

NC IOLTA Request for Proposals

2023 Out-of-Cycle Grant: Legal Needs Assessment Working Group Recommendations

Application Deadline: June 30, 2023, 11:59 p.m.

Background

In late 2021 and early 2022, NC IOLTA and the NC Equal Access to Justice Commission surveyed and convened legal aid provider organizations about opportunities to respond to gaps identified in the Legal Needs Assessment. A Legal Needs Convening, hosted on March 2, 2022, brought leaders from legal aid programs together to share challenges and successes and brainstorm about opportunities to address needs as a community. After surveying providers about their priorities among the many opportunities identified in the Legal Needs Assessment and at the Convening, NC IOLTA established the below four working groups to continue these conversations in the summer of 2022:

- (1) family law;
- (2) legal services for immigrant populations;
- (3) outreach and communications; and
- (4) coordinated intake.

NC IOLTA grantees and stakeholders identified staff to participate in the working groups who could offer their subject matter expertise. Each working group subsequently met three times to discuss particular gaps more specifically and identify strategies for the community to respond to identified needs with the ultimate goal of improving availability of and access to services.

In September 2022, the working group participants identified practical recommendations that the community should pursue, without being limited by either their own organization's capacity or currently available resources. The groups also fleshed out action steps to take in order to execute the recommendations.

The final recommendations and action steps can be found here:

<https://www.ncbar.gov/media/730714/legal-needs-assessment.pdf>.

Funding Strategy

The NC IOLTA Board has decided to offer an additional grant opportunity to support implementation of the final recommendations and/or action items identified by the Legal Needs Assessment working groups. The grant is restricted to current NC IOLTA grantees.

This will be a two-year grant: October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2025. At the end of the grant term, should additional funding be needed to support ongoing activities, requests may be considered as part of the regular grant cycle or a new out of cycle opportunity, if funds are available.

A pool of at least \$500,000 is available to support this one-time grant opportunity. Anticipated grant size ranges from \$50,000 to \$250,000.

The Legal Needs Assessment working group recommendations emphasize cooperative efforts to address gaps in available legal services statewide. The NC IOLTA board will consider applications that address any of the identified recommendations. However, priority consideration will be given to projects that reflect a coordinated approach with other organizations in the legal aid community to addressing issues with a statewide impact.

Additional Information

Grant applications will be submitted online by accessing the NC IOLTA online grants system by going to <https://nciolta.dullestech.net> and clicking on “Current Funding Opportunities.” This opportunity is titled 2023 IOLTA Grant Cycle – LNA Working Group Recommendations.

Organizations may submit applications for more than one issue area (e.g., family law, coordinated intake, etc.). However, each organization should submit no more than one application per issue area even if proposed activities address more than one recommendation or action item.

You will not need to provide the full organizational budget for this grant request. The income and expense sections of the budget need reflect only the specific project budget – including both IOLTA and other sources of income as applicable. If needed, additional space is provided in the budget narrative to give further detail.

Grant Application Timeline

May 1, 2023

Grant information and application for 2023 out-of-cycle grant is available to applicants.

May 16, 2023 (11:00am-12:00pm)

Online information session. Please register [here](#).

May 17 – June 23, 2023

Grant application consultations and technical support available by appointment. Please contact Mary Irvine (mirvine@ncbar.gov) or Dan Labarca (dlabarca@ncbar.gov).

June 30, 2023

Grant application and required attachments submitted by application deadline. *Note that late applications will not be accepted.*

August 25, 2023

NC IOLTA Board meets to determine grant awards. Announcements will be made at the end of August.

October 2023

Funding begins after grant agreements are completed and signed.