

ACBF Legal Aid Provider Grants
2025 Grant Cycle LOI Applications - Cover Sheet

Name of Organization	Grant Request Name	Type of Support	Summary of Request	Cost	Budget
Arise Immigration Services	General Operating Support	General Operating Support	To support high-quality, trauma-informed legal representation of asylum-seekers in Pittsburgh and capacity expansion around the country through our innovative "mentorship through direct services" model.	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 47,605.00
Catapult Greater Pittsburgh	Catapult CLEAR	Existing Program/Project Support	To support Catapult's Clinic for Legal Equity and Repairs (CLEAR) program which provides pro bono legal services and education that help low-income residents resolve tangled title issues, address debt and other legal challenges, increase housing stability, and build generational wealth while promoting greater public understanding of legal rights and resources.	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 3,651,177.00
Education Law Center- PA	Ensuring Access to Quality Education for All Students with Disabilities	Existing Program/Project Support	To support ELC's work to strengthen legal services and advocacy to ensure the rights of students with disabilities in Allegheny County, with a focus on students at the intersection of underserved identities. We'll support pro bono attorneys in providing legal services to families and community partners in their advocacy to ensure students receive the necessary supports and services for their classroom inclusion.	\$ 159,500.00	\$ 3,114,800.00
Hello Neighbor	Legal Assistance for Refugees and Immigrants	Existing Program/Project Support	To support Green Card applications and other legal services for recently resettled refugees in Allegheny County who are on a legal path to citizenship.	\$ 104,950.00	\$ 3,348,746.00

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Hugh Lane Wellness Foundation	TLGBQ+ Resilience Project	Existing Program/Project Support	At this critical time when transgender people's legal rights are under attack, Hugh Lane Wellness Foundation will expand legal access for TLGBQ+ and HIV+ people in Allegheny County, addressing urgent legal needs related to name and gender marker changes, ID documents, housing rights, and public benefits.	\$ 105,000.00	\$ 2,809,685.35
Just Mediation Pittsburgh	Eviction Prevention Services Through Mediation	New Program/Project support	To support a pilot project of offering additional mediation services related to housing eviction prevention beyond Just Mediation Pittsburgh's (JMP) ongoing work with landlord-tenant issues. This grant would support a limited pilot of JMP's expansion of housing related mediation to tenant-tenant conflict, shelter diversion, and/or post-judgement mediation - all of which falls outside the current scope of JMP's public funding contracts.	\$ 20,598.00	\$ 1,487,100.00
KidsVoice	Enhanced Advocacy for Grandchildren and Their Grandparents as Foster Caregivers	Existing Program/Project Support	To support the expansion of a KidsVoice initiative that provides holistic advocacy to address the complex needs of dependent youth and also the needs of their grandparent who is serving as primary caregiver in a foster placement. Hundreds of grandparents in Allegheny County serve as foster placements, and many struggle with the sudden responsibility of caring for all aspects of a child's life, from health to school to addressing trauma.	\$ 157,079.00	\$ 9,399,050.00
Neighborhood Legal Services Assn. (NLS)	Pathways to Justice: Unlocking Economic Mobility	Existing Program/Project Support	To support low-income Allegheny County residents in clearing and/or sealing criminal records so they can access jobs, housing, and stability. This investment will remove barriers to opportunity while advancing economic equity through expanded access to justice.	\$ 85,000.00	\$ 9,727,574.00

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Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh	Providing Civil Legal Representation for Victims of Domestic Violence	Existing Program/Project Support	To support the WC&S Civil Law Project in its free legal representation for victims of intimate partner violence in divorce actions with alimony and/or property claims for victims of intimate partner violence. CLP attorneys are domestic violence legal experts and provide trauma-informed and culturally and linguistically competent legal services.	\$1,213,260.00	\$8,137,566.00
Women's Law Project	General Operating Support	General Operating Support	To support the general operations and mission of Women's Law Project.	\$2,613,531.00	\$2,613,531.00



Wednesday, August 6, 2025

Allegheny County Bar Foundation - Legal Aid Provider Grant

Letter of Inquiry (LOI) - 2024-25 Cycle

Background Information

Name of Organization Arise Immigration Services

Employer Identification Number (EIN) 88-4084447

Year Founded 2022

Mission Statement

We have a dual mission. First, we provide high-quality, pro bono legal services to immigrants in the Pittsburgh area, focusing on asylum. Second, we provide training and mentoring to advocates around the country so that they can learn how to serve immigrants in their own communities. In other words, we are building capacity around the country so that more people can get the personalized representation that they need to navigate an increasingly complex immigration legal system.

Executive Director Jen White

Executive Director Email jen@ariseimmigration.org

Organization Address PO Box 79099
Pittsburgh, PA, 15216

Phone Number (412) 445-7604

Website ariseimmigration.org

Current Annual Operating Budget 47605

Proposal Information

Grant Request Name General Operating Support

Summary of Request

To support high-quality, trauma-informed legal representation of asylum-seekers in Pittsburgh and capacity expansion around the country through our innovative "mentorship through direct services" model.

Total Project Cost 60000

Type of Support

General Operating Support

Definitions:

General Operating Support: unrestricted funding that can be used flexibly to support any of an organization's costs to fulfill its mission (rather than supporting a specific project or program).

- *Existing Program/Project Support: funding to support all or part of an already established or ongoing program or project.*
- *New Program/Project Support: funding to support or enable the establishment of a new program or project.*

Project Start Date

Thursday, January 1, 2026

Project End Date

Thursday, December 31, 2026

Narrative Information

Overview of Grant Request

We provide top-notch, free legal representation to asylum-seekers in Pittsburgh and simultaneously train new advocates through our innovative "mentorship through direct services" model. In other words, we serve Pittsburgh asylum-seekers in teams, pairing new advocates with seasoned advocates so that the newer folks can "learn while doing." Our model is responsive to the shortage of affordable immigration legal advocates, which results in widespread injustice. Success on an asylum application—one of the most sought-after immigration

benefits—often hinges on access to legal representation,* which is cost-prohibitive for many.** Our Solution (our innovative "mentorship through direct services" model) produces high-quality legal advocates across the nation. We believe that people "learn best by doing," which is why we work our cases in teams, pairing seasoned advocates with mentees so that knowledge and skills are transferred and shared. Our innovative model is needed because new advocates cannot access hands-on learning opportunities due to a variety of systemic barriers. Traditional pathways to legal advocacy, like law school, are exclusionary due to cost. The legal field is individualistic, and advocates usually work their own caseloads by themselves, which closes the door to non-lawyer advocates and stunts capacity expansion across the field. Most low-cost immigration legal services are available only in large metropolitan areas. We eliminate these barriers by providing our mentorship model remotely so that advocates can learn how to serve immigrants in their own, local communities after we show them the ropes. Unlike other fields—where a professional license follows a mentorship-style training program, like in the mental health and medical professions—many lawyers receive a license without practical experience because there is no requirement for such. We think there is a better way because there is no substitute for "learning while doing."

* Asylum-seekers are five times more likely to win when represented.

<https://immigrationforum.org/article/fact-sheet-u-s-asylum-process/>.

**"[M]ore than 93% of asylum-seeking respondents have not yet found a lawyer, the top challenge for which is legal fees." https://maketheroadny.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Displaced-and-Disconnected_MRNY-Report.pdf.

Context/Background Information

Immigration laws and policies have become more complex and restrictive over time. All the while, the last few years brought record numbers of forcibly displaced people to the U.S. in search of safety. This inverse correlation generates and normalizes injustice for immigrants. We must respond with affordable legal advocates to help immigrants navigate an exceptionally complex system. The demand for affordable legal representation for asylum-seekers far exceeds the limited supply of pro bono providers.*

Arise Immigration Services' dual mission provides "micro" and "macro" solutions to the injustices that immigrants face. We provide high-quality, pro bono legal services to immigrants in Pittsburgh, an underserved area (micro). Through a recent needs assessment, we confirmed that we are the only organization in the region providing free representation to affirmative asylum-seekers. Yet our impact extends far beyond Pittsburgh because we mentor advocates around the country—while we work on our cases together—so that new advocates can learn how to serve immigrants in their own, local communities (macro).

Asylum cases—when compared to other immigration cases—are incredibly resource-draining, intense, and complex. In addition, affirmative asylum-seekers from Pittsburgh are required to travel to Arlington, VA for their interview, which creates additional burdens for advocates who must then coordinate travel,

translators, schedules on short notice, etc. However, we are not deterred by these barriers and are determined to fight for due process for our clients, which is why we take on some of the most legally challenging asylum cases for our brave clients. Additionally, asylum is one of the very few statutory immigration benefits that this administration cannot revoke (without legislative action). It, therefore, remains the only viable option for many immigrants in the United States, right now.

Our innovative, dual mission is needed and effective. Our immigrant clients benefit from our approach because our cases are prepared in teams, which means that multiple perspectives strengthen the case as we all sharpen each other. Additionally, our clients enjoy the support of a team of advocates cheering for them as they navigate a difficult, often lonely transition in a new country. Our organization fills a gap for new advocates (mentees), many of whom could not otherwise access hands-on learning opportunities due to geographical limitations; the individualistic nature of legal casework; and the reality that most immigration lawyers are too busy to pencil in time to mentor new advocates, let alone work a complicated case alongside them. Since we started taking cases in early 2023, we have enjoyed a 100% success rate for all of our adjudicated cases. We have also trained over 100 advocates nationwide.

[*https://www.nytimes.com/2024/05/19/us/migrants-lawyer-shortages.html?trk=feed_main-feedcard_feed-article-content](https://www.nytimes.com/2024/05/19/us/migrants-lawyer-shortages.html?trk=feed_main-feedcard_feed-article-content)

Project Goals

- Programmatic Goals:
- Represent 14 asylum-seekers (principal applicants)
 - Train 30 mentees in immigration law
- Organizational Goals:
- Continue Annual Fall Mental Health Training Seminar for Advocates
 - Hire (at least) 1 part-time legal assistant/DOJ accredited representative
 - Expand organizational partnerships so that other local organizations can begin taking on asylum-cases

Population to be served

We intend to represent at least 14 asylum-seekers in Pittsburgh in 2025. Our clients always live well below 150% of the federal poverty guidelines and come from Africa, Asia, Central America, and beyond.

Attachments


IRS Determination Letter

 IRS Tax-Exempt Letter.pdf

IRS Form 990

 990 Postcard.pdf

Program/Project Budget (see below for template)

 Proposed Budget.docx

[Sample Program/Project Budget Template](#)

Current Operating Budget

 Board Approved FY 2025 Budget.pdf

Audited Financial Statements

 FY 2024 Balance Sheet.docx

 FY 2024 Expenses.docx

 FY 2024 Statement of Revenue.docx

Certification & Submission

I certify, to the best of my knowledge, that:

- 1. The tax-exempt status of this Organization is still in effect,
- 2. This Organization does not support or engage in any terrorist activity, and
- 3. If a grant is awarded to this Organization, the proceeds of that grant will not be distributed or used to benefit any organization or individual supporting or engaged in terrorism, or used for any other unlawful purpose.

Signature



Date
Name
Title

Wednesday, August 6, 2025
Jen White
Executive Director



**Allegheny County Bar Foundation - Legal Aid
Provider Grant**
Letter of Inquiry (LOI) - 2024-25 Cycle

Background Information

Name of Organization Catapult Greater Pittsburgh

Employer Identification Number (EIN) 82-5271900

Year Founded 2019

Mission Statement

Catapult Greater Pittsburgh advances economic mobility and sustainability by guiding individuals through a trauma-informed curriculum and comprehensive support services that transform financial behaviors, build pathways, and empower families to achieve lasting stability and equitable opportunity through homeownership, entrepreneurship, and holistic case-management services.

Executive Director Tammy Thompson

Executive Director Email tammy@catapultpittsburgh.org

Preferred Pronouns she/her/hers

Contact Person (if different from Executive Director) Jodi Salant

Title Chief Development Officer

Email jodi@catapultpittsburgh.org

Organization Address 5987 Broad Street, Suite 201
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 15206

Phone Number (412) 623-9596

Website www.catapultpittsburgh.org

Current Annual Operating Budget 3651177

Proposal Information

Grant Request Name Catapult CLEAR

Summary of Request

To support Catapult’s Clinic for Legal Equity and Repairs (CLEAR) program which provides pro bono legal services and education that help low-income residents resolve tangled title issues, address debt and other legal challenges, increase housing stability, and build generational wealth while promoting greater public understanding of legal rights and resources.

Total Project Cost	250000
Type of Support	Existing Program/Project Support

Definitions:

- General Operating Support: unrestricted funding that can be used flexibly to support any of an organization's costs to fulfill its mission (rather than supporting a specific project or program).
- Existing Program/Project Support: funding to support all or part of an already established or ongoing program or project.
- New Program/Project Support: funding to support or enable the establishment of a new program or project.

Project Start Date	Saturday, November 1, 2025
Project End Date	Saturday, October 31, 2026

Narrative Information

Overview of Grant Request

Catapult Greater Pittsburgh seeks support for its CLEAR program, which helps low-moderate income families resolve tangled property titles and secure long-term housing stability. Without legal title, many residents cannot take out a mortgage or loan, get on a tax payment plan, access property insurance, apply for home repair or utility assistance programming, and more. Without access to these supports, vulnerable families face the risk of living in unsafe conditions, and in the worst cases, being forced to abandon their homes altogether losing both their housing stability and the generational asset their property represents. CLEAR provides legal assistance, estate planning, and access to critical home repairs, enabling families to gain formal ownership, preserve generational wealth, and maintain safe, livable homes. By addressing these legal and structural barriers, the program not only supports individual households but also strengthens neighborhoods by reducing blight and vacancy, and protecting community assets.

A \$10,000 grant will directly support these services, allowing Catapult to help more families secure clear title and protect their homes for future generations. Catapult’s approach demonstrates the high need for tangled title services in Allegheny County as well as our ability to deliver impactful, scalable outcomes. A grant from the Allegheny County Bar Association will help Catapult demonstrate CLEAR’s successful impact and strengthen our ability to attract the funding needed to sustain and expand this vital work.

Context/Background Information

Our mission is to connect families to emergency resources, peer-to-peer support, wealth building, trauma-informed financial counseling, and policy advocacy to ensure that systematically disenfranchised communities can achieve economic stability and lead equitable lives. All of our work has a focus on asset building and promoting economic justice. The values we take into the programs we offer include compassion, flexibility, innovation, and dignity.

Catapult Greater Pittsburgh advances economic mobility and sustainability by guiding individuals through a trauma-informed curriculum comprehensive support services that help families achieve lasting stability and economic opportunity. Catapult’s approach to economic mobility includes four key areas: (1) Support and Connection, (2) Homeownership Readiness and Preservation, (3) Entrepreneurship Startup and Sustainability, and (4) Civic Engagement and Advocacy Education. CLEAR is how Catapult addresses homeownership preservation and the urgent need for legal support around tangled titles. CLEAR is one of the few programs in the region addressing this issue and the response has been overwhelming, with over 200 applications submitted and a growing waiting list. The

program has helped individuals and families navigate the legal process of gaining rightful ownership of their homes, while also supporting them with estate planning to ensure a smoother transfer of assets to future generations.

Catapult has already demonstrated its ability to provide high-quality, accessible legal aid by partnering with trusted attorneys and guiding residents through what can often be a complex and intimidating process. With additional funding, we aim to expand CLEAR's reach, serving more households who are currently unable to access the legal services necessary to gain title to their home.

Catapult recently celebrated a major milestone by moving into a new office that is intentionally designed to create a welcoming environment for the families served. This was a major investment that allows us to deliver programs more effectively and enhances our day-to-day impact. A significant driver of this move was the growing demand for CLEAR services, and the need for safe, accessible space for participants, attorneys, and case managers can meet. Through the investment in the physical space as well as growing the team, Catapult is now positioned to expand CLEAR and better meet the community need.

Project Goals

The goals of CLEAR are to:

Increase housing stability by helping residents resolve tangled title issues and gain legal ownership to their home.

Expand legal justice by providing free, accessible legal aid to households who may otherwise face barriers to title clearance and estate planning.

Preserve generational wealth by ensuring residents can legally transfer their homes to themselves and future generations, thereby protecting assets from loss or predatory acquisition.

Promote community stability by reducing the number of abandoned properties or those in threat of being abandoned, helping neighborhoods remain strong and resilient.

Build legal awareness by raising residents' understanding of title issues, estate planning, and other legal processes that can impact housing security.

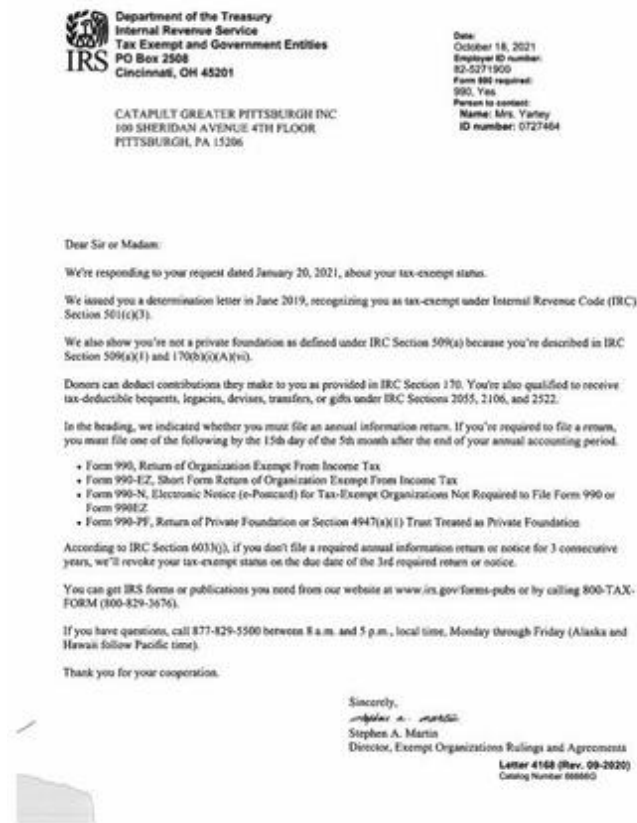
Population to be served

Catapult serves anyone in Allegheny County who is navigating a tangled title issue. While there are no eligibility requirements, we prioritize individuals and families over the age of 62, heirs of deceased primary homeowners, caregivers of children 18 and younger, veterans or widows/widowers of veterans. Catapult has the overall primary focus of preserving low-moderate income homeownership.

Catapult does not have strict requirements for participation as we believe housing stability is a fundamental human right and we know restrictive criteria can prevent people in need from accessing support.

Attachments

IRS Determination Letter



IRS Form 990



990 filing 2022 (1).pdf

Program/Project Budget (see below for template)



Clear legal Budget.pdf

[Sample Program/Project Budget Template](#)

Current Operating Budget



Approved Budgeting Summary FY25 (... .pdf

Audited Financial Statements



Final Audit 2023 (7).pdf

Certification & Submission

I certify, to the best of my knowledge, that:

1. The tax-exempt status of this Organization is still in effect,
2. This Organization does not support or engage in any terrorist activity, and
3. If a grant is awarded to this Organization, the proceeds of that grant will not be distributed or used to benefit any organization or individual supporting or engaged in terrorism, or used for any other unlawful purpose.

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jodi Salant", followed by a horizontal line.

Date

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

Name

Jodi Salant

Title

Chief Development Officer



Friday, September 12, 2025

Allegheny County Bar Foundation - Legal Aid Provider Grant

Letter of Inquiry (LOI) - 2024-25 Cycle

Background Information

Name of Organization	Education Law Center-PA
Employer Identification Number (EIN)	23-2581102
Year Founded	1975
Mission Statement	Education Law Center-PA's (ELC) mission is to ensure access to a quality public education for all children in Pennsylvania.
Executive Director	Ms. Deborah Gordon Klehr
Executive Director Email	dklehr@elc-pa.org
Preferred Pronouns	she/her/hers
Contact Person (if different from Executive Director)	Ms. Hetal Dhagat
Title	Senior Attorney
Email	hdhagat@elc-pa.org
Organization Address	429 Fourth Ave, Suite 1910 Pittsburgh, PA, 15219
Phone Number	(412) 258-2120
Website	https://www.elc-pa.org/
Current Annual Operating Budget	3114800

Proposal Information

Grant Request Name	Ensuring Access to Quality Education for All Students with Disabilities
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Summary of Request

To support ELC's work to strengthen legal services and advocacy to ensure the rights of students with

disabilities in Allegheny County, with a focus on students at the intersection of underserved identities. We'll support pro bono attorneys in providing legal services to families and community partners in their advocacy to ensure students receive the necessary supports and services for their classroom inclusion.

Total Project Cost	159500
Type of Support	Existing Program/Project Support

Definitions:

- General Operating Support: unrestricted funding that can be used flexibly to support any of an organization's costs to fulfill its mission (rather than supporting a specific project or program).
- Existing Program/Project Support: funding to support all or part of an already established or ongoing program or project.
- New Program/Project Support: funding to support or enable the establishment of a new program or project.

Project Start Date	Thursday, January 1, 2026
Project End Date	Thursday, December 31, 2026

Narrative Information

Overview of Grant Request

Funding will support our efforts to remove the individual and systemic educational barriers that prevent students with disabilities in Allegheny County from thriving in the classroom, with a focus on reaching students who are most marginalized. Students with disabilities often face barriers to learning due to systemic failures to ensure their needs are met, with consequences including illegal classroom exclusion and barriers to academic progress. It is more challenging for students with disabilities who live and learn at the intersection of multiple identities and legal protections, including multilingual learners, Black and Brown children, and students experiencing homelessness, who face multiple barriers to accessing quality education. This project will focus on ensuring access to a free appropriate public education (FAPE) for these students, including by supporting pro bono attorneys to increase our legal services capacity.

At the individual level, ELC will provide fact sheets, advocacy tools, and information on students’ rights, as well as referrals and advice to support families in their self-advocacy. Families who call our Education Helpline for free legal services may also receive legal consultation and direct representation to further advocate for students who have been denied FAPE.

We'll support pro bono attorneys with information and assistance to provide legal services to students with disabilities, who are underserved due to intersecting identities, on public education issues, such as special education, summary citations, and truancy. We'll also train attorneys on the responsibilities of serving as a trustee for compensatory education trusts for children with disabilities who were denied a quality education.

ELC will provide feedback, legal guidance, and technical assistance to our partners to build our capacity to improve education outcomes for students who are most marginalized. In 2025, we relaunched our stakeholder coalition for organizations that support the education of immigrant and refugee students to discuss current issues and explore collective advocacy, focusing on ensuring that multilingual learners are not targeted, but rather provided with access to education to which they are entitled, such as language services and special education. We will also inform and support the work of partners, including the Education Rights Network, Pittsburgh Local Task Force on the Right to Education (LTF), the Latino Community Center, the PEAL Center, and Casa San Jose, providing information and advice, offering feedback on letters and testimony for school boards, providing legal guidance on systemic complaints, and more.

The Helpline and our community engagement inform the systemic matters we prioritize. We will continue to focus on advocating for what is necessary for inclusive schools, including the elimination of

exclusionary discipline and ensuring that immigrant students receive the support they need to attend school.

Context/Background Information

ELC-PA is the go-to organization in Allegheny County for ensuring families, child-serving professionals, and advocates have the knowledge, resources, and legal representation they need to uphold student rights and ensure their access to a quality education. Working with pro bono attorneys increases our capacity to serve community members. In the past year, pro bono attorneys have successfully represented our clients at truancy and summary citation hearings and have obtained compensatory education services for students with disabilities. Following is a sampling of our relevant work in the county:

- ELC-PA represents “Faye,” a Black girl who is a multilingual learner at a local public school, who missed nearly two years of education due to the school’s inability to accommodate her physical disability. The school failed to provide the transportation and one-to-one aide she needed to attend school safely, and failed to provide translated documents to her parent. Two days after we got involved, the school found Faye transportation and an aide. We also requested a full special education evaluation and found that Faye has an intellectual disability, in addition to her physical disability. We drafted a robust Individualized Education Program (IEP) that provides Faye with the necessary supports/services. We are also demanding compensatory education for the nearly two years she was denied a quality education, and are seeking systemic changes to ensure these issues do not continue.
- We helped a parent concerned about her Black daughter with a disability, who goes to a local public school, and was being discriminated against. Their daughter was suspended for an incident at school, while the white girls involved were not. We provided the family with information about their rights, including the rights of students with disabilities in school discipline matters and the right to be free from racial discrimination at school. We helped the family engage a pro bono attorney for the summary hearings. As a result, all three school-based summary charges were dismissed at the hearings, and the principal spoke on behalf of the student at the final hearing.
- We filed a systemic complaint on behalf of students with disabilities who were denied services to which they were entitled due to a local school district’s failure to provide related services, such as speech and language. We are demanding that the district develop and implement an equitable plan to contact parents of students who were impacted by the lack of services and to offer compensatory education. We are also requesting that the district develop a communication plan for future instances when services are not provided for an extended period.
- In the last year, our Pittsburgh team trained 605 parents, students, school district officials, judges, and lawyers through 14 training sessions/presentations, virtually and in person.

Project Goals

Goals & Objectives:

The primary goals of this project in Allegheny County are: 1) To ensure students can access consistent, appropriate special education services required for them to thrive in school; and 2) To ensure multilingual learners, students experiencing homelessness, and other underserved youth with disabilities receive the services and supports they are entitled to according to local, state, and federal law. By ensuring education access, we can improve academic, career, and health outcomes for Allegheny County students.

With funding from the Allegheny County Bar Foundation, ELC will:

- Respond to requests from families who contact our Helpline for assistance with public education matters and provide them with information, advice, and resources on student and parent/caregiver rights, using translation services as appropriate.
- Provide legal consultation and further advocacy through direct representation to address rights-based violations.
- Train and support pro bono attorneys to equip them to provide legal services to impacted students on public education issues, including truancy and summary citation hearings, as well as accessing special education and compensatory education to address educational deprivations.
- Offer rights-based resources and training in preferred languages to families, advocates, and child-serving professionals.
- Provide technical assistance and legal guidance to help our partners address individual and systemic education barriers impacting families.

Outcomes:

ELC expects to achieve the following outcomes in Allegheny County through this project:

- Increased knowledge among community members of the education rights of students with disabilities and at the intersection of other identities, including multilingual learners, Black and Brown students, and students experiencing homelessness, to prevent educational barriers.
- Greater capacity to provide legal support to local families whose children have experienced barriers to a quality education.
- Comprehensive remedies, such as an appropriate special education evaluation, documents translated into the parents’ preferred language, and compensatory education services, are available for students with disabilities who have been denied quality education.

Population to be served

The outcomes of our work will benefit children with disabilities and at the intersection of other underserved identities who attend public schools in Allegheny County, where approximately 28,753 students ages 3-21 have been identified as having a disability (Penn Data, School District and Intermediate Unit Enrollments, 2022-23). Many of these students have been deprived of their right to a quality public education due to schools’ failure to ensure they receive consistent, appropriate educational services.

Educational barriers are even more acute for students with disabilities at the intersection of other underserved identities. Black and Brown students with disabilities are pushed out of the classroom at disproportionately higher rates due to subjective discipline policies and schools failing to follow their due process rights. Multilingual students also face greater barriers. When schools fail to provide appropriate language support services to families, these students are unable to access a quality education. They may experience delays in special education screenings and evaluations or not graduate on time due to a lack of information and disengagement. They may be wrongly excluded from the classroom without understanding their rights or the resources available to them. This can result in significant, long-term repercussions on students’ academic progress and overall well-being.

In addition, students who are experiencing homelessness face barriers to being identified for special education and receiving consistent services. These students, including those living in shelters, doubling up due to economic circumstances, in temporary housing, or “couch-surfing”, have important legal rights under a federal law called the “McKinney-Vento Act” to ensure they can access quality education, including additional services to support their success. Schools must identify these students and ensure they are provided the supports and protections they are entitled to under the law. For example, if an unaccompanied homeless youth is also a student with a disability, a school district or charter school must appoint an educational “surrogate parent” to act as that student’s special education decision maker through the IEP process.

Through the proposed work, we will build the community’s capacity to advocate for the rights of students with disabilities who live and learn at the intersection of multiple identities and legal protections, including multilingual learners, Black and Brown children, and students experiencing homelessness. Additionally, we will increase our capacity to represent these students on matters related to special education and classroom exclusion by training and supporting pro bono attorneys. Through our Helpline, we will provide information, advice, referral, legal consultation, and/or direct representation to 200 families of underserved students. Our work will help ensure all students can learn and thrive in inclusive classrooms.

Attachments

IRS Determination Letter

 ELC-PA IRS 501c3.pdf

IRS Form 990

 ELC-PA 990 FY24.pdf

Program/Project Budget (see below for template)



ELC-PA ACBF Budget FY26.pdf

[Sample Program/Project Budget Template](#)

Current Operating Budget



ELC-PA Organizational Budget FY25.pdf

Audited Financial Statements



ELC-PA Audit Report FY24.pdf

Certification & Submission

I certify, to the best of my knowledge, that:

- 1. The tax-exempt status of this Organization is still in effect,
- 2. This Organization does not support or engage in any terrorist activity, and
- 3. If a grant is awarded to this Organization, the proceeds of that grant will not be distributed or used to benefit any organization or individual supporting or engaged in terrorism, or used for any other unlawful purpose.

Signature

Date

Friday, September 12, 2025

Name

Deborah Gordon Klehr

Title

Executive Director



Friday, September 12, 2025

Allegheny County Bar Foundation - Legal Aid Provider Grant

Letter of Inquiry (LOI) - 2024-25 Cycle

Background Information

Name of Organization Hello Neighbor

Employer Identification Number (EIN) 82-3695047

Year Founded 2017

Mission Statement

We empower refugees and immigrants through community connections, ensuring their journey from arrival to belonging is guided by dignity, cultural sensitivity, and support.

Executive Director Sloane Davidson

Executive Director Email sloane@helloneighbor.io

Preferred Pronouns she/her/hers

Organization Address 6587 Hamilton Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA, 15206

Phone Number (412) 567-3946

Website www.helloneighbor.io

Current Annual Operating Budget 3348746

Proposal Information

Grant Request Name Legal Assistance for Refugees and Immigrants

Summary of Request

To support Green Card applications and other legal services for recently resettled refugees in Allegheny County who are on a legal path to citizenship.

Total Project Cost 104950

Type of Support Existing Program/Project Support

Definitions:

General Operating Support: unrestricted funding that can be used flexibly to support any of an organization's costs to fulfill its mission (rather than supporting a specific project or program).

- *Existing Program/Project Support: funding to support all or part of an already established or ongoing program or project.*
- *New Program/Project Support: funding to support or enable the establishment of a new program or project.*

Project Start Date

Thursday, January 1, 2026

Project End Date

Tuesday, June 30, 2026

Narrative Information

Overview of Grant Request

Hello Neighbor is a full-service refugee support agency that resettled hundreds of refugees before the termination of the program in early 2025. Our programs wrap refugee families in holistic, comprehensive support for at least the first five years they are in the U.S.

Legal services are one branch of our programming, formed out of clear necessity in 2024. Hello Neighbor offers a variety of immigration services to help clients (people we've resettled) to maintain lawful nonimmigrant status, to secure permanent legal status to remain and thrive in the United States, and to reunify them with family members still living overseas. We have one attorney on staff and several non-attorney staff who support legal services.

With this proposal, we will support refugees with legal permanent resident status to submit their Green Card applications. It takes our attorney about 10 hours to complete an application. We expect that we can file 50 applications during the six-month period of this grant.

As of August 2025, our attorney has submitted 250 Green Card applications, free of charge to clients.

Context/Background Information

It is a daunting time to be an immigrant in this country, even one with legal, protected status. Our clients are nervous about arrest and deportation, particularly after already having to flee their homes and move multiple times. That constant fear and insecurity is really damaging to their wellbeing. We help them to make sure they are doing everything required to get their Green Cards. Until they have a Green Card, they can't leave the U.S. We have multiple clients with sick or dying family members overseas whom they are desperate to visit. Ensuring they are doing everything they can helps with the emotional toil of separation and worry.

Because Hello Neighbor is known to the refugee community for as a provider of social supports, healthcare navigation, employment training, and education and tutoring, we are also a trusted and accessible source of legal services. We provide language interpretation in dozens of languages and roughly half of our staff are immigrants and/or former refugees themselves.

This funding will provide a lift at a critical time for refugee legal services.

The majority of Hello Neighbor's funding for legal services in its first year came from a federal grant that will end on September 30, 2025. Because these services are so critical, we will maintain them at any cost, and are actively fundraising to meet the demand. HN is in the process of expanding legal services to include low-cost legal services for members of the community who are not currently clients. By offering additional services on a sliding scale, we hope to subsidize our free legal services.

Project Goals

Our goal is to submit at least 50 adjustment of status applications between January and June 2026.

Population to be served

Hello Neighbor will draw from its pool of recently resettled refugees for this project. They live in Allegheny County. All families qualify for public benefits programs based on their income.

72% of the clients we serve in our programs identify as Middle Eastern/North African; another 22% identify as Black/African; about 6% as Latinx; and a small percentage as Asian.

Based on the number of refugees we've resettled in the past few years and the one year waiting period to apply for a Green Card, we know that there will be at least 300 refugees eligible to apply during the grant period.

Attachments

IRS Determination Letter

 HN2017IRSinfo.pdf

IRS Form 990

 Hello Neighbor 990 FY24 compressed.pdf

Program/Project Budget (see below for template)

 ACBF Legal Aid Grants - Proposed Bu... .xlsx

[Sample Program/Project Budget Template](#)

Current Operating Budget

 Hello_Neighbor_FY26 Budget Final.pdf

Audited Financial Statements

 Hello Neighbor Audited Financials FY24.pdf

Certification & Submission

I certify, to the best of my knowledge, that:

- 1. The tax-exempt status of this Organization is still in effect,
- 2. This Organization does not support or engage in any terrorist activity, and
- 3. If a grant is awarded to this Organization, the proceeds of that grant will not be distributed or used to benefit any organization or individual supporting or engaged in terrorism, or used for any other unlawful purpose.

Signature



Date

Friday, September 12, 2025

Name

Sloane Davidson

Title

Founder and CEO



Friday, September 12, 2025

Allegheny County Bar Foundation - Legal Aid Provider Grant

Letter of Inquiry (LOI) - 2024-25 Cycle

Background Information

Name of Organization	Hugh Lane Wellness Foundation
Employer Identification Number (EIN)	82-1940719
Year Founded	2017
Mission Statement	Raising health with LGBTQ+ and HIV-impact Pennsylvanians through community and legal services, youth and family support, and organizational training.
Executive Director	Sarah Rosso, MA, MPH
Executive Director Email	sarah@hughlane.org
Preferred Pronouns	they/them/theirs
Contact Person (if different from Executive Director)	Larry Shaffer
Title	Chief of Staff
Email	admin@hughlane.org
Organization Address	925 Brighton Road Pittsburgh, PA, 15233
Phone Number	(412) 626-3812
Website	hughlane.org
Current Annual Operating Budget	2809685.35

Proposal Information

Grant Request Name TLGBQ+ Resilience Project

Summary of Request

At this critical time when transgender people's legal rights are under attack, Hugh Lane Wellness Foundation will expand legal access for TLGBQ+ and HIV+ people in Allegheny County, addressing urgent

legal needs related to name and gender marker changes, ID documents, housing rights, and public benefits.	
Total Project Cost	105000
Type of Support	Existing Program/Project Support

Definitions:

- *General Operating Support: unrestricted funding that can be used flexibly to support any of an organization's costs to fulfill its mission (rather than supporting a specific project or program).*
- *Existing Program/Project Support: funding to support all or part of an already established or ongoing program or project.*
- *New Program/Project Support: funding to support or enable the establishment of a new program or project.*

Project Start Date	Thursday, January 1, 2026
Project End Date	Wednesday, December 30, 2026

Narrative Information

Overview of Grant Request

Hugh Lane Wellness Foundation seeks support for the LGBTQ+ Resilience Project, which responds to rising demand for affirming legal services among LGBTQ+ and HIV+ people in Allegheny County. Over the past year, Hugh Lane experienced a 67% increase in legal service requests, reflecting the profound impact of changing political and legal landscapes on our community.

Many clients come to Hugh Lane unaware of existing legal aid resources or unsure of their basic rights. Others face complex challenges, including navigating a complex patchwork of hostile policies, which complicate their ability to access safe housing, employment, and healthcare. With a strong track record of reaching marginalized groups and hundreds of client interactions annually, Hugh Lane is uniquely positioned to provide trusted, affirming legal support.

Core components of the LGBTQ+ Resilience Project include:

- **Name & Gender Marker Change Support:** In partnership with the Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund (TLDEF), Hugh Lane will expand its clinics and services to ensure clients’ documents reflect their correct name and gender identity, improving access to housing, healthcare, employment, and public services.
- **ID Document Clinics:** Clients will receive help navigating the complex processes of updating identity all public and private ID documents across personal, local, state, and federal records and systems.
- **Wills & Estate Planning Clinics:** Clients will learn how to safeguard their dignity and ensure medical decision-making rights are honored, a critical need for chosen families and parents.

Housing & Public Benefits Advocacy: In collaboration with legal and social service partners, Hugh Lane will increase assistance with eviction defense, expungements, and benefits access to reduce disparities among low-income and housing insecure clients.

- **Community Legal Education:** Hugh Lane will hold workshops and produce tools to help LGBTQ+ community members understand their rights, identify discrimination, and know when to seek legal support.

To meet growing demand, Hugh Lane is scaling its successful clinic model by building a stronger network of pro bono attorneys through partnerships with the Allegheny County Bar Association, local law firms, and legal aid providers. Volunteer engagement and provider education will extend our reach, ensuring clients

have both immediate support and long-term pathways to justice.

The LGBTQ+ Resilience Project creates durable systems of support. By expanding legal access and education, Hugh Lane ensures that community members, especially those who are trans, nonbinary, and economically vulnerable, can navigate barriers, protect their rights, and improve overall wellbeing.

Context/Background Information

Hugh Lane Wellness Foundation improves health and social outcomes for LGBTQ+ and HIV+ communities in Southwestern Pennsylvania by addressing social determinants of health. Our wraparound model integrates legal aid with mental health supports, community services, and youth and family programs, allowing clients to access multiple layers of care in one trusted setting.

Services include:

Community Services: Food pantry, housing navigation, legal aid, emergency financial support, and Community Health Workers.

Mental Health Supports: Behavioral health groups, isolation prevention programming, and chosen family supports.

Youth & Family Services: Out-of-School Time programs, CYF family supports, and mentorship programs.

Senior Services: Home visits, social events, intergenerational programs, and navigation assistance.

Training Center of Excellence: Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Expression (SOGIE) trainings for DHS, medical providers, schools, and corporate partners.

Legal services are a critical piece of this continuum. When clients' basic needs are met through wraparound support, they are better able to participate in their cases, which leads to stronger legal outcomes.

Today, LGBTQ+ people face intensified threats as politicians and policymakers increasingly target their rights. These attacks fuel discrimination, stigma, and fear, often resulting in housing instability, healthcare denial, and employment barriers. For trans and gender non-conforming people, having identity documents that match their name and gender identity is essential for navigating daily life without harassment or danger. Legal services also provide protection through housing advocacy, public benefits access, and expungements, all of which directly impact stability and wellbeing.

Hugh Lane partners with local and national organizations to provide coordinated care, including TLDEF, the Allegheny County Bar Association, Central Outreach Wellness Center, Allies for Health & Wellbeing, Proud Haven, and other social services organizations. By integrating legal services into this strong partner network, Hugh Lane offers holistic support that affirms dignity, improves health outcomes, and strengthens resilience in the face of systemic challenges.

Project Goals

The LGBTQ+ Resilience Project will expand and strengthen Hugh Lane's legal services to improve health, safety, and stability for LGBTQ+ and HIV+ people in Allegheny County.

Goals include:

1. Increase access to affirming legal services
2. Provide legal access, provide tools for pro se support, and clinics to ensure clients can access identity documents, housing protections, benefits, and other legal resources.
3. Improve awareness of legal rights and resources: Deliver workshops, toolkits, and communications that educate clients, providers, and community members about rights and available services.
4. Expand capacity through partnerships and pro bono engagement: Build a stronger network of legal partners and volunteers to meet rising demand and address complex cases.

5. Strengthen resilience in the face of systemic barriers: Provide tools and supports that help clients navigate hostile policy environments while protecting their dignity, health, and safety.
- Planned activities:
- Host name/gender marker change clinics and ID document clinics with TLDEF and pro bono attorneys.
 - Hold workshops on housing rights, discrimination, and public benefits, providing pro se support and referrals.
 - Develop short guides, process documents, and community education materials for clients and providers.
 - Train legal and social service partners to identify when clients need legal aid and how to make appropriate referrals.

Through these activities, the LGBTQ+ Resilience Project will ensure community members have both immediate legal assistance and long-term structures of support.

Population to be served

Hugh Lane seeks to provide legal aid to at least 350 clients in 2026, through a mixture of direct representation, pro se support, and community clinics. We anticipate the demographics of our client base will remain consistent with our 2024-2025 service data, which is drawn from a pool of 480 client interactions across community health services. This represents a 67% increase in intakes from the year before. This year, we also received 189 clinic signups and 69 volunteer registrations. To accommodate this increase, we plan to continue to scale up our clinics and pro bono engagement through the county bar association.

Geographically, over 80% of clients reside in Allegheny County, with the remainder coming from surrounding counties in Southwestern Pennsylvania, including Beaver, Washington, and Westmoreland.

Economically, Hugh Lane’s clients are among the most vulnerable in the region. Average household income is approximately \$25,600. Around 63% are unemployed or underemployed, 28% report annual income of \$0, and nearly half live on less than \$20,000 per year. This economic instability underscores the urgent need for free, affirming legal services.

Demographically, a majority of clients (73%) identify under the transgender umbrella. About 23% identify as nonbinary or genderqueer, 36% as women, and 35% as men. Racial demographics include 73% White, 17% Black/African American, 6% Latinx/Hispanic, 4% Asian American/Pacific Islander, 2% Native/Indigenous, and 1% Arab/Middle Eastern. Clients identify across a spectrum of sexual orientations, most frequently as bisexual or pansexual (30%), gay (19%), queer (16%), lesbian (13%), and straight (12%).

The majority of legal issues center on identity documentation (77%), reflecting the urgent need for safe and accurate name and gender marker changes. Other areas of service include housing and eviction defense (13%), public benefits (5%), and criminal record expungements/sealing (3%).

By expanding services to meet this need, Hugh Lane ensures that LGBTQ+ and HIV+ people in Allegheny County, particularly trans and gender non-conforming individuals, can access the legal resources necessary to live with safety, dignity, and stability.

Attachments

IRS Determination Letter

 [HughLane.IRS.TaxExempt.pdf](#)

IRS Form 990



HughLane2024990.pdf

Program/Project Budget (see below for template)



ACBF.Budget.Worksheet - Sheet1.pdf

Sample Program/Project Budget Template

Current Operating Budget



HLWF Budgets - HLF 25-26.pdf

Audited Financial Statements



Signed Final Report and Financial Stat... .pdf

Certification & Submission

I certify, to the best of my knowledge, that:

- 1. The tax-exempt status of this Organization is still in effect,
- 2. This Organization does not support or engage in any terrorist activity, and
- 3. If a grant is awarded to this Organization, the proceeds of that grant will not be distributed or used to benefit any organization or individual supporting or engaged in terrorism, or used for any other unlawful purpose.

Signature

Date

Friday, September 12, 2025

Name

Jennifer Yoder

Title

Fundraising Consultant



Sunday, August 31, 2025

Allegheny County Bar Foundation - Legal Aid Provider Grant

Letter of Inquiry (LOI) - 2024-25 Cycle

Background Information

Name of Organization Just Mediation Pittsburgh

Employer Identification Number (EIN) 86-1972180

Year Founded 2020

Mission Statement

Mission

JMP supports people and communities in conflict to create their own solutions constructively through accessible mediation, facilitation, and creative problem solving.

Purpose Statement:

We believe mediation elevates underutilized community capacity to equitably address complex social issues.

Executive Director Brian Schreiber

Executive Director Email bschreiber@justmediationpgh.org

Preferred Pronouns

he/him/his

Contact Person (if different from Executive Director) Ms. Maria Nunez-Varela

Title Deputy Director

Email mnunez@justmediationpgh.org

Organization Address 5167 Butler Street
Pittsburgh, PA, 15201

Phone Number (412) 228-0730

Website www.justmediationpgh.org

Current Annual Operating Budget 1487100

Proposal Information

Grant Request Name Eviction Prevention
Services Through
Mediation

Summary of Request

To support a pilot project of offering additional mediation services related to housing eviction prevention beyond Just Mediation Pittsburgh's (JMP) ongoing work with landlord-tenant issues. This grant would support a limited pilot of JMP's expansion of housing related mediation to tenant-tenant conflict, shelter diversion, and/or post-judgement mediation - all of which falls outside the current scope of JMP's public funding contracts.

Total Project Cost	20598
Type of Support	New Program/Project support

Definitions:

- General Operating Support: unrestricted funding that can be used flexibly to support any of an organization's costs to fulfill its mission (rather than supporting a specific project or program).
- Existing Program/Project Support: funding to support all or part of an already established or ongoing program or project.
- New Program/Project Support: funding to support or enable the establishment of a new program or project.

Project Start Date	Monday, December 8, 2025
Project End Date	Tuesday, December 22, 2026

Narrative Information

Overview of Grant Request

While slightly out of order, it may be helpful to the reader/evaluator to read the Context/Background Information section around JMP's request prior to reading this section.

While early in our tenure as an emerging non-profit organization, Just Mediation Pittsburgh (JMP) has reached unimaginable levels of landlord-tenant mediation in under five years - nearly 4,000. Funding restrictions and staffing limitations have limited our ability to mediate beyond this area of mediation thus far, but JMP aspires and sees great need to branch out beyond our current scope of work.

Within the initial mediation intake process at JMP, we have seen and heard community need around different forms of mediation beyond the scope of our current landlord-tenant program. The most common area of identified need is tenant-tenant conflict that can negatively impact housing stability, safety, and general well-being. A related issue is shelter diversion - where individuals in conflict with either housing managers or other residents - can negatively impact an individual's ability to remain in what is often the final resort prior to homelessness. A final area that we have been asked for mediation assistance within the public housing arena is post-eviction judgement mediation, where a landlord has received judgement and will be evicting a tenant. In these cases, there may still be an opportunity to mediate specific open issues between the landlord and tenant that were not addressed in court.

Our grant request, if approved, will support three aspects of piloting new housing-related mediation work at JMP. First, we would conduct up to 40 cases of non-landlord/tenant mediation in Year 1. JMP will support in-kind the intake process and support for each case and assign them to a community mediator within our mediator pool most appropriate for the case. Mediators receive a modest stipend for their work similar to what we already have in place for our traditional landlord/tenant cases. Second, we would use grant funds to register up to 10 individuals for a nationally recognized online shelter diversion mediation training program this December conducted by the Cleveland Mediation Center. Any remaining funds would support JMP's data manager's efforts to support the intake process and document the body of work.

Context/Background Information

Just Mediation Pittsburgh was founded in 2020 to reignite the impact of community-based alternative

dispute resolution/mediation efforts that had been spurred by the former Pittsburgh Mediation Center.

What began as a small planning grant in late 2020 to restore community mediation found great relevance as JMP soon joined with five other nonprofit organizations (ACTION Housing, Rent Help Pgh, Neighborhood Legal Services, Community Justice Project and Hispanic Neighborhood Development Corporation) to form the Allegheny County Stabilization Collaborative.

With participation from both the Allegheny County Housing Authority and the Housing Authority of Pittsburgh (who have historically represented nearly 1/3 of county eviction filings), JMP annual mediations jumped from 50 in 2021 to nearly 1,500 in 2024, with a 96% agreement rate. This achievement directly correlates to finding alternative dispute resolution as a bedrock strategy to help keep vulnerable individuals in their residences and the role JMP plays in facilitating linkages to related support systems that ensure successful mediation.

JMP received early support from Pittsburgh's generous foundation community, most notably the Pittsburgh Foundation, Heinz Endowments and the Hillman Foundation to demonstrate "proof of concept" in landlord-tenant mediation as a means to support housing stabilization, reduce long and costly legal proceedings, and potentially set the stage for larger mediation efforts in resolving landlord-tenant disputes after a magisterial judgement is appealed to the Allegheny County Fifth Judicial District. At this time and given the nature of those who seek assistance, JMP's mediation services are voluntary, confidential, and provided at no cost to either party. To date, JMP has now scheduled nearly 4,000 mediations since its inception - nearly all of which have been limited to landlord-tenant mediation and focused on housing stability.

Restricted funding has shaped the focus of JMP's work thus far, with close to 100% of our support focused solely within the landlord-tenant mediation efforts. However, in assessing nearly 9,000 initial inquiries (where roughly 40% conclude with a scheduled mediation), we have seen housing-related mediation needs that thus far outstrip our resources or exceed our grant restrictions. Tenant-tenant conflict, shelter diversion, and/or post-judgement mediation have all emerged as issues where mediation could provide support and impact to individuals, but JMP has not yet been able to resource these efforts.

Project Goals

JMP has three goals that we would like to accomplish in year 1.

First and foremost, we want to augment the scope of housing related mediation efforts between our already established landlord-tenant program. Success would be creating intake, support, and scheduling up to 40 non-landlord/tenant mediations over a 12-month period. We would like to see a minimum 75% agreement rate in these mediations.

Second, we would like to improve our impact in housing stability by learning from the nationally recognized Cleveland Mediation Center model of shelter diversion mediation and adapt their program here in Allegheny County in 2026. To accomplish this, 10 JMP staff and community mediators will participate in the next shelter diversion training in December 2025. In 2026, JMP will reach out to those organizations who provide supported shelter housing to individuals and make them aware of our desire and willingness to mediate resident-resident or management-resident conflict at the site. Again, we seek a 75% agreement rate for those mediations conducted.

Our third goal is to ensure that JMP's HubSpot CRM that tracks cases and data can successfully document this new body of work for JMP and that we can report on our success measures after Year 1.

Population to be served

Since its founding, JMP has maintained fidelity to serving Allegheny County's most vulnerable population. Roughly half of those we serve live within the city of Pittsburgh and the remaining half throughout Allegheny County. We almost exclusively serve tenants with household incomes at 80% or less of Area Median Income (AMI), with over half at under 50% of AMI. In addition, for calendar year 2024, 73% tenants identified themselves as Black or African American; of those, 77% identified as female-led household. Almost half of households reported at least one minor under the age of 15. One fifth of tenants served were 55 over older, and over two thirds reported that at least one person in their household had a disability. Within the county, JMP disproportionately serves people who are facing possible housing eviction, with

highest concentration of inquiries within those magisterial districts that see the highest number of eviction filings.

Attachments

IRS Determination Letter



JMP EIN IRS Verification_February 20... .pdf

IRS Form 990



Just Mediation Pittsburgh - Form 990pdf

Program/Project Budget (see below for template)



ACBF Legal Aid Grant Budget JMP 8 3... .pdf

[Sample Program/Project Budget Template](#)

Current Operating Budget



JMP Operating Budgets 2023 2024 20... .pdf

Audited Financial Statements



JMP Audited Financials FY 2023.pdf

Certification & Submission

I certify, to the best of my knowledge, that:

- 1. The tax-exempt status of this Organization is still in effect,
- 2. This Organization does not support or engage in any terrorist activity, and
- 3. If a grant is awarded to this Organization, the proceeds of that grant will not be distributed or used to benefit any organization or individual supporting or engaged in terrorism, or used for any other unlawful purpose.

Signature

Date

Sunday, August 31, 2025

Name

Brian Schreiber

Title

Executive Director



ALLEGHENY COUNTY
BAR FOUNDATION
The Heart of Pittsburgh's Legal Community

Friday, September 12, 2025

Allegheny County Bar Foundation - Legal Aid Provider Grant

Letter of Inquiry (LOI) - 2024-25 Cycle

Background Information

Name of Organization KidsVoice

Employer Identification Number (EIN) 25-0983060

Year Founded 1908

Mission Statement

To advocate in court and in the community to ensure a safe and permanent home for abused, neglected and at-risk children, and to advocate for former foster youth through age 24 to help them make a successful transition to adulthood by removing roadblocks to employment, health, and housing.

Executive Director Mr. Scott Hollander

Executive Director Email shollander@kidsvoice.org

Preferred Pronouns

he/him/his

Organization Address 437 Grant Street, Suite 700
Pittsburgh, PA, 15219

Phone Number (412) 391-3100

Website <https://kidsvoice.org/>

Current Annual Operating Budget 9399050

Proposal Information

Grant Request Name Enhanced Advocacy for Grandchildren and Their Grandparents as Foster Caregivers

Summary of Request

To support the expansion of a KidsVoice initiative that provides holistic advocacy to address the complex needs of dependent youth and also also the needs of their grandparent who is serving as primary caregiver in a foster placement. Hundreds of grandparents in Allegheny County serve as foster placements, and many struggle with the sudden responsibility of caring for all aspects of a child's life, from health to school to addressing trauma.

Total Project Cost 157079

Type of Support

Existing Program/Project Support

Definitions:

- General Operating Support: unrestricted funding that can be used flexibly to support any of an organization's costs to fulfill its mission (rather than supporting a specific project or program).
- Existing Program/Project Support: funding to support all or part of an already established or ongoing program or project.
- New Program/Project Support: funding to support or enable the establishment of a new program or project.

Project Start Date Thursday, January 1, 2026

Project End Date Thursday, December 31, 2026

Narrative Information

Overview of Grant Request

KidsVoice seeks \$10,000 from the Allegheny County Bar Foundation to help support a growing initiative that will expand our advocacy to support the needs of 60 families in which a grandparent becomes the primary caregiver for a dependent youth.

Nearly 70% of Allegheny County youth removed from their parents are placed in kinship care, with the highest proportion (46%) placed in grandparents' homes. Grandparents provide a source of stability, but the challenges of serving as a caregiver have risen dramatically. Grandparents are being asked to do more to care for children who are the most vulnerable and traumatized.

KidsVoice advocacy will help ensure that grandparents have the support they need to succeed as caregivers:

FINANCIAL RESOURCES. Ensuring that financial resources are available to grandparents, including clothing allotments, transportation support, obtaining beds or furniture, as well as monthly foster care payments.

ADOPTIONS AND SUBSIDIZED PERMANENT LEGAL CUSTODIANSHIPS (SPLC). Arranging adoptions and ensuring that subsidies, insurance, and benefits are in place. For grandparents who do not want to be part of terminating their own children's parental rights, we advocate for a subsidized permanent legal custodianship to allow the child's case to close and the grandparents to still receive custody and financial, health care, and other supports.

HEALTH AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH. Ensure insurance coverage for grandchildren's health needs, advise on available medical and behavioral health resources, and appeal denials of medical claims. A dedicated nurse from Children's Hospital provides medical record reviews, answers questions, and helps address specific care needs. A new partnership with Children's Hospital will provide a separate, dedicated specialist to address behavioral health evaluations, treatment, and related resources.

SPECIAL EDUCATION. Grandparents often find themselves suddenly responsible for grandchildren with learning disabilities. KidsVoice has specialized education attorneys who ensure that appropriate individualized educational services are provided.

SOCIAL SECURITY. Help youth eligible for social security disability or survivor's benefits navigate the complex and time-intensive social security system.

DISABILITY, INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY (ID), AND AUTISM ADVOCACY. Advocate for clients with autism and other intellectual or physical disabilities to address their needs. Help clients apply for waivers that provide lifetime benefits.

KidsVoice advocacy will 1) address the needs of the child; 2) support the needs of the grandparent caregivers; and 3) afford children critical ongoing contact with parents, siblings, and other family

members. Not having to single-handedly address the wide range of a child's needs, grandparents in these 60 families can instead focus on building a positive home life for the child.

Context/Background Information

For more than 100 years, KidsVoice has advocated for Allegheny County's most vulnerable citizens: abused and neglected children. We have done this by adapting our services to the needs observed over the life of our relationships with our clients. This started with KidsVoice's nationally recognized and replicated multidisciplinary approach to advocacy. Each KidsVoice client is represented by a staff attorney teamed with a social service specialist with a background in child development, drug and alcohol treatment, mental health, or education.

KidsVoice helps clients to address legal needs across the entire range of physical, medical, educational, and other needs. KidsVoice also provides legal advocacy to former foster youth through age 24, up to seven years after they've aged out of foster care, an ambitious and unique approach to helping children more successfully transition out of foster care.

KidsVoice continues to bring innovative ideas to our work with vulnerable children and their caregivers, such as our two-generation advocacy approach, in which we work with former foster youth who now have children of their own. We focus on 1) removing roadblocks to stable employment and housing for the adults and 2) addressing developmental delays and school readiness for their children. Many of the partnerships and resources we have built that make our two-generation advocacy a success—focusing on areas like benefits, housing, childcare, education, healthcare, etc.—also prove essential when working with grandparent caregivers.

Each year, approximately 2,000 KidsVoice clients end up in foster care due to abuse or neglect. We make every effort to identify appropriate relatives to provide safe and supportive homes for our clients—and where sibling groups can remain together rather than being separated in different strangers' homes. This priority is shared by Allegheny County Children, Youth, and Families (CYF) and others in the county child welfare system. As a result, nearly 70% of Allegheny County youth removed from their parents are placed in kinship care. In terms of overall kinship care placements, more KidsVoice clients are placed in grandparents' homes (46%) than any other category of relatives (the next closest is aunt at 18%).

KidsVoice multidisciplinary advocacy addresses a child's needs creatively and collaboratively, so that the correct services and supports are in place for each unique situation. It is essential to recognize that the well-being of each child is directly connected to the well-being of the caregiver—especially in situations where the child is recovering from significant trauma. Our advocacy is supported by contributions from pro bono partners. For example, partners (including the PNC legal department and law firm Porter Wright) administer compensatory educational services funds in support of the successful work KidsVoice has done to advocate for special education services for our clients.

Project Goals

Due to social services understaffing and the resulting triaging, children now entering the child welfare system often come from situations of extreme abuse and neglect, which result in struggles with trauma, and require wide-ranging, complex services to meet their needs. At the same time, more youth are being placed in kinship care with grandparents.

Grandparents step in and provide a source of stability, but the challenges of serving as a caregiver have risen dramatically. Staffing shortages across social service and behavioral health systems are exacerbated by an acute shortage of foster placements as well as therapeutic resources and mental health services. Grandparents are being asked to do more when assuming care for children who are the most vulnerable and traumatized—and who in other times would have more access to therapeutic supports and resources, for both the child and the caregiver. This creates a greater need for our advocacy to make sure that placements with grandparents can be successful for the whole family.

The services KidsVoice provides through initiative will help 60 families ensure a stable environment that achieves three aims: 1) to address the needs of the child across multiple areas; 2) to support grandparent caregivers with direct needs and proactive advocacy that reduces the strain of learning how to navigate multiple systems; and 3) to provide the child with critical ongoing contact with siblings and other family members, including parents who may be more inclined to participate in visitations if a grandparent is

involved.

The success of this program can be evaluated by the number of families assisted and the breadth of support and representation KidsVoice provides on issues related to the direct needs of grandparents. KidsVoice will also assess the types and effectiveness of the different services provided. Some, like applying for social security benefits for a disabled youth, may be long-term undertakings, while others, like addressing clothing and furniture needs, can be achieved in the short-term.

Grandparents often face immediate challenges when suddenly caring for a grandchild. For example, it may seem overwhelming to take steps to address a child's learning disability or complex medical needs. Through this program, a specialized KidsVoice attorney would be available to attend school meetings with a grandparent to advocate for an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) or to provide connections to specialized care at Children's Hospital, as well as help with navigating insurance payments.

It is important to recognize that grandparent caregivers are often also struggling to come to terms with their own child's situation that has required the removal of the grandchildren. By giving grandparents advice, expert advocacy, and support so they do not have to suddenly and single-handedly address the wide range of a child's needs, grandparents can instead focus on building a safe and positive home life for the child.

Population to be served

This project will serve 60 families in Allegheny County where a dependent youth has a grandparent who is their primary caregiver in foster care. These families will likely be spread throughout the county. In total, there were approximately 300 foster youth in Allegheny County last year who had a grandparent as their primary caregiver.

KidsVoice will advocate for more than 2,000 abused and neglected children in Allegheny County juvenile court over the next year. In addition to our work with dependent youth, KidsVoice will help approximately 500 formerly dependent youth through age 24 address a range of critical legal issues and needs not met by other providers for this vulnerable population. KidsVoice programs have evolved to meet the needs of youth of color, since our clients are 64% youth of color or mixed race. They are at the highest risk of academic failure, homelessness, unemployment, teen pregnancy, and involvement as adults in the criminal justice system.

The importance of supporting grandparent placements is highlighted by the grim statistics for those youth who do not achieve permanency during their time in the child welfare system. National studies show that of children who turn 18 in foster care, 25% will experience homelessness, only 3% graduate college, 50% will not graduate high school, over 30% of boys enter the adult criminal justice system, and 30% of girls have a baby within two years of turning 18. Former foster youth often age out of the system without a high school diploma and lack the family support their peers have when crises happen.

Working with a client and their grandparent caregiver can be an intensive undertaking. Over the past year, for example, KidsVoice worked with a grandmother who took over care of her three grandchildren after the children's mother was incarcerated with a multi-year sentence. The children had complex needs, including physical and intellectual disabilities, in addition to significant trauma. KidsVoice successfully advocated in court for the grandmother to become the medical and education decision-maker for the children. We helped with addressing health issues by gathering medical records, making medical and dental appointments, and following up after appointments. We helped enroll the children in a different school with more appropriate resources, including services like speech, occupational therapy, and physical therapy as part of each child's special education plan (IEP). We also helped the grandmother enroll the oldest child, who has significant disabilities, with the Office of Developmental Supports, who will be able to help provide resources for care and housing once the child turns 18.

A grant from ACBF in support of this pilot project would help KidsVoice advocate in an impactful way for 60 vulnerable families, helping grandparent caregivers to provide a stable home for their grandchildren who are dependent youth.

Attachments

IRS Determination Letter



KidsVoice_501(c)(3).pdf

IRS Form 990



KidsVoice 990 2024.pdf

Program/Project Budget (see below for template)



ACBF Legal Aid Grant Proposed Budg... .pdf

[Sample Program/Project Budget Template](#)

Current Operating Budget



KidsVoice Operating Budget FY25-26.pdf

Audited Financial Statements



KidsVoice Audited Financial Statemen....pdf

Certification & Submission

I certify, to the best of my knowledge, that:

- 1. The tax-exempt status of this Organization is still in effect,
- 2. This Organization does not support or engage in any terrorist activity, and
- 3. If a grant is awarded to this Organization, the proceeds of that grant will not be distributed or used to benefit any organization or individual supporting or engaged in terrorism, or used for any other unlawful purpose.

Signature

Date

Friday, September 12, 2025

Name

Garth Graeper

Title

Director of Development



Friday, September 12, 2025

Allegheny County Bar Foundation - Legal Aid Provider Grant

Letter of Inquiry (LOI) - 2024-25 Cycle

Background Information

Name of Organization Neighborhood Legal Services Assn. (NLS)

Employer Identification Number (EIN) 25-1157129

Year Founded 1966

Mission Statement

The mission of Neighborhood Legal Services (NLS) is to meet the civil legal needs of low-income and vulnerable individuals in our community through effective legal representation and education.

NLS envisions a just community where all people are treated fairly and have access to civil legal representation to meet their basic needs of safety, economic security, and stability.

Executive Director Ms. I. Kristine Bergstrom, Esq.

Executive Director Email bergstromk@nlsa.us

Preferred Pronouns she/her/hers

Contact Person (if different from Executive Director) Ms. Christine Kirby

Title Development Director

Email kirbyc@nlsa.us

Organization Address 928 Penn Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA, 15222

Phone Number (412) 586-6137

Fax (412) 765-3223

Website www.nlsa.us

Current Annual Operating Budget 9727574

Proposal Information

Grant Request Name

Pathways to Justice: Unlocking Economic Mobility

Summary of Request

To support low-income Allegheny County residents in clearing and/or sealing criminal records so they can access jobs, housing, and stability. This investment will remove barriers to opportunity while advancing economic equity through expanded access to justice.

Total Project Cost

85000

Type of Support

Existing Program/Project Support

Definitions:

- *General Operating Support: unrestricted funding that can be used flexibly to support any of an organization's costs to fulfill its mission (rather than supporting a specific project or program).*
- *Existing Program/Project Support: funding to support all or part of an already established or ongoing program or project.*
- *New Program/Project Support: funding to support or enable the establishment of a new program or project.*

Project Start Date

Thursday, January 1, 2026

Project End Date

Thursday, December 31, 2026

Narrative Information

Overview of Grant Request

NLS proposes Pathways to Justice: Unlocking Economic Mobility, an initiative that will continue to provide free legal representation for low-income residents of Allegheny County seeking criminal record expungement or sealing under Pennsylvania's Clean Slate laws. While Pennsylvania's automated record-clearing system has cleared millions of records since 2019, a substantial portion of cases still require an individual to file a petition for expungement or limited access sealing—steps that are daunting without legal help.

In Allegheny County alone, more than 2.7 million non-conviction cases and over 2.8 million summary conviction cases remain in the record system, alongside 23,135 misdemeanor cases and more than 1,000 felony cases that may be eligible for relief but are not automatically sealed. Many of these require careful legal review and petition-based sealing. In particular, misdemeanor convictions and certain felony drug and property offense while technically eligible for record sealing, determining if the petition is meritorious requires careful legal analysis of the facts. Without a thorough review of the record and legal representation, individuals often struggle to understand eligibility, complete filings, and advocate for relief in court.

Through Pathways to Justice, attorneys will:

Represent eligible individuals in filing petitions for expungement and petitions for sealing.

- Provide community legal education workshops and clinics to increase awareness of Clean Slate eligibility and rights.
- Partner with workforce agencies, reentry programs, and neighborhood organizations to reach low-income Allegheny County residents most affected.
- Reduce systemic inequities by focusing on communities disproportionately impacted by criminal justice involvement.

The impact is clear: Clearing or sealing records removes long-standing obstacles to jobs, professional licensing, education, housing, and family stability. Each successful petition helps not only an individual, but also strengthens families and contributes to the broader economic vitality of Allegheny County.

Without intervention, tens of thousands of residents will remain locked out of stability and opportunity. This is why Pathways to Justice: Unlocking Economic Mobility is needed now—offering free representation, petition-based sealing and/or expungements, and community-based clinics to remove barriers, advance racial and economic equity, and build a stronger Allegheny County.

Context/Background Information

NLS has been the cornerstone of civil legal aid in Allegheny County for nearly 60 years. As the largest provider of free civil legal services in Southwestern Pennsylvania, NLS helps thousands of low-income individuals and families each year secure safety, stability, and justice when their most basic needs (personal safety, housing, income, etc.) are at stake.

Collaboration is central to our legal aid mission. NLS works hand-in-hand with the Allegheny County Bar Association's Pro Bono Center, the Pittsburgh Pro Bono Partnership, and volunteers mobilizing hundreds of pro bono lawyers from law firms, corporations, and the broader legal community. These partnerships expand capacity, strengthen pro bono legal services, and demonstrate that our work is widely endorsed by the legal profession. Foundations and other funders of legal aid services offered by NLS consistently highlight the importance of visible support from the legal community and private bar as a measure of credibility and impact. This support is especially vital in today's funding environment. While NLS manages a multimillion-dollar budget, a significant portion is tied to federal legal aid funding—an increasingly uncertain resource. Private philanthropy, local foundations, and the backing of the legal community ensure that NLS remains stable and able to innovate even when federal funding is at risk. By investing in NLS, funders help safeguard an institution trusted by clients, courts, and the community alike.

Several NLS staff will contribute to the execution and success of this project including: staff attorneys, intake personnel, our community engagement coordinator and pro bono staff. The Pathways to Justice Project will be managed by NLS's Managing Attorney for Economic Security Melissa Evans who will receive support from Pro Bono Manager Liz Parker who will work to coordinate and expand pro bono involvement ensuring its alignment with current volunteer initiatives.

Project Goals

Pathways to Justice: Unlocking Economic Mobility, a project to provide free, high-quality legal representation in expungement and record sealing for low-income residents of Allegheny County. A criminal record—whether for a summary offense, a dismissed charge, or an old conviction—continues to erect barriers to stable housing, employment, education, and civic engagement. Without assistance, many eligible individuals remain unaware of their rights, unable to complete the legal process, or unable to afford legal help.

In Allegheny County, the need is both real and pressing. Meanwhile, studies show that people with criminal records in this region face unemployment rates many times that of the general population, and that even during labor shortages, those with records are often excluded from job opportunities due to stigma or lack of access.

The Pathways to Justice Project goals are to:

- Increase access to justice by reducing the backlog of expungement petitions, ensuring low- and moderate-income petitioners receive counsel.
- Promote economic mobility by helping people clear records that block entry to jobs, professional licensing, housing, and education.
- Expand outreach to underserved communities (i.e. Rankin, McKeesport, Braddock, Wilmerding, Mount Oliver, Homewood, Wilkinsburg)
- Advance equity and community health by focusing efforts on neighborhoods and populations disproportionately impacted by criminal justice involvement, especially Black, Brown, and other marginalized communities.

The burden of criminal records is not evenly shared. For example, black residents of Allegheny County are disproportionately arrested, charged, and convicted—even for minor offenses—leading to deeper, long-term economic harms. Record barriers compound existing inequities in housing, wages, and opportunity.

Although Pennsylvania law allows many of these records to be sealed or expunged, the petition process is complex and intimidating. Individuals must determine eligibility, draft legal petitions, file in the Court of Common Pleas, and often appear in court. For low-income residents—especially those with limited literacy, unstable housing, unemployment or lack of legal knowledge—these barriers make relief effectively out of reach.

To overcome these barriers, NLS will conduct regular outreach throughout Allegheny County, host quarterly record-clearing clinics in partnership with trusted neighborhood-based organizations. By meeting clients directly in their communities—at libraries, workforce centers, and local nonprofits. NLS will provide eligibility screening, on-site information legal information sessions, one-on-one consultations, and direct filing assistance. These clinics ensure that eligible residents are not excluded from relief simply because they lack transportation, internet access, or legal knowledge.

Population to be served

NLS will serve low-income Allegheny County residents living at or below 125% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (and individual making less than \$18,825 annually or \$1,569 monthly) who possess criminal records eligible for expungements and/or petition-based criminal record sealing.

A significant number of county residents remain burdened by old or minor criminal records that create lasting barriers to employment, housing, education, and family stability. While Pennsylvania's Clean Slate law has sealed millions of cases automatically, millions more remain that require individuals to file a petition to clear their records.

There is a huge demand for criminal record sealing and expungement advocacy. As of May 2025, Allegheny County alone still has:

- 2.7 million Non-conviction cases (4.5 million offenses);
- 2.8 million Summary conviction cases (nearly 3 million offenses); and
- Over 23,000 misdemeanor conviction cases and more than 1,000 felony cases eligible for petition-based sealing.

These staggering numbers translate into real, daily harm for community members. A dismissed charge can still appear in a background check and block a job offer, lease approval, or professional license. People with records face unemployment rates nearly five times higher than the general population. Locally,

workforce development agencies consistently identify record clearance as one of the most urgent barriers to employment.

Without intervention, many county residents will remain locked out of stability and opportunity. This is why Pathways to Justice: Unlocking Economic Mobility is needed now—offering free representation, petition-based sealing and/or expungements, and community-based clinics to remove barriers, advance racial and economic equity, and build a stronger Allegheny County. NLS plans to serve 225 clients through this project.

Attachments

IRS Determination Letter



NLSA IRS 501(c)(3) Determination Let... .pdf

IRS Form 990



2023-Form990_FY23-24.pdf

Program/Project Budget (see below for template)



ACBF_Legal_Aid_Proposed_Budget_N... .pdf

[Sample Program/Project Budget Template](#)

Current Operating Budget



NLS_2025_2026_Budget_Board_Appr... .pdf

Audited Financial Statements



2024-Audit.pdf

Certification & Submission

I certify, to the best of my knowledge, that:

- 1. The tax-exempt status of this Organization is still in effect,
- 2. This Organization does not support or engage in any terrorist activity, and
- 3. If a grant is awarded to this Organization, the proceeds of that grant will not be distributed or used to benefit any organization or individual supporting or engaged in terrorism, or used for any other unlawful purpose.

Signature



Date

Friday, September 12, 2025

Name

Christine Kirby

Title

Development Director



Friday, September 12, 2025

Allegheny County Bar Foundation - Legal Aid Provider Grant

Letter of Inquiry (LOI) - 2024-25 Cycle

Background Information

Name of Organization	Women’s Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh
Employer Identification Number (EIN)	25-1264376
Year Founded	1974

Mission Statement

Women’s Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh (WC&S) was founded in 1974 as one of the first six domestic violence shelters in the United States. WC&S works to fulfill its mission to strengthen our ability to meet the individual and evolving needs of those affected by domestic violence by investing in the growth of our people, deepening community engagement, and amplifying the voices of all survivors. Over the past 51 years, WC&S has created and implemented effective programs for intervention and prevention of domestic violence, including its Civil Law Project (CLP).

Executive Director	Nicole Molinaro
Executive Director Email	nicolem@wcspittsburgh.org
Preferred Pronouns	she/her/hers
Contact Person (if different from Executive Director)	Kristin Brown
Title	Chief Development Officer
Email	brownk@wcspittsburgh.org
Organization Address	P.O. Box 9024 Pittsburgh, PA, 15224
Phone Number	(412) 894-4564
Website	wcspittsburgh.org
Current Annual Operating Budget	8137566

Proposal Information

Grant Request Name

Providing Civil Legal Representation for Victims of Domestic Violence

Summary of Request

To support the WC&S Civil Law Project in its free legal representation for victims of intimate partner violence in divorce actions with alimony and/or property claims for victims of intimate partner violence. CLP attorneys are domestic violence legal experts and provide trauma-informed and culturally and linguistically competent legal services.

Total Project Cost

1213260

Type of Support

Existing Program/Project Support

Definitions:

- General Operating Support: unrestricted funding that can be used flexibly to support any of an organization's costs to fulfill its mission (rather than supporting a specific project or program).
- Existing Program/Project Support: funding to support all or part of an already established or ongoing program or project.
- New Program/Project Support: funding to support or enable the establishment of a new program or project.

Project Start Date

Thursday, January 1, 2026

Project End Date

Thursday, December 31, 2026

Narrative Information

Overview of Grant Request

Women’s Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh (WC&S) seeks funding for its Civil Law Project (CLP) to support the salary of a specialized domestic violence/family law attorney to provide free, legal representation for victims of intimate partner violence (IPV) in divorce actions with alimony and/or property claims as well as divorce actions filed under section 3301(c)(2) of the Divorce Code where a spouse has been convicted of a personal injury crime against the other. Priority will be given to those IPV victims who need to file or respond to a divorce action to maintain a residence, spousal support, and/or limited financial assets and to those who are in high-danger situations from a spouse who has been convicted of committing a personal injury crime against them.

The requested funding would assist a CLP attorney to provide specialized divorce representation for IPV victims who have suffered abuse as defined in the Protection from Abuse (PFA) statute and whose incomes are at or below 187.5% of the federal poverty guidelines (in keeping with IOLTA funding guidelines). Ten (10) such victims would receive free legal representation in divorce actions that include alimony and/or property claims or in divorce actions filed under 3301(c)(2). Legal services to be provided would include the filing of appropriate divorce pleadings along with any needed alimony or equitable distribution claims or affidavits under Section 3301(c)(2), filing of required inventories/forms/agreements, and attendance at any motions, conciliations and/or hearings. Thus, WC&S requests \$10,000 for CLP to provide legal representation in ten (10) complex divorce cases. WC&S has consistently found that this funding is helping to meet a significant, valuable, and ongoing client need.

Wife and Husband came to the United States in 2016 as refugees from the Syrian civil war. Husband abused Wife here, including hitting her with his car after accusing her of having an affair. CLP represents Wife in the Divorce case filed by Husband in which Wife needed to file a Petition Raising Claims to preserve the home for herself and the four children. There is a small marital estate consisting of the house with equity, money from a tax return, and a fifteen-year-old car. The house has been appraised by both sides and there is no consensus on a value. At the upcoming conciliation and at a possible equitable distribution hearing, CLP attorney will continue to work to ensure that Wife obtains the best possible settlement which would include Wife retaining the residence where she and the children can continue to live. This would allow Wife and the children to move forward in a place of safety and security.

All victims represented by CLP will be referred to for the full range of free services available at WC&S. Such comprehensive support from WC&S will provide invaluable assistance to CLP clients as they work to end

the violence in their lives.

Context/Background Information

WC&S' CLP was developed in 2001 with funding from the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV). Since then, CLP has developed into a respected small law firm and provider of free legal services in Allegheny County with a statewide reputation for high-quality legal work on behalf of IPV victims. Current funding for CLP includes continuing support from PCADV as well as grants from the PA IOLTA Board and the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. CLP, however, is not fully funded by such grants and the current volume of requests for legal services by victims of IPV exceeds CLP's capacity to provide requested legal representation.

When CLP was established, WC&S organized a formal advisory committee to assess legal needs. Committee members included Neighborhood Legal Services (NLS), the Allegheny County Bar Association, Family Court, the County Law Department, and DV program representatives. The committee assisted CLP with developing case priorities to target gaps in county legal services and prevent duplication. CLP continues to work with these partners (on task forces, committees, joint grants, fundraising, pro bono efforts, etc.) to maximize local legal resources and ensure that DV victims' emerging legal needs are addressed. More than a decade ago, CLP began to handle more divorce defense after it was identified as a gap area in existing services for women. CLP has continued meeting with the Bar Association's Pro Bono leadership and NLS, including through a formal Victims of Crime Act collaborative project, to adjust case priorities in accordance with changing attorney resources and need. To obtain client feedback on how CLP can best meet client needs, CLP uses QR codes in closing letters to clients which, when scanned, lead to an online survey. Additionally, CLP is currently in the planning stages of an updated needs assessment survey which will be mailed to clients, community partners, and other local providers of legal services. Responsiveness to client need is at the core of CLP and all of WC&S. Accordingly, CLP found that IPV victims not only need representation in divorce cases involving equitable distribution and/or alimony claims, but that there is also a request for representation in no-fault divorces by a specialty domestic violence attorney where the victim is in danger from their spouse who has been convicted of a personal injury crime against them. These divorces involve filing an Affidavit of Presumed Consent and giving notice to the other spouse who is often incarcerated as a result of the conviction.

CLP currently operates with five full-time attorneys including a Legal Director, a Chief Legal Officer, three staff attorneys, two paralegals, and a legal administrative assistant. Operating as a small law firm within WC&S, CLP has its own confidentiality and policies/procedures such that no other WC&S department can have access to its client information.

Project Goals

Continuing support from the Allegheny County Bar Foundation is requested to enable a WC&S Civil Law Project (CLP) attorney to provide specialized divorce representation for victims of intimate partner violence (IPV) whose incomes are at or below 187.5% of the federal poverty guidelines. Ten (10) such victims would receive free legal representation by a CLP attorney in divorce actions that include alimony and/or property claims or in divorce actions filed under section 3301(c)(2) of the Divorce Code where a spouse has been convicted of a personal injury crime against the other. As set forth in the proposed budget for this project, the CLP attorney would handle ten (10) divorce cases for 14.3 hours each (project total hours of 143) at a rate of \$69.93. This should enable the CLP attorney to achieve favorable legal outcomes for the ten (10) IPV victims. Legal services would include the filing of appropriate divorce pleadings, including the Affidavit to Establish Presumption of Consent Under Section 3301(c)(2), along with any needed alimony or equitable distribution claims or filing of required inventories/forms/agreements, and attendance at any motions, conciliations and/or hearings.

Anticipated legal outcomes would be similar to those obtained by CLP under current and past ACBF funding, for example: representing a disabled client in divorce whose Husband turned off the water in the residence in order to try to force her out of the home; ensuring a Wife maintains the same residence until a minor child turns 18; and representing a client with serious mental health issues who is unable maintain employment and who has a claim on a small business her husband started during the parties' marriage. CLP's service delivery plan would include the CLP attorney's first meeting with an IPV victim taking place, based on the victim's choice, at the safe and secure main WC&S facility; at a safe location offsite; or via a virtual meeting on Teams. After initial interviews and legal advice, cases would be accepted for extended representation if it is demonstrated that: client is a victim of IPV; client has suffered abuse as defined in PA's PFA Act; client meets the income guidelines; and the divorce action is related to the client's IPV situation. Priority would be given where the safety of client is at high risk, client is in a DV shelter, or client is faced with loss of housing, income, or limited assets. For all cases, the CLP attorney will connect the

clients with the full range of free DV program services offered by WC&S, which include 24-hour hotline assistance for safety planning and emotional support, shelter and housing assistance (including financial relocation assistance), immediate needs coordination, counseling for victims and their children, children’s programming, and more.


Population to be served

The population to be served by the proposed project are victims of intimate partner violence (IPV) in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. According to the Allegheny County Department of Human Services, IPV victims are reaching out for help in large numbers in Allegheny County. Every day, there are an average of eighty-six (86) calls to 911 for domestic violence. Every month, the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police administer approximately 100 Lethality Assessment Screens when responding to IPV, and more than 70% of the victims in these cases are found to be at high risk for being killed by their intimate partner and are referred to the Women’s Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh (WC&S) for safety planning and assistance. Annually, WC&S serves over 7,600 victims of domestic violence in Allegheny County. In 2024, there were more than 3,500 Emergency PFAs filed in the Minor Judiciary and 3,700 PFA Petitions filed in Family Court. In Allegheny County, there are over 3,500 arrests and new criminal filings each year for domestic violence. And, it is well known that intimate partner violence is underreported. Over the past several years, the National Crime Victimization Survey has estimated that between 50 – 60% of victimizations of intimate partner violence were not reported to police.


From this population of domestic violence cases, IPV victims are referred to the WC&S Civil Law Project (CLP) for legal representation. In the most recently completed fiscal year of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025, CLP opened cases for 417 new clients and provided legal assistance in 723 legal cases involving IPV. The new clients included 52 victims who were refugees/immigrants and 34 with limited English proficiency, whose primary languages were reported as: Arabic (8); Spanish (8); Nepali (6); Russian (6); Uzbek (2); Swahili (1); Portuguese (1); Mandarin (1); Kirundi (1). As confirmed by a recent PA IOLTA Board analysis, the demographic make-up of CLP clients demonstrates that CLP is delivering its services throughout the various racial and ethnic communities of Allegheny County, including traditionally underserved and marginalized communities. In fiscal year 2024-2025, CLP closed 703 cases and the racial/ethnic breakdown for these clients was as follows: 266 (37%) African American; 36 (5%) Asian/Pacific Islander; 44 (6%) Hispanic/Latino; 7 (1%) Middle Eastern; 302 (42%) White (non-Hispanic); 5 (1%) Native Americans; and 43 (6%) multiracial/other.

Attachments

IRS Determination Letter

 501 (C)(3) Determination Ltr (2011).pdf

IRS Form 990

 WC&S CLP 990PD FINAL PACKAGE 2... .pdf

Program/Project Budget (see below for template)

 2026 Allegheny County Bar Assoc bud....pdf

[Sample Program/Project Budget Template](#)

Current Operating Budget

 Allocated Budget for 2025-2026.pdf




Certification & Submission

I certify, to the best of my knowledge, that:

- 1. The tax-exempt status of this Organization is still in effect,
- 2. This Organization does not support or engage in any terrorist activity, and
- 3. If a grant is awarded to this Organization, the proceeds of that grant will not be distributed or used to benefit any organization or individual supporting or engaged in terrorism, or used for any other unlawful purpose.

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Molinaro".

Date

Friday, September 12, 2025

Name

Nicole Molinaro

Title

President/ CEO



Wednesday, September 10, 2025

Allegheny County Bar Foundation - Legal Aid Provider Grant

Letter of Inquiry (LOI) - 2024-25 Cycle

Background Information

Name of Organization	Women's Law Project
Employer Identification Number (EIN)	23-7354667
Year Founded	1974
Mission Statement	WLP leverages the power of the law to eliminate gender bias and discrimination.
Executive Director	Ms. Susan Frietsche
Executive Director Email	sfrietsche@womenslawproject.org
Preferred Pronouns	she/her/hers
Contact Person (if different from Executive Director)	Brittany Green
Title	Director of Development
Email	bgreen@womenslawproject.org
Organization Address	239 Fourth Avenue, Suite 2108 Pittsburgh, PA, 15222
Phone Number	(412) 281-2787
Website	www.womenslawproject.org
Current Annual Operating Budget	2613531

Proposal Information

Grant Request Name General Operating Support

Summary of Request

To support the general operations and mission of Women's Law Project.

Total Project Cost	2613531
Type of Support	General Operating Support

Definitions:

- General Operating Support: unrestricted funding that can be used flexibly to support any of an organization's costs to fulfill its mission (rather than supporting a specific project or program).
- Existing Program/Project Support: funding to support all or part of an already established or ongoing program or project.
- New Program/Project Support: funding to support or enable the establishment of a new program or project.

Project Start Date	Thursday, January 1, 2026
Project End Date	Thursday, December 31, 2026

Narrative Information

Overview of Grant Request

Women's Law Project (WLP) aims to eliminate gender bias and sex discrimination using the power of the law. We leverage impact litigation, policy advocacy, public education, and direct representation to dismantle discriminatory laws, policies, and practices, and eradicate institutional biases and unfair treatment based on sex or gender. We use an intersectional analysis to prioritize work on behalf of people facing multiple forms of oppression based on sex, gender, race, ethnicity, class, disability, incarceration, pregnancy, and immigration status. As our national leaders are rapidly dismantling federal constitutional protections, the proudly state-based Women’s Law Project is well-positioned to construct new state constitutional and legal rights to fill the void. We have already begun to increase the power of state and local governments to protect women’s, girls’, and LGBTQ people’s safety, health, and autonomy. We are pursuing this goal with a combination of creative, cutting-edge lawyering, community involvement, and policy initiatives.

WLP’s track record includes groundbreaking victories in reproductive rights; Medicaid coverage of abortion; insurance coverage for domestic violence survivors; pregnancy and lactation accommodations; second-parent adoption rights; paid sick leave; gender equity in school athletics programs; equitable restroom access for trans and gender-diverse students; welfare policy reforms that increased child support and eliminated punitive residency requirements; and improvements in police response to sexual assault.

Context/Background Information

Under President Trump, federal agencies including the Department of Justice, the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights, the EEOC, and the Department of Labor—agencies that have historically been the champions of victims of sex discrimination—have been decimated. Because we are witnessing the destruction of federal institutions that have been essential to protecting people from discrimination, WLP is looking to state sources of legal power, including progressive local governments and expansive state constitutional provisions, to build durable and equitable legal protections for vulnerable groups. Alarmingly, national political figures have become feverishly destructive of the transgender community, threatening to criminalize doctors and parents for providing trans children with lifesaving gender-affirming care, and attempting to prevent transgender people from participating in school sports or using gendered bathrooms and locker rooms. Misinformation, fear, and prejudice are fueling this crackdown on people who do not conform to gender stereotypes. Similarly, negative racial and ethnic stereotypes are driving policies that target people of color for harsh punishment. In what feels like a flashback to the 1950s, some opinion leaders are saying out loud that women’s only appropriate role is as wife and mother. These archaic beliefs underlie regressive policies aimed at driving women out of the workplace and away from the ballot box.

Project Goals

We will strategically employ impact litigation and individual representation to protect and expand the

rights of women, girls, and LGBTQ+ people in Pennsylvania, focusing especially on reproductive rights. Specifically, we will advance our challenge to the Medicaid abortion coverage ban; represent trans patients denied gender-affirming care on the basis of their gender identity; and file new litigation under the state Equal Rights Amendment. Our attorneys will represent workers who were fired or placed on unpaid leave because they became pregnant, and students whose requests for reasonable accommodations while they recover from a sexual assault have been ignored. We will continue to represent young people who need a “judicial bypass” court order to allow them to consent on their own to abortion care. We will expand and improve our services to the clients in our individual representation cases through the recent addition of a social worker to our staff. Our social worker, who is licensed with an MSW degree, will also be a resource to our staff attorneys who are exposed to the secondary trauma of working closely with rape and domestic violence survivors. We will provide public education on the issues we work on to the community and stakeholders. We will deepen our collaborations with other organizations—legal services providers, LGBTQ rights and racial justice advocacy groups, sister orgs that champion survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence, to name a few—in order to maintain powerful coalitions that can take on the challenges we are facing in all spheres of gender equity.

Population to be served


Our clients include all freestanding abortion clinics in Pennsylvania, as well as volunteer clinic escort organizations and other “helpers.” In addition to these organizational clients, we offer individual representation. In the past year, we have represented low-wage workers and students in roughly 75 individual cases, most of which involved sexual harassment and assault, illegal retaliation, unequal pay, or pregnancy and lactation discrimination. We obtain “judicial bypass” court orders in Allegheny County Family Court, which permit minors to get confidential abortion care; these cases require particular sensitivity and care and must be highly accessible to young people facing numerous barriers to receiving confidential health care. We represent women, girls, and LGBTQ+ people who are not receiving equitable treatment in schools, workplaces, public accommodations, and prisons. We offer client-centered legal services prioritizing the needs of people who have no other source of legal assistance, and who are suffering because of gender oppression and sex- and race-based stereotypes. The vast majority of our clients are low-income; most present more than one legal issue at intake; and some are limited-English proficiency.

Attachments

IRS Determination Letter

 IRS 501c3 letter WLP 2012.pdf

IRS Form 990

 WLP Form 990 Final 6.30.2024.pdf

Program/Project Budget (see below for template)


 FY26 WLP Org Budget.pdf

[Sample Program/Project Budget Template](#)

Current Operating Budget

 FY26 WLP Org Budget_8733.pdf

Audited Financial Statements

 WLP Audited FS FYE 6.30.24 (1).pdf

Certification & Submission

I certify, to the best of my knowledge, that:

- 1. The tax-exempt status of this Organization is still in effect,
- 2. This Organization does not support or engage in any terrorist activity, and
- 3. If a grant is awarded to this Organization, the proceeds of that grant will not be distributed or used to benefit any organization or individual supporting or engaged in terrorism, or used for any other unlawful purpose.

Signature



Date

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

Name

Brittany Green

Title

Director of Development