



# Judicial Council of California

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January 19, 2024

## Subject Text

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**File #:** 21-153, **Version:** 1

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### **Title**

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

#### **Summary**

The Budget Act of 2021 (Stats. 2021, ch. 21) includes over \$65 million in the Equal Access Fund for general distribution to legal services providers and support centers. The funds are to be 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 \$58,147,302 in IOLTA-formula grants for fiscal year (FY) 2021-22, according to the statutory formula in the state Budget Act, and \$6,460,811 in partnership grants. The commission further requests approval of its 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, effective October 1, 2021, approve:

1. The distribution of \$58,147,302 in IOLTA-formula grants for FY 2021-22 according to the terms of the state Budget Act;
2. The commission's determination that the proposed budget of each individual grant complies with statutory and other guidelines;
3. The distribution of \$2,580,574 in Equal Access Fund partnership grants commencing January 1, 2022, to legal services agencies for programs conducted jointly with courts to provide legal assistance to self-represented litigants as set forth on pages 11-13 of Attachment A; and
4. The distribution of an additional \$3,880.237 for partnership grants to be awarded based on the application process set forth on pages 14-16 of Attachment A.