

Lawyers Trust Fund of Illinois
CY 2024 Annual Grant Opportunity
July 2023



The [Lawyers Trust Fund of Illinois](#) is a charitable foundation that provides grants to support the provision of free civil legal services to low-income Illinois residents. LTF seeks to make our society fairer and more equitable by providing resources to address legal problems – including problems stemming from past and present racial injustices and systemic exclusion – and help people in need find legal solutions.

2024 Annual Grant Guidelines & Application Now Available

The application window for CY 2024 (January 1 – December 31, 2024) Annual Grants is now open. LTF's [Grant Guidelines](#) and [application materials](#) are available online. More information about applying for a grant is available on [LTF's website](#). This grant cycle is open to both current grantees and new applicants and is the only opportunity to seek operating support funding from LTF for 2024.

Grantee Profile

LTF currently funds 48 non-profit organizations located across Illinois that provide civil legal services. This total includes free-standing agencies focused solely on legal services, as well as legal programs housed within larger non-profit organizations (such as social services providers). On an annual basis, the largest of these legal programs closed thousands of cases, employed nearly 200 staff members, and had an annual budget in excess of \$20 million. However, LTF also makes grants to many smaller organizations. In 2023 LTF provided initial annual funding to seven new grantees, whose staff size ranged from two to 20 employees, and with annual budgets ranging from \$120,000 to \$11.8 million. More detailed information about LTF grantees and their work is available in LTF's report on its 2023 [Legal Aid Grantees & Services](#). A list of [current 2023 grantees](#) also is available on the LTF website.

2024 Funding Outlook

For the current year (2023), LTF awarded approximately \$14 million in annual grants. LTF's board currently anticipates that at least \$17 million will be available for grants in 2024. It is expected that these increased funds will support:

- (1) Increased grants to current grantees that propose meritorious initiatives to provide more and/or more effective legal services or who have outstanding needs related to increasing organizational capacity, and
- (2) New grants to meritorious first-time applicants.

Minimum Grant Amount

In recognition of the extensive effort and resources required to complete an application for an annual grant, the LTF board of directors has established \$25,000 as the minimum annual grant award.

Application Due Date

Completed applications are due on **Monday, September 18, 2023**.

New & Emerging Organizations/Programs Encouraged to Apply

LTF invites new and emerging legal aid organizations and/or programs – especially those based in, led by, and/or serving historically marginalized groups, including communities impacted by racism – to apply for CY 2024 funding.

Waiver of the One-Attorney Requirement

Because the practice of law in Illinois is limited to licensed attorneys, LTF generally requires that applicant organizations employ at least one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) attorney with a minimum of three years of experience at the time the application is due on September 18.

The LTF board of directors will consider granting a temporary, one-year waiver of the one FTE attorney requirement for emerging legal aid organizations/programs that meet certain criteria.

Applicants can seek a waiver in their application for FY 2024, or they can request a pre-application waiver by August 11 to determine their eligibility prior to completing a full application. To request a waiver, complete the form linked [here](#).

LTF Strategic Goals

In 2022 LTF adopted a [strategic plan](#) that identifies several broad goals for LTF's legal aid grants, including:

- Increasing awareness of and confidence in legal solutions among people who do not know of them or have low trust in the legal system
- Increase the availability of legal solutions to people who have been excluded from obtaining the protections of the legal system
- Create widely accessible entry points for people encountering problems that may have legal solutions
- Ensure that all available legal solutions respect the dignity, diversity, and experiences of the people they are trying to help

Information Sessions

LTF will hold several sessions via Zoom to provide information about LTF grants and the CY 2024 application process. Both current grantees and prospective new applicants are welcome to attend any of these sessions, but participation is optional. The sessions are scheduled for the following dates:

- **July 27** at 2:00pm - New applicant information session (This session will explain LTF's grant guidelines, eligibility criteria, and factors in grant awards)
- **August 1** at 10:30am - General information session
- **August 7** at 2:00pm - General information session

To register for an information session, please email David Holtermann, LTF Deputy Director for Grants & Policy / General Counsel, at david@ltf.org.

Questions?

LTF staff are available to answer questions about the Lawyers Trust Fund, eligibility for a grant, and/or the application process. Please feel free to contact David Holtermann, Deputy Director for Grants & Policy (david@ltf.org) or Mark Marquardt, Executive Director (mark@ltf.org) if you need assistance.