



# Judicial Council of California

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January 19, 2024

## Subject Text

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### Title

### **Equal Access Fund | Distribution of New Funding for Housing and Consumer Debt Issues (Action Required)**

#### **Summary**

The Budget Act of 2022 (Assem. Bill 178 (Ting); Stats. 2022, ch. 45) includes two new allocations to the Equal Access Fund for distribution to legal services providers and support centers to provide civil legal services for indigent persons. One allocation is for \$15 million for services related to consumer debt matters affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the other is for \$30 million for legal services related to housing issues. The Legal Services Trust Fund Commission requests approval of the distribution of those funds, less administrative costs, through a competitive grant process as set forth in the Budget Act.

#### **Recommendation**

The Legal Services Trust Fund Commission recommends that the Judicial Council, effective September 20, 2022:

1. Approve the distribution of \$15 million of Equal Access funds to the State Bar for distribution to eligible legal services agencies to provide assistance with consumer debt matters for FY 2022-23 according to the terms of the Budget Act; and
2. Approve the distribution of \$30 million of Equal Access funds to the State Bar for distribution to eligible legal services agencies to provide assistance with housing-related matters according to the terms of the Budget Act.