



LFW ANNUAL GRANT CRITERIA

The Legal Foundation of Washington was created at the direction of the Supreme Court in 1984 to receive the interest on lawyers' and limited practice officers' trust accounts. These IOLTA funds, along with State funds, funds raised through the Campaign for Equal Justice, funds distributed by the Endowment for Equal Justice, *cy pres* funds and funds from other sources, are disbursed according to grant criteria developed by the nine-member Board of Trustees pursuant to the Washington Supreme Court's opinion and rule.

Eligible Program Areas

LFW makes annual grants to programs that provide civil legal aid to low-income people in Washington. LFW gives priority to programs and services that aid vulnerable individuals, families and groups who experience multiple barriers to accessing the justice system and who require specialized focus in areas where other legal aid providers are unable to meet the existing need.

Applicant Responsibilities

Grant applicants must agree to sign and follow LFW's Grant Assurances, which are attached to the annual grant application form.

Guidelines

Trustees will use the following guidelines, with exception if necessary, to assist in the grants decision making process.

1. LFW grants funds in a manner consistent with the following documents:
 - a. *Hallmarks of the Washington State Alliance for Equal Justice*
 - b. *2017-2019 State Plan for the Coordinated Delivery of Civil Legal Aid to Low-Income People*
 - c. *Access to Justice Performance Standards, and*
 - d. *ATJ Board's Collaboration Principles.*
2. LFW gives greater weight to applicants with a prior history of high quality service delivery.
3. LFW gives greater weight to applicants who work to develop cooperative efforts between Foundation grantees within a service area.
4. LFW prefers to fund applicants who can demonstrate community support for their projects.
5. LFW funds programs that promote equity, through client service advocacy and within their organizational practices.
6. LFW funds applicants to achieve broad geographic and demographic distribution of funds throughout the state.
7. LFW favors leveraging funds by using volunteers and by seeking diverse funding sources (such as attorney fees, city and county funding and other grants) to the extent those efforts do not conflict with participation in the unified state fundraising Campaign for Equal Justice.
8. LFW seeks to fund a mix of applicants that provide individual representation and applicants that engage in systemic advocacy on behalf of low-income communities.
9. LFW encourages the development of new and innovative programs that are consistent with Item 1

of the Guidelines and will have a broad impact on the legal problems of low-income people.

Restrictions

LFW will not fund individuals, political campaigns, religious organizations for the purpose of furthering their religion, or constitutionally mandated legal services.

Client Eligibility

Clients must be low-income in order to receive services funded by LFW. Low-income is defined to be at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines. Exceptions must be authorized by LFW.

Grant Decisions

The Board of Trustees is responsible for making final grant decisions. Funding determinations will be based primarily on a written application. The trustees may, at their discretion, request supplements to the application and make site visits. The trustees may request applications from potential providers in priority funding areas where no grant application has been received. Grants are made pursuant to a written contract between the recipient and LFW. Trustees require all recipients to submit periodic reports regarding the use of grant funds.