

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY (NOFA) **FY 2021 Immigrant Justice Legal Services Grant**

Background Information:

The Executive Office of the Mayor (EOM) is soliciting grant applications from qualified Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and private organizations serving District of Columbia residents for its *FY 2021 Immigrant Justice Legal Services Grant Program* (IJLS). The IJLS grant program will support the provision of legal services to the DC immigrant population, as well as language access services to other grantees to effectuate the legal services provided. The *FY 2021 IJLS Grant Program* offers one-time grants of up to \$400,000 to CBOs with a current and valid 501(c)(3) status, as well as private organizations, associations, and law firms that plan to mobilize pro bono talent or skilled immigration attorneys and legal professionals in order to provide immigrant justice legal services.

This grant will fund the following activities/priorities:

- **Know Your Rights** briefings and workshops.
- **Brief legal representations**, referrals, and consultations, including screening individual persons for possible legal relief; making appropriate referrals to pro bono or paid counsel with little ongoing oversight; and providing brief legal consultations or limited scope representations such as review of N-400 citizenship applications or filing renewal applications and assisting with legal preparedness should a family member be detained or deported.
- **Full legal representation**, including by pro bono counsel supervised by or in conjunction with the applicant, on the array of immigration representation including helping DC residents apply for green cards, making affirmative and defensive USCIS filings, such as filing applications for S, T, U, Special Immigrant Juvenile visas and Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) or petitions for DC residents or family members of DC residents; providing legal help for family reunification efforts for families with at least one DC resident such as through spousal visas, or adult children sponsoring their parents; resolving legal issues as part of preparation for green card or citizenship applications; preparing affirmative and defensive asylum applications and provide legal representation at asylum interviews and/or hearings for DC residents; representing DC residents who are in removal proceedings, including filing petitions of cancellation of removal, where such applications have a reasonable likelihood of success (e.g., for persons who are not detained for a serious criminal offense involving a crime of moral turpitude at the time representation begins). Depending on the level of help offered, full legal representation may include protecting the financial assets and custody for DC children in the face of potential deportation of parents or guardians; and helping DC families provide foster homes, adopt, or sponsor refugees and children from war- torn countries.

- Organizing and conducting full legal campaigns to **protect Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders** in Washington, DC, including using communications, organizing, possible structural litigation, as well as individual legal representation.
- Provide legal representation services in certain cases to low-income DC immigrant tenants in residential landlord tenant disputes, but not to use in litigation where the Government of the District of Columbia is a named party.
- **Other structural litigation:** file any lawsuits that may become necessary to challenge federal practices or interpretations of immigration law that violate the rights of immigrants, with plaintiffs who are DC resident immigrants.
- **Capacity Building:** build non-profit organization capacity to provide continuing legal representation to Washington, DC immigrants, and/or train and mentor pro bono attorneys to perform any of the above tasks, and otherwise build long-lasting capacity to provide legal services for DC's immigrant population.
- Provide culturally-competent **language access services to other IJLS grantees** on an unlimited and as needed basis (to the greatest feasible extent) for other grantees to fulfill their grant obligations, supplementing, if necessary, a language access program funded with other dollars. Services shall be delivered by persons trained in providing interpretation of legal documents and on legal matters, across a broad range of languages spoken by immigrants in Washington, DC. Proposals for this component can be no higher than \$140,000 and may be coupled with requests for funds in the other categories above.

Target Population

Except for the final category of services targeted to other IJLS grantees, the target population for these funds is immigrants of all ages who reside in the District of Columbia and families of mixed immigration status with at least one family member in the District of Columbia. Although we do not require organizational applicants to inquire as to the income of their clients, the expectation is that legal services will be delivered through this grant to persons who could not afford full-priced paid legal representation on a free or low-cost, affordable basis.

Eligibility Criteria:

Applicants shall meet the following conditions:

- Be a Community-Based Organization with a Federal 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status or evidence of fiscal agent relationship with a 501 (c)(3) organization; *or* be a private entity, such as a coalition or association, that is partnering with at least one or more 501 (c)(3) organizations;
- The organization is currently registered in good standing with the DC Department of Consumer & Regulatory Affairs, Corporation Division, and the Office of Tax and Revenue;

- Conduct the program activities in Washington, DC;
- The organization or program serves the District’s immigrant residents or business owners;
- The organization’s principal place of business is located in the District of Columbia;
- All services and programming to receive funds must be provided in the District of Columbia; and
- Current grantees must be current on any reporting obligations for the FY20 grant cycle.

Release Date of RFA: Monday, August 24, 2020

Availability of RFA: The RFA will be posted on the [District’s Grant Clearinghouse Website](#)

Amount of Awards: Eligible organizations can be awarded up to \$400,000.

Length of Awards: October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021

Pre-Bidder’s Conference: Wednesday, August 26, 2020
3:00PM-5:00PM

WebEx Registration Link: [Pre-Bidders Conference](#)
(Password: Immigrant2021)

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Deadline for Electronic Submission: 5:00PM on Friday, September 4, 2020 via ZoomGrants