

2026 ACBF Legal Aid Grant Applicants - Moving on to Pitch Event

	Name of Organization	Grant Request Name	Type of Support	Summary of Request	Total Project Cost	Current Annual Operating Budget
1	Arise Immigration Services	General Operating Support	General Operating Support	To support free representation of Pittsburgh asylum-seekers and training of advocates around the country as we work on our cases together.	\$ 150,675.00	\$ 110,000.00
2	Christian Legal Aid of Pittsburgh	General Operating Support	General Operating Support	To support Christian Legal Aid of Pittsburgh's mission to provide free, high-quality civil legal services to low-income and vulnerable individuals and families in Allegheny County. Funding will sustain CLA's legal clinics, volunteer attorney network, client services, and community outreach, expanding access to justice for individuals who cannot afford private legal representation.	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 48,680.00
3	Education Law Center-PA	Ensuring Access to Quality Education for All Students with Disabilities	Existing Program/Project Support	To support ELC-PA'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 – such as multilingual students. We provide legal consultation and representation to families and support community partners in their advocacy to ensure students receive the necessary supports and services for their classroom inclusion.	\$ 195,500.00	\$ 3,293,600.00
4	Hello Neighbor	Hello Neighbor Immigration Legal Services	Existing Program/Project Support	To support Hello Neighbor's Immigration Legal Services program in providing accessible, high-quality legal representation for refugees and immigrants in Allegheny County and Southwestern PA. This grant will help meet the unprecedented community demand for critical services, including Green Card applications, and provide urgent guidance for our newest neighbors.	\$ 356,304.00	\$ 4,834,096.32
5	Jewish Family and Community Services	Emergency Support for Unaccompanied Children	Existing Program/Project Support	To support legal protections for 200 unaccompanied children at risk of detention and deportation.	\$ 51,645.00	\$ 13,717,151.00
6	Neighborhood Legal Services Association (NLS)	From Protection to Safety: Civil Legal Aid for Survivors of Domestic Violence	Existing Program/Project Support	To support civil legal representation for Allegheny County victims of domestic violence, sexual violence and intimidation seeking protection orders, child custody assistance and related family law services. Flexible funding will allow NLS to help survivors achieve lasting safety and stability, including those who may not financially qualify for continued legal representation under other restricted public (government) funding sources.	\$ 77,981.00	\$ 12,397,378.00
7	Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh	Offering Civil Legal Representation to Victims of Intimate Partner Violence	Existing Program/Project Support	WVCS is requesting \$10,000 for our Civil Law Project (CLP) department as legal advocates provide free legal representation to victims of intimate partner violence (IPV) in divorce actions with alimony and/or property claims for victims of IPV. CLP attorneys are IPV legal experts and provide survivor-centered and culturally and linguistically competent legal services.	\$ 1,235,295.00	\$ 8,609,958.00
8	Women's Law Project	General Operating Support	General Operating Support	To support the general operating budget at Women's Law Project.	\$ 2,858,399.00	\$ 2,858,399.00



Tuesday, August 4, 2026

Allegheny County Bar Foundation - Legal Aid Provider Grant

Letter of Inquiry (LOI) - 2026-27 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

Preferred Pronouns she/her/hers

Organization Address PO BOX 79099
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA, 15216-0099

Phone Number (412) 445-7604

Website ariseimmigration.org

Current Annual Operating Budget 110000

Proposal Information

Grant Request Name General Operating Support

Summary of Request

To support free representation of Pittsburgh asylum-seekers and training of advocates around the country as we work on our cases together.

Total Project Cost 150675

General Operating Support

- *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 Friday, January 1, 2027

Project End Date Friday, December 31, 2027

Overview of Grant Request

Arise provides high-quality, free legal representation to asylum seekers in Pittsburgh while training the next generation of immigration advocates across the country. We are the only nonprofit organization in Western Pennsylvania dedicated to affirmative asylum (individuals seeking protection from persecution through the U.S. immigration system).

Our work is rooted in our commitment to equal access to justice. Asylum seekers face significant legal and procedural barriers to obtaining protection, yet few can afford counsel. Many are also ineligible for employment authorization during portions of their cases, leaving them particularly vulnerable to exploitation, trafficking, and other forms of abuse. Recent increases in government filing fees have created additional obstacles to obtaining both work authorization and lawful status.

Arise addresses these barriers by providing comprehensive, no-cost legal representation and targeted financial assistance for essential case-related expenses, including government filing fees when necessary. By ensuring that asylum seekers have meaningful access to legal representation and the immigration system, we help protect fundamental rights while strengthening the integrity of the legal process.

Context/Background Information

The demand for immigration legal services has grown as immigration laws and policies have become increasingly complex. Similarly, the number of people displaced by persecution and violence has reached historic levels. At the same time, recent changes to asylum law and policy have significantly narrowed access to protection, making it more difficult for eligible individuals to successfully navigate the legal process without representation.

These legal barriers have serious consequences. Individuals fleeing persecution often navigate a highly technical legal system while facing language barriers, financial hardship, and prolonged periods without authorization to work. Even meritorious claims may fail if applicants are unable to present the necessary evidence.

Against this backdrop, access to competent legal representation is more critical than ever. Effective counsel helps ensure that asylum seekers receive a fair opportunity to present their claims and pursue the protection available under the law.

Project Goals

- Represent 8 asylum-seekers (with both the asylum application and accompanying work permit application)
- Represent clients with 6 emergency cases (as a result of recently implemented policies)
- Continue representing clients with current cases (55 cases)
- Train 30 mentees in asylum law

Population to be served

We will represent the above-mentioned Pittsburgh clients with their cases in 2027. Our clients live under 150% of the federal poverty guidelines and fled to the U.S. from Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Eastern Europe, and the Caribbean.

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	Tuesday, August 4, 2026
Name	Jen White
Title	Executive Director

ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET

3 Years

Arise Immigration Services FY 2027

Fiscal Year ending: 12/31/2027 %

REVENUE			
SECURED Revenue			
	Surplus FY 2026	\$60,000.00	38%
	Allegheny County Bar Foundation Legal Aid Grant	\$10,000.00	6%
	Non-Profit Partners Collaborative Grant	\$29,196.00	18%
	Non-Profit Partners Emergency Grant	\$12,000.00	8%
	IOLTA	\$10,000.00	6%
ANTICIPATED Revenue	IOLTA	\$15,000.00	9%
	Individual Donations--FOR CLIENT EXPENSES	\$10,000.00	6%
	Partnership with the Collaborative for Immigrant Impact	\$12,000.00	8%
	TOTAL REVENUE	\$158,196.00	100%
EXPENSES			0%
Office/Supplies/Tech	USPS PO Box	\$175.00	0%
	Google Suite	\$150.00	0%
	DocuSign	\$400.00	0%
	Phone	\$1,200.00	1%
	Equipment (printer, paper, ink)	\$2,000.00	1%
	Zoom	\$750.00	0%
	Adobe	\$400.00	0%
	Microsoft 365	\$200.00	0%
	Database (case management)	\$2,000.00	1%
Subtotal:		\$7,275.00	5%
Professional Service	Lawyers4Nonprofits (Compliance Attorney)	\$400.00	0%
	Malpractice Insurance (4 advocates)	\$1,600.00	1%
	Pennsylvania Bar Membership (Jen White)	\$300.00	0%
	Bookkeeping & Accounting (Jitasa)	\$5,500.00	3%
	AILA Membership	\$600.00	0%
	Other Memberships for Legal Team	\$500.00	0%
	Accounting Firm Review of Financials (DeBlasio & DeBlasio Associates)	\$6,000.00	4%
Subtotal:		\$14,900.00	9%
Marketing	Squarespace Website (w/ Translation)	\$1,000.00	1%
	VistaPrint & Marketing Materials	\$350.00	0%
Subtotal:		\$1,350.00	1%
Casework	Travel (to Clinics & Interviews in VA)	\$8,000.00	5%
	Contract Director of Programming (Veronica Reinhagen)	\$50,000.00	
	Contract Attorney (Jen White)	\$55,000.00	35%
	Interpretation/Translation	\$2,000.00	1%
	Mental Health Support for Legal Team	\$1,000.00	1%
	Expert Witnesses	\$3,500.00	2%
	Filing Fees for Clients	\$5,000.00	3%
	Other Emergency Client Legal Needs	\$2,000.00	1%
	Trainings/Consultations with Legal Experts	\$1,000.00	1%
Subtotal:		\$127,500.00	49%
MISC.	Executive Director does not need Board authorization for these expenses	\$1,000.00	1%
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$150,675.00	95%
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)		\$7,521.00	5%

ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET

3 Years

Arise Immigration Services FY 2026

Fiscal Year ending: 12/31/2026 %

REVENUE			
SECURED Revenue			
	Surplus FY 2025	\$20,000.00	21%
	Allegheny County Bar Foundation Legal Aid Grant	\$10,000.00	10%
	Non-Profit Partners Collaborative Grant	\$29,196.00	30%
	Non-Profit Partners Emergency Grant	\$8,000.00	8%
	IOLTA	\$5,000.00	5%
ANTICIPATED Revenue	IOLTA	\$10,000.00	10%
	Individual Donations--FOR CLIENT EXPENSES	\$4,000.00	4%
	Partnership with the Collaborative for Immigrant Impact	\$10,000.00	10%
	TOTAL REVENUE	\$96,196.00	100%
EXPENSES			0%
Office/Supplies/Tech	USPS PO Box	\$175.00	0%
	Google Suite	\$150.00	0%
	DocuSign	\$400.00	0%
	Phone	\$1,200.00	1%
	Equipment (printer, paper, ink)	\$2,000.00	2%
	Zoom	\$750.00	1%
	Adobe	\$400.00	0%
	Microsoft 365	\$200.00	0%
	Claris Database (case management)	\$2,000.00	2%
Subtotal:		\$7,275.00	8%
Professional Service	Lawyers4Nonprofits (Compliance Attorney)	\$400.00	0%
	Malpractice Insurance (4 advocates)	\$1,600.00	2%
	Pennsylvania Bar Membership (Jen White)	\$300.00	0%
	Bookkeeping & Accounting (Jitasa)	\$5,500.00	6%
	AILA Membership	\$600.00	1%
	Other Memberships for Legal Team	\$500.00	1%
	Accounting Firm Review of Financials (DeBlasio & DeBlasio Associates)	\$6,000.00	6%
Subtotal:		\$14,900.00	15%
Marketing	Squarespace Website (w/ Translation)	\$1,000.00	1%
	VistaPrint & Marketing Materials	\$350.00	0%
Subtotal:		\$1,350.00	1%
Casework	Travel (to Clinics & Interviews in VA)	\$8,000.00	8%
	Contract Attorney (Jen White)	\$45,000.00	47%
	Interpretation/Translation	\$2,000.00	2%
	Mental Health Support for Legal Team	\$1,000.00	1%
	Expert Witnesses	\$3,500.00	4%
	Filing Fees for Clients	\$5,000.00	5%
	Other Emergency Client Legal Needs	\$2,000.00	2%
	Trainings/Consultations with Legal Experts	\$1,000.00	1%
Subtotal:		\$67,500.00	70%
MISC.	Executive Director does not need Board authorization for these expenses	\$1,000.00	1%
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$90,675.00	94%
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)		\$5,521.00	6%



Thursday, August 27, 2026

Allegheny County Bar Foundation - Legal Aid Provider Grant

Letter of Inquiry (LOI) - 2026-27 Cycle

Background Information

Name of Organization Christian Legal Aid of Pittsburgh

Employer Identification Number (EIN) 71-0988357

Year Founded 2004

Mission Statement

To demonstrate Christ's love by promoting accessible justice through the provision of legal counsel, prayer, and education to our neighbors in need.

Executive Director Lauren Darbouze

Executive Director Email ldarbouze@clapittsburgh.org

Preferred Pronouns

she/her/hers

Organization Address 801 Union Place
Pittsburgh, PA, 15212

Phone Number (412) 849-6831

Website www.clapittsburgh.org

Current Annual Operating Budget 48680

Proposal Information

Grant Request Name General Operating Support

Summary of Request

To support Christian Legal Aid of Pittsburgh's mission to provide free, high-quality civil legal services to low-income and vulnerable individuals and families in Allegheny County. Funding will sustain CLA's legal clinics, volunteer attorney network, client services, and community outreach, expanding access to justice for individuals who cannot afford private legal representation.

Total Project Cost 10000

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 Friday, January 1, 2027

Project End Date Friday, December 31, 2027

Narrative Information

Overview of Grant Request

Summary of Proposed Request

Christian Legal Aid of Pittsburgh (CLA) respectfully requests general operating support from the Allegheny County Bar Foundation to help sustain and expand its provision of free civil legal services to low-income and vulnerable individuals and families throughout Allegheny County.

CLA serves individuals who face significant legal needs but are unable to afford private counsel and may not otherwise have meaningful access to legal representation. Through volunteer attorneys, law students, and staff, CLA provides legal advice, brief services, and representation in matters that directly affect the stability and well-being of individuals and families, including family law, housing, protection from abuse, employment, public benefits, and other civil legal matters.

ACBF support would provide flexible funding to help CLA meet the ongoing costs of delivering these services, including client intake and screening, case coordination, volunteer attorney recruitment and support, legal research and resources, community outreach, and administrative operations. General operating support is particularly valuable because it allows CLA to respond to the legal needs emerging in the community rather than limiting assistance to a single program or issue area.

CLA's model also leverages the time and expertise of members of the legal community. By connecting clients with volunteer attorneys and engaging law students in service opportunities, CLA expands the capacity of the legal profession to address the justice gap while providing meaningful opportunities for attorneys and future attorneys to serve their community.

With the support of the Allegheny County Bar Foundation, CLA will continue its mission of ensuring that financial circumstances do not prevent individuals from obtaining the legal assistance they need to protect their families, homes, livelihoods, and fundamental rights. ACBF's investment will directly strengthen CLA's ability to provide high-quality civil legal services to those who need them most.

Context/Background Information

Christian Legal Aid of Pittsburgh (CLA) has served individuals and families in the Pittsburgh community for more than 20 years by providing free civil legal assistance to those who cannot afford private counsel. CLA was founded on the belief that access to justice should not depend on a person's financial circumstances. Through legal clinics, volunteer attorneys, and law student involvement, CLA addresses critical legal needs involving family, housing, employment, protection from abuse, and other civil matters. CLA's work also provides members of the legal profession with meaningful opportunities to fulfill their professional and civic responsibility through pro bono service. As demand for free legal services continues to exceed available resources, CLA remains committed to expanding access to high-quality legal assistance for vulnerable members of the community.

Project Goals

1. Expand access to justice by providing free, high-quality civil legal services to low-income and vulnerable

individuals and families who cannot afford private counsel.

- 2. Increase the number of individuals served through CLA’s legal clinics, volunteer attorney program, and other community-based services.
- 3. Strengthen CLA’s pro bono network by recruiting, training, and supporting volunteer attorneys and law students who provide legal assistance to CLA clients.
- 4. Address critical legal needs affecting family stability, housing, personal safety, employment, and other areas of civil law that have a significant impact on clients’ lives.
- 5. Strengthen CLA’s organizational capacity so that the organization can respond effectively to the growing demand for free civil legal services in the Pittsburgh community.

Population to be served

CLA serves low-income and vulnerable individuals and families throughout Allegheny County who face civil legal problems but cannot afford private legal representation, assisting litigants who fall at 250% of the federal poverty guidelines and below. Clients include individuals experiencing family conflict, housing instability, domestic violence, employment-related legal issues, and other circumstances in which access to legal assistance can significantly affect their safety, stability, and well-being. CLA prioritizes individuals with limited financial resources and those who face significant barriers to accessing legal services.

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	Thursday, August 27, 2026
Name	Lauren Darbouze
Title	Executive Director

**Christian Legal Aid of Pittsburgh
2026 Budget - Revised**

	2025 Budget (Annual)	2025 Totals (Actual)	2026 Budget (Annual)
RECEIPTS:			
Grants	\$0	\$0	\$0
Churches	\$4,800	\$4,400	\$4,800
Private Donations	\$39,950	\$33,448 *	\$43,880
TOTAL RECEIPTS:	\$44,750	\$37,848	\$48,680
EXPENDITURES:			
Payroll: Executive Director	\$18,000	\$20,000 **	\$19,000
Payroll: Clinic Manager	\$18,000	\$20,000 **	\$19,000
Payroll: Law Student Intern	\$1,500	\$2,633	\$2,800
Payroll: Staff Attorney	\$0	\$0	\$0
Payroll: Employer Payroll Taxes & Unemploymer	\$3,200	\$3,889	\$3,600
Payroll Processing Expenses	\$850	\$912	\$850
Workers Compensation Insurance	\$350	\$317	\$350
Employee Benefits (none)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal Employee Costs	\$41,900	\$47,751	\$45,600
Legal Research Services	\$0	\$0	\$0
Continuing Legal Education & Training	\$0	\$0	\$0
Malpractice Insurance	\$0	\$0	\$0
Office Supplies	\$0	\$65	\$0
Office Space (none currently)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Postage & Printing	\$600	\$460	\$700
Website Development and Maintenance	\$250	\$538	\$380
Telephone	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Advertising (brochures, events, etc.)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal Administrative Expenses	\$850	\$1,063	\$1,080
Volunteer Training & Materials	\$0	\$0	\$0
D&O and General Liability Insurance	\$2,000	\$1,982	\$2,000
Computer Equip. & Prog. (GRANT ONLY)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal Volunteer Support Expenses	\$2,000	\$1,982	\$2,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	\$44,750	\$50,796	\$48,680
BUDGET SURPLUS (DEFICIT):	\$0	-\$12,948	\$0

* Donations are net of scholarship money from Delia Bianchin

** 2025 Payroll includes 2024 bonuses



Allegheny County Bar Foundation - Legal Aid Provider Grant

Letter of Inquiry (LOI) - 2026-27 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
Mailing address different from above?	
Address	1800 JFK Blvd, Suite 1900A Philadelphia, PA, 19103
Phone Number	(412) 258-2120
Website	https://www.elc-pa.org/
Current Annual Operating Budget	3293600

Proposal Information

Grant Request Name

Ensuring Access to Quality Education for All Students with Disabilities

Summary of Request

To support ELC-PA’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 – such as multilingual students. We provide legal consultation and representation to families and support community partners in their advocacy to ensure students receive the necessary supports and services for their classroom inclusion.

Total Project Cost

195500

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).*
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Project Start Date

Friday, January 1, 2027

Project End Date

Friday, December 31, 2027

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. 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, face even deeper challenges to accessing quality education. We are also attuned to the way that our youngest learners – those in early childhood settings – are being removed from the classroom for manifestations of their disabilities. This project will focus on ensuring access to a free appropriate public education (FAPE) for these students, including by supporting pro bono attorneys and community partners.

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 legal guidance and technical assistance to our partners to build system-wide capacity to improve education outcomes for students with disabilities. In 2026, we deepened regionwide collaboration with Allegheny Co. organizations advancing immigrant rights (e.g., Latino Community Center). We provided training and ongoing legal consultation and technical assistance to ensure safe learning

environments and protect access to services to which students with disabilities are legally entitled.

The Helpline and our community engagement inform the systemic matters we prioritize. As an example, from calls to our Helpline, we know that preschool suspensions and expulsions, particularly for disability-related behaviors, remain a prevalent challenge for many families, and that children are being denied services to which they are legally entitled. We will continue to focus on advocating for what is necessary for inclusive schools for children of all ages and background, calling for the elimination of harmful practices and ensuring that students receive the support they need.

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. Following is a sampling of our relevant work in the county:

- We supported families and child-serving professionals who called our Education Helpline to address educational barriers experienced by individual students. In FY2026 (10/1/25 – present), we have assisted 143 Allegheny County families and child-serving professionals. Callers initially received information, advice, and referral services tailored to their questions and needs. Additional assistance was needed to resolve public education matters for 93 callers, who received legal consultation from a staff attorney. We provided direct legal representation seeking systemic relief and/or reform to 7 families, prioritizing further advocacy in cases involving students at the intersection of multiple underserved identities. Helpline data shows that approximately 73% of all calls (104) from Allegheny County residents pertained to challenges faced by students with disabilities.
- As an example of our impact, ELC represented “Laila,” a Pittsburgh-area Black student and English Learner who had not attended school for nearly 18 months due to the district’s failure to provide specialized transportation for her physical disability or supports in school so that she could move between classrooms. After we intervened, Laila was back in school the next day and the school began a special education evaluation. After the evaluation found that Laila has an orthopedic impairment and an intellectual disability, we worked with the IEP team to develop an IEP for her. We also obtained compensatory education services for Laila to make up for the school she missed. Laila’s parent recently contracted with Swahili-speaking tutors who will be assisting Laila with her academic development. As part of our settlement with the district, we also obtained systemic reforms. The district has revised its protocols for specialized transportation and has provided professional development training to staff in multiple buildings to explain the legal requirement for schools to identify and evaluate students who are suspected of having a disability.
- So far in FY2026, our Pittsburgh team trained 551 parents, youth, students, school district officials, judges, and lawyers through 15 training sessions/presentations, virtually and in person. The vast majority of trainings covered the rights of students with disabilities and/or had an additional focus on discipline, the rights of multilingual students, and other topics important to our community. As an example, in April 2026, ELC-PA’s Pittsburgh staff presented a webinar, “Supporting Multilingual Learners with Disabilities,” for educators across the Commonwealth through the Refugee Education Program Series.

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.
- 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 30,394 students ages 3-21 have been identified as having a disability (Penn Data, School District and Intermediate Unit Enrollments, 2024-25). 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.

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

Deborah Gordon Klehr

Date

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

Name

Deborah Gordon Klehr

Title

Executive Director

ACBF Legal Aid Grants Letter of Inquiry

Proposed Budget: Education Law Center-PA FY 2027

Revenue	Committed Funds	Pending Funds
1. Grants/Contracts/Contributions		
Local Government		
State Government		
Foundations (itemize on separate lines)		
Pittsburgh Foundation	25,000	
FISA Foundation	48,750	16,250
Grable Foundation	12,500	12,500
Staunton Farm Foundation		25,000
To be Determined	-	40,000
ACBF		10,000
Corporations (itemize on separate lines)		
Individuals		5,500
Other (specify)		
2. Earned Income		
Events		
Publications and Products		
3. Membership Income		
4. In-Kind Support		
5. Other (specify)		
TOTAL REVENUE	86,250	109,250
Expense	Amount Requested In This Proposal	Total Project Expenses
Personnel		
Salaries and Wages * (see Example below)		
Staff Attorneys	6,700	96,500
Administrative Salaries	400	23,400
Payroll Taxes	500	9,200
Benefits	800	15,900
Consultants and Professional Fees		16,400
Travel/Professional Development		
Operations		
Rent	600	15,200
Utilities		
Telecommunications	200	1,800
Postage/Messenger		
Printing and copying		
Equipment		
Supplies	300	9,400
Other	500	7,700
TOTAL EXPENSE	10,000	195,500

*(Example)		
<u>Full-Time Personnel</u>		
Executive Director \$		
<u>Part-Time Personnel</u>		
Staff Position #1 \$		
Staff Position #4 \$		
Staff Position #2 \$		
Staff Position #5 \$		
Staff Position #3 \$		
Staff Position #6 \$		
Surplus (Deficit)		
TOTAL REVENUE	10,000	195,500
(TOTAL EXPENSE)	10,000	195,500
TOTAL SURPLUS (DEFICIT)		

Education Law Center-PA**FY2026 Budget**

(Board Approved September 2025)

		FY2026 Budget
<u>Revenue</u>		
Foundation Revenue		
Donor Restricted to be released in FY26		1,076,100
Foundation Support: Committed		-
Foundation Support: To Be Raised		1,037,500
Total Foundation Revenue	\$	2,113,600
Earned Income/Contributions (To Be Raised)		
Attorney's Fees		100,000
Contracted Fees		75,000
Contributions		850,000
Training/Sales/Honoraria		5,000
Total Earned Income/Contributions	\$	1,030,000
Investment Income	\$	150,000
<u>Total Revenue</u>	\$	3,293,600
<u>Expenses</u>		
Personnel		
Salaries		1,994,900
Benefits		287,000
Taxes		163,100
Consultants		334,200
Retirement		43,500
Total Personnel	\$	2,822,700
Operating Expenses		
Occupancy		169,200
Office and Tech. Supplies		21,000
Printing/Publications		3,500
Resources		37,700
Dues		5,700
Equip. Rental and Maint.		8,000
Postage		2,000
Communication		10,000
Office Expenses		25,000
Staff Development		24,800
Insurance		22,000
Audit/Accounting		15,000
Travel		17,000
Fundraising		60,000
Extraordinary Expense: (Website)		50,000
Total Operating Expenses	\$	470,900
<u>Total Expenses</u>	\$	3,293,600
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$	-



**Allegheny County Bar Foundation - Legal Aid
Provider Grant**
Letter of Inquiry (LOI) - 2026-27 Cycle

Background Information

Name of Organization	Hello Neighbor
Employer Identification Number (EIN)	82-3695047
Year Founded	2017
Mission Statement	Hello Neighbor empowers 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
Contact Person (if different from Executive Director)	Olivia Dodson
Title	Grants Coordinator
Email	olivia@helloneighbor.io
Organization Address	6587 Hamilton Avenue, #1E Pittsburgh, PA, 15206
Phone Number	(412) 567-3946
Website	https://www.helloneighbor.io/
Current Annual Operating Budget	4834096.32

Proposal Information

Grant Request Name Hello Neighbor Immigration Legal Services

Summary of Request

To support Hello Neighbor's Immigration Legal Services program in providing accessible, high-quality legal representation for refugees and immigrants in Allegheny County and Southwestern PA. This grant will help

meet the unprecedented community demand for critical services, including Green Card applications, and provide urgent guidance for our newest neighbors.

Total Project Cost	356304
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	Friday, January 1, 2027
Project End Date	Friday, December 31, 2027

Narrative Information

Overview of Grant Request

Hello Neighbor respectfully requests funding to sustain and expand our Immigration Legal Services program across the Greater Pittsburgh region. For many of our newest neighbors, navigating the complex U.S. legal system is overwhelming and financially out of reach. Hello Neighbor fills a critical regional gap by offering income-adjusted, accessible, and culturally responsive legal assistance that enables community members to secure permanent legal status and achieve long-term stability.

Demand for affordable immigration counsel across Allegheny County continues to outpace available legal aid capacity. Funding from the Allegheny County Bar Foundation will directly support staff capacity to deliver direct legal representation, case management, and legal filing assistance. Beyond maintaining high-volume Green Card processing, our scope includes family reunification petitions, marriage-based immigrant visas, Ukrainian humanitarian parole extensions, and naturalization applications. Crucially, our team is also committed to providing specialized representation, preparation, and accompaniment for individuals facing mandatory government refugee re-interviews.

Hello Neighbor’s model pairs expert legal representation with trauma-informed, holistic support. Our legal staff features an Immigration Attorney and two Department of Justice (DOJ) Accredited Representatives serving as Legal Advocates. As native immigrants from Afghanistan and Ukraine, our Legal Advocates leverage their lived migration experiences to bring deep cultural fluency and direct language access to the communities we serve. Our team works side-by-side with each family, guiding them through every step of the process, clarifying the legal system, and equipping them with a clearer understanding of their rights. By securing and solidifying their legal status, we empower Pittsburgh’s newest neighbors to safeguard their families and fully integrate into our local communities.

Context/Background Information

Founded in 2017, Hello Neighbor is a Pittsburgh-based 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to empowering refugee and immigrants as they rebuild their lives in the United States. What began as a local Mentorship program connecting Pittsburgh residents with newly arrived families has grown into a comprehensive agency. Today, our services span Case Management, Family & Maternal Health, Employment, Youth Education, Language Access, and Immigration Legal Services. To date, Hello Neighbor has served more than 4,000 refugees and immigrants originating from over 65 countries.

In January 2024, Hello Neighbor launched its Immigration Legal Services program to address a critical regional gap of accessible legal counsel for our families. Staffed by our Immigration Legal Attorney and two Legal Advocates, this program has achieved remarkable impact, submitting nearly 400 Green Card

applications to date. Support from the Allegheny County Bar Foundation's previous grant has been instrumental in this growth, directly enabling our team to complete over 50 Green Card filings for low-income individuals.

Establishing legal permanence through a Green Card is the foundational step for long-term family stability. While refugees and Special Immigrant Visa holders possess lawful status upon entry, navigating daily life without a physical Green Card creates ongoing administrative vulnerability. Obtaining permanent residency acts as a protective shield—safeguarding families against shifting federal policies, simplifying access to stable housing, and unlocking career pathways. With federal processing currently averaging 12 months, individuals are often left in a prolonged legal limbo that restricts full community integration. Securing permanent status resolves this uncertainty, delivering immediate peace of mind and the structural foundation families need to thrive in their new communities.

Support from the Allegheny County Bar Foundation is critical at this moment. As we navigate shifts in federal grant streams, flexible local support is essential to maintaining consistent, uninterrupted services. With community demand continuing to grow for Green Card filings along with emerging client needs such as refugee re-interview support, grant funding ensures our legal team maintains the capacity required to deliver reliable, high-quality legal aid for our region's newest neighbors.

Project Goals

Funding from the Allegheny County Bar Foundation will enable Hello Neighbor to scale our proven legal model, expanding proactive legal services to meet surging regional demand. Building on our previous ACBF grant and our track record of 389 Green Card filings to date, our primary goals include:

Promote Legal Permanence and Self-Sufficiency: Successfully process and submit filings for Adjustment of Status applications. We also aim to provide robust legal representation, preparation, and accompaniment for clients facing mandatory refugee re-interviews, ensuring their legal rights and statuses remain fully protected.

Enhance Language Equity and Client Empowerment: Maintain 100% language access across all legal intake and consultation stages using our network of certified in-house interpreters. This verifies that each individual fully understands their legal rights and options during the whole process.

Increase Access to Affordable Legal Services: Provide low-cost, sliding-scale legal consultations and representation to refugee and immigrant individuals and families, directly removing financial barriers to direct legal relief.

Foster Community Integration: Partner closely with Hello Neighbor's broader case management and agency programming, guaranteeing that clients receiving legal assistance are connected to holistic wraparound services as needed.

Population to be served

Hello Neighbor's Immigration Legal Services specifically serve low-to-moderate-income refugees, Special Immigrant Visas (SIV) holders, humanitarian parolees, asylees, and immigrants residing in Allegheny County and surrounding Western Pennsylvania communities.

Demographically, our clients range from recently arrived individuals to multi-generational families who have fled conflict, political instability, or systemic persecution. We serve families from around the globe, including Afghanistan, Syria, Ukraine, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Venezuela, Haiti, and more. The majority of our clients live at or below 200% of the federal poverty line and face steep systemic barriers, including limited English proficiency, financial hardship, and unfamiliarity with the U.S. legal system.

With support from this grant, Hello Neighbor projects providing direct legal representation, case management, application filings, and specialized legal consultations to 150 individuals over the 12-month grant cycle.

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

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

Name

Olivia Dodson

Title

Grants Coordinator

ACBF Legal Aid Grants Letter of Inquiry

Proposed Budget

REVENUE	Committed Funds	Pending Funds
1. Grants/Contracts/Contributions		
Local Government		
State Government		
Foundations (itemize on separate lines)		
Collaborative for Immigrant Impact	\$ 98,680	
Collaborative for Immigrant Impact Citizen Grant		
Corporations (itemize on separate lines)		
Individuals		
Other (specify): FEDERAL PC LEGAL	\$ 60,000	\$ 140,000
2. Earned Income		
Events		
Earned Revenue		
3. Membership Income		
4. In-Kind Support		
5. Other (specify)		
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 158,680	\$ 140,000
EXPENSE	Amount Requested In This Proposal	Total Project Expenses
Personnel		
Salaries and Wages * (see Example below)	\$ 7,000	\$ 294,420
Fringe (taxes and benefits)	\$ 1,400	\$ 57,884
Consultants and Professional Fees - Interpretation	\$ 350	
Travel/Professional Development	\$ 250	
Operations		
Rent	\$ 500	
Utilities		
Telecommunications		
Postage/Messenger	\$ 500	\$ 4,000
Printing and copying		
Equipment		
Supplies		
Other (prorated rent and occupancy expenses, combined)		
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 10,000	\$ 356,304
*(Example) Full-Time Personnel Attorney 3% of 66150 = \$2000 Legal Advocate #1 3.5% of \$56000 = \$2000 Support Staff (Finance, CEO, VP of Ops) 10% of ask \$1000 Legal Advocate #2 3.5% of \$56000 = \$2000		
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)		
TOTAL REVENUE (committed and pending)	\$ 308,680	
(TOTAL EXPENSE)	\$ 356,304	
TOTAL SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$ (47,624)	



Hello Neighbor Annual Operating Budget Fiscal Year 2027

July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027

Revenue		Expenses	
4000 Contributed Revenue		Total for 6000 Payroll Expenses	\$3,233,910.74
4010 Individual Gifts	\$500,000.00	Total for 6100 Occupancy Expenses	\$175,810.00
4020 Corporate Gifts & Grants	\$20,000.00	Total for 6200 Office Costs	\$79,763.08
Event Revenue	\$50,000.00	Total for 6300 Vehicle Maintenance	\$4,000.00
4030 Foundation Gifts & Grants	\$673,750.00	Total for 6505 Direct Client Assistance	\$610,655.00
4035 Foundation - Released	\$983,420.64	Total for 6600 National Network - Resilience Grants	\$130,000.00
4040 Community Organizations - Innerfaith	\$50,000.00	Total for 7000 Travel & Entertainment	\$66,442.00
4300 Sponsorship Revenue	\$75,000.00	Total for 7100 Contractors	\$159,025.00
Total for 4000 Contributed Revenue	\$2,352,170.64	Total for 7160 Interpretation Services	\$37,000.00
4100 Government Revenue		7200 Insurance	\$70,000.00
4120 Federal Contracts - End of Contracts	\$585,597.29	Total for 7300 Monthly Fees	\$28,872.50
Federal Contracts - Projected	\$1,104,973.00	Total for 7400 Advertising & Marketing	\$14,225.00
4130 County Contracts	\$500,000.00	Total for 7500 Human Resources	\$64,228.00
4131 County - Released from Restriction	\$303,582.00	Total for 8000 Taxes & Licenses	\$20,000.00
Total for 4100 Government Revenue	\$2,494,152.29	Total for 8100 Banking Costs	\$10,500.00
Total for 4200 Program Service Revenue	\$25,000.00	Total for 8200 Events	\$134,125.00
Total for 4605 Interest Income	\$78,000.00	Total for Expenses	\$4,834,096.32
Total for Income	\$4,941,453.93	Surplus	\$107,357.61

CONFIDENTIAL



Monday, August 31, 2026

Allegheny County Bar Foundation - Legal Aid Provider Grant

Letter of Inquiry (LOI) - 2026-27 Cycle

Background Information

Name of Organization	Jewish Family and Community Services
Employer Identification Number (EIN)	25-0965407
Year Founded	1937
Mission Statement	Jewish Family and Community Services (JFCS)'s mission is to support people through life's changes and challenges.
Executive Director	Jordan Golin
Executive Director Email	jgolin@jfcspgh.org
Preferred Pronouns	he/him/his
Contact Person (if different from Executive Director)	Ann Kirwan
Title	Chief Development Officer
Email	akirwan@jfcspgh.org
Organization Address	5743 Bartlett St. Pittsburgh, PA, 15217
Phone Number	(412) 422-7200
Website	www.jfcspgh.org
Current Annual Operating Budget	13717151

Proposal Information

Grant Request Name Emergency Support for Unaccompanied Children

Summary of Request

To support legal protections for 200 unaccompanied children at risk of detention and deportation.

51645

Existing Program/Project Support

- *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.*

Thursday, October 1, 2026

Thursday, December 31, 2026

Narrative Information

For more than 12 years, JFCS Immigration Legal Services has been the only legal services provider for unaccompanied children (UCs) in Southwestern PA. To date, we have represented over 3,000 children, many of whom fled their home countries due to danger stemming from gang violence, abandonment, or trafficking and abuse. Our small team of five UC attorneys helps these minor children understand their rights, tell their traumatic stories in court, and represent them as they seek safety in this country. Without our legal representation, children have less than a 10% chance of remaining safely with foster parents, sponsors, or extended family members already in this country.

Over the last year, the federal government has systematically dismantled the legal protections these children depend on. Children are being pushed through immigration courts at an unprecedented pace and fast-tracked for deportation and detention. This includes children with proven cases of trafficking, abuse, abandonment, and persecution in their countries of origin who have congressionally established legal pathways to seek refuge in the United States.

JFCS is pursuing every available avenue to protect and defend the 200 unaccompanied children we represent, even as the federal contract that previously paid for this work was allowed to expire on July 31. JFCS is an organizational plaintiff in a federal complaint insisting that the immigration courts follow the law and provide these children with the legal safeguards Congress guaranteed them. At the same time, agency leadership is working tirelessly to engage state officials, other legal service providers, and national partners to protect these children from harm.

We are working to secure bridge funding maintain legal protections for UCs for a three-month transition and assessment period this fall, during which we will continue representing children, work to understand how this rapidly changing environment will affect their cases, and determine the best way to meet their needs going forward. This funding will allow us to maintain our UC legal services team so they can continue zealously pursuing justice, appearing in court, and communicating with the children we represent.

Support from the Allegheny County Bar Foundation will help us ensure that vulnerable children are not left without an advocate when they need one most.

Throughout our more than 80-year history, JFCS has been a leader in providing innovative and effective social service solutions to the most pressing challenges facing families and individuals of all ages.

JFCS supported waves of refugees fleeing Nazi-perpetrated violence, the fall of Afghanistan, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and instability and violence in Haiti and Venezuela. We have bolstered the region's

economy by developing robust employment services following the collapse of the steel industry in the 1980s, which today reach 1,200 underemployed and unemployed community members. JFCS offered comfort and strength to our community following the Tree of Life shooting in 2018, providing trauma, grief, and mental health supports for survivors, family members, and the broader Pittsburgh community. We have also developed innovative ways to reach young people who are struggling emotionally by launching UpStreet, which provides barrier-free mental health support to over 1,300 youth each year.

JFCS is once again mobilizing in response to crisis. Across the agency, we have demonstrated the ability to recognize emerging needs, rapidly deploy resources, adapt services, and bring together partners to protect and strengthen the people we serve. Today, that commitment includes responding to significant changes in the immigration system and ensuring that vulnerable children and families have access to accurate information, legal support, and community-based networks of care. We are drawing on decades of experience, trusted partnerships, and deep community knowledge to meet this moment while remaining focused on our broader mission of helping individuals and families achieve safety and stability.

Project Goals

1. Maintain legal representation for 200 unaccompanied children. Continue providing high-quality legal services to the children we currently represent, ensuring they have an advocate as they navigate the legal system.
2. Retain the UC legal team. Maintain the five-attorney team dedicated to representing unaccompanied children, preserving the specialized knowledge, relationships, and continuity of representation that are essential to protecting children’s rights and pursuing every available legal pathway.
3. Protect children’s access to legally established protections. Continue pursuing legal remedies and advocating for the due-process protections, legal safeguards, and immigration relief available to unaccompanied children under federal law.
4. Ensure continuity of care and representation during a period of significant uncertainty. Maintain regular communication with children, foster parents, sponsors, and extended family members, helping them understand changes affecting their cases and connect with appropriate resources and support.
5. Assess and adapt JFCS’s model for serving unaccompanied children. Use the three-month transition and assessment period to monitor changes in immigration policy and court processes, evaluate emerging needs, strengthen partnerships, and develop a sustainable approach to continuing to provide legal services for unaccompanied children.

Population to be served

JFCS will provide legal representation to 200 unaccompanied children in Southwestern Pennsylvania and West Virginia ages 12-18. These children come from Asia, Africa, and Central America and reside in temporary shelter or with foster parents, sponsors, or extended family members in the community.

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	Monday, August 31, 2026
Name	Anna Holmquist
Title	Director of Institutional Giving

ACBF Legal Aid Grants Letter of Inquiry

Proposed Budget

REVENUE	Committed Funds	Pending Funds
1. Grants/Contracts/Contributions		
Local Government		
State Government		
Foundations (itemize on separate lines) Allegheny County Bar Foundation		\$10,000
Foundations: Fisher Foundation	\$12,500	
Foundation: Hillman Foundation	\$12,500	
Corporations (itemize on separate lines)		
Individuals		
Other (specify)		
2. Earned Income		
Events		
Publications and Products		
3. Membership Income		
4. In-Kind Support		
5. Other (specify): Individual Contributions		\$5,000
TOTAL REVENUE	\$25,000	\$15,000
EXPENSE	Amount Requested In This Proposal	Total Project Expenses
Personnel		
Salaries and Wages * (see Example below)	\$8,000	\$32,140
Payroll Taxes	\$680	\$2,730
Benefits	\$1,320	\$5,300
Consultants and Professional Fees (Lawyers Professional Liability Ins.)		\$860
Travel/Professional Development		\$500
Operations		
Rent		
Utilities		\$2,560
Telecommunications		\$520
Postage/Messenger		
Printing and copying		\$70
Equipment		
Supplies		\$375
Other		\$6,590
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$10,000	\$51,645
Full-Time Personnel Legal Director - \$2,315 <i>Oversight, supervision, case consultation, and program coordination related to client legal services.</i> Attorney - \$18,200 <i>Legal representation, consultation, case preparation, and direct legal services for clients.</i> Paralegal - \$11,625		
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)		
TOTAL REVENUE	\$40,000	
(TOTAL EXPENSE)	(51,645)	

TOTAL SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	(11,645)	
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Jewish Family and Community Services
2026-2027 Operating Budget
For the 12 month period ending 6/30/2027

REVENUE

Contributions	\$	1,212,000
Government Grants		5,118,030
Foundation & Program Directed Grants		5,021,535
Fees for Service		733,100
United Way		700,000
Jewish Federation		258,387
Other Revenue		674,099
TOTAL REVENUE	\$	13,717,151

EXPENSES

Salaries	\$	7,451,714
Employee Taxes & Benefits		1,862,929
Program Expenses		3,627,508
Supporting Expenses		775,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	13,717,151

SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$	0
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Allegheny County Bar Foundation - Legal Aid Provider Grant

Letter of Inquiry (LOI) - 2026-27 Cycle

Background Information

Name of Organization Neighborhood Legal Services Association (NLS)

Employer Identification Number (EIN) 25-1157129

Year Founded 1966

Mission Statement

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

We envision 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. 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 Ave
Pittsburgh, PA, 15222

Phone Number (412) 586-6137

Fax (412) 765-3228

Website www.nlsa.us

Current Annual Operating Budget 12397378

Proposal Information

Grant Request Name

From Protection to Safety: Civil Legal Aid for Survivors of Domestic Violence

Summary of Request

To support civil legal representation for Allegheny County victims of domestic violence, sexual violence and intimidation seeking protection orders, child custody assistance and related family law services. Flexible funding will allow NLS to help survivors achieve lasting safety and stability, including those who may not financially qualify for continued legal representation under other restricted public (government) funding sources.

Total Project Cost

77981

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

Friday, January 1, 2027

Project End Date

Friday, December 31, 2027

Narrative Information

Overview of Grant Request

NLS respectfully seeks \$10,000 in operating support for its family law and victim advocacy services in Allegheny County, with a particular focus on legal representation for victims of domestic violence, sexual violence and intimidation.

NLS attorneys provide legal advice and representation to victims seeking Protection from Abuse and other protective orders and assist with related child custody, support and emergency family law matters when victim or child safety is at risk. Legal assistance may begin when a victim seeks emergency protection and continue through a final PFA hearing and the family law issues that follow. This continuum is particularly important in domestic violence cases. A protection order can address an immediate crisis, but it does not necessarily resolve the longer-term issues involving children, custody exchanges, or financial support that can continue to bring a survivor into contact with an abuser. NLS attorneys help survivors use the civil justice system to establish safer, more stable arrangements for themselves and their children.

The flexibility of an ACBF Fellows grant is especially valuable. Eligibility requirements vary among the public and restricted funding sources that support NLS services. As a result, a survivor may qualify for representation at a final PFA hearing but not meet the financial or program eligibility requirements for the extended custody or related family law representation that may be necessary to make that protection meaningful. Fellows funding will allow NLS to respond more holistically to a survivor's legal needs rather than having assistance determined solely by the restrictions of an individual funding source.

Support from the ACBF Fellows will also help NLS maintain attorney capacity for this work as federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) resources supporting victim services have declined while the need for comprehensive civil legal assistance remains significant.

Context/Background Information

This year, Neighborhood Legal Services is celebrating 60 years of providing civil legal aid to low-income

and vulnerable residents of southwestern Pennsylvania. Since its founding in 1966, NLS has worked to ensure that access to justice does not depend upon a person's ability to hire an attorney.

Serving victims of domestic violence is deeply rooted in that history. Beginning with Pennsylvania's enactment of the Protection from Abuse Act in 1976, NLS attorneys have represented victims seeking court protection from abuse. Over time, that work has evolved from representation at PFA hearings into a more comprehensive, trauma-informed model recognizing that lasting safety may also depend upon resolving custody, support, housing and other civil legal problems resulting from victimization.

VOCA and other public funding have been instrumental in allowing NLS to expand this continuum of services, particularly representation in child custody matters. These funding sources, however, come with differing eligibility requirements and restrictions, and VOCA resources have also experienced significant reductions under the current administration. The result is a gap in assistance precisely when a survivor is trying to move from immediate protection toward longer-term safety.

For example, a survivor may successfully obtain a PFA and then face an abuser in a custody proceeding days or weeks later. Yet the funding that made representation at the PFA hearing possible may not permit NLS to continue representation because of financial eligibility or other grant restrictions. Flexible private support enables NLS to bridge those gaps and consider the survivor's legal needs as a whole.

As NLS marks its 60th anniversary, support from the Allegheny County Bar Foundation Fellows offers the local legal community an opportunity to help sustain one of NLS's most fundamental commitments: ensuring that victims facing some of the most consequential civil legal proceedings of their lives do not have to face them alone. In addition, it sends a powerful message to private funders that civil legal aid is essential and supported by the private bar.

Project Goals

The primary goal of From Protection to Safety is to help victims of domestic violence, sexual violence and intimidation achieve meaningful and lasting safety through access to civil legal representation.

NLS will:

- Provide timely legal advice and representation to victims seeking Protection from Abuse and other protective orders.
- Provide representation in child custody, support and emergency family law matters when the legal need results from victimization or directly affects victim or child safety.
- Help survivors move beyond short-term emergency protection by addressing family law issues that can create continued contact, conflict and opportunities for further abuse.
- Use flexible Fellows funding to assist appropriate clients whose continued representation may not be permissible under the financial or program eligibility requirements of other NLS funding sources.
- Increase survivors' understanding of their legal rights and options so they can make informed decisions about their safety and their children's well-being.
- Coordinate legal representation with NLS social services and community victim-service resources so clients can address related barriers to safety and stability.
- Preserve attorney capacity for victim representation as reductions in VOCA and other public funding place increasing pressure on essential services.

Population to be served

The project will serve approximately 1,000 victims in Allegheny County during the grant period, primarily victims of domestic violence, sexual violence and intimidation who need civil legal assistance to protect themselves and their children. ACBF Fellows funding will directly support an estimated 10-20 victims of domestic violence. (Clients served depend on complexity of case and the amount of time needed to resolve legal issue.)

Clients are predominantly low-income individuals who cannot afford private counsel. Many are women and parents with children, although NLS serves eligible victims regardless of gender, race, age, disability or other demographic characteristics. Clients may be experiencing an immediate safety crisis, seeking a Protection from Abuse or other protective order, or confronting custody, support or other civil legal issues resulting from victimization. Particular priority will be given to cases in which legal intervention can directly enhance the safety of a victim or child, including PFA representation when demand exceeds available resources and child custody matters involving domestic violence.

Because eligibility standards differ among NLS funding sources, Fellows funding will also allow NLS to serve victims who may qualify for assistance at one stage of their case but not for extended representation under another funding source. This flexibility is important to providing holistic legal assistance when a survivor’s PFA, custody and related family law needs are interconnected.

Legal and supportive services will be provided throughout Allegheny County to victims who might otherwise have no access to an attorney in these high-stakes civil proceedings.

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

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

Name

Christine Kirby

Title

Development Director

ACBF Legal Aid Grants Letter of Inquiry

Proposed Budget - NLS From Protection to

REVENUE	Committed Funds	Pending Funds
1. Grants/Contracts/Contributions		
Local Government		
State Government	\$717,981	
Foundations (itemize on separate lines)		
Requested from ACBF		\$10,000
	\$50,000	
TOTAL REVENUE	\$767,981	\$10,000

EXPENSE	Amount Requested in This Proposal	Total Project Expenses
Personnel		
Salaries and Wages (from Personnel Detail)	\$10,000	\$453,303
Payroll Taxes		\$34,678
Benefits		\$181,000
Consultants and Professional Fees		
Travel/Professional Development		\$3,000
Operations		
Rent		
Utilities		
Telecommunications		\$12,000
Postage/Messenger		\$2,000
Printing and Copying		\$7,600
Equipment		
Supplies		\$16,000
Other - De minimis		\$68,400
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$10,000	\$777,981

SURPLUS (DEFICIT)		
TOTAL REVENUE	\$777,981	
(TOTAL EXPENSE)		\$777,981
TOTAL SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$777,981	-

Status	Position / Title	Notes or FTE	Amount Requested	Total Project Expense
Full-Time	Managing Attorney	.5 FTE	\$500	\$46,500
Full-Time	Staff Attorney (Family)	1 FTE	\$3,500	\$94,903
Full-Time	Staff Attorney (Family)	1 FTE	\$2,500	\$68,000
Full-Time	Staff Attorney (Family)	1 FTE	\$2,500	\$69,000
Full-Time	Intake - Family	1 FTE	\$1,000	\$52,000
Full-Time	Compliance Manager	.05 FTE		\$8,800
Part-Time	Accounting Manager	.05 FTE		\$4,500
Part-Time	Secretary	.5 FTE		\$2,000
Part-Time	Social Worker	1 FTE		\$66,000
Part-Time	Certified Legal Interns	1 FTE		\$41,600
TOTAL SALARIES AND WAGES			\$10,000	\$453,303

	C	D
1	Neighborhood Legal Services	
2		
3		
4		
5	Revenue	Current Fiscal Year Budget
7		Amount
8		
9		
10	LSC	2,002,972
11	PLAN	5,949,941
12	LSC Pro Bono Innovation Fund-Continuation (PBIF)	174,865
13	DHS	2,746,482
14	IOLTA Zone Grant (currently Project LEIP)	140,000
15	Beaver County CSBG	23,154
16	SSVF - Special Services Veterans Families	65,898
17	SHAPE	105,000
18	VOCA -46946 10/1/25-9/30/26	195,847
19	VOCA - 40513-2	561,656
20	URA	28,765
21	YWCA	1,820
22	Pitt-Onward Project	2,250
23	Other Sources of Income:	
24	60th Anniversary Event	100,000
25	Law Schools Pitt	8,000
26	Allegheny County Bar Foundation	10,900
27	Equal Justice - Annual Giving Campaign	254,397
28	Interest	17,556
29	ACBF -Golf Outing	12,104
30	Micellaneous	
31	Pgh Foundation - Aaron Fund	99,955
32	Total Other Income	12,501,562
33		
34		Amount
35	Expenses	
36		
37	Salaries	7,409,712
38	Payroll Taxes	609,694
39	Benefits	2,978,663
40	60th Anniversary Event	100,000
41	Contracted Services	541,645
42	Travel & Training	51,522
43	Space Costs	246,346
44	Consumable Supplies	44,370
45	Equipment Leased	34,521
46	Insurance & Bonding	41,342
47	Dues to Professional Org.	63,239
48	Telephone	93,220
49	Advertising	15,704
50	Law Library-Upkeep & Subscriptions	59,269
51	Postage	25,744
52	Litigation	39,287
53	Printing Costs	30,999
54	Miscellaneous	12,103
55	Total Expenses	12,397,380
56		
57	TOTAL NET INCOME	104,182

	B	C	D	E	F
1	Neighborhood Legal Services				
2	FY 2026-2027 Budget				
3	Expenses				
4	As of August 13, 2026				
5					
6		2025-2026	INCREASE/	2026-2027	
7		EXPENSE	(DECREASE)	EXPENSE	
8		ACTUAL		PROJECTIONS	
9					
10	Attorney	3,854,579	1,196,588	5,051,167	per the FY 27 ICLAW agreement
11	Intake/Paralegal/Social Worker	1,299,557	(28,372)	1,271,185	per the FY 27 ICLAW agreement
12	Management (non-attorney)	442,090	55,372	497,462	based on actual FY27 salaries
13	Support Staff	224,390	131,610	356,000	per the FY 27 ICLAW agreement
14	Law Student	203,266	0	203,266	Keeping the same as FY26
15	MLK Law Student	9,000	0	9,000	Keeping the same as FY26
16	Maintenance	14,493	7,139	21,632	per the FY 27 ICLAW agreement
17					
18	TOTAL PERSONNEL SALARIES	6,047,375		7,409,712	
19					
20					
21	Medicare (1.45%)	88,312	19,129	107,441	\$7,409,712 * 1.45% = \$107,440.82
22	FICA (6.2%)	377,448	81,954	459,402	\$7,409,712 * 6.2% = \$459,402.14
23	State U.C. (2025 rate 2.1834/\$10,000 max)	40,811	2,041	42,851	based on FY26+5%
24	Retirement Match	131,778	28,991	160,769	FY26+22% for salary increases
25	Medical	2,109,156	421,831	2,530,988	used 20% increase for FY2027
26	HRA	50,182	5,018	55,200	used 10% increase for FY 2027
27	Life	11,465	1,147	12,612	used 10% increase for FY 2027
28	Disability	51,690	5,169	56,859	used 10% increase for FY 2027
29	Dental	40,954	4,095	45,050	used 10% increase for FY 2027
30	Workers Compensation	10,329	1,033	11,362	used 10% increase for FY 2027
31	Medical Opt-Out	88,185	17,637	105,823	based on FY26 + 20% since based on medical premium
32	TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	3,000,312		3,588,357	
33					
34					
35	60th Anniversary Event	0	100,000	100,000	Offset by same amount in revenue
36					
37	Audit	33,015	3,302	36,317	FY 26 + 10%
38	Legal	11,829	1,183	13,011	FY 26 + 10%
39	Technology	105,022	10,502	115,525	FY 26 + 10%
40	Managed IT	148,346	14,835	163,181	FY 26 + 10%
41	Facilities	63,979	6,398	70,377	FY 26 + 10%
42	Other Contracted Services	121,123	22,112	143,235	FY26+10% +\$10,000 for accounting assessment
43	TOTAL CONTRACT SVCS.	483,314		541,645	
44					
45	Employee Travel-Local	12,941	647	13,588	FY26 + 5%
46	Employee Travel-Out-of-Town	19,170	959	20,129	FY26 + 5%
47	Training	16,958	848	17,805	FY26 + 5%
48	Travel-Board Meetings/Conferences	0	0	0	
49	TOTAL TRAVEL & TRAINING COSTS	49,068		51,522	
50					
51	Rent	89,225	76,627	165,853	BT \$1,832.6*12=\$21,991.2 + BW \$676*12=\$8,112 + NC \$2,627*12=\$31,524 for a TOTAL of \$61,627+15,000 for a special assessment.
52	Other Space Costs	1,557	78	1,635	FY26 + 5%
53	Maintenance Services	26,793	1,340	28,133	FY26 + 5%
54	Utilities	48,310	2,415	50,725	FY26 + 5%
55	TOTAL SPACE COSTS	165,885		246,346	
56					
57	Consumable Supplies	18,448	922	19,370	FY26 + 5%
58	IT/Tech expenses	117,442	(92,442)	25,000	In FY26 - Bought most employees new computer set-ups. Decreased to \$25,000
59	TOTAL CONSUMABLE SUPPLIES	135,890		44,370	
60					
61	Equipment Leased/Rented	34,521	0	34,521	keeping same as FY26
62	TOTAL F&E COSTS	34,521		34,521	
63					
64	Insurance & Bonding	39,373	1,969	41,342	FY26 + 5%
65	Dues to Professional Org.	60,228	3,011	63,239	FY26 + 5%
66	Telephone	88,781	4,439	93,220	FY26 + 5%
67	Advertising	14,956	748	15,704	FY26 + 5%
68	Law Library-Upkeep	54,397	2,720	57,117	FY26 + 5%
69	Subscription	2,049	102	2,152	FY26 + 5%
70	Postage	24,518	1,226	25,744	FY26 + 5%
71	Litigation	37,416	1,871	39,287	FY26 + 5%
72	Printing Costs	29,523	1,476	30,999	FY26 + 5%
73	Miscellaneous	11,526	576	12,103	FY26 + 5%
74	TOTAL OTHER COSTS	362,768		380,907	
75					
76					
77	Total Expense (no in-kind or depreciation)	10,279,133	2,118,245	12,397,378	

Expenses



**Allegheny County Bar Foundation - Legal Aid
Provider Grant**
Letter of Inquiry (LOI) - 2026-27 Cycle

Background Information

Name of Organization	Women’s Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh
Employer Identification Number (EIN)	25-1264376
Year Founded	1974
Mission Statement	We will 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.
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) 894-4565
Website	wcspittsburgh.org
Current Annual Operating Budget	8609958

Proposal Information

Grant Request Name	Offering Civil Legal Representation to Victims of Intimate Partner Violence
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Summary of Request

WC&S is requesting \$10,000 for our Civil Law Project (CLP) department as legal advocates provide free legal representation to victims of intimate partner violence (IPV) in divorce actions with alimony and/or property claims for victims of IPV. CLP attorneys are IPV legal experts and provide survivor-centered and culturally and linguistically competent legal services.

Total Project Cost	1235295
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	Friday, January 1, 2027
Project End Date	Friday, December 31, 2027

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 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) where a spouse has been convicted of a personal injury crime against the other. Priority will be given to those 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. ACBF funding will assist CLP in providing 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. Ten victims will receive free legal representation in divorce actions that include alimony and/or property claims or in divorce actions filed under 3301(c)(2). Services provided would include the filing of 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.

WC&S requests \$10,000 to provide legal representation in ten divorce cases. WC&S has found that this funding is helping to meet a significant, valuable, and ongoing client need. A case which is funded by ACBF involves representation of a young wife from Morocco. Husband had lived in the United States for several years before he returned to Morocco and had an arranged marriage with Wife who is decades younger. In the United States, they had two children, and Husband began to physically and sexually abuse Wife. At one point, Wife went out on the street, crying, because she was so afraid; but, when the police responded, Wife was too afraid to tell them anything. After the police left, Husband hit her on the back and threatened to kill her. Wife filed for, and obtained, a PFA Order that granted her custody of the children and evicted Husband from the residence. Husband filed a Complaint in Divorce. During the marriage, Husband purchased a condo which has no mortgage, and a marital residence that is mostly paid off. After filing for divorce, Husband fell behind on the mortgage payments for the marital residence, as well as the condo association fees. CLP’s goal is to preserve the value of both properties, get them appraised, and retain one for Wife and the children. This is critically important for the financial and physical security of Wife and the small children.

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 undertaking an updated needs assessment survey which will be emailed 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 four full-time attorneys including a Chief of Legal Services and 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) 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 hours each (project total hours of 140) at a rate of \$57.60. 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 mother of four children where the marital residence is in foreclosure; helping a client obtain a divorce from her Husband who is in prison for assaulting her; and ensuring a client obtains an equitable portion of Husband's pension after years of Wife not being permitted to work outside the home. 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 Services 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 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 WC&S for safety planning and assistance. Annually, WC&S serves over 7,600 victims of domestic violence in Allegheny County. In 2025, there were more than 3,500 Emergency PFAs filed in the Minor Judiciary and 3,900 PFA Petitions filed in Family Court. In Allegheny County, there are over 3,500 arrests and new criminal filings each year for domestic violence. It is well known that IPV is underreported. Over the past several years, the National Crime Victimization Survey has estimated that between 50 – 60% of intimate partner violence victimizations 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, 2025, to June 30, 2026, CLP opened cases for 437 new clients and provided legal assistance in 752 legal cases involving IPV. The new clients included 46 victims who were refugees/immigrants and 23 with limited English proficiency, whose primary languages were reported as: Spanish (10); Arabic (3); Nepali (2); American Sign Language (1); Russian (1); Uzbek (1); Swahili (1); Portuguese (1); Urdu (1); Turkish (1); Twi (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 2025-2026, CLP closed 725 cases and the racial/ethnic breakdown for these clients was as follows: 319 (44%) White (non-Hispanic); 257 (35%) Black, African American; 51 (.07%) multiracial/other; 49 (.06%) Hispanic/Latino; 33 (.04%) Asian; 8 (0.1%) American Indian, Alaska Native or Indigenous; 7 (.009%) Middle Eastern; 1 (.001%) Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.

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

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

Name

Nicole Molinaro

Title

President/ CEO

WOMEN'S CENTER AND SHELTER OF GREATER PITTSBURGH
ALLEGHENY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION PROPOSAL
1/1/25 - 12/31/25

PERSONNEL				
			Hours	Project
Position / Title	Employee Name	Hourly rate	on Project	Salary
Legal Director	Brittany Conkle	\$ 57.60	140.00	8,064
TOTAL PERSONNEL			.	\$ 8,064
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS		Annual	% Time	
	<u>Rate Applicable</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>to Project</u>	
Fica/Medicare	7.65%			617
Unemployment Insurance	2.1260%	10,000 max	6.731%	14
Workers Comp Insurance	0.6741%			54
Life/ Disability Insurance	63.00	756	6.731%	51
Health Insurance	789.00	9,468	6.731%	636
Pension	7.00%			564
TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS				\$ 1,936
TOTAL BUDGET				\$ 10,000

**Women's Center And Shelter
Operating Fund
Allocated Program Summary
For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2027**

Revenue

										SUPPORT SERVICES		
	Adult Services	Children's Services	Empow. Services	Legal Advocacy	Civil - Legal	Prevent. & Aware.	Batterer's Intervention	Standing Firm	Medical Advocacy	Manage. & Gen.	Develop.	Total
Revenue												
Federal Government	\$638,168	\$47,329	\$209,061	\$466,914	\$320,581	\$158,903	\$23,134	\$0	\$3,229	\$19,372	\$88,019	\$1,974,710
State Government	\$433,023	\$75,543	\$122,493	\$160,854	\$170,471	\$5,234	\$21,354	\$0	\$76,070	\$49,471	\$89,046	\$1,203,559
Local Government	\$102,831	\$342,220	\$4,401	\$5,080	\$6,636	\$1,418	\$256,230	\$0	\$885	\$24,062	\$24,120	\$767,882
Foundations	\$210,284	\$81,237	\$125,048	\$38,378	\$74,634	\$11,460	\$21,087	\$0	\$6,684	\$27,679	\$1,365,215	\$1,961,706
Corporations	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$340,000	\$340,000
Individuals	\$0	\$0	\$1,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,200,000	\$1,201,500
Other Grants/Contracts/Contributions	\$125,000	\$0	\$75,000	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$150,000	\$360,000
Events	\$0	\$0	-\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-\$69,500	-\$70,500
Program Related Sales & Fees	\$0	\$0	\$45,000	\$0	\$304,506	\$300	\$47,000	\$0	\$30,039	\$0	\$0	\$426,845
In-Kind Support	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Revenue	\$14,289	\$5,172	\$5,505	\$6,355	\$8,301	\$1,773	\$3,491	\$0	\$1,107	\$368,092	\$30,170	\$444,256
Total Revenue	\$1,523,596	\$551,501	\$587,008	\$677,580	\$885,129	\$189,088	\$372,297	\$0	\$118,013	\$488,676	\$3,217,070	\$8,609,958
Current Year Expenses												
Salaries & Wages	\$1,160,007	\$545,151	\$638,044	\$606,211	\$585,238	\$223,117	\$362,186	\$0	\$132,459	\$436,555	\$347,026	\$5,035,993
Payroll Taxes	\$100,031	\$47,989	\$55,517	\$52,857	\$50,418	\$19,907	\$31,476	\$0	\$11,555	\$37,175	\$29,967	\$436,892
Benefits	\$234,086	\$143,932	\$166,271	\$193,465	\$147,338	\$50,808	\$99,934	\$0	\$44,845	\$130,410	\$89,055	\$1,300,145
Consultants and Professional Fees	\$18,690	\$8,873	\$46,906	\$10,145	\$12,281	\$8,051	\$48,473	\$0	\$2,151	\$7,187	\$10,984	\$173,740
Travel/Professional Development	\$1,987	\$239	\$1,051	\$6,497	\$1,057	\$10,719	\$28	\$0	\$460	\$1,719	\$1,128	\$24,885
Rent	\$328	\$13,786	\$1,691	\$42,290	\$22,021	\$1,433	\$5,604	\$0	\$7,395	\$1,126	\$1,105	\$96,778
Utilities	\$61,680	\$27,302	\$35,992	\$33,481	\$40,531	\$13,368	\$19,579	\$0	\$7,099	\$23,720	\$19,747	\$282,500
Telecommunications	\$8,356	\$5,821	\$4,876	\$21,063	\$8,183	\$2,607	\$4,349	\$0	\$1,632	\$3,783	\$3,245	\$63,916
Postage/Messenger	\$2,316	\$1,025	\$1,352	\$2,457	\$1,522	\$502	\$735	\$0	\$267	\$891	\$742	\$11,809
Printing and Copying	\$109	\$48	\$2,064	\$59	\$72	\$24	\$35	\$0	\$13	\$542	\$35	\$3,000
Equipment	\$23,675	\$10,448	\$13,377	\$12,444	\$15,065	\$4,969	\$7,277	\$0	\$2,639	\$8,816	\$7,340	\$106,050
Supplies	\$11,449	\$8,568	\$7,181	\$6,375	\$7,523	\$2,481	\$4,834	\$0	\$1,318	\$4,403	\$3,665	\$57,796
Other Expenses	\$257,164	\$18,931	\$122,626	\$33,085	\$344,045	\$69,439	\$12,213	\$0	\$4,528	\$66,605	\$87,818	\$1,016,454
Total Expense	\$1,879,879	\$832,113	\$1,096,948	\$1,020,431	\$1,235,295	\$407,424	\$596,722	\$0	\$216,358	\$722,932	\$601,857	\$8,609,958
Net Surplus(Deficit)	-\$356,283	-\$280,612	-\$509,940	-\$342,850	-\$350,166	-\$218,336	-\$224,425	\$0	-\$98,344	-\$234,256	\$2,615,213	\$0



Monday, August 24, 2026

Allegheny County Bar Foundation - Legal Aid Provider Grant

Letter of Inquiry (LOI) - 2026-27 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	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	2858399

Proposal Information

Grant Request Name General Operating

Summary of Request

To support the general operating budget at Women's Law Project.

2858399

General Operating Support

- *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.*

Friday, January 1, 2027

Friday, December 31, 2027

As described above, on April 20, 2026, Women’s Law Project secured a landmark state constitutional victory in Allegheny Reproductive Health Center v. Department of Human Services, in which Commonwealth Court held that the ban on Medicaid coverage of abortion violates the Equal Rights Amendment, the state Constitution’s Nondiscrimination Clause, and the newly-recognized fundamental

reproductive autonomy right. We are now returning to the Supreme Court to defend our victory and secure equitable access to abortion care.

We plan to build on this victory and challenge other laws restricting abortion access in the state. We are preparing new litigation challenging several provisions of the Pennsylvania Abortion Control Act.

Women's Law Project represents five young patients of UPMC aged 19 and under who in June 2025 were abruptly ejected from life-saving gender-affirming care in violation of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, our state civil rights law prohibiting sex and disability discrimination in public accommodations. We are relying in part on state regulations defining "sex" broadly, to include gender identity and expression. This litigation, which will soon move from the administrative agency stage into state court, may determine whether the Human Relations Act protects trans and gender-expansive people.

Our reproductive autonomy work also protects the rights and dignity of incarcerated pregnant people. On June 18, 2026, Women's Law Project and the Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project (PILP) filed a federal complaint in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania on behalf of Nicole Lane, a Pennsylvania woman who was shackled during her pregnancy, labor, delivery, and postpartum recovery while incarcerated at Washington County Correctional Facility. The lawsuit seeks damages for violations of her rights under the Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Pennsylvania's Healthy Birth for Incarcerated Women Act, and Pennsylvania tort law. We hope this case will help establish a private right of action under the Healthy Birth for Incarcerated Women Act for incarcerated people subjected to inhumane treatment during pregnancy.

Project Goals

During the next year, WLP plans to:

- Defend and implement our victory in our case Allegheny Repro vs. PA Dept. of Human Services, securing the right to equitable Medicaid funding for abortion and recognizing a fundamental right to reproductive autonomy in the Pennsylvania Constitution;
- File new litigation challenging several provisions of the Abortion Control Act that perpetuate negative gender stereotypes;
- Protect the rights of transgender and gender-expansive youth and ensure access to gender affirming care, through our case at UPMC;
- Establish a private right of action under the Healthy Birth for Incarcerated Women Act for incarcerated people subjected to shackling during pregnancy;
- Continue our judicial bypass project representing minors under 18 who are seeking court orders allowing them to consent to their own abortion care.

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. 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. In the past year, we have helped 77 clients with judicial bypass matters.

We represent women, girls, and LGBTQ+ people who are not receiving equitable treatment in schools, workplaces, public accommodations, and prisons. In the past year, we have received 78 inquiries from individuals who have experienced sexual harassment or pregnancy discrimination at work or school. 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.

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

Monday, August 24, 2026

Name

Brittany Green

Title

Director of Development

Women's Law Project	
FY 27 Organizational Budget	
July 1-2026-June 30, 2027	

Expenses	
Category	Amount
Salaries	\$1,587,100
Other Personnel Costs	\$380,314
Accounting	\$21,700
Professional Fees	\$333,850
Non-Personnel Expenses	\$100,000
Rent/Equipment/Maintenance	\$215,435
Travel & Meeting Expenses	\$36,000
Other Expenses	\$184,000
Total	\$2,858,399

Income	
Category	Amount
Individual Giving	\$775,000
Events	\$415,000
Grants	\$1,510,000
Contracts	\$10,200
Other Sources	\$99,000
Total	\$2,809,200