

MEMORANDUM

TO: Potential BOCLA Grant Applicants

FROM: Bridget Gernander, Program Administrator

RE: Justice for All Project Grant Application Guidelines

DATE: March 2, 2026

The State Board of Civil Legal Aid (BOCLA) is accepting grant applications for Justice for All Project Grants to support a stronger statewide access to justice system. These grants are open to the courts, law libraries, bar associations, and nonprofit organizations. These grants are intended to be spent within one year of the contract start date. Projects are generally limited to \$75,000.

Where Does the Money Come From?

The Justice for All Project Grants are funded from *pro hac vice* fees. These fees are paid by out-of-state attorneys who file to participate in a state court case in Minnesota. BOCLA has been charged by the Minnesota Supreme Court with access to justice grantmaking from these funds.

What Kind of Grants Will BOCLA Make?

Successful Justice for All Project Grant applications should have statewide impact and be related to the National Center for State Courts [Justice for All framework](#). These funds differ from other BOCLA grant revenue sources in that there is no income eligibility limit for the services provided through these projects. The intent is to improve access to justice for all Minnesotans.

As a project grant, BOCLA is looking to support one-time costs. Funds can be used to reimburse existing staff time related to the project but should not be used to hire new staff.

How Will BOCLA Score the Proposals?

BOCLA reviews all grants using a set scoring rubric. In this grant cycle, each application will be evaluated and awarded up to 20 points based on the following criteria:

Scoring Category	Description	Points (1-5)
Meets Funding Purpose	Clear connection to Justice for All framework maintained by the National Center for State Courts.	
Clear Budget	Budget provides necessary details to understand how grant will be expended.	
Wide-Ranging Impact	Project will have a wide-ranging impact through either a large geographic or demographic reach.	
Realistic Timeline	Realistic project timeline, including a clear plan for continuing the project beyond the grant year or successfully concluding the project.	

Rubric For Scoring

1 – Response failed to cover material aspects of the question, or organization lacking in significant areas compared to standard. (wholly inadequate)

2 – Response covered most material aspects of the question, but answers provided were lacking in detail. Organization appears to be at least approaching standards in assessed areas. (approaching standards)

3 – Response addressed all material aspects of the question, but answers provided were lacking in detail. Organization is performing at an average level in all assessed areas. (average)

4 – Response addressed all material aspects well enough to get a sense for how substantive issues are being handled. Appears organization is above average in all assessed areas. (above average)

5 – Response addressed all material aspects well enough to get a sense for how substantive issues are being handled. Organization exceeding standards in all assessed areas. (thought leader and/or innovator)

What is the Schedule for the Justice for All Project Grants?

The Justice for All Project Grants are open on a rolling basis subject to available funds. When grant funding is available, the application will be open at <https://bocla.submittable.com/submit>. If the application is not open at that link, then all funds have been granted for that fiscal year.

What Should I Know Before Applying for a BOCLA Grant?

The State Board of Civil Legal Aid reserves the right to reject any or all applications received that do not, in its opinion, serve the best interest of the State Board of Civil Legal Aid or the intent of this funding. The application is made for informational or planning purposes only. The State Board of Civil Legal Aid will not be liable for any expenses incurred by any prospective grantee prior to the issuance of the grant. Upon submission, all applications become the property of the State Board of Civil Legal Aid, which has the right to use any or all ideas presented in any

application submitted, whether or not the application is accepted. All application materials are public data and may be made available to other interested organizations and individuals.

The selected grantee must understand and agree to the following conditions that shall be included as part of the final grant award agreement. A copy of the full grant award agreement is available on request.

1. Inspection and Audit. The office and representatives of the State Board of Civil Legal Aid, and the Minnesota Legislative Auditor, or any of their duly authorized representatives, shall have access for purposes of audit and examination to any books, documents, papers, and records of the grantee.
2. Supplemental Data Requests. In accepting a grant from the State Board of Civil Legal Aid, grantees will be asked to comply with all reasonable requests for supplemental data.