

FY14 Access to Justice Grants Overview

This overview provides a brief summary of the projects funded under the FY14 Access to Justice Grants to civil legal services providers in the District of Columbia. The projects described below received new or continued public funding.

Shared Legal Interpreter Bank

Community Legal Interpreter Bank

\$288,000

Ayuda received continued funding for its shared legal interpreter bank which provides assistance to legal service providers using trained community legal interpreters. The project serves as a national model for coordinated, point-of-service legal interpreter services.

Underserved Communities and Neighborhoods

Healthy Together - Generations

\$27,000

Children's Law Center received continued funding for its medical-legal partnership with the Children's National Medical Center's Generations program that focuses on teen parents and their children. The project provides legal representation on a wide range of issues and health outcomes for children born to teen parents.

Workers' Rights Clinic Collaboration

\$30,000

DC Employment Justice Center received new funding to develop a Workers' Rights Clinic Collaboration with Neighborhood Legal Services Program (NLSP). The Workers' Rights Clinic will serve DC resident workers located in Wards 5 and 7. The Collaboration will also expand NLSP's capacity to litigate employment cases on behalf of low-income workers residing in the District.

Jenny Hatch Justice Project

\$33,675

Quality Trust for Individuals with Disabilities received new funding to hire a part-time attorney to provide representation to District residents with disabilities who are facing or in overbroad and undue guardianship.

Community Lawyering Project

\$57,500

Bread for the City has received continued funding for its innovative community lawyering work located at its site on Good Hope Road, SE (border of Wards 7 and 8). The public grant continues to fund lawyers on this project, who work directly with the community, help identify options to address concerns, and provide substantial direct representation to individuals in the community. The project's two top priorities are to assist the Barry Farm Resident Council in its efforts to

protect the existing community in the wake of redevelopment and to assist returning citizens (ex-offenders) with re-integration into their communities after incarceration.

Brief Services Unit Project

\$75,000

Neighborhood Legal Services Program received renewed funding to maintain its second staff attorney in its Brief Services Unit. The attorney performs an initial diagnosis of legal problems and provides advice or brief service when such limited assistance may be sufficient to enable the individual to resolve the problem. The beneficiaries of the project are DC residents living in Wards 5, 7 and 8.

Project Eradicating Notario Deceit (Project END)

\$75,000

Ayuda received renewed funding for a full-time staff attorney to advise, counsel and represent immigrant victims of fraud in potential immigration, civil and criminal processes stemming out of fraudulent acts by “representatives” purporting to serve the immigrant community. These representatives are often known as “notarios” or “immigration consultants”. The intended beneficiaries of Project END are low-income immigrants residing in the District who have been defrauded by a notario claiming to provide immigration legal services.

Homebound Elderly Project (Project HELP)

\$102,000

Legal Counsel for the Elderly was awarded renewed public funding for an attorney to assist low income homebound elders in need of wills, advance directives, and public benefits audits, as well as those affected by consumer scams, and experiencing housing related issues. The attorney brings legal services directly to those low-income seniors who cannot get out to meet with an attorney. The Project HELP lawyer also draws on support of a pool of pro bono lawyers and other volunteer professionals to provide increased legal services to homebound seniors.

School Discipline/OAH Extended

\$112,000

Advocates for Justice and Education received continued funding to address the increasing demand for legal representation and support in suspension and expulsion proceedings. The public funding supports two staff attorney positions and increases the hours of its Director of Legal Services position.

DC Jail & Prison Advocacy Project

\$140,500

University Legal Services (ULS) serves as DC’s federally mandated protection and advocacy organization --- charged with working for the rights of people with disabilities. ULS received continued funding to support attorneys to provide legal services and direct advocacy for inmates in the DC Jail and other DC correctional facilities with mental disabilities. The staff attorneys have established good relationships, and work closely, with DC Department of Corrections, DC Department of Mental Health and Federal Bureau of Prisons regarding DC prisoners. The project will add one part-time attorney who will focus on public benefits applications for soon-to-be released female inmates.

Domestic Violence Community Legal Services Project

\$142,000

Bread for the City received continued funding for its Domestic Violence Community Legal Services Project, which provides legal services including civil protection orders, divorce, child custody, and public benefits to low-income District residents who are experiencing violence with the household. The project's target populations are domestic violence survivors living in Wards 5, 6, 7 and 8. The public funding supports two attorney positions.

Domestic Violence Underserved Communities Representation Project

\$143,500

Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia received continued funding for two staff attorneys to provide focused outreach and legal services to domestic violence survivors in poor and underserved communities in DC. The project attorneys have also established an office at the NW Domestic Violence Intake Center located in DC Superior Court.

Max Robinson Center Legal Services

\$175,000

Whitman-Walker Legal Health received continued funding to provide legal representation, counseling and outreach to people living with HIV/AIDS in Wards 7 and 8 through lawyers based at its Max Robinson Clinic. This grant adds legal services to the medical services provided at the Max Robinson Center.

Healthy Together

\$272,000

Children's Law Center received continued funding for its Healthy Together Project in Southeast DC. In this medical-legal collaboration, the lawyers provide services through the two Southeast clinic offices of the Children's National Medical Center (CNMC). The lawyers work with families of CNMC patients to identify and resolve non-medical solutions to children's health issues.

Child Support Community Legal Services Project

\$295,500

Bread for the City and Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia received continued funding for their Child Support Court Based Legal Services Project. The project's partners have opened a court-based legal services office at the Paternity & Support Branch of the DC Superior Court. The public funding supports three staff attorney positions to provide representation to low-income parents in child support proceedings.

Polk Street Office – Ward 7

\$322,000

Neighborhood Legal Services Program (NLSP) received continued funding to provide neighborhood based legal services in housing, family law, and public benefits. This funding supports the salaries of lawyers located in Ward 7 in NLSP's neighborhood legal services office on Polk Street, NE.

Southeast Neighborhood Access Project

\$295,000

Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia has received continued public funding to support lawyers to work with clients from offices co-located with other service organizations in Wards 7 and 8. Lawyers work out of two neighborhood offices located in Southeast, and provide a range of civil legal services.

Housing Issues

Housing and Community Development Project

\$40,000

The Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center (APALRC) is the region's legal advocate for the legal and civil rights of Asian Americans in the Washington metropolitan area. APALRC's lawyers work together with volunteers and interns to provide legal assistance to low-income Asian immigrants with limited-English proficiency regarding immigration, housing, abuse prevention and healthcare. Through the Housing and Community Justice Project, APALRC works to provide legal assistance to the District's low-income Asian immigrants with limited-English proficiency regarding evictions, threats, illegal rent increase and bad housing conditions, as well as illegal relocation, denial of access to housing applications and lack of language access in Section 8 developments. Public funding provides continued support for a staff lawyer.

Attorney-of-the Day

\$105,000

DC Law Students in Court received continued public funding to support attorneys to work at the Landlord-Tenant Court in collaboration with the Landlord-Tenant Court Based Legal Services Project. This grant leverages additional legal assistance from law students on matters residents bring to Landlord-Tenant Court.

Landlord-Tenant Court Based Legal Services Project

\$589,500

Bread for the City and Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia received continued funding to maintain lawyers in the Landlord Tenant Court Based Legal Services Project to provide legal services to low income tenants in DC through an "attorney-of-the-day" project. Tenants receive same-day representation in matters they have in court, and long-term help on housing matters. By increasing representation in Landlord Tenant Court, lawyers help keep families in housing, address code violations, and keep housing affordable.