

## NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY (NOFA) FY 2022 Immigrant Justice Legal Services Grant

### A. 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 2022 Immigrant Justice Legal Services Grant Program (IJLS)*. The \$3.5 million 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 2022 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.

### B. Funding Areas

To qualify for the IJLS grant the applicant needs to provide services in at least one of the seven (7) funding areas listed below:

1. **Know Your Rights Presentations**, this includes briefings or workshops where the applicant is educating the immigrant community in Washington, DC about their legal rights and options. For the purposes of this grant, the applicant hosting the “Know Your Rights” presentation needs to be an attorney or an accredited representative or collaborate with an organization that has an attorney or an accredited representative on staff who runs these presentations. If an attorney or an accredited representative is not present at a “Know Your Rights” presentation, it will not qualify as a funded activity under the IJLS grant.
2. **Brief legal representations**, includes limited scope representations, brief legal consultations, legal screenings and making appropriate referrals to pro bono or paid counsel with little ongoing oversight for possible legal relief, for individual persons, on immigration matters such as but not limited to, review of N-400 citizenship applications or filing renewal applications and assisting with legal preparedness should a family member be detained or deported.
3. **Full legal representations**, includes full representation by pro bono counsel supervised by or in conjunction with the applicant, on the array of immigration matters including but not limited to 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) 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 providing 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.

4. 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.
5. **Other structural litigation**, which can include filing 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.
6. **Capacity Building**, entails building 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 to the District's immigrant population.
7. 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 \$200,000 and may be coupled with requests for funds in the other categories above.

### C. 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.

## D. Eligibility Criteria

Applicants shall meet the following conditions in order to apply for the IJLS grant:

- The organization is 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 must provide legal services to the DC immigrant population or collaborate with an organization and/or attorney who provides legal services to the DC immigrant population through the organizational efforts of the applicant;
- Be currently registered in good standing with the DC Department of Consumer & Regulatory Affairs, Corporation Division, and the Office of Tax and Revenue;
- All services and programming to receive funds must be provided in the District of Columbia;
- The organization's principal place of business must be located in the District of Columbia; if a national or regional organization, it must have a location in the District through which it provides services.
- 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; and
- Current grantees must be current on IJLS reporting obligations for the FY21 grant cycle and those reports must reflect substantial progress towards the goals of their grant agreement.

**Release Date of RFA:** Monday, June 28, 2021

**Availability of RFA:** The RFA will be posted on: the [Mayor's Office of Community Affairs' website](#) and the Mayor's Office on Volunteerism & Partnerships (Serve DC's) electronic grant clearinghouse.

**Deadline:** Wednesday July 28, 2021 at 5:00PM EST

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

**Length of Awards:** Grant awards are for FY 2022  
October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022

### In Person

**Pre-Bidder's Conference:** Wednesday, July 21, 2021 1:00PM-3:00PM  
John A. Wilson Building - Press Room G9  
1350 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20004

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**Deadline for Electronic Submission: 5:00PM on Wednesday July 28, 2021 via ZoomGrants**