8, 2024, meeting. Attachment A6 is a copy of the 2025 EAF grant agreement, which has minor updates from the 2024 version.

The total estimated amount for 2025 EAF IOLTA-Formula Grants is \$31,506,480. Attachment A7 includes a list of 2025 EAF-IOLTA eligible organizations.

### **2025 Partnership Grants**

The 2025 Partnership Grant RFP and application was released on April 4, 2024, and due on May 9, 2024.

Similar to the 2024 application process, for 2025, the Partnership Grants Committee implemented a formal scoring rubric to provide transparency to applicants, clarity to Committee members, and to ensure equity in the review process. The scoring rubric was included in the RFP and the application was updated to align with the rubric categories (Attachment A8). After the RFP was released, the State Bar held office hours on April 11, 2024, to answer questions regarding the 2025 RFP requirements, scoring rubric, and application updates.

For the 2025 Partnership Grants application cycle, 42 applications were received from 26 QLSPs requesting a total of \$ \$6,992,400 in funding. The requested funding amounts ranged from \$25,000 to \$426,000. The proposed projects would address 13 substantive areas, with most projects providing services in family/domestic violence, housing, and guardianship. In terms of geography, the proposed projects would span 16 counties in California.

Several processes were developed to ensure consistent scoring and interpretation of the rubric categories. The Partnership Grants Committee and staff engaged in an initial calibration process to ensure consistency in the application of the scoring rubric. This entailed each committee member and staff independently reviewing and scoring three selected proposals for discussion at its June 11, 2024, meeting. The 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 proposals, applying the guidance from the committee. In order to address any scores that did not reach a consensus on a particular section, the review team took the average of each team member's score in order to calculate a final score for all proposals.

The Partnership Grants Committee reviewed all final rubric scores and developed final funding recommendations at its July 16, 2024, meeting. These recommendations were presented at the August 9, 2024, LSTFC meeting. The Council has final responsibility for approving the LSTFC's

recommendations for grant awards at its September 2024 meeting. The total estimated amount available for the 2025 Partnership Grant Awards is \$3,500,720. Attachment A9 includes a list of 2025 Partnership Grant applicants, a brief summary of each project, and recommended funding amounts.

## **2025 DISTRIBUTION REQUEST TO THE COUNCIL**

The State Bar requests an estimated 2025 grant distribution of (1) \$40,487,700 pursuant to the Budget Act of 2024 for EAF–IOLTA Formula Grants, Partnership Grants, and costs of administration; and (2) approval of the grants specified below as follows:<sup>9</sup>

### **2025 EAF–IOLTA-Formula Grants – Distribution Request**

The State Bar requests that the Judicial Council approve 2025 EAF IOLTA-Formula Grants in the amount \$31,506,480 which includes the General Fund Budget Act allocation of \$31,056,480 and projected filing fee revenue of \$450,000.

### **2025 Partnership Grants – Distribution Request**

The State Bar requests a distribution of \$3,500,720 for 2025 Partnership Grants for calendar year 2025, which includes the General Fund Budget Act allocation of \$3,450,720 and projected filing fee revenue of \$50,000. These discretionary grants are being awarded exclusively to organizations that are eligible for IOLTA funding, after a careful analysis of grant proposals, based on established criteria. Partnership Grants will, upon approval, be distributed as early in 2025 as practicable to projects that have completed the required documentation. Of the requested amount, \$3,498,582 will be distributed to selected projects, and the remaining \$2,138 will be retained as Partnership Grant reserve funds.

### **CARE Court Grants – Distribution Request**

The State Bar requests a distribution of \$18,761,000 for 2025 CARE Court Grants for calendar year 2025, which includes the General Fund Budget Act allocation of \$16,750,000 to Qualified Legal Service Providers, and \$838,000 to Support Centers and other entities, and \$1,173,000 for administrative costs. CARE Court Grants will, upon approval, be distributed by the anticipated grant start date of July 1, 2024, or December 1, 2024.

### **2025 Administrative Allocation**

The 2024 Budget Act allocates 2.5 percent for administrative costs for the IOLTA Formula Grants and 5.0 percent for administrative costs from the filing fees. The State Bar requests that the Judicial Council approve a distribution of \$772,600 for administrative costs, which is two thirds of the total amount. The remaining \$386,300 is the Judicial Council's share of administrative costs.

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<sup>9</sup> The sum actually allocated as grants may vary from this figure by a negligible amount due to rounding.

## **NEXT STEPS**

The Budget Act provides that “the Judicial Council shall approve awards made by the LSTFC if the Council determines that the awards comply with statutory and other relevant guidelines.” It is now timely and appropriate for the Council to approve:

The estimated 2025 distribution of four equal disbursements for IOLTA-Formula Grants to legal services providers determined by the LSTFC to be in compliance with statutory and other applicable guidelines, eligible grantees are identified in Attachment A7. The funds will be paid out to the eligible legal services programs quarterly (or as close to quarterly as possible depending on contract timing), for the 2024–2025 fiscal year.

The LSTFC, working through staff, will be responsible for the administration of these Equal Access Funds. The LSTFC will continue its oversight of the EAF Grant program, including through the onsite triennial monitoring of all recipients and review of programmatic and expenditure reports.

The State Bar staff will continue to work closely with Judicial Council staff to require appropriate evaluation of the use of grant funding. State Bar staff continues to encourage legal services providers to use evaluative tools to make critical assessments of their work and its impact on the communities they serve. Additionally, staff will continue to assess outcome reports and analyze the economic benefits from legal services as we strive to communicate the importance of including legal aid in the safety net for low-income Californians.

## **SUMMARY OF COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED**

The State Bar requests that the Judicial Council approve a distribution of \$40,487,700 to the State Bar pursuant to the Budget Act of 2024. This sum includes:

- (1) \$35,007,200 of funding for Equal Access Fund grants, comprised of a General Fund allocation of \$34,507,200 and additional filing fee revenue of \$500,000 under the Uniform Civil Fees and Standard Fee Schedule Act. By the terms of the Budget Act, \$31,506,480 (90 percent) of these funds is allocated to EAF IOLTA-Formula Grants and \$3,500,720 (10 percent) is allocated to Partnership Grants.
- (2) \$772,600 for administrative costs to the State Bar pursuant to the Budget Act.
- (3) The remaining \$4,707,900 of filing fees will be retained as EAF reserve funds, used to cover any future disbursements delays or shortfalls in filing fee projections.

The above requests exclude returned and residuary funding of previously distributed grant funds. Since the filing fee revenue is partly based on projections, if there are excess filing fee revenue, the State Bar proposes using these funds to supplement any EAF reserves. Council approval is necessary to enable timely distribution of funds.

## **ATTACHMENTS LIST**

- A1.** 2023–2024 Legal Services Trust Fund Commission Roster
- A2.** Relevant Portions of the 2024 State Budget Act
- A3.** 2024 EAF–IOLTA Formula Equal Access Fund Grant Recipients
- A4.** 2024 Partnership Grant Recipients
- A5.** 2023–2024 CARE Court Grant Recipients
- A6.** Sample Grant Agreement for 2025 IOLTA-Formula Equal Access Fund Grants
- A7.** 2025 EAF IOLTA Applicants
- A8.** Request for Proposal for 2025 Partnership Grants
- A9.** Summary of 2025 Partnership Grant Proposals
- A10.** Request for Proposal for 2024–2025 CARE Court Grants
- A11.** 2024–2025 CARE Court Grant Recipients



**LEGAL SERVICES TRUST FUND COMMISSION 2023 - 2024  
OPEN ROSTER**

<p><b>Erica Connolly, Chair (2026)</b></p> <p>Office of the California Attorney General</p> <p>(State Bar appointee)</p>	<p><b>Amin Al-Sarraf, Vice Chair (2023)</b></p> <p>Locke Lord, LLP</p> <p>(State Bar appointee)</p>
<p><b>Jacqueline Alikhaani (2027)</b></p> <p>Food and Drug Administration</p> <p>(Legal Services Trust Fund Commission appointee)</p>	<p><b>Jeffrey K. Ball (2024)</b></p> <p>Orange County Business Council</p> <p>(State Bar appointee)</p>
<p><b>Catherine Blakemore (2026)</b></p> <p>(Senate appointee)</p>	<p><b>Venetta Campbell (2026)</b></p> <p>Ventoney Enterprises Corporate Consultancy</p> <p>(Legal Services Trust Fund Commission appointee)</p>
<p><b>Efrain Escobedo (2027)</b></p> <p>Center for Nonprofit Management</p> <p>(Speaker of the Assembly appointee)</p>	<p><b>Jason B. Galkin (2024)</b></p> <p>Superior Court of California, County of Nevada</p> <p>(Judicial Council appointee)</p>
<p><b>Eloina Gonzalez (2026)</b></p> <p>Superior Court of California, Alameda</p> <p>(Judicial Council appointee)</p>	<p><b>Toni Hoang (2027)</b></p> <p>Sacramento Municipal Utility District</p> <p>(State Bar appointee)</p>
<p><b>J. Eric Isken (2024)</b></p> <p>Retired</p> <p>(State Bar appointee)</p>	<p><b>Angie King (2026)</b></p> <p>(Legal Services Trust Fund Commission Appointee)</p>

**LEGAL SERVICES TRUST FUND COMMISSION 2023 - 2024  
OPEN ROSTER**

<p><b>Clifford Klein (2026)</b>  Signature Resolution  (Senate Rules Committee appointee)</p>	<p><b>Hon. Diana Kruze (Ret.) (2024)</b>  (Judicial Council appointee)</p>
<p><b>Joseph D. Lee (2024)</b>  Munger, Tolles &amp; Olson  (Judicial Council appointee)</p>	<p><b>Tammy Mahoney (2024)</b>  Luther Burbank Savings  (Judicial Council appointee)</p>
<p><b>Patience Milrod (2025)</b>  (Judicial Council appointee)</p>	<p><b>Maria Morales (2027)</b>  (Speaker of the Assembly appointee)</p>
<p><b>Jodi L. Prior (2028)</b>  Superior Court of California, County of Ventura  (Judicial Council appointee)</p>	<p><b>Jonathan Sandville (2027)</b>  (Legal Services Trust Fund Commission appointee)</p>
<p><b>Xavier Vargas (2026)</b>  (Legal Services Trust Fund Commission appointee)</p>	
<p><b><u>ADVISOR</u></b>  <b>Hon. Victor Rodriguez (2026)</b>  (Judicial Council appointee)</p>	<p><b><u>ADVISOR</u></b>  <b>Hon. Brad Seligman (2024)</b>  Superior Court of California, County of Alameda  (Judicial Council appointee)</p>

**LEGAL SERVICES TRUST FUND COMMISSION 2023 - 2024  
OPEN ROSTER**

<p><b><u>ADVISOR</u></b></p> <p><b>Hon. Bryant Yang (2025)</b></p> <p>Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles</p> <p>(Judicial Council appointee)</p>	<p><b><u>LIAISON</u></b></p> <p><b>Salena Copeland</b></p> <p>Legal Aid Association of California (LAAC)</p>
<p><b><u>LIAISON</u></b></p> <p><b>Melanie Snider</b></p> <p>(Judicial Council)</p>	<p><b><u>LIAISON</u></b></p> <p><b>Laura Brown</b></p> <p>(Judicial Council)</p>

**Attachment A2. Excerpts from the 2024 Budget Act**

**2024 BUDGET ACT LANGUAGE RELEVANT TO THE EQUAL ACCESS FUND  
Assembly Bill No. 107  
CHAPTER 22**

An act making appropriations for the support of the government of the State of California and for several public purposes in accordance with the provisions of Section 12 of Article IV of the Constitution of the State of California, relating to the state budget, to take effect immediately, budget bill.

Approved by Governor June 26, 2024. Filed with Secretary of State June 26 , 2024.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:**

[...]

**0250-101-0001—For local assistance, Judicial Branch..... 136,890,000**

Schedule

[...]

(5) 0150083-Equal Access Fund.....58,229,000

[...]

Provisions:

1. In order to improve equal access and the fair administration of justice, \$35,392,000 of the funds appropriated in Schedule (5) are to be distributed by the Judicial Council through the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission to qualified legal services projects and support centers as defined in Sections 6213 to 6215, inclusive, of the Business and Professions Code, to be used for legal services in civil matters for indigent persons. The Judicial Council shall approve awards made by the commission if the council determines that the awards comply with statutory and other relevant guidelines. Up to 10 percent of the funds appropriated for purposes of this provision shall be for joint projects of courts and legal services programs to make legal assistance available to pro per litigants and not less than 90 percent of the funds appropriated for purposes of this provision shall be distributed consistent with Sections 6216 to 6223, inclusive, of the Business and Professions Code. Any funding not allocated for joint projects shall be redistributed consistent with Sections 6216 to 6223, inclusive, of the Business and Professions Code. The Judicial Council may establish additional reporting or quality control requirements consistent with Sections 6213 to 6223, inclusive, of the Business and Professions Code. Of the amount appropriated for purposes of this provision, not more than 2.5 percent shall be available, upon order of the Department of Finance, for administrative costs of the Judicial Council and the State Bar.

[...]

**Attachment A2. Excerpts from the 2024 Budget Act**

3. The California Access to Justice Commission shall make award determinations for grants described in Provision 2. In awarding these grants, preference shall be given to qualified legal aid agencies' proposals that focus on services to rural or underserved immigrant communities regardless of citizenship status and proposals that are innovative or that involve partnership with community-based nonprofits. Any funding not allocated in a given fiscal year shall be reallocated pursuant to Provision 1.
4. The grant process described in Provision 2 shall ensure that any qualified legal service project and support center demonstrates a high need for infrastructure and innovation to ensure that funding is distributed equitably among qualified legal service projects and support centers. The qualified legal service project or support center shall demonstrate that funds received under this provision will not be used to supplant existing resources.
5. The funds described in Provisions 1 and 2 are available for encumbrance or expenditure until June 30, 2026.

[...]

14. Of the funds appropriated in this item, \$16,750,000 is available for legal services to implement the Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act, and shall be distributed by the Judicial Council through the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission of the State Bar of California as grants to qualified legal services projects, as defined in Sections 6213 to 6214.5, inclusive, of the Business and Professions Code, to provide legal counsel pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 5976 of the Welfare and Institutions Code for representation in CARE Act proceedings, matters related to CARE agreements, and CARE plans by December 1, 2024. Funds shall be available for encumbrance or expenditure by qualified legal services projects and public defender offices until January 1, 2026. As a condition of receiving these funds, recipients are required to comply with Judicial Council or Legal Services Trust Fund Commission directions on the collection and reporting of data necessary for the Judicial Council to comply with all CARE Act reporting requirements specified in Item 0250-001-0001.
  - (a) Notwithstanding the competitive nature of these grants, the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission shall use a formula to determine the amount of funding to provide representation in CARE Act proceedings, matters related to CARE agreements, and CARE plans in each county.
  - (b) These grants are to serve the counties identified in subdivisions (a) and (b) of Section 5970.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code. The Legal Services Trust Fund Commission shall provide any funds not awarded to qualified legal services projects for representation in CARE Act proceedings, matters related to CARE agreements, and CARE plans in each county to that county's public defender office, public defender services shared with another county, or organization providing public defender services to the county to provide those services.
15. Of the funds appropriated in Schedule (5), up to \$838,000 is available to provide legal training and technical assistance related to the implementation of the CARE Act. These funds shall be

**Attachment A2. Excerpts from the 2024 Budget Act**

distributed by the Judicial Council through the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission of the State Bar of California by December 1, 2024, as grants to qualified support centers or other entities that have expertise in providing legal training and technical assistance to legal aid providers or public defenders. The Legal Services Trust Fund Commission shall provide any funds not awarded for legal training and technical assistance related to the implementation of the CARE Act to qualified legal services projects and public defender offices to provide legal counsel pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 5976 of the Welfare and Institutions Code for representation in CARE Act proceedings, matters related to CARE agreements, and CARE plans by December 1, 2024. Funds under this provision shall be available for encumbrance or expenditure by recipients until January 1, 2026.

- 16. If any funds in provision 15 remain after grants are awarded, upon order of the Department of Finance, up to \$275,000 shall be transferred to Item 8140-001-0001 for the State Public Defender to provide legal training and technical assistance to legal aid providers or public defenders.

0250-101-0932—For local assistance, Judicial Branch, payable from the Trial Court Trust Fund  
 .....3,320,895,000

[...]

(7) 0150083-Equal Access Fund .....5,482,000

[...]

Provisions

[...]

- 6. In order to improve equal access and the fair administration of justice, the funds appropriated in Schedule (7) are available for distribution by the Judicial Council through the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission in support of the Equal Access Fund program to qualified legal services projects and support centers as defined in Sections 6213 to 6215, inclusive, of the Business and Professions Code, to be used for legal services in civil matters for indigent persons. The Judicial Council shall approve awards made by the commission if the council determines that the awards comply with statutory and other relevant guidelines. Upon approval by the Administrative Director of the Courts, the Controller shall transfer up to 5 percent of the funding appropriated in Schedule (7) to Item 0250-001-0932 for administrative expenses. Ten percent of the funds remaining after administrative costs shall be for joint projects of courts and legal services programs to make legal assistance available to pro per litigants and 90 percent of the funds remaining after administrative costs shall be distributed, consistent with Sections 6216 to 6223, inclusive, of the Business and Professions Code. The Judicial Council may establish additional reporting or quality control requirements, consistent with Sections 6213 to 6223, inclusive, of the Business and Professions Code.
- 7. Funds available for expenditure in Schedule (7) may be augmented by order of the Director of Finance by the amount of any additional resources deposited for distribution to the Equal Access

**Attachment A2. Excerpts from the 2024 Budget Act**

Fund program in accordance with Sections 68085.3 and 68085.4 of the Government Code. Any augmentation under this provision shall be authorized not sooner than 30 days after notification in writing to the chairpersons of the committees in each house of the Legislature that consider appropriations, the chairpersons of the committees and appropriate subcommittees that consider the State Budget, and the Chairperson of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, or not sooner than whatever lesser time the chairperson of the joint committee, or the chairperson's designee, may determine.

[...]

**0250-001-0001—For support of Judicial Branch .....598,182,000**

(3) 0140-Judicial Council .....257,593,000

7. Of the amount appropriated in Schedule (3), \$1,173,000 shall be distributed by the Judicial Council to the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission of the State Bar of California for administrative costs related to allocating resources for legal services to implement the Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment Act (Part 8 (commencing with Section 5970) of Division 5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code). The commission shall coordinate with the Judicial Council to ensure that the commission collects and reports the data necessary for the Judicial Council to comply with all Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment Act reporting requirements.
  - (a) The Legal Services Trust Fund Commission shall be responsible for collecting outcome data from each county's public defender office, qualified legal services projects, and support centers. The State Bar of California shall annually provide to the Judicial Council a report that includes funding allocations, annual expenditures, and program outcomes by service area and service provider. Data shall be reported using the reporting framework developed by the Legal Services Trust Commission in consultation with the Judicial Council to ensure that data reporting is consistent and comparable across Judicial Council and Legal Services Trust Fund data. The Judicial Council shall include this report in the annual report pursuant to Section 5985 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

## Attachment A3. IOLTA-Formula Equal Access Fund Grant Recipients for 2024

#	Organization	EAF-IOLTA Amount
1	Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus	\$ 483,374
2	Affordable Housing Advocates	\$ 7,785
3	Aids Legal Referral Panel	\$ 17,793
4	Al Otro Lado, Inc.	\$ 234,273
5	Alameda County Homeless Action Center	\$ 135,864
6	Alliance for Children's Rights	\$ 540,677
7	Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California	\$ 422,967
8	Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach	\$ 102,062
9	Bay Area Legal Aid	\$ 487,984
10	Bet Tzedek Legal Services	\$ 1,206,238
11	California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform	\$ 225,046
12	California Collaborative for Immigrant Justice	\$ 111,570
13	California Indian Legal Services	\$ 190,006
14	California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation	\$ 225,046
15	California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.	\$ 2,277,591
16	California Women's Law Center	\$ 225,046
17	Capital Pro Bono Inc.	\$ 147,424
18	Casa Cornelia Law Center	\$ 355,437
19	Center for Gender and Refugee Studies - California	\$ 225,046
20	Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law	\$ 225,046
21	Center for Immigrant Protection dba The LGBT Asylum Project	\$ 5,911
22	Center for Workers' Rights	\$ 49,086
23	Central California Legal Services	\$ 916,507
24	Centro Legal de la Raza	\$ 159,428
25	Child Care Law Center	\$ 225,046
26	Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations	\$ 225,046
27	Community Lawyers Inc.	\$ 6,522
28	Community Legal Aid SoCal	\$ 810,747
29	Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto	\$ 264,869
30	Contra Costa Senior Legal Services	\$ 44,830
31	Dependency Advocacy Center	\$ 74,102
32	Disability Rights California	\$ 2,372,187
33	Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund	\$ 225,046
34	Disability Rights Legal Center	\$ 131,793
35	East Bay Community Law Center	\$ 136,067
36	Elder Law & Advocacy	\$ 111,316
37	Elder Law and Disability Rights Center	\$ 30,500
38	Eviction Defense Collaborative	\$ 88,531
39	Family Violence Appellate Project	\$ 225,046
40	Family Violence Law Center	\$ 28,868
41	Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance	\$ 473,900



42	Harriett Buhai Center for Family Law	\$ 170,919
43	Housing and Economic Rights Advocates	\$ 127,124
44	Immigrant Defenders Law Center	\$ 938,336
45	Immigrant Legal Defense	\$ 362,206
46	Immigrant Legal Resource Center	\$ 225,046
47	Impact Fund	\$ 225,046
48	Inland Counties Legal Services	\$ 1,757,962
49	Inland Empire Latino Lawyers Association, Inc.	\$ 92,066
50	Inner City Law Center	\$ 647,457
51	Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco	\$ 139,325
52	Justice in Aging	\$ 225,046
53	La Raza Centro Legal	\$ 17,141
54	LACBA Counsel for Justice	\$ 113,832
55	Law Foundation of Silicon Valley	\$ 292,098
56	Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights	\$ 493,449
57	Learning Rights Law Center	\$ 108,395
58	Legal Access Alameda	\$ 89,956
59	Legal Aid at Work	\$ 441,614
60	Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles	\$ 1,529,362
61	Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County	\$ 120,030
62	Legal Aid of Marin	\$ 58,440
63	Legal Aid of Sonoma County	\$ 142,490
64	Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino	\$ 559,646
65	Legal Aid Society of San Diego	\$ 824,871
66	Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County	\$ 95,703
67	Legal Assistance for Seniors	\$ 30,863
68	Legal Assistance to the Elderly	\$ 32,157
69	Legal Services for Children	\$ 50,321
70	Legal Services for Prisoners with Children	\$ 225,046
71	Legal Services for Seniors	\$ 71,670
72	Legal Services of Northern California	\$ 1,090,372
73	Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice	\$ 108,071
74	Loyola Marymount University	\$ 215,812
75	McGeorge Community Legal Services	\$ 65,408
76	Mental Health Advocacy Services	\$ 96,828
77	National Center for Youth Law	\$ 225,046
78	National Health Law Program	\$ 225,046
79	National Housing Law Project	\$ 225,046
80	Neighborhood Legal Services	\$ 870,201
81	OneJustice	\$ 225,046
82	Open Door Legal	\$ 38,872
83	Prison Law Office	\$ 270,757
84	Public Advocates Inc.	\$ 360,862
85	Public Counsel	\$ 1,284,932

86	Public Interest Law Project	\$ 225,046
87	Public Law Center	\$ 696,054
88	Q.Me Place, Inc.	\$ 4,396
89	Riverside Legal Aid	\$ 401,518
90	San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program	\$ 344,777
91	San Joaquin College of Law	\$ 37,523
92	San Luis Obispo Legal Assistance Foundation	\$ 50,175
93	Santa Barbara County Immigrant Legal Defense Center	\$ 57,066
94	Santa Clara County Asian Law Alliance	\$ 57,352
95	Santa Clara University Alexander Law Center	\$ 32,121
96	Senior Adults Legal Assistance	\$ 21,431
97	Senior Advocacy Network	\$ 55,449
98	Senior Citizens Legal Services	\$ 54,892
99	Social Justice Collaborative	\$ 135,914
100	Southern California Immigration Project	\$ 23,497
101	UC Davis School of Law Legal Clinics	\$ 160,030
102	UnCommon Law	\$ 237,453
103	USD School of Law Legal Clinics	\$ 143,462
104	Veterans Legal Institute	\$ 146,159
105	Wage Justice Center	\$ 22,076
106	Watsonville Law Center	\$ 63,608
107	Western Center on Law and Poverty	\$ 225,046
108	Worksafe, Inc.	\$ 225,046
109	Youth Law Center	\$ 225,046
110	Yuba-Sutter Legal Center for Seniors	\$ 20,880
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 33,627,556</b>

**Attachment A4. Recommended 2024 Partnership Grant Recipients**

As recommended by the Partnership Grants Committee on July 19, 2023 and approved by the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission on August 10, 2023

Organization	Project Name	County	Project Abstract	Amount Requested	Recommended Grant Award
Alliance for Children's Rights	Permanency Benefits Clinic Court Partnership	Los Angeles,	<p>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.</p> <p>To address this need, and in partnership with the Edmund D. Edelman Children's Courthouse in Monterey Park, the Alliance proposes to create a Permanency Benefits Clinic to provide access to critical information for self-represented caregivers seeking adoption or legal guardianship of the children in their care. The goals of the Clinic would be 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 identifying and resolving benefits agreements, which are prerequisites to completing adoptions and legal guardianships. The Clinic would be located at the Courthouse, where Alliance attorneys would provide consultation for self-represented caregivers. The Clinic will be open once a week and alternate between in-person and virtual clinic days. The days and times will be arranged with the court. 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 would be caregivers, however, Clinic staff could provide consultation as needed to counsel and the court.</p>	\$ 163,000	\$ 163,000
Bet Tzedek Legal Services	Remote Pro Se Technology Initiative	Los Angeles,	<p>Bet Tzedek has been implementing the Self-Help Conservatorship Clinic (SHCC) and Elder Abuse Restraining (EARO) clinics virtually since the start of the pandemic. As the remote pro se assistance model has significantly expanded access for everyone, Bet Tzedek is committed to continuing this successful model post-pandemic and to expand its reach and capacity in 2024.</p> <p>With support from a State Bar Partnership grant, in 2022 Bet Tzedek and the Los Angeles Superior Court (LASC) joined forces to develop the Remote Pro Se Technology Initiative, which refined and expanded the reach of our successful SHCC and EARO clinics through technological innovations. Through a 2023 Partnership grant, we launched new technologies to expand our reach and hired the Pro Se Clinic Coordinator (Coordinator). The Coordinator has provided valuable administrative and technical support to the project. She is also tasked with closely evaluating the new technologies and assessing opportunities for improvement in use and service delivery based on evaluation results from 2023. In 2024, the Coordinator and Clinic team will utilize evaluation results to inform program changes and maximize the tools available through enhanced technology. Program components currently include remote SHCC and EARO Clinic services, online video tutorials and modules to complement remote aid, improvement of court technologies that support remote assistance, outreach to publicize remote services, and remote EARO Kiosk intake. In 2024, based on evaluation results from 2023, the Coordinator and Clinic teams will work to expand our reach by improving the piloted technologies. This initiative will increase access to justice and provide a model for effective remote services throughout California.</p> <p>The Remote Pro Se Technology Initiative will be staffed by SHCC and EARO Clinic staff. The Coordinator hired in 2022 will continue to bridge both clinics, providing intake and follow-up services as well as in-depth evaluation. Remote SHCC assistance will be available Monday-Friday from 9:00am-5:00pm. Remote EARO Clinic assistance will be available Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:00am-5:00pm.</p>	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000
Bet Tzedek Legal Services	Decedent Estate Self-Help Clinic	Los Angeles,	<p>Grief can be especially complicated for heirs of decedents who were unable to complete an estate plan to probate the estate before their death. Probate is a time-consuming and expensive process, but one that lends itself to a self-help model. In 2022, Bet Tzedek and the Los Angeles Superior Court established the County's only court-based clinic that provides free self-help services to pro per litigants in decedent estate matters. The project continues to operate remotely from Stanley Mosk Courthouse (hours of operation TBD), with the potential to expand to the Antelope Valley Courthouse in the future.</p> <p>Having trained judges on Decedent Estate Clinic opportunities and collaborated with Probate Bench to determine priority of services in 2023, Bet Tzedek will create additional updated resources for litigants in 2024 based on lessons learned. We will continue to develop clinic procedures, improve court processes, and expand services in line with community need. Bet Tzedek staff attorneys and pro bono volunteers will triage decedent's estate cases for pro per litigants and provide either legal information, self-help assistance, or referrals; help litigants determine if they need a full probate, summary probate procedure, or can use a 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. Bet Tzedek will also begin developing processes for clearing probate notes for litigants who have filed pro per probate petitions.</p>	\$ 165,000	\$ 165,000

Attachment A

California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.	San Joaquin County Housing Helpline Court Clinic Partnership	San Joaquin,	<p>California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc. (CRLA's) San Joaquin County Housing Helpline provides one-on-one legal advice and/or information to San Joaquin tenants with housing concerns, focusing on housing retention and prevention of homelessness. In addition to individual phone consultations with tenants, Helpline staff offer weekly answer and trial preparation clinics, available to all San Joaquin tenants and landlords. Although most services are delivered virtually via phone and over Zoom, we offer weekly in-person clinics at CRLA's Stockton office located across the street from the court. Beginning in the second quarter of 2023, CRLA plans to begin offering in-person clinics at the court itself and if this service offering is successful will continue to do so throughout 2024. Participants can elect to attend the group answer clinics in-person or via Zoom link.</p> <p>San Joaquin County tenants not eligible for CRLA services are given legal information, know your rights (KYR) print and video resources 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. The Helpline will be open Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm to 4:00 p.m. Answer and trial preparation clinics will be held once or twice a week.</p>	\$ 132,000	\$ 132,000
Central California Legal Services	Guardianship Project	Fresno,	<p>This project enjoys a successful record of assisting eligible self-represented litigants obtain guardianships for minor children, many of whom are already living with family or referred by Child Protective Services. Post-COVID, both parties are hopeful that the project will be fully operational by mid-2023. Staff members from the Fresno Superior Court Probate Division, the Fresno County Law Library, and CCLS will participate in twice-monthly clinics presented on first and third Friday mornings; however, the format of the clinics remains fluid with in-person clinics being the goal.</p> <p>During the clinics, 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 at a later time. This allows the presentations to proceed within the clinic's timeframe, leaving sufficient time to respond to questions litigants may have. 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 a guardianship rarely attend or inquire about services.</p> <p>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>	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000
Community Legal Aid SoCal	Norwalk Consumer Debt Series 2024	Los Angeles,	<p>Community Legal Aid SoCal (CLA SoCal) seeks renewed funding to maintain its consumer debt workshop series at the Norwalk Courthouse. The objective of these workshops is to make the debt collection legal process more accessible and understandable to pro per litigants and guide them through any stage of the debt collection process. Consumer debt workshops are provided at no-cost and would continue to be held at the Los Angeles County Superior Courthouse in Norwalk four times per month.</p> <p>The Norwalk Consumer Debt Series is designed to assist pro per 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 preparing for trial. The project also informs litigants about collection/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 at the Overview &amp; Answer workshops can request that project staff review their documents for completeness.</p> <p>The project will be staffed by an attorney and paralegal, one of whom will be bilingual. While the project is open to both debtors and creditors, it is designed to help low-income self-represented litigants who are opposed by a party represented by counsel in order to increase access to the justice system for low-income individuals/families.</p>	\$ 34,000	\$ 30,600
Community Legal Aid SoCal	Compton Self-Help Economic Expansion Project Year 3	Los Angeles,	<p>Over the past two years, the Compton Self-Help Center Economic Expansion Project (EEP) has expanded capacity for consumer debt issues and COVID-19 back rent small claims issues at the Compton Superior Courthouse Self-Help Center (SHC). Additionally, during the past year, SHC staff have seen a dramatic increase in demand for landlord/tenant assistance from self-represented litigants. As a result, Community Legal Aid SoCal (CLA SoCal) seeks to broaden the scope of this project to include housing assistance.</p> <p>The EEP seeks to help the Court weather the continuing pandemic and economic challenges by educating self-represented litigants about COVID-19 back rent small claims, consumer debt, and eviction processes. It is a critical service for the Compton Courthouse which serves communities that are home to significant economic and health disparities that have been worsened by COVID. As a result, there is a need for local capacity to help self-represented litigants who must engage with the civil legal system through these types of cases.</p> <p>With a 1.0 FTE Attorney, this project allows CLA SoCal staff to provide one-on-one information to self-represented litigants who are at the Compton Courthouse or who are being helped remotely. Primary goals are to help litigants understand the legal process, and correctly complete documents in order to assist litigants and help reduce obstacles for court proceedings. Litigants who would benefit from additional services, would be referred to a regional legal aid organization based on their zip code and/or the County of Los Angeles' Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA).</p>	\$ 91,000	\$ 81,900

Community Legal Aid SoCal	Orange County Consumer Debt Series 2024	Orange,	<p>Community Legal Aid SoCal (CLA SoCal), with subgrantee Public Law Center (PLC), proposes to maintain their consumer debt series. The objective of these workshops is to make the debt collection legal process more accessible and understandable to pro per litigants and guide them through the life cycle of the debt collection process. Consumer debt workshops are provided at no-cost and will continue to be held at spaces near the OC Central Justice Center.</p> <p>The Orange County (OC) Debt Series is designed to assist pro per litigants from the receipt of a letter demanding payment on a debt to those who have been served with a collection lawsuit and preparing for trial. The project also supports litigants who are subject to collection/enforcement activities following entry of a collection judgment.</p> <p>CLA SoCal and PLC will provide a monthly series that includes four workshops that guide litigants through the full litigation cycle: Overview &amp; Answer (twice monthly), Discovery &amp; Motions, and Settlement/Evidence/Getting Ready for Trial.</p> <p>The project will be staffed by an attorney and paralegal, one of whom will be bilingual. While the project is open to both debtors and creditors, it is designed to help low-income self-represented litigants who are opposed by a party represented by counsel in order to increase access to the justice system for low-income individuals/families. This will support pro per litigants' ability to better participate in the courtroom and present their case helping to ensure a more equitable and efficient judicial process.</p>	\$ 67,000	\$ 60,300
Elder Law & Advocacy	Imperial County Restraining Order Clinic	Imperial,	<p>The Imperial County Restraining Order 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, if a Restraining Order 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 Elder Abuse Technology Project Clinic which is working to create two 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>	\$ 92,000	\$ 92,000 <sup>1</sup>
Family Violence Law Center	Domestic Violence Pro Per (DVPP) Project		<p>The Domestic Violence Pro Per (DVPP) Project is a successful ongoing collaboration between Family Violence Law Center (FVLC), Legal Access Alameda (LAA, formerly Volunteer Legal Services Corporation of the Alameda County Bar Association (VLSC)), and the Self-Help Center of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda (SHC). The DVPP Project increases access to legal services for pro per litigants in South Alameda County by serving self-represented petitioners and respondents from across South Alameda County in Domestic Violence Prevention Act restraining orders, family law and (new in 2024) housing matters. Project partners will meet the needs of self-represented litigants, including those who are low income and/or limited English proficient, in domestic violence, family law and housing matters by implementing the following objectives: 1) FVLC and LAA will hold a joint weekly Domestic Violence Petitioner Clinic for DVPA petitioners at the Hayward Hall of Justice (or virtually if required for public health reasons), staffed by a FVLC attorney, FVLC pro bono attorneys and law clerks and/or LAA pro bono attorneys; 2) SHC will provide legal information and paperwork preparation to both DVPA respondents and petitioners in DVPA matters and in housing matters, and LAA will provide assistance to petitioners and respondents through an LAA clinic; and 3) FVLC will accept warm direct referrals from SHC and the clinics for legal representation in court as agency resources allow (this will be funded by multiple other sources).</p>	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
Inland Counties Legal Services	Family Law Assistance Project (FLAP)	Riverside,	<p>The Family Law Access Project (FLAP) breaks down barriers for self-represented family law litigants to improve access to the family law court, specifically the Larson Justice Center which serves the rural areas of the Coachella Valley. FLAP is a collaboration between Inland Counties Legal Services and the Riverside County Superior Court. FLAP assists low-income consumers with counsel and advice and document preparation in the areas of dissolution, child custody and visitation, child and spousal support, paternity actions and domestic violence restraining orders.</p> <p>All prepared documents are reviewed by an attorney to ensure accuracy and the court consumer will be provided with guidance on how to navigate the court process and prepare for their hearing.</p> <p>The success of this project will ensure that court consumers will be able to finalize their dissolution action, obtain domestic violence restraining orders and gain custody and support orders. The project provides low-income consumers meaningful access to the courts.</p>	\$ 141,000	\$ 141,000

<sup>1</sup> Elder Law & Advocacy requested a \$9,200 reduction in its grant award amount prior to distribution, making its total amount received \$82,800.

Inland Counties Legal Services	Consumer Rights Clinic (CRC) EXPANDED	Riverside, San Bernardino,	<p>The Consumer Rights Clinic ("CRC") has been a successful partnership between ICLS and the San Bernardino and Riverside Superior Courts providing legal assistance to unrepresented indigent consumers with debt collection lawsuits.</p> <p>The project will fund an attorney, a paralegal, and a legal secretary and builds upon a document automation application (created specifically for the Consumer Rights Clinic project with non-Partnership funding) that allows consumers to respond, propound discovery, and attempt settlement with opposing counsel. All documents produced are reviewed by an attorney.</p> <p>The San Bernardino Superior Court (at the Justice Center, Central District) and the Riverside Superior Court (at the Corona Courthouse and outlying courthouses) will provide space for ICLS to operate and make referrals to the Clinic. Staff will serve pro se defendants in the courthouses either in person or virtually on a regularly scheduled clinic day. Staff will attempt to settle/dismiss cases as soon as possible. The ICLS attorney will not represent the client on the record or appear in court on the client's behalf. Through counsel and advice and document preparation, the goal is to increase access to justice for clients and alleviate the demand on the court's time by resolving cases expeditiously.</p> <p>ICLS has developed the process of working with clients and volunteer attorneys remotely and can operate remotely at any time when public health restrictions are in effect.</p>	\$ 255,000	\$ 255,000
Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco	Family Law Assisted Self Help (FLASH) Project	San Francisco,	<p>The Justice &amp; Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco (JDC) requests a Partnership Grant to operate the Family Law Assisted Self Help (FLASH) project, which provides legal assistance to indigent Self-Represented Litigants (SRLs) at the San Francisco Superior Court (Court), via its ACCESS Center. Services consist of direct legal assistance to SRLs on the Family Centered Case Resolution (FCCR) Calendar, where cases that have failed to conclude are called. The FLASH Attorney works with income-qualified litigants on this calendar and thereafter to complete their matters. The FLASH Attorney also meets one-on-one with SRLs referred by the ACCESS Center throughout their cases. The FLASH Attorney provides information and guidance and drafts all necessary pleadings for SRLs who are not able to complete their divorce paperwork without the assistance of FLASH.</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.</p> <p>In March 2020, the Court ended Mandatory Settlement Conference (MSC) Workshops and, indeed, all workshops or group meetings. The Court now refers litigants directly to JDC when income-qualified SRLs need help with MSCs and MSC Statements. The FLASH Attorney works individually with these clients to complete the extensive MSC Statement and to prepare to present their cases at the MSC.</p>	\$ 70,000	\$ 70,000
LACBA Counsel for Justice	Domestic Violence Legal Services Project (DVP)	Los Angeles,	<p>The Domestic Violence Legal Services Project (DVP, or "Project") of LACBA Counsel for Justice assists self-represented litigants in restraining order cases. The main goal of the Project is to provide access to justice in these complex cases by helping litigants to (a) make informed choices about their legal problems and (b) properly present their issues to the Court. DVP accomplishes this by providing legal information, direct referrals to supportive agencies, and individualized assistance with forms including requests, responses, and renewals.</p> <p>DVP recruits and trains volunteer attorneys and law students, who work one-on-one with litigants to prepare court forms with review by the Project Attorney. DVP also operates two self-help kiosks where litigants can prepare their own forms via the Court's web-based forms production program, with review by the Project Attorney.</p> <p>The Project is staffed by one Directing Attorney, one Project Attorney, and one FTE paralegal who work with litigants and assist or supervise volunteers, plus one Project Coordinator who assists with the administrative aspects of the clinic. DVP's Directing Attorney is responsible for overall supervision and direction of the Project. As it has for over 30 years, DVP works closely and continuously with the Court on issues including cross-referrals, program development, and evaluation. (DVP, the Restraining Order Center, and Family Court Services are all located on the second floor of the Stanley Mosk Courthouse.) DVP is open Monday-Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00-3:30 p.m., and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.</p>	\$ 104,000	\$ 104,000
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 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) are generally assigned a specific day on each Family Law Department's calendar. Each clinic is staffed by a supervisor, either the FLDOC Supervising 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, 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 or afternoon, several times per week. The FLDOC clinic currently 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 court clerk. FLDOC also assist SRLs by clarifying the newly-issued orders, explaining legal terms and court procedures, completing necessary paperwork, and running child and temporary spousal support calculations.</p>	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000

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Legal Access Alameda	Family Law Status Conference	Alameda,	<p>The Family Law Status Conference Clinic (“FLSC Clinic”) offers assistance to litigants appearing on 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 volunteers help 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 on in the process.</p> <p>Before CoVid19, the FLSC clinic occurred Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, and some Friday mornings, providing all services in person. In 2020 the FLSC department started holding all hearings via video conference and consolidated all FLSC clinic cases to Tuesdays. While providing services remotely, clinic staff send litigants required forms via email and mail. The FLSC Attorney also sends letters to litigants before each clinic, which include description of how to complete the next step, required forms and filing options.</p>	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000
Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles	Torrance Self Help Center Access Project	Los Angeles,	<p>For 19 years, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA) has closely partnered with the Los Angeles County Superior Court to deliver high-quality, courthouse-based assistance to self-represented litigants. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, LAFLA rapidly transitioned to a remote assistance delivery model in March 2020, and although the Courts and LAFLA’s Self-Help Legal Access Centers returned to a hybrid service delivery model in February 2022, we remain keenly aware that low-income, self-represented litigants across the greater South Bay in Los Angeles County require deeper and more expansive in-person options to access the justice system. To address this need, this project seeks funding for one full-time-equivalent attorney (FTE) to (1) reinstate group-based workshops at the LAFLA’s Torrance Self-Help Legal Access Center (“Center”) inside the Torrance Courthouse, which have remained on pause due to pandemic-related space considerations, (2) increase in-depth onsite services at the Torrance Center for litigants facing legal crises with their personal safety and family-related needs, and (3) develop mobile-friendly scheduling and document review systems to augment the Court’s hybrid family law workshops.</p>	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles	Remote Self Help Center Access Project	Los Angeles,	<p>For nearly two decades, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA) has closely partnered with the Los Angeles County Superior Court to deliver high-quality, courthouse-based assistance to self-represented litigants. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, LAFLA nimbly transitioned to a remote and then hybrid assistance delivery model, serving over 25,000 pro se litigants to date via telephone, text message, video conferencing, and mail technologies. Although we returned to in-person services in February 2022, we are humbled by the number of litigants who experience ongoing barriers to the justice system and seek initial assistance from LAFLA’s Remote Self-Help Hotline. From transportation, to health concerns and disability access, to legal literacy and language barriers, low-income litigants need and deserve accessible and contemporaneous options that meet their needs. To address this need, LAFLA’s expert self-help team remains the only Los Angeles Superior Court partner with a live telephone hotline that provides immediate remote assistance to litigants facing legal crises with their housing stability, personal safety, and family-related matters. This projects seeks funding for one full-time-equivalent attorney (FTE) that would enable LAFLA to (1) sustain our unique live self-help telephone hotline Monday-Thursday for litigants who experience barriers to in-person, courthouse-based services, (2) utilize technology to continue developing innovative and plain language mobile-friendly fillable forms, and (3) in collaboration with the Court, enhance our remote supervision of Court JusticeCorps members and other volunteers who deliver an increasing volume of remote Unlawful Detainer Answer and Motion to Set Aside eviction judgment assistance.</p>	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
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 15 years. In calendar year 2022, the LRCs countywide served over 6,800 self-represented litigants in civil matters. We seek to continue our project. The LRC partnership attorney will work 1 day per week in person at the Lompoc courthouse. 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 support to the LRC at the Santa Barbara courthouse and other data entry assistance. 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>	\$ 156,000	\$ 156,000
Legal Aid of Marin	Homelessness Prevention Through Mandatory Settlement Conferences	Marin,	<p>Now in its 11th year, the Marin Superior Court Unlawful Detainer Mandatory Settlement Conference Program provides critical pre-trial settlement negotiation services to pro per litigants in eviction cases. The target constituency is low-income or otherwise marginalized pro per litigants who cannot afford the cost of private legal representation. This program is a strong partnership whereby the Court requires parties to engage in mandatory settlement conferences staffed by in-house and pro bono attorneys recruited and trained by Legal Aid of Marin in an effort to resolve eviction cases without the risk of proceeding to trial. Prior to March 2020, “UDMSCs” were conducted during the week before trial at the Marin Superior Courthouse. In response to the limitations imposed by the COVID-19 crisis and continued in light of the resulting efficiencies, UDMSCs are held each Thursday afternoon starting at 1:30pm via Zoom. Legal Aid of Marin and the Court collaborate to ensure litigant and volunteer access to UDMSCs. The Court provides general oversight and approves proposed settlement agreements if reached by participants. A majority of UDMSCs result in approved settlement agreements and case dismissals - a testament to the program’s effectiveness. Settlement agreements include tenancy preservation, case dismissal, rent forgiveness, and time to relocate. These outcomes prevent immediate and future homelessness. If funded, this grant will afford Marin Superior Court and Legal Aid of Marin the opportunity to increase access to justice and housing stability, encourage judicial economy, and promote civility between litigants involved in unlawful detainer actions.</p>	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000

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Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino	Caregivers and Small Estates Accessing Justice (CSEAJ)	San Bernardino,	<p>The Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino will provide direct legal services to qualifying Pro Se litigants for Small Estates, Conservatorship, and Guardianship actions. The project will not provide legal advice but general information to help all qualifying court patrons. LASSB will provide available information, review existing documents, and prepare documents needed for case completion. The Court will refer litigants to the project and provide specific instructions on case document preparation in some cases. The project will reduce the case backlog and the Court's administrative costs while providing efficient case processing, reducing the number of visits to the courthouse, and reducing litigants' confusion and stress.</p> <p>General information will include legal aspects and clarification of terms or conditions. LASSB will prepare corrected or missing pleadings, assist with pre-and post-hearing tasks, and provide procedural assistance to facilitate immediate filing and processing of their casework.</p> <p>Project services will be provided in English and Spanish, Mon.-Thur. 9 am-12:30 pm and 1:30 pm-4 pm within the Justice Center. Litigants will benefit by attaining information, securing missing or corrected pleadings, and completing required tasks. The project will allow efficient case processing, reduce the number of visits to the courthouse, and reduce litigants' confusion and stress. It will eliminate delays in resolving small estates and ensure disabled adults and beloved minors attain access to daily care and healthcare services despite being disabled or estranged from their parents. The project will reduce the case backlog and the Court's administrative costs.</p>	\$ 165,000	\$ 165,000
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 program 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 program 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 program assists pro per petitioners protect themselves from dangerous situations, and pro per respondents protect themselves from frivolous litigation.</p>	\$ 190,000	\$ 190,000
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 a 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 program 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 program 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 program helps pro per petitioners protect themselves from dangerous situations, and helps pro per respondents protect their due process rights by properly responding to petitions.</p>	\$ 180,000	\$ 180,000
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 legal assistance to low income, pro per litigants in guardianship cases. 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 weekly workshops to assist with filing requirements. One of the weekly workshops will be dedicated to the complex notice requirements that often result in continuances for the litigants. We will also incorporate lessons learned during COVID and provide remote support if workshops are not feasible due to court safety concerns. LAA volunteers and LAS will provide day of court assistance when the pro per cases are calendared. The day of court assistance includes explaining the procedural deficiencies keeping the cases from being heard, providing forms allowing the litigants to draft declarations to address the procedural issues and assisting with filing documents. 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>	\$ 55,000	\$ 55,000



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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 legal assistance to low income, pro per litigants in limited conservatorship cases. Limited conservatorship cases have complex procedural requirements that are often daunting to pro per litigants who are typically more focused on providing and coordinating the care needed for their loved one. 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. 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 designed to assist with local rules and the complicated procedural process. The litigants will be assisted at workshops with one workshop a month dedicated to the complex notice requirements in these matters. Virtual assistance and one-on-one assistance will also be provided. LAA volunteers and LAS staff will assist litigants at their court 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>	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Mental Health Advocacy Services	Mental Health Court Clinic	Los Angeles,	<p>Mental Health Advocacy Services proposes continuing its Mental Health Court Clinic in partnership with the Los Angeles Mental Health Court targeting individuals with mental health disabilities. The Clinic will be open one day/week (T) for in-person, drop-in consultations and four days/week (M-Th) for phone and email inquiries. The project will be staffed by at least one Staff Attorney and one Case Manager (other staff and volunteers may also be utilized). During the grant period, the Clinic will provide services to approximately 300 individuals.</p> <p>The Clinic will provide Court-approved information and resources about Mental Health Court proceedings to litigants and other members of the public who are not currently in custody. 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 proceedings at Mental Health Court with greater efficiency and success (and with less likelihood of returning). This will include helping litigants secure and maintain housing, helping litigants access SSI or other benefits to which they may be legally entitled, and assisting litigants with obtaining - or having reinstated - 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 are shown to promote increased autonomy and lead to better health and legal outcomes for people with mental health disabilities.</p>	\$ 180,000	\$ 180,000
Neighborhood Legal Services	POMONA - READY FOR TRIAL!	Los Angeles,	<p>Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County's ("NLSLA") Pomona - Ready for Trial! Project is an intensive family law trial preparation project based in the Pomona Courthouse to support self-represented litigants. The Project attorney will develop and facilitate trial preparation workshops, consisting of two parts. During the initial workshop, litigants will receive education and assistance in completing their trial brief and other trial forms. The second workshop will prepare litigants for trial day, familiarizing them with the process, walking them through check-in, informing them of the proper way to address the Court and more. The workshop will be provided in English and Spanish. 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. 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 the information and confidence needed to represent themselves in family law court.</p>	\$ 107,000	\$ 107,000
Neighborhood Legal Services	PASADENA - CONTINUUM OF SERVICE	Los Angeles,	<p>Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County ("NLSLA") proposes to continue its project in the Pasadena Courthouse to maintain assistance with UD Answers and serve as a triage on cases that should be placed on the continuum of services for the San Gabriel Valley. 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.</p> <p>A Right to Counsel Project continues to take shape; the Stay Housed LA Project is overwhelmed with requests for representation from tenants facing eviction. In Los Angeles County, the need continues to be great and even with Stay Housed L.A. resources, Legal Aids simply cannot meet the needs of all tenants presenting 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 especially given the quick five-day response deadline under the statute. The Court whose primary focus is family law staffs the Pasadena Resource Center at the Courthouse. This NLSLA attorney with housing experience is able to provide housing services and collaborate in operation of that center. 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 Resource Center for at least four days a week, 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.</p>	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000

Attachment A

Neighborhood Legal Services	STABILIZING FAMILIES PROJECT	Los Angeles,	<p>NLSLA proposes to continue operating the Stabilizing Families Project 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. The service focuses on empowerment and education to litigants, who would otherwise be unable to afford legal representation throughout the long process of probate guardianship. The Project provides assistance to litigants seeking information and support to obtain, object to, or terminate a legal guardianship, with resources and support offered at all stages. The Project operates in conjunction with the Self-Help hours of operation from 8:30am to 4:30pm.</p> <p>An NLSLA attorney at the Antelope Valley courthouses will provide both remote and on-site support to litigants and collaborate in operating the Center. Following the self-help model, there will be no attorney-client relationship between the attorney and litigants, no court appearances, and no legal advice will be 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 way without attorney representation.</p>	\$ 110,000	\$ 110,000
Neighborhood Legal Services	San Gabriel Valley - Remote Services - Housing	Los Angeles,	<p>The San Gabriel Valley - Remote Services - Housing Project ("Project") expands NLSLA's partnership with the Los Angeles Superior Court ("Court") to support vulnerable self-represented litigants in the underserved San Gabriel Valley ("SGV"). Utilizing remote technology, the Project will provide self-help assistance with housing matters to litigants in the SGV, including Glendale, Pomona, and West Covina. These areas have limited access to self-help housing services, as many of the currently funded providers are overwhelmed and at capacity with housing services. The program will provide information, education and assistance with the preparation of legal documents to litigants who are navigating the Unlawful Detainer ("UD") process. Litigants will also be able to obtain assistance and resources for pre-UD matters such as Reasonable Accommodation letters, illegal lockout letters, harassment complaints, habitability requests, and tips for navigating security deposit disputes. The Project will include monthly, virtual workshops as additional guidance for tenants and/or property owners on topics such as the post-judgment process.</p> <p>Additionally, the Project will work with the Court to promote and develop an array of web-based tools and interactive materials to educate the public on these and other collaterally related housing issues for community members throughout Los Angeles County. The remote services will collaborate with the Self-Help Legal Access Centers ("SHLAC"). The Project's remote team will work closely with staff working on-site at the courthouses and provide technical assistance to the Court and SHLAC staff as needed.</p> <p>The Project's staffing will include NLSLA's supervising attorney, staff attorney, support staff, and volunteers.</p>	\$ 195,000	\$ 195,000
Neighborhood Legal Services	REMOTE ACCESS - LA	Los Angeles,	<p>NLSLA proposes to further expand and streamline this initial 2.0 Partnership Grants and incorporate remote Hague Service Abroad assistance. NLSLA developed remote operations using telephone, e-mail, document assembly programs created by Pro Bono Net and the Judicial Council, co-browsing, Teams video appointments, and other technologies. We developed protocols, built a system, made modifications, and tested them over time. We used programs developed by the Court such as the Justice Portal to obtain documents from the litigant's case to be able to provide accurate information and assessment of next steps. Although Court operations resumed, safety protocols, continued outbreaks and exposures made litigants seek alternatives to in-person services.</p> <p>In a county of about 10 million people, justice demands continued learning about creating bridges to the communities we serve. In 2024, that means robust in-person and robust remote services. This pilot is critical to solidifying processes and protocols that create access to a population that has been transformed by the pandemic, learning to access services remotely, taking their work and family schedules into consideration. Los Angeles County can better serve litigants by offering both in-person and remote services. To pilot this team, we are seeking two lawyers, two paralegals and one secretary. This team will provide high quality legal services, we will provide accommodations when needed, we will provide language access services and will gather data to make the case to the County of Los Angeles that funding for remote services must be provided long term along with in-person self-help services</p>	\$ 338,000	\$ 225,000

Neighborhood Legal Services	BRIDGE TO SELF-HELP	Los Angeles,	<p>Individuals with physical and mental health challenges require extra support to ensure meaningful access to justice through the courts. Health harming legal needs 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 launch the Bridge to Self-Help ("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,</li> <li>· guardianship, and</li> <li>· consumer/finance;</li> <li>·</li> <li>· identify and link key referral sources including healthcare facilities and agencies serving unhoused individuals; and</li> <li>· Evaluate the ongoing need for accommodations and additional supports needed to ensure meaningful access to the courts.</li> </ul> <p>The B2SH project will target populations facing 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"). The hours of operation will be during SHLAC operating hours. The project's staffing will include NLSLA supervising attorney, staff attorney, paralegal, and volunteers. The Court's participation will include identifying and referring litigants, and play a vital role in evaluating the project.</p>	\$ 288,000	\$ 250,000
Public Counsel	Further Expansion of Appellate Clinic	Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura,	<p>Established in 2007, Public Counsel's Appellate Clinic for Self-Represented Litigants provides assistance to indigent, pro se appellate litigants with support from the Second Appellate District of the California Court of Appeal. The key goals of the Clinic are to: (1) improve equal access to justice by helping pro se indigent litigants effectively represent themselves on appeal; and (2) increase the efficiencies of the judicial system by decreasing record preparation times, reducing delays caused by pro se errors, and improving the quality and cogency of the briefing.</p> <p>The Clinic is located at the Court of Appeal in downtown Los Angeles and is currently open to eligible participants three days a week. No direct representation of clients occurs at the Clinic and an attorney-client relationship is formed only for the purposes of short-term limited counsel and advice.</p> <p>Clinic staff work with the court clerks to ensure our services meet litigants' needs for thorough and correct procedural guidance. We communicate informally with the clerk's office on an almost weekly basis. We also meet with the Administrative Presiding Justice at least once per year.</p> <p>The desired outcome of this project is to increase equal access to the judicial system by providing indigent litigants with the tools and technical assistance they need to more effectively represent themselves in the appellate process. This outcome will also serve to reduce delays in the Court's administrative system caused by improper or inaccurate filings, and thereby improve the quality and efficiency of the judicial services that can be provided to the public.</p>	\$ 203,000	\$ 182,700
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 9:00am to 3:00pm 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, including law students and attorneys, trained by Public Counsel.</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>	\$ 439,000	\$ 261,997

Attachment A

Public Law Center	Adoptive & DeFacto Parent Assistance Project	Orange,	During the past four years, Public Law Center has provided crucial legal services to hundreds of low-income de facto and adoptive parents in Juvenile Court proceedings in Orange County, California. This project seeks to continue those services, which are unduplicated by any other legal services provider in Orange County. The Orange County Superior Court originally sought a project partner to support de facto and adoptive parents in Juvenile Court proceedings, so the Court can use limited funds for contract attorneys for minor/parent representation. Without this project (and the complementary representation services PLC's Family Law Unit provides), adoptive and de facto parents in Dependency Court termination of parental rights proceedings are at risk of becoming the only parties unrepresented by counsel. PLC staff attorneys and trained volunteers provide: information on legal option, information on court procedures, and document preparation and review. The Project also informs litigants about the benefits and options for finding pro bono counsel. Where appropriate, participants are referred out of the Project to PLC's Family Law Unit for placement with in-house or trained pro bono counsel. The Project name was reoriented to properly reflect that 90% of the 100-120 Project cases per year are for adoptive parents. The Project currently operates as a virtual service with the Court providing referrals through social workers from Orange County Social Services. The Court is an engaged partner, ensuring the Project's success rate remains at 100% and participants receive the high quality services.	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000
San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program	Central Division Restraining Order Clinic		<p>The Central Division Restraining Order Clinic (CDROC) is a collaboration between San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, Inc. (SDVLP) and the San Diego Superior Court (Court) to assist domestic violence survivors and survivors of elder or dependent adult abuse in obtaining legal protection and referrals for legal and social services providers. SDVLP staff and volunteer attorneys at the CDROC provide one-on-one assistance to survivors of abuse by preparing Domestic Violence, Elder Abuse or Dependent Adult Abuse Restraining Order (DVRO) applications, which survivors file in pro per. The days and hours of operation of the CDROC are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., excluding court holidays. The cut-off for walk-in assistance is 3:30 p.m. The CDROC is located on the 4th floor of the Central Courthouse at 1100 Union Street, San Diego, CA 92101.</p> <p>Additionally, the CDROC will hold virtual legal workshops and cover topics such as how to interact with the Court, and what constitutes proper service of process. The CDROC will also develop and hold virtual legal workshops for SRLs on hearing preparation and presentation of evidence, and best practices for attending hearings virtually and in person.</p> <p>Lastly, the CDROC will continue to create a series of short, informational videos on topics related to domestic violence, such as safety planning, the intersection between immigration and domestic violence, the impact of restraining orders on child custody, proper service of process, and how to file evidence. The CDROC will create two to five informational videos to be distributed to clients.</p>	\$ 140,000	\$ 140,000
Senior Citizens Legal Services	2024 Indigent Landlord/Tenant Services and Mediation	Santa Cruz,	The overarching goal of this important Partnership project is to keep people safely housed by educating both sides in housing disputes and promoting mediation prior to unlawful detainer ("UD") hearings. Senior Legal Services ("SLS") has been successfully partnering with the Superior Court of Santa Cruz County ("Court") and contracting with the Conflict Resolution Center ("CRC") since January 2022, and as a result of this partnership has helped Santa Cruz County maintain low levels of eviction filings at the Superior Court. A full time Partnership Legal Advocate provides bilingual, in-person, in pro per services to indigent tenants and landlords at the Santa Cruz County Law Library five days a week. She is available for 26 hours of in person service, and additional 10 hours each week is spent on email and phone pro per services, as well as SLS and Court administrative tasks. Conflict Resolution Center conducts 10-15 pre and post filing UD mediations each month, at a location designated by CRC or via zoom. Services are promoted via e-mail to non-profit, government and legal organizations throughout the County and to the general public through media outlets and social media. The target population for these Partnership services are indigent landlords and tenants from across Santa Cruz County; all share a grave concern about housing and do not have private representation.	\$ 102,000	\$ 102,000
			<b>TOTAL</b>	\$ 5,062,000	\$ 4,694,497

**Attachment A5. 2023-2024 CARE Court Grant Recipients***As approved by the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission on August 10, 2023*

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Counties Served</b>	<b>Requested Amount</b>	<b>Recommended Amount</b>
Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco	SF - CARE Court Implementation	San Francisco	\$370,401	\$370,401
Legal Assistance to the Elderly	CARE Court Representation for San Francisco Seniors and Persons with Disabilities	San Francisco	\$381,694	\$381,694
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$752,095</b>	<b>\$752,095</b>

**GRANT AGREEMENT****THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA****OFFICE OF ACCESS & INCLUSION – EQUAL ACCESS FUND  
IOLTA FORMULA GRANT**

This Grant Agreement (“Agreement”) is made as of January 1, «GrantYear», (“Effective Date”) between The State Bar of California, a California public corporation, with a principal place of business at 180 Howard Street, San Francisco, CA 94105 (“State Bar”), and «ProgramLegalName», a California nonprofit corporation, with a principal place of business at «ProgramPPBaddress» (“Recipient”). This Agreement sets forth the terms and conditions for receiving the Equal Access Fund IOLTA-Formula Grant. State Bar and Recipient are sometimes hereinafter referred to individually as a “Party,” and together as the “Parties.”

**RECITALS**

- A. Pursuant to California Business and Professions Code Section 6210-6228 (“Act”), and Title 3, Division 5, Chapter 2 of the Rules of the State Bar of California (“Rules”), a Legal Services Trust Fund Program (“Program”) has been established in the State of California. The Office of Access & Inclusion administers the Program. The Program includes an Equal Access Fund (“Fund”) that is funded pursuant to the annual California Budget Act (“Budget Act”) and the Uniform Civil Fees and Standard Fee Schedule Act of 2005 (“Fee Schedule Act”).
- B. Recipient has completed, executed, and submitted to the State Bar an application for funding under the Program and Fund. As part of the application for funding, Recipient has completed, executed, and submitted to the State Bar, Certifications, Assurances, Attachments, and a Proposed Budget (“Application Materials”).
- C. In reliance upon the representations and agreements made in the Application Materials, the State Bar has determined that Recipient is eligible for an Equal Access Fund IOLTA-Formula grant (“Grant”) under the Program and the Fund.
- D. NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of covenants and agreements herein, and for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Parties hereto, intending to be legally bound hereby, agree as follows:

**AGREEMENTS**

1. Pursuant to the Act, Rules, and Fund, and in reliance upon the promises and representations made by Recipient, the State Bar grants to Recipient «FinalEAFGrantAllocation» (“Grant Amount”).
2. The grant period will commence on January 1, «GrantYear» (“Start Date”) and end on December 31, «GrantYear» (“End Date,” with the period from the Start Date to the End Date known as the “Grant Period”).
3. The Act, Budget Act, Fee Schedule Act, Rules, Legal Services Trust Fund Program General Grant Provisions (“Grant Provisions”), Legal Services Trust Fund Program

Eligibility Guidelines (“Eligibility Guidelines”), and Application Materials, including any additions or amendments made to the Application Materials by an agreement between the State Bar and Recipient, are incorporated into this Agreement as if set forth in their entirety in this Agreement. Recipient agrees to comply with the Act, Budget Act, Fee Schedule Act, Rules, Grant Provisions, Eligibility Guidelines, Assurances, and other agreements made in the Application Materials. Recipient agrees to comply with all lawful statutes, rules, regulations, guidelines, policies, instructions, and similar directives pertaining to the Program and the Fund (collectively, “Directives”) issued by the State of California, the Supreme Court of the State of California or the State Bar, including without limitation, any Directive adopted after the Effective Date. These Directives include, but are not limited to, Equal Access Fund reporting requirements related to funding allocations, annual expenditures, program outcomes by service area, and a final evaluation report for the period of January 1 - December 31, pursuant to instructions and deadlines to be provided by the State Bar. Recipient agrees to submit expense reports.

4. Recipient represents and warrants that its governing board, the officers, executive director, and similarly empowered staff have read and understand this Agreement, the Act, Rules, Application Materials, Eligibility Guidelines, and Grant Provisions. Recipient has familiarized appropriate staff with the requirements of this Agreement, the Act, the Rules, the Grant Provisions, and the Application Materials.
5. Recipient acknowledges that the terms of this Grant, including Grant Provision Article 4.05, Regulating Rule 3.680(E)(1), and Business and Professions Code Section 6222, require Recipient to submit to the State Bar an accurate and complete financial statement that has been audited or reviewed by an independent certified public accountant as specified in the Schedule of Charges and Deadlines.
6. The State Bar will pay the Grant Amount in accordance with the Grant Provisions. However, under no circumstances will the State Bar bear any liability to Recipient or to other persons or entities for delays in payments.
7. Termination.
  - a) Notwithstanding the Grant Provisions or any other provision of this Agreement regarding the payment of the Grant, Recipient acknowledges that the Grant Amount and all payments thereof shall be made from funds received by the State Bar pursuant to the Budget Act and Fee Schedule Act (“State Funding”), and are contingent upon the availability and sufficiency of such funds, as determined by the State Bar in its sole discretion. Consequently, Recipient shall not be guaranteed any specific dollar amount in grant funds, or any grant funds at all, if funds received pursuant to State Funding are insufficient or unavailable to the State Bar. This Agreement shall terminate automatically if State Funding becomes unavailable. The State Bar will not assume any liability whatsoever to Recipient for any failure to pay the Grant Amount or any part thereof that results because funds are insufficient or unavailable.
  - b) The State Bar may terminate this Agreement pursuant to the process set forth in Rule 3.691.
  - c) The State Bar may terminate this Agreement, in its sole discretion, with or without cause and for any reason upon thirty (30) days’ written notice to Recipient.

- d) The State Bar may terminate for cause, without prejudice to State Bar's right to recover any Grant Amount previously paid, if Recipient fails to comply with the provisions of this Agreement. The termination shall be effective five (5) business days after the State Bar sends written notice of termination to Recipient.
  - e) This Agreement will terminate automatically in the event of the bankruptcy or insolvency of either Party.
8. This Agreement does not impose on the State Bar any obligation to provide Recipient funds in excess of the Grant Amount or beyond the end of the Grant Period.
  9. Recipient shall spend the Grant Amount received in connection with the Program and Fund in each county and in the amounts set forth in Attachment A – Grant Allocation Detail, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.
  10. Recipient represents and warrants that the Recipient's Application Materials for the Grant under the Program and Fund does not misstate or omit any material fact. Recipient will notify the State Bar within five (5) business days after any change in any material fact affecting Recipient's eligibility to receive funds under the Program and Fund, including without limitation, any change that affects the accuracy of any statement made in conjunction with Recipient's application for the grant under the Program and Fund. Recipient will also notify the State Bar within five (5) business days of any material change in the planned activities or proposed budget contained in the Application Materials or any revision thereto.
  11. Recipient will not make any misrepresentations or misstatements of fact in any communications or report to the State Bar. In the event Recipient later discovers that any statement made to the State Bar is no longer true, Recipient will notify the State Bar within five (5) business days after discovering that the statement is no longer true. This obligation of Recipient shall survive the termination of the Agreement and/or the expiration of the Grant Period.
  12. Recipient will notify the State Bar within five (5) business days of Recipient's awareness of any of the following events: (1) a decision to change Recipient's name, merge or consolidate with another entity, cease operations, or cease the activities funded by the Grant; (2) a decision to close or relocate any main or branch office; (3) significant management changes, including the departure of and/or hiring or appointment of the executive director or board chairperson; (4) Recipient becomes insolvent or is in danger of becoming insolvent within three months; (5) a monetary judgment, settlement, sanction, penalty, or force majeure event that will substantially impact Recipient's delivery of legal services; (6) Recipient or any of Recipient's officials (e.g., officers and executive team members) or employees with control over finances or financial management responsibilities is investigated for or charged with fraud, misappropriation, embezzlement, theft, or any similar offense, or are suspended, disciplined, or delicensed by a bar or other professional licensing organization; (7) Recipient is investigated or audited by the Legal Services Corporation or any other provider of funds to Recipient; (8) Recipient is required to report to the Legal Services Corporation or any provider of funds the discovery by an independent auditor of an irregularity, illegal act, or other noncompliance. This obligation of Recipient shall survive the termination of the Agreement and/or the expiration of the Grant Period.



13. In support of the State Bar's obligation to the Judicial Council to ensure full participation by Program recipients in maintaining and using statewide on-line resources for legal advocates and consumers of legal services, Recipient will:
- a) Ensure that, during the Grant Period, Recipient is accurately identified on the statewide legal services websites, including, as appropriate, in the:
    - i. Client referral directory on LawHelpCA.org;
    - ii. Legal Services Directories (support center and field program directories) available through LAACdirectory.org and LAAConline.org; and
    - iii. *Pro Bono* Programs Guide on CaliforniaProBono.org;
  - b) Include information about LawHelpCA.org and LAAConline.org in trainings for new staff advocates, circulate information received from state coordinators about these websites to appropriate staff members, encourage staff to join the LAAConline.org website, and must encourage participation in brief trainings about the websites as available; and
  - c) Provide a link to LawHelpCA.org on its own program's website.
14. Recipient will permit the State Bar's personnel, independent contractors or agents ("Personnel") to inspect at any time any records and/or any office or other premises maintained by Recipient or used by Recipient in connection with the expenditure of the Grant Amount received under the Program. Recipient will cooperate with the State Bar's Personnel during such inspections and will furnish to the Personnel any information that the Personnel reasonably request as relevant to determining Recipient's compliance with this Agreement. The State Bar's right of access to Recipient's records and premises for purposes of compliance will survive the expiration of the Grant Period and/or any termination of this Agreement. In complying with disclosure requirements of this Agreement and of the Program and Fund, Recipient may withhold any client-identifying information when Recipient reasonably determines that disclosure would violate the Act, the Rules, a rule of professional responsibility, or any other laws.
15. The Act, Budget Act, Fee Schedule Act, Rules, Grant Provisions, Eligibility Guidelines, and Directives set forth requirements concerning the use of Program funds and payment for subcontracts to provide legal services ("Subcontracted Services"). Recipient acknowledges its obligation to inform all providers of Subcontracted Services of the requirements of the Program and to obtain from all Subcontracted Services providers a written agreement to comply with all requirements of this Agreement as if that provider is the Recipient. Recipient assigns to the State Bar all rights that Recipient has or shall acquire to inspect the premises and records of providers of Subcontracted Services to ensure compliance with Program; provided, however, that disclosure of client-identifying information by a provider of Subcontracted Services shall be governed by the provisions of Section 14 above.
16. Recipient shall not represent or in any way suggest that it may obligate or pledge the credit of the State of California or of the State Bar.
17. Except as otherwise required by law, Recipient shall own all rights, title and interest in any materials produced as a result of this Grant (the "Grant Work Product"). Recipient hereby grants to the State Bar and Judicial Council a non-exclusive, transferable, perpetual,

irrevocable, royalty-free, paid-up, worldwide right and license to use, re-use, display, perform, reproduce, publish, copy, modify, create derivative works and distribute, for non-commercial purposes, the Grant Work Product and any other work product arising out of or resulting from the Grant Amount, including all intellectual property rights appurtenant thereto, and to sublicense such rights to third parties. Without limiting the foregoing, such license includes the right of the State Bar and Judicial Council to publish the Grant Work Product on the State Bar's and/or Judicial Council's websites, and for use in periodic reports, press releases, meetings, and fact sheets. Recipient further acknowledges and agrees, at the State Bar's and/or Judicial Council's request, to execute any additional documents necessary to effect such license.

18. Recipient agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless State Bar (including its Board of Trustees, officers, agents, and employees, as the same may be constituted now and from time to time hereafter) from and against any and all liabilities, losses, damages, expenses or costs, whatsoever (including reasonable attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses), which may arise against or be incurred by the State Bar as a result of or in connection with (i) claims by any and all contractors, subcontractors, providers of consulting services, materialmen, laborers, or any other person, firm, or corporation retained by Recipient to furnish or supply work, service, materials, or supplies in connection with the performance of this Agreement; (ii) claims by any person, firm, or corporation for loss, injury or damage by Recipient or Recipient's agents in connection with the provision of legal services pursuant to this Agreement; (iii) any acts or omissions of Recipient, or its officers, employees or agents, in applying for, accepting, expending or applying the Grant Amount or in performing activities or services in breach of this Agreement. Recipient shall be liable to the State Bar for all costs (including but not limited to reasonable attorneys' fees, costs and expenses) that may be incurred) arising from or in connection with the State Bar's enforcement of its rights under this Section 18. This indemnity provision shall survive the termination or expiration of this Agreement.
19. Recipient will maintain insurance coverage such as commercial general liability insurance, workers' compensation insurance and comprehensive automobile liability sufficient to cover its services, activities, risks, and potential omissions of the services in accordance with generally accepted industry standards and as required by law. Recipient shall provide the State Bar offices at 180 Howard Street, San Francisco, CA 94105 Attn: Risk Management with these certificates of insurance within thirty (30) days of the Effective Date. Recipient will ensure subcontractors maintain insurance coverage consistent with this Section.
20. Any notices to be given by either Party to the other must be in writing, and both emailed and delivered personally or by first-class, certified, registered, or overnight mail addressed to the Parties at the addresses stated below:

State Bar: The State Bar of California  
180 Howard Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Attention: Rocio Avalos, Program Director  
Office of Access & Inclusion  
rocio.avalos@calbar.ca.gov

Recipient: «ProgramLegalName»

Program Name and Number: «ProgramNumber»

«Address1» «Address2»  
«City», «State» «ZipCode»  
«Add primary contact email address»

Attention: «PrimaryContactName»  
«PrimaryContactJobTitle»

Each Party may change the notice address appearing above by giving the other Party written notice in accordance with this Section. Such changes in address for purposes of giving notice will be effective two (2) weeks after giving notice of the change in address.

21. This Agreement, together with the Act, Budget Act, Fee Schedule Act, Application Materials, Rules, Grant Provisions, Assurances, Eligibility Guidelines, Directives, and Attachment A contains and constitutes the entire agreement between the State Bar and Recipient regarding the State Bar's Grant of Equal Access Fund monies to Recipient and supersedes all prior negotiations, representations, or agreements, either written or oral.
22. The Recipient shall neither assign nor transfer any rights or obligations under this Agreement without the prior written consent of the State Bar. This Agreement shall be binding upon agents and successors of both Parties.
23. No amendment, alteration or variation of the terms of this Agreement will be valid unless made in writing and signed by both of the Parties.
24. This Agreement was made and entered into by the Parties in the State of California and shall be construed according to the laws of the State of California. Any action or suit brought to interpret, construe, or enforce the provisions of this Agreement shall be commenced in the Superior Court of the State of California, in and for the County of San Francisco.
25. Each Party represents that it has full power and authority to enter into and perform this Agreement and the person signing this Agreement on behalf of each Party has been properly authorized and empowered to enter into this Agreement. Each Party further acknowledges that its Directors, Trustees, or similarly empowered persons have read this Agreement, understand it, and agree to be bound by it.
26. No term or provision herein shall be deemed waived and no breach excused unless such waiver or consent is in writing and signed by the Party claimed to have waived or consented. No consent or waiver by one Party to a breach of this Agreement by the other Party, whether expressed or implied, shall constitute consent to, waiver of, or excuse for any other, different, or subsequent breach. No amendment, consent, or waiver on behalf of the State Bar shall be binding upon the State Bar unless it is executed by the Executive Director of the State Bar or the Executive Director's designee.
27. Each provision of this Agreement shall be separately enforceable, and the invalidity or unenforceability of one provision shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision.
28. This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which will be deemed to be an original, and all of which, together will constitute but one and the same

Program Name and Number: «ProgramNumber»

instrument. Delivery of an executed counterpart of this Agreement by facsimile, email or any other reliable means will be effective for all purposes as delivery of a manually executed original counterpart. Either Party may maintain a copy of this Agreement in electronic form. The Parties further agree that a copy produced from the delivered counterpart or electronic form by any reliable means (for example, photocopy, facsimile, or printed image) will in all respects be considered an original.

*[Signatures Follow]*

Program Name and Number: «ProgramNumber»

By executing this Agreement below, the Parties agree to its terms and conditions. This Agreement has been executed and delivered by the duly authorized representatives of State Bar and Recipient as of the date first written above.

**THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA**

**RECIPIENT**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of State Bar Executive Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Executive Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title of State Bar Executive Officer

By: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Board Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title of Board Officer

**THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA**  
**OFFICE OF ACCESS & INCLUSION – EQUAL ACCESS FUND**  
**IOLTA FORMULA GRANT**

**ATTACHMENT A – GRANT ALLOCATION DETAIL**

The below indicates the amount of the total grant award to be allocated to each county in which Recipient provides services, if applicable.

Recipient: «ProgramLegalName»

Equal Access Fund

Grant Period: January 1, «GrantYear» - December 31, «GrantYear»

Grant Amount: «FinalEAFGrantAllocation»

<u>County</u>	<u>Qualified Expenditures</u>	<u>Basic Allocation</u>	<u>Pro Bono Allocation</u>	<u>Total Allocation</u>
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The Legal Services Trust Fund Commission determined eligibility on August 9, 2024

Organization	Acronym	Grantee Type
Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus	AJ-ALC	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Affordable Housing Advocates	AHA	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Aids Legal Referral Panel	ALRP	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Al Otro Lado, Inc.	AOL	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Alameda County Homeless Action Center	HAC	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Alliance for Children's Rights	Alliance	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California	AAAJ-LA	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach	APILO	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Bay Area Legal Aid	BayLegal	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Bet Tzedek Legal Services	BetTzedek	IOLTA/EAF LSP
California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform	CANHR	IOLTA/EAF SC
California Collaborative for Immigrant Justice	CCIJ	IOLTA/EAF LSP
California Indian Legal Services	CILS	IOLTA/EAF LSP
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation	CRLAF	IOLTA/EAF SC
California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.	CRLA	IOLTA/EAF LSP
California Women's Law Center	CWLC	IOLTA/EAF SC
Capital Pro Bono Inc.	CPB	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Casa Cornelia Law Center	CasaCornelia	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Center for Access to QDROs	-	IOLTA/EAF SC
Center for Gender and Refugee Studies - California	CGRS-CA	IOLTA/EAF SC
Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law	CHRCL	IOLTA/EAF SC
Center for Immigrant Protection dba The LGBT Asylum Project	CIP	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Center for Workers' Rights	CWR	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Central California Legal Services	CCLS	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Centro Legal de la Raza	CentroLegal	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Child Care Law Center	CCLC	IOLTA/EAF SC
Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations	CCWRO	IOLTA/EAF SC
Community Lawyers Inc.	CLI	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Community Legal Aid SoCal	CLASC	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto	CLSEPA	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Contra Costa Senior Legal Services	CCSenior	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Dependency Advocacy Center	DAC	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Disability Rights California	DRC	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund	DREDF	IOLTA/EAF SC
Disability Rights Legal Center	DRLC	IOLTA/EAF LSP
East Bay Community Law Center	EBCLC	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Elder Law & Advocacy	ELA	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Elder Law and Disability Rights Center	ELDRC	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Elevate Community Center	-	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Eviction Defense Collaborative	EDC	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Family Violence Appellate Project	FVAP	IOLTA/EAF SC
Family Violence Law Center	FVLC	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance	GBLA	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Harriett Buhai Center for Family Law	HarriettBuhai	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Housing and Economic Rights Advocates	HERA	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Immigrant Defenders Law Center	IDLC	IOLTA/EAF LSP

The Legal Services Trust Fund Commission determined eligibility on August 9, 2024

Organization	Acronym	Grantee Type
Immigrant Legal Defense	ILD	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Immigrant Legal Resource Center	ILRC	IOLTA/EAF SC
Impact Fund	ImpactFund	IOLTA/EAF SC
Inland Counties Legal Services	ICLS	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Inland Empire Latino Lawyers Association, Inc.	IELLA	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Inner City Law Center	ICLC	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco	JDC	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Justice in Aging	JIA	IOLTA/EAF SC
La Raza Centro Legal	LaRaza	IOLTA/EAF LSP
LACBA Counsel for Justice	LACBA	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Law Foundation of Silicon Valley	LFSV	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights	LCCR	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Learning Rights Law Center	LRLC	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Legal Access Alameda	LAA	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Legal Aid at Work	LAAW	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles	LAFLA	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County	LAFSBC	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Legal Aid of Marin	LAM	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Legal Aid of Sonoma County	LASC	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino	LASSB	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Legal Aid Society of San Diego	LASSD	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County	LASSMC	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Legal Assistance for Seniors	LAS	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Legal Assistance to the Elderly	LAE	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Legal Link	-	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Legal Services for Children	LSC	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children	LSPC	IOLTA/EAF SC
Legal Services for Seniors	LSS	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Legal Services of Northern California	LSNC	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice	LACLJ	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Loyola Marymount University	LMU	IOLTA/EAF LSP
McGeorge Community Legal Services	McGeorge	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Mental Health Advocacy Services	MHAS	IOLTA/EAF LSP
National Center for Youth Law	NCYL	IOLTA/EAF SC
National Health Law Program	NHLP	IOLTA/EAF SC
National Housing Law Project	NationalHousing	IOLTA/EAF SC
Neighborhood Legal Services	NLS	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Oasis Legal Services	-	IOLTA/EAF LSP
OneJustice	OneJustice	IOLTA/EAF SC
Open Door Legal	ODL	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Prison Law Office	PLO	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Public Advocates Inc.	PublicAdvocates	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Public Counsel	PublicCounsel	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Public Interest Law Project	PILP	IOLTA/EAF SC
Public Law Center	PLC	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Q.Me Place, Inc.	QME	IOLTA/EAF LSP



**Attachment A7. 2025 IOLTA-EAF Eligible Organizations**

Attachment A

*The Legal Services Trust Fund Commission determined eligibility on August 9, 2024*

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Grantee Type</b>
Riverside Legal Aid	RLA	IOLTA/EAF LSP
San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program	SDVLP	IOLTA/EAF LSP
San Joaquin College of Law	SJCL	IOLTA/EAF LSP
San Luis Obispo Legal Assistance Foundation	SLOLAF	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Santa Barbara County Immigrant Legal Defense Center	SBILDC	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Santa Clara County Asian Law Alliance	SCALA	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Santa Clara University Alexander Law Center	KGALC	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Senior Adults Legal Assistance	SALA	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Senior Advocacy Network	SAN	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Senior Citizens Legal Services	SCLS	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Social Justice Collaborative	SJC	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Southern California Immigration Project	SCIP	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Step Forward Foundation	-	IOLTA/EAF LSP
UC Davis School of Law Legal Clinics	UCDavis	IOLTA/EAF LSP
UnCommon Law	UCLAW	IOLTA/EAF LSP
USD School of Law Legal Clinics	USD	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Ventura County Legal Aid, Inc.	-	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Veterans Legal Institute	VLI	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Wage Justice Center	WageJustice	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Watsonville Law Center	Watsonville	IOLTA/EAF LSP
Western Center on Law and Poverty	WCLP	IOLTA/EAF SC
Worksafe, Inc.	Worksafe	IOLTA/EAF SC
Youth Law Center	YLC	IOLTA/EAF SC



# The State Bar of California

OFFICE OF ACCESS & INCLUSION

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## 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).

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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. 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>
<p><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.</p>			
<p><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.</p>			
<b>A. Number of Check Marks</b>	<b>X20=</b>	<b>X15=</b>	<b>X10=</b>
<b>Subtotal (A)</b>			
<p><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.</p>			
<p><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</p>			

provide details of past efforts and future plans to secure such alternate funding.			
<p><b>Evaluation</b></p> <p>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.</p>			
<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>	<p>3 2 1</p>
<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.

<p>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.</p>	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 A9. 2025 Partnership Grant Applicants

Recommended Amounts from July 16, 2024 Partnership Grants Committee Meeting and August 9, 2024 Legal Services Trust Fund Commission Meeting

# Index	Organization	Project Name	County	Project Abstract	Amount Requested	Recommended Amount
1	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	\$180,000
2	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 EARO 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	\$157,500
3	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	\$126,000
4	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	\$188,150
5	Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto	Preventing Homelessness: Mandatory Settlement Conferen	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	\$224,730
6	Elder Law & Advocacy	Imperial County Restraining Order and Unlawful Detainer Cl	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	\$59,498



7	Family Violence Law Center	Domestic Violence Pro Per (DVPP) Project	Alameda,	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.	\$120,000	\$85,200
8	Inland Counties Legal Services	Consumer Rights Clinic EXPANDED	Riverside, San Bernardino,	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.  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.	\$274,600	\$194,966
9	Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco	Family Law Self-Help (FLASH) Project	San Francisco,	The Justice & 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.  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.  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.	\$70,000	\$63,000
10	LACBA Counsel for Justice	Eviction Legal Services Project	Los Angeles,	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.	\$195,200	\$138,592
11	LACBA Counsel for Justice	Domestic Violence Legal Services Project	Los Angeles,	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.	\$152,300	\$108,133
12	Legal Access Alameda	Family Law Day of Court	Alameda,	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.  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.	\$25,000	\$17,750
13	Legal Access Alameda	Family Law Status Conference Clinic	Alameda,	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.  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.  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 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.	\$65,000	\$46,150

# Attachment A

14	Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County	Legal Resource Center Partnership	Santa Barbara,	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 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.	\$234,000	\$166,140
15	Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles	Torrance Self Help Center Access Project	Los Angeles,	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.	\$152,200	\$108,062
16	Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles	Remote Self Help Center Access Project	Los Angeles,	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.	\$124,600	\$88,466
17	Legal Aid of Marin	Marin Community Court Partnership	Marin,	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.	\$157,300	\$141,570
18	Legal Aid of Marin	UDMSC Partnership with Marin Superior Court	Marin,	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.	\$120,300	\$85,413
19	Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino	Caregivers and Small Estates Accessing Justice (CSEAJ)	San Bernardino,	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.  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.  The demand for our services has grown significantly, particularly among vulnerable families seeking 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.	\$203,000	\$182,700
20	Legal Aid Society of San Diego	South Bay Restraining Order Project	San Diego,	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.  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.  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.	\$180,000	\$127,800

Attachment A

21	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	\$134,900
22	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	\$279,000
23	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, LegalAids 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	\$135,000
24	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	\$80,230
25	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	\$226,632
26	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	\$153,000

27	Alliance for Children's Rights	Permanency Benefits Clinic Court Partnership		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	
28	California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.	2025 San Joaquin County Housing Court Clinic Partnership	San Joaquin,	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.  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.  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.	\$162,500	
29	Central California Legal Services	CCLS Guardianship Project	Fresno,	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.	\$125,000	
30	Community Legal Aid SoCal	Compton Self-Help Economic Expansion Project Year 3	Los Angeles,	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.  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.  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.	\$82,000	
31	Community Legal Aid SoCal	Orange County Consumer Debt Workshops		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 & 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.	\$60,000	
32	Community Legal Aid SoCal	Norwalk Consumer Debt 2025	Los Angeles,	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.  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 & Answer, Discovery & Motions, and Settlement/Evidence/Getting Ready for Trial. Litigants attending the Overview & Answer workshops can request that project staff review their documents to ensure completeness.  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.	\$31,000	

Attachment A

33	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	
34	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	
35	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	
36	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	
37	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	

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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Evaluate the ongoing need for accommodations and additional supports needed to ensure meaningful access to the courts.</li> </ul>	\$426,000	
39	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	
40	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	
41	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	
42	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	
<b>Total</b>					<b>\$6,992,400</b>	<b>\$3,498,582</b>



## The State Bar of California

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

#### BACKGROUND

On September 14, 2022, Governor Newsom signed the Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act.<sup>1</sup> The CARE Act created a new court program (CARE Court) where adults with qualifying, severe mental health issues can access behavioral health care, stabilization medication, housing, and other community services. The program launched October 1, 2023, in Glenn, Orange, Riverside, San Diego, San Francisco, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne Counties (cohort one). It launched December 1, 2023, in Los Angeles County. CARE Court must launch in all remaining counties (cohort two) by December 1, 2024.<sup>2</sup>

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

<sup>1</sup> Welfare and Institutions Code § 5970–87.

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

<sup>3</sup> Welfare and Institutions Code § 5977.

<sup>4</sup> Welfare and Institutions Code section 5981.5 requires the LSTFC to fund QLSPs “to provide legal counsel appointed pursuant to subdivision (c) of [Welfare and Institutions Code] Section 5976...” Section 5976(c) states that respondents have the right to “counsel at all stages of a proceeding...regardless of the ability to pay.”

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

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

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

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

## ELIGIBILITY TO APPLY

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

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

<sup>7</sup> The language of the Budget Act of 2023 is available at [leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202320240SB104](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB104).

<sup>8</sup> See, e.g., Welfare and Institutions Code § 5981.5 and SB 104.



centers must have received an Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) grant from the LSTFC for 2024.<sup>9</sup>

## GRANT PARAMETERS

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

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

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

<sup>10</sup> The Budget Act of 2023, as amended.

<sup>11</sup> Welfare and Institutions Code section 5971 defines “CARE agreement” as “a voluntary settlement agreement...[that] includes the same elements as a CARE plan to support the respondent in accessing community-based services and supports.” A “CARE plan” is “an individualized, appropriate range of community-based services and supports, as set forth in this part, which include clinically appropriate behavioral health care and stabilization medications, housing, and other supportive services, as appropriate, pursuant to Section 5982.”

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

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

## DISTRIBUTING FUNDS BY COUNTY

This RFP estimates \$47,564,000 for QLSPs and public defender offices to represent respondents in 2024–2025.<sup>14</sup> The committee determined the estimated amount available in each county as follows:

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

<sup>12</sup> Welfare and Institutions Code § 5970.5.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Table 1: Estimated Funding to Represent Respondents in Each County**

County	Estimated funding <sup>15</sup>
Alameda	\$1,993,623.75
Alpine	\$60,000
Amador	\$60,000
Butte	\$254,154.25
Calaveras	\$60,000
Colusa	\$60,000
Contra Costa	\$1,404,262
Del Norte	\$60,000
El Dorado	\$231,758.50
Fresno	\$1,206,515
Glenn	\$60,000
Humboldt	\$162,122.25
Imperial	\$208,773.25
Inyo	\$60,000
Kern	\$1,073,051
Kings	\$169,993.50
Lake	\$81,209
Lassen	\$60,000
Los Angeles	\$11,912,197.25
Madera	\$183,036.25
Marin	\$311,477
Mariposa	\$60,000
Mendocino	\$109,165

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

<b>County</b>	<b>Estimated funding<sup>15</sup></b>
Merced	\$337,060.75
Modoc	\$60,000
Mono	\$60,000
Monterey	\$512,945.50
Napa	\$163,961
Nevada	\$123,341.25
Orange	\$3,820,488.25
Placer	\$490,831
Plumas	\$60,000
Riverside	\$2,913,550
Sacramento	\$1,899,810.25
San Benito	\$78,345
San Bernardino	\$2,600,728.50
San Diego	\$3,902,064
San Francisco	\$1,020,289.50
San Joaquin	\$930,017.25
San Luis Obispo	\$326,375.50
San Mateo	\$911,333
Santa Barbara	\$517,600.75
Santa Clara	\$2,297,251.75
Santa Cruz	\$313,452.25
Shasta	\$217,747.75
Sierra	\$60,000
Siskiyou	\$60,000
Solano	\$537,462.50
Sonoma	\$586,581.75
Stanislaus	\$666,446.50
Sutter	\$119,471.50
Tehama	\$78,901.50
Trinity	\$60,000
Tulare	\$569,537.75
Tuolumne	\$63,051
Ventura	\$1,010,973
Yolo	\$255,263.50
Yuba	\$97,779.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$47,563,999.75</b>

This RFP estimates up to \$2,068,000 for support centers and other entities to provide legal training and technical assistance to implement the CARE Act. Any amount remaining from this allocation would go to QLSPs and public defender offices to represent respondents. For

reference, Appendix A also estimates the funding for support centers and other entities at 75 percent, 50 percent, and 25 percent of the Governor’s January 2024 proposal. The RFP estimates \$2,068,000 for the Judicial Council and State Bar to administer the grants.

## SCORING CRITERIA

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

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

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

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

Category	Exceeds Expectation	Meets Expectation	Below Expectation	Not Addressed
<b>Impact:</b> The applicant describes how it will significantly and directly perform the role of QLSP or support center under the CARE Act and Budget Act.				
<b>Qualifications:</b> The applicant demonstrates that it has the qualifications (e.g.,				

<sup>16</sup> Welfare and Institutions Code § 5972.

Category	Exceeds Expectation	Meets Expectation	Below Expectation	Not Addressed
knowledge, experience, and relationships) that it needs to accomplish the proposal's goals.				
<b>Number of check marks</b>	<b>X21-25 points</b>	<b>X11-20 points</b>	<b>X1-10 points</b>	<b>X0 points</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>				
<b>Administration:</b> The applicant demonstrates that it has the organizational capacity (e.g., supervision structure and resources) that it needs to meet the proposal objectives.				
<b>Evaluation:</b> The applicant details how it will acquire and use data to measure the effectiveness of its services and meet reporting requirements.				
<b>Number of check marks</b>	<b>X15 points</b>	<b>X10 points</b>	<b>X5 points</b>	<b>X0 points</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>				
<b>Total</b>				

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

The following explanations refer to the rubric:

- **Not addressed:** A proposal that scores “not addressed” in a category/criterion fails to satisfy that criterion in a meaningful way or lacks the relevant nexus. A proposal might fail to satisfy a criterion in a meaningful way if it articulates only a vague intention to do so.
- **Below expectations:** A proposal that scores “below expectations” in a category/criterion addresses that criterion but is insufficiently competitive or persuasive to justify a score of “meets expectations.” For example, the proposal might lack sufficient detail, explanation, or basis in fact to demonstrate its contours or likelihood of success. Since such a proposal might still articulate a feasible project, this score confers some points.
- **Meets expectations:** A proposal that scores “meets expectations” in a category/criterion is competitive and persuasive with respect to that row of the rubric.

To be competitive, the proposal will be sufficiently ambitious and/or compelling to merit the use of competitive funds. To be persuasive, the proposal will describe circumstances sufficiently probative of the applicant’s intention and ability to accomplish its stated objectives in that criterion.

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

## GRANTMAKING TIMELINE

**Table 2: 2024–2025 CARE Court Grant Timeline**

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

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

## THE APPLICATION

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

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

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

**3. Project budget**

The budget will include information on how the applicant proposes to spend 2024–2025 CARE Court funds in each county for which they apply. Applicants will need to identify staff by their role (e.g., “Managing attorney”) and estimate the amount of time that these roles would spend on the project. The project staff, budget, and description should be consistent with one another.

**4. Budget narrative**

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

**5. Project assurances**

Each applicant will have to acknowledge that:

1. It agrees that it will use any funds it receives from a 2024–2025 CARE Court grant only for the purposes stated in its application. Should the State Bar of California (State Bar) determine in its sole discretion that the applicant is unlikely to use all funds received for these purposes within the grant period, the applicant will return funds to the State Bar as directed by the State Bar.
2. It will not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disability, age, marital or domestic partnership status, medical condition, or sexual orientation.
3. It will comply with quality control procedures adopted by the State Bar.
4. It will permit reasonable site visits and will present additional information deemed reasonably necessary to determine compliance with the terms of the grant.
5. It will comply with fiscal management and control procedures adopted by the State Bar.
6. It understands that any proposal submitted for a 2024–2025 CARE Court grant, and all documents submitted pursuant to issuance of 2024–2025 CARE Court funding, are public documents, and may be disclosed to any person.



7. It agrees it will file regular program and financial reports, as may be required by the State Bar, and cooperate with other data collection requests by the State Bar for this grant project.
8. The State Bar is permitted, in its sole discretion, to adjust Applicant's award at any time to reflect the actual amount of funding available for 2024–2025 CARE Court grants. Consequently, grantees shall not be guaranteed any specific dollar amount in grant funds, or any grant funds at all, if funds received are insufficient or unavailable to the State Bar.

## REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Grantees must report quantitative and qualitative data describing their clients and activities. This data will include case outcomes tied to individual characteristics.

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

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

### 1. Quarterly reports

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

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

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

- A. Client demographics such as race/ethnicity, gender identity, age, disability status, veteran status, limited English Proficiency status, and housing status.
- B. Petitioner status (e.g., family member, first responder, etc.).

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

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

## **2. A final evaluation**

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

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

**FOR QUESTIONS**

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

## APPENDIX A

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

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

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

County	Estimated funding
Riverside	\$2,170,120.50
Sacramento	\$1,415,049.50
San Benito	\$60,000
San Bernardino	\$1,937,119.50
San Diego	\$2,906,402.50
San Francisco	\$759,949.75
San Joaquin	\$692,711.50
San Luis Obispo	\$243,096.75
San Mateo	\$678,794.75
Santa Barbara	\$385,528.25
Santa Clara	\$1,711,078.75
Santa Cruz	\$233,471
Shasta	\$162,186.50
Sierra	\$60,000
Siskiyou	\$60,000
Solano	\$400,322
Sonoma	\$436,908
Stanislaus	\$496,394.25
Sutter	\$88,986.75
Tehama	\$60,000
Trinity	\$60,000
Tulare	\$424,213
Tuolumne	\$60,000
Ventura	\$753,010.50
Yolo	\$190,129.75
Yuba	\$72,829.75
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$35,673,000</b>

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

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

County	Estimated funding
Alameda	\$972,732.25
Alpine	\$60,000
Amador	\$60,000
Butte	\$124,007.25
Calaveras	\$60,000

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

If the budget act provides 25 percent of the Governor's January 2024 proposal, the RFP estimates up to \$517,000 for support centers and other entities to provide legal training and technical assistance for implementing the CARE Act. Similarly, the RFP estimates \$517,000 for the Judicial Council and State Bar to administer the grants at this percentage.

**Attachment A11. 2024-2025 CARE Court Grant Recipients**

As approved by the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission CARE Court Grants Committee on July 15, 2024.

Organization	Project Name	Counties Served	Requested Amount	Recommended Amount
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund	Support for Accessible Representation for Care Court Respondents	Statewide	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco	SF - CARE Court Implementation	San Francisco	\$ 429,501	\$ 206,764.40*
Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino	C.A.R.E. Court Representation Initiative (CCRI)	San Bernardino	\$ 463,693	\$ 463,693
Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County	CARE Court Representation for San Mateo County Respondents	San Mateo	\$ 224,830	\$ 224,830
Legal Assistance to the Elderly	CARE Court Representation for San Francisco Seniors and Persons with Disabilities	San Francisco	\$ 496,078	\$ 238,814.95*
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$ 1,639,102</b>	<b>\$1,159,102.35</b>

\* These amounts have been adjusted proportionally to reflect the amount of funding to represent respondents in San Francisco County.