

subgrant agreement through GrantEase by the date requested.

As required by 45 CFR 1627.4(b)(3), LSC will inform applicants of its decision to disapprove, approve, or request modifications to the subgrant no later than the subgrant's proposed effective date.

(Authority: 42 U.S.C. 2996g(e).)

Dated: November 1, 2024.

**Stefanie Davis,**

*Deputy General Counsel for Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice, Legal Services Corporation.*

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## LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

### Pro Bono Innovation Fund Process for Submitting Pre-Applications for 2025 Grants

**AGENCY:** Legal Services Corporation.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Legal Services Corporation (LSC) issues this Notice describing the conditions for submitting a Pre-Application for 2025 Pro Bono Innovation Fund grants.

**DATES:** Pre-applications must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. EST on Friday, January 10, 2025.

**ADDRESSES:** Letters of Intent must be submitted electronically at <http://lscgrants.lsc.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Katherine Harris, Special Grant Program Coordinator, Office of Program Performance, Legal Services Corporation, 1825 I Street NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20006; (202) 295-1572 or [harrisk@lsc.gov](mailto:harrisk@lsc.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### I. Introduction

Since 2014, Congress has provided an annual appropriation to LSC “for a Pro Bono Innovation Fund.” *See, e.g., Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, Public Law 117-328, 136 Stat. 4553 (2022).* LSC requested these funds for grants to “develop, test, and replicate innovative pro bono efforts that can enable LSC grantees to expand clients’ access to high quality legal assistance.” LSC Budget Request, Fiscal Year 2014 at 26 (2013). The grants must involve innovations that are either “new ideas” or “new applications of existing best practices.” *Id.* Each grant would “either serve as a model for other legal services providers to follow or effectively replicate a prior innovation.” *Id.* The Senate Appropriations Committee explained that these funds “will support

innovative projects that promote and enhance pro bono initiatives throughout the Nation,” and the House Appropriations Committee directed LSC “to increase the involvement of private attorneys in the delivery of legal services to [LSC-eligible] clients.” Senate Report 114-239 at 123 (2016), House Report 113-448 at 85 (2014).

Since its inception, the Pro Bono Innovation Fund has advanced LSC’s goal of increasing the quantity and quality of legal services by funding projects that more efficiently and effectively involve pro bono volunteers in serving the critical unmet legal needs of LSC-eligible clients. PBIF has four funding categories that are described in further detail below: Planning, Project, Sustainability, and Transformation.

#### II. Funding Opportunities Information

##### A. Eligible Applicants

To be eligible for PBIF grants, Applicants must be current grantees of LSC Basic Field-General, Basic Field-Migrant, or Basic Field-Native American grants. To qualify for a Sustainability Grant, Applicants must also have a 2023 PBIF Project Grant.

##### B. Pro Bono Innovation Fund Purpose and Key Goals

PBIF grants develop, test, and replicate innovative pro bono efforts that can enable LSC grantees to use pro bono volunteers to serve larger numbers of low-income clients and improve the quality and effectiveness of the services provided. The key goals of the Pro Bono Innovation Fund are to:

1. Address gaps in the delivery of legal services to low-income people;
2. Engage more lawyers and other volunteers in pro bono service;
3. Develop, test, and replicate innovative pro bono efforts.

##### C. Funding Categories

###### 1. Planning Grants

Planning Grants provide organizations with a one-time grant to complete an assessment of their pro bono program and develop a plan to build or revitalize their pro bono delivery system. Planning Grants have a 6-month term.

###### 2. Project Grants

Project Grants aim to leverage volunteers to meet a critical, unmet and well-defined client need. Consistent with the key goals of PBIF, Applicants are encouraged to focus on engaging volunteers to increase free civil legal aid for low-income Americans by proposing new, replicable ideas.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to research prior PBIF projects to replicate

and improve upon them. LSC is particularly interested in applications that propose to replicate projects LSC has previously funded with “Sustainability” Grants. Project Grants can be either 18 or 24 months.

###### 3. Sustainability Grants

Sustainability Grants are available to current PBIF grantees who received a 2023 Project Grant. Sustainability Grants provide the most promising and replicable PBIF projects with an additional 24 months of funding so grantees can leverage new sources of revenue for the project and collect meaningful data to demonstrate the project’s results and outcomes for clients and volunteers. Applicants for Sustainability Grants are asked to propose an ambitious strategy that reduces the Pro Bono Innovation Fund contribution to the project over the Sustainability Grant term. Sustainability Grants have a 24-month term.

###### 4. Transformation Grants

Transformation Grants aim to support LSC grantees in the comprehensive assessment and restructuring of their pro bono programs using best practices in pro bono delivery. Each Transformation Grant will support a rigorous assessment of a grantee’s pro bono program and identify best practices in pro bono delivery suited to that grantee’s needs and circumstances. Transformation Grants are for LSC grantees whose leadership is committed to restructuring their pro bono delivery system to create a high-impact pro bono program now. Transformation Grants can have either a 24- or 36-month term.

##### D. Available Funds for 2025 Grants

The amount of funds available for PBIF Grants for FY2025 depends on LSC’s final appropriation. LSC currently operates under a Continuing Resolution for FY2025, which funds the Federal government through December 20, 2024. The Continuing Resolution maintains funding for PBIF at \$5,000,000. LSC will make PBIF grant decisions for FY2025 in the summer of 2025. LSC anticipates publicizing the total amount available for Pro Bono Innovation Fund grants when Congress enacts the FY2025 appropriation.

LSC will not designate fixed or estimated amounts for the four different funding categories and will make grant awards for the three categories within the total amount of funding available.

##### E. Grant Terms

Pro Bono Innovation Fund awards can have grant terms of 6, 18, 24, or 36

months, depending on the category of grant.

	6 Months	12 Months	18 Months	24 Months	36 Months
Planning Grants .....	✓	X	X	X	X
Project Grants .....	X	X	✓	✓	X
Transformation Grants .....	X	X	X	✓	✓
Sustainability Grants .....	X	X	X	✓	X

Applicants for Planning Grants can apply for a 6-month grant. Applicants for Project Grants can apply for either an 18- or a 24-month grant. Applicants for Transformation Grants can apply for either a 24- or a 36-month grant. Applicants for Sustainability Grants can apply for a 24-month grant only. The grant activities described in the application must cover the full proposed grant term which commences on October 1, 2025.

**III. Grant Application Process**

**A. Pro Bono Innovation Fund Grant Application Process**

The PBIF application process is administered in LSC’s unified grants management system, GrantEase. Applicants must first submit a Pre-Application to LSC in GrantEase by January 16, 2024, to be considered for a grant. After review by LSC Staff, LSC’s President decides which applicants will be asked to submit a full application. Applicants will be notified of approval to submit a full application by early March 2025. Full applications are due to LSC in the GrantEase system on May 5, 2025. Once received, full applications will undergo a rigorous review by LSC staff and other subject matter experts. LSC’s President makes the final decision on funding for the Pro Bono Innovation Fund.

**B. Late or Incomplete Applications**

LSC may consider a request to submit a Pre-Application after the deadline, but only if the Applicant has submitted an email to [probonoinnovation@lsc.gov](mailto:probonoinnovation@lsc.gov) explaining the circumstances that caused the delay prior to the Pre-Application deadline. Communication with LSC staff, including assigned LSC Special Grant staff members, is not a substitute for sending a formal request and explanation to [probonoinnovation@lsc.gov](mailto:probonoinnovation@lsc.gov). At its discretion, LSC may consider incomplete applications. LSC will determine the admissibility of late or incomplete applications on a case-by-case basis.

**C. Multiple Pre-Applications**

Applicants may submit multiple Pre-applications under the same or different funding category. If applying for

multiple grants, applicants should submit separate Pre-applications for each funding request.

**D. Additional Information and Guidelines**

Additional guidance and instructions on the Pro Bono Innovation Fund Pre-Application and Application processes, will be available and regularly updated at <https://www.lsc.gov/grants-grantee-resources/our-grant-programs/pro-bono-innovation-fund>.

(Authority: 42 U.S.C. 2996g(e))

Dated: November 1, 2024.

**Stefanie Davis,**

*Deputy General Counsel for Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice, Legal Services Corporation.*

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**OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET**

**Draft Report to Congress on the Benefits and Costs of Federal Regulations and Agency Compliance With the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act**

**AGENCY:** Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) requests comments on its Draft Report to Congress on the Benefits and Costs of Federal Regulations and Agency Compliance with the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act, available at [www.whitehouse.gov/omb/information-regulatory-affairs/reports](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/information-regulatory-affairs/reports). The Draft Report is divided into two parts, the first of which is further divided into several chapters. Part I, chapter I examines the benefits and costs of major Federal regulations issued in fiscal year 2023. Part I, chapter II discusses regulatory impacts on State, local, and Tribal governments, small business, wages and employment, and economic growth. Part I, chapter III offers recommendations for regulatory reform. Part II summarizes agency

compliance with the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act. OMB requests that comments be submitted electronically to OMB by December 9, 2024, through [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) using Docket ID OMB–2024–0012.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration of comments as OMB prepares this Draft Report for submission to Congress, comments must be in writing and received by December 9, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments by one of the following methods:

- [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov): Direct comments to Docket ID OMB–2024–0012.
- *Fax:* (202) 395–7285.
- *Mail:* Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, 9th Floor, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503. To ensure that your comments are received timely, we recommend that comments on this draft report be electronically submitted.

*Privacy Act Statement:* OMB is issuing this draft report pursuant to its authorities under the Regulatory Right to Know Act, Public Law 106–554, title IV, sec. 624. Your submission of comments is voluntary. OMB will use your feedback to inform sound decision making regarding this report. Please note that submissions received in response to this notice may be posted in the Federal eRulemaking Portal at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) or otherwise released in their entirety, including any personal and business confidential information provided. Do not include in your submissions any information of a confidential nature, such as personal or proprietary information, or any information you would not like to be made publicly available. The OMB System of Records Notice, OMB Public Input System of Records, OMB/INPUT/01, at 88 FR 20913 ([www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/04/07/2023-07452/privacy-act-of-1974-system-of-records](http://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/04/07/2023-07452/privacy-act-of-1974-system-of-records)) includes a list of routine uses associated with the collection of this information.

*For general inquiries email:* [MBX.OMB.OIRA.BC\\_Report\\_Questions@omb.eop.gov](mailto:MBX.OMB.OIRA.BC_Report_Questions@omb.eop.gov).