



THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
OFFICE ON **LATINO AFFAIRS**



MAYOR'S OFFICE ON LATINO AFFAIRS

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY (NOFA)

FY 2025 IMMIGRANT JUSTICE LEGAL SERVICES GRANT

A. Background Information

The Executive Office of Mayor Muriel Bowser and The Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs (MOLA) are soliciting grant applications for its FY 2025 Immigrant Justice Legal Services (IJLS) Grant from qualified Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), Private Organizations, Associations, and Law Firms serving the District of Columbia's community.

The grant funds are intended to support the provision of legal services to the immigrant population – including mobilizing pro bono talent or skilled immigration attorneys and legal professionals to provide immigrant justice legal services, as well as language access services to other grantees to effectuate the legal services provided. The FY 2025 IJLS Grant offers a one-time and multi-year grant, this last one available only to organizations that have been an IJLS grantee for at least two years.

MOLA's mission is to improve the quality of life of the District's Latino residents by addressing a broad range of social and economic needs through strategic management of public and private partnerships, expertise on policy, community relations, civic engagement, and community-based grants and to ensure Latinos have access to vital programs and services offered by DC in the areas of human services, health, education, housing, economic development, and employment opportunities. MOLA has served the Latino community of the District of Columbia Since 1976.

B. Funding Priorities

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 staff attorneys, paid outside counsel, or pro bono counsel supervised by or in conjunction with the applicant organization, 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. **Protect temporary protected status (TPS) holders in Washington D.C.**, organizing and conducting full legal campaigns to protect TPS holders in Washington, DC, including using communications, organizing, possible structural litigation, as well as individual legal representation.
5. **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 on their immigration-related legal issues.
7. **Language Access Services** involves providing culturally competent language access services to other IJLS grantees on an unlimited and as needed basis (to the greatest feasible extent) for IJLS 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.

C. Target Population

Except for the final category of services targeted to IJLS grantees, the target population for the use of 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. 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 in the District of Columbia.

D. Eligibility Criteria

Applicants shall meet the following minimum requirements to be considered for the FY25 IJLS Grant:

1. 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 and is licensed as a business with the District of Columbia's Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection (DLCP).
2. The organization's principal place of business must be located in the District of Columbia; if the business is a national or regional organization, it must have a location in the District through which it provides services.
3. The organization must provide direct services to District residents or collaborate with an organization that provides services to District residents.
4. All services and programming funded by the grant must be provided within the District of Columbia; and
5. The organization must be currently registered and in good standing with DLCP and the Office of Tax and Revenue (OTR). Applicants must maintain their good standing status with the aforementioned entities throughout the pre-award process and the grant's performance period.
6. Applicants shall provide an affidavit regarding any debarments, suspensions, or default with the Office of Contract and Procurement (OCP).
7. *(This requirement applies only to current MOLA grantees)* Current grantees must be:
 - a. current on MOLA reporting obligations for the FY24 grant cycle.

- b. in good standing with the District’s legal requirements, including those imposed by any grants or contracts; and
 - c. progress reports must reflect substantial progress towards the goals of the grant agreement.
8. *(This requirement applies only to current IJLS grantees)* Organizations are eligible to apply for a multi-year grant if the organization has been an IJLS grantee for at least two consecutive years.

E. Important Dates

<u>Release Date of RFA:</u>	Friday, May 17, 2024
<u>Availability of RFA:</u>	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) and electronic grant clearinghouse which can be accessed here: https://communityaffairs.dc.gov/content/community-grant-program
<u>Amount of Awards:</u>	Eligible organizations can be awarded up to \$50,000.
<u>Application Deadline:</u>	Applications must be submitted via ZoomGrants by Friday, June 14, 2024, at 5:00 PM EST
<u>Length of Awards:</u>	Grant awards are for FY 2025 October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025
<u>Pre-Bidder’s Conference:</u>	Wednesday, June 5, 2024 10:00 am - 11:30 am Frank D. Reeves Municipal Building 2000 14 th Street NW, Second Floor Washington, DC 20009
<u>Points of Contact:</u>	Ricardo Espitia, Grants Management Specialist Lucy Hernandez, Grants Monitor Phone: 202-714-4769 or 202-600-1807 Email: grants.ola@dc.gov