



Judicial Council of California

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February 20, 2026.

Subject Text

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File #: 18-167, Version: 1

Title

Equal Access Fund: Distribution of Funds for Partnership Grants and IOLTA-Formula Grants (Action Required)

Summary

The Budget Act of 2018 includes over \$25 million in the Equal Access Fund for distribution to legal services providers and support centers. These monies are distributed primarily in two parts: IOLTA (Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts)-formula grants and partnership grants (with a small amount also distributed for administration). The Legal Services Trust Fund Commission of the State Bar recommends approving distribution of \$23,039,970 in IOLTA-formula grants for fiscal year (FY) 2018-19, according to the statutory formula in the state Budget Act, and \$2,575,000 in partnership grants for 2019. It further requests approval of the commission's findings that the proposed budget for each individual grant complies with statutory and other relevant guidelines.

Recommendation

The Legal Services Trust Fund Commission recommends that the Judicial Council approve the distribution of \$23,039,970 in IOLTA-formula grants for FY 2018-19 according to the terms of the state Budget Act, and approve the commission's determination that the proposed budget of each individual grant complies with statutory and other guidelines.

In addition, the commission recommends that the council approve the distribution of \$2,575,000 in Equal Access Fund partnership grants to the following legal services agencies for programs conducted jointly with courts to provide legal assistance to self-represented litigants:

1. Alameda County Bar Association Volunteer Legal Services
Family Law Day of Court Project ... \$30,000
Family Law Status Conference ... \$65,000
2. Bay Area Legal Aid
San Mateo County Consumer Debt Clinic...\$30,000
3. Bet Tzedek Legal Services
Self-Help Elder and Dependent Adult Restraining Order Clinic
(Los Angeles County) ... \$80,000
4. California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.
San Luis Obispo County Rental Clinic for Self-Represented Litigants ...\$45,000
5. Central California Legal Services, Inc.
Guardianship Project ... \$70,000
Tenant/Landlord Housing Law Project (Fresno) ... \$70,000
6. East Bay Community Law Center
Traffic Flash Clinic (Alameda) ... \$60,000
7. Elder Law and Advocacy
Imperial County Unlawful Detainer/Elder Abuse Restraining Order Clinic ...\$68,000
8. Family Violence Law Center

- Domestic Violence Pro Per Project (Alameda) ... \$23,000
- 9. Greater Bakersfield Legal Services
 - Partnership Shriver Grant (Kern) ... \$103,000
- 10. Justice and Diversity Center
 - Family Law Assisted Self-Help/Case Resolution (FLASH/CARE) Project (San Francisco) ... \$50,000
 - Shriver-SASH Self-Help Custody (San Francisco) ... \$80,000
- 11. LACBA Counsel for Justice
 - Domestic Violence Legal Services Project (Los Angeles) ...\$90,000
- 12. Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles
 - Long Beach Self-Help Center ... \$60,000
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- 13. Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara
 - Shriver-Guardianship Project (Northern Santa Barbara County) ... \$103,000
- 14. Legal Aid of Marin
 - Community Court Expansion ... \$80,000
- 15. Legal Aid Society of Orange County
 - Consumer Debt Workshop at Central Justice Center (Orange) ...\$47,000
 - Consumer Debt Workshop at Norwalk Courthouse (Los Angeles) ...\$35,000
 - Unlawful Detainer Workshop a at Central Justice Center (Orange) ...\$66,000
 - Unlawful Detainer Workshop at Norwalk Courthouse (Los Angeles) ...\$60,000
- 16. Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino
 - Caregivers Accessing Justice Guardianship Program ...\$85,000
- 17. Legal Aid Society of San Diego, Inc.
 - Name/Gender Change Clinic ...\$85,000
 - Unlawful Detainer Clinic Expansion Project ... \$100,000
- 18. Legal Assistance for Seniors
 - Partnership to Assist Guardianship Litigants ...\$58,000
- 19. Legal Services of Northern California
 - Mother Lode Pro Per Project (Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Placer) ... \$85,000
 - Small Claims, Guardianship & Shriver Housing Self-Help Project (Yolo) ... \$82,000
- 20. Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice
 - Family Law Information for Parents ... \$90,000
- 21. Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County
 - Chatsworth Self-Help Legal Access Center Project ... \$100,000
 - Pasadena Unlawful Detainer Assistance Project ...\$80,000
 - Shriver LA Self-Help Unlawful Detainer Clinic ... \$140,000
- 22. Public Counsel
 - Guardianship Clinic (Los Angeles) ... \$45,000
- 23. Public Law Center
 - Orange County Courthouse Guardianship Clinic ... \$60,000
- 24. Riverside Legal Aid
 - Small Estates Assistance Program ... \$90,000
- 25. San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program
 - Central Division Restraining Order Clinic ... \$100,000
- 26. Santa Clara University Alexander Law Center
 - Consumer Debt Clinic... \$60,000

Total ... \$2,575,000

See Attachment A, Equal Access Fund: Distribution of Funding for IOLTA-Formula Grants and Partnership Grants under the Budget Act of 2018, for the text of the commission's report and the report's attachments.