

FY 2009 Publicly Funded Grants to Legal Services Providers

OVERVIEW

This overview provides a brief summary of the programs funded for FY 2009 grants to civil legal services providers. Four of the fifteen funded projects received a public grant for the first time. The remainder received continuation funding.

Community Interpreter Bank

1. Ayuda was funded to continue the ongoing development of a legal interpreter bank to provide assistance to legal service providers using “community legal interpreters.” Ayuda is the lead organization, complemented by an Advisory Board that includes founding members APALRC, La Clínica del Pueblo, and American University, along with newer member Legal Aid Society of D.C. The project serves as a national model for coordinated, point-of-service legal interpreter services.

Grant Award for FY09: \$307,000

Housing Related Services

2. Court Based Legal Services Project

A collaborative including the Legal Aid Society of D.C., Bread for the City, and Neighborhood Legal Services Program received continued funding to maintain lawyers in the Landlord Tenant Court to provide legal services to low income tenants in DC through an “attorney-of-the-day” project that enjoys strong support from the Superior Court judges serving in Landlord-Tenant Court. 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. There are currently 8 lawyers working on this project: three each from Bread and Legal Aid, and two from NLSP. One of the lawyers from Legal Aid Society is charged with providing coordination to the project.

The service providers have launched a pro bono component to the project, securing pro bono assistance in selected long-term matters.

Grant Award for FY09: \$627,600

3. DC Law Students In Court

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

Grant Award for FY 2009: \$90,000

4. Legal Counsel for the Elderly – Alternatives to Landlord-Tenant Court (NEW PUBLIC GRANTEE)

Legal Counsel for the Elderly provides free services to people who are 60 or older, live in the District of Columbia, and are in need of legal assistance in areas including housing, consumer and public benefits. LCE's Alternatives to Landlord Tenant Court project provides legal representation and other services to low income elderly residents in DC. The target population for this project includes low income seniors in public and subsidized housing, who are at risk of eviction. Public funding will provide partial support for a project attorney to provide legal services including working with landlords and government agencies in an effort to avert eviction proceedings. The project draws on lawyer and non-lawyer volunteers for the additional service it provides; the publicly funded lawyer will work closely with the publicly-funded Project HELP attorney, effectively expanding the reach and impact of both programs across the city.

Grant Award for FY 2009 : \$20,000

5. Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center --- Housing and Community Justice Project (NEW PUBLIC GRANTEE)

The Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center is the region's legal advocate for the legal and civil rights of Asian Americans in the Washington metropolitan area. APALRC's Housing and Community Justice Project provides a critical bridge between low income and LEP Asian immigrant families and communities in the District, and will provide both housing and community development legal

services. The project as a whole will focus on the provision of legal services, education materials, activities to protect affordable housing, and language access for Asian immigrants, largely clustered in Ward 1 neighborhoods. Public funding will provide partial support for a staff lawyer.

Grant Award for FY 2009: \$45,000

Neighborhood and Underserved Community Grants

6. Bread for the City --- Community Lawyering Project

Bread for the City has received continued funding for its innovative community lawyering work, which has added legal services to the other services it provides at its facility on Good Hope Road, SE (border of Wards 7 and 8). Community lawyering in civil legal services is based on the same successful premise implemented by the Community Prosecution model of the DC US Attorney's Office: lawyers who engage the community in problem-solving, using tools including but not limited to traditional direct representation, develop long-term solutions to otherwise chronic problems. The public grant continues to fund one of the lawyers on this project, who works directly with the community, helps identify options to address concerns, and provides substantial direct representation to individuals in the community.

Grant Award for FY 2009: \$62,100

7. Children's Law Center ---- Southeast Health Access Project

Children's Law Center (CLC) receives continued funding for the expansion of the Health Access Project (HAP) into Southeast DC. In this innovative medical-legal collaboration, the 2 and ½ lawyers funded in the HAP SE project who provide services through the three SE 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. The HAP SE project will continue to expand its SE pro bono program, leveraging additional private legal resources for their community. HAP is a partnership project with the Children's National Medical Center.

Grant Award for FY 2009: \$265,300

8. DC Employment Justice Center – Bilingual Attorney (NEW PUBLIC GRANTEE)

The DC Employment Justice Center provides services to workers through its Workers Rights Centers in Northwest and Southeast DC. DCEJC has been funded to hire a bilingual attorney who will be devoted solely to working with Spanish speaking low wage workers in D.C. on issues such as unemployment compensation, and wage and hour violations. The services will be provided to workers citywide.

Grant Award for FY 2009: \$50,000

9. Legal Aid Society --- Southeast Neighborhood Access Project

Legal Aid Society has received continued public funding for the equivalent of 8 lawyers to work with clients from offices co-located with other service organizations in Wards 7 and 8. Lawyers work out of the Domestic Violence Intake Center in Southeast, the Children's Health Project located at THEARC, and Advocates for Justice and Education in Anacostia, and provide a range of civil legal services.

Grant Award for FY 2009: \$465,997

10. Legal Counsel for the Elderly --- Project HELP

Legal Counsel for the Elderly (LCE) was awarded continued 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 and support a growing pool of pro bono lawyers and other volunteer professionals to provide increased legal services to homebound seniors.

Grant Award FY2009: \$86,000

11. Neighborhood Legal Services Program --- Expansion

NLSP received continued funding to provide neighborhood based legal services in housing, family law, public benefits, consumer, employment, education, guardianship, and wills/estates. As a result of this funding, NLSP expanded

legal services in Wards 5 and 8, including opening a neighborhood legal services office on Nannie Helen Burroughs Ave., NE.

Grant Award for FY 2009: \$466,000

12. University Legal Services --- Jail Advocacy Project

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, with technical assistance from the DC Prisoners Project of the Washington Lawyers Committee, received continued funding to support a staff attorney to provide legal services and direct advocacy for inmates in the DC Jail and other DC correctional facilities with mental disabilities. The staff attorney has established good relationships, and works closely, with DC Department of Corrections and DC Department of Mental Health.

Grant Award for FY 2009 : \$117,400

13. US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) Center for Refugee and Immigrant Children (NEW PUBLIC GRANTEE)

The US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants helps refugees and immigrants by advocating for and defending their rights. In 2005 USCRI created the Center for Refugee and Immigrant Children to ensure that all unaccompanied immigrant children are afforded the fundamental right to due process in deportation matters. The Center received funding to support one staff attorney for a project to provide immigration status for D.C. foster children. This would enable the children to achieve greater security in the community, contribute to society when they leave foster care, and would permit the District to collect revenue from the federal government for serving the children. The Center envisions the DC project as a pilot that it hopes can be replicated in other cities.

Grant Award for FY 2009 : \$65,600

14. WEAVE --- Lighthouse Center for Healing

Women Empowered Against Violence (WEAVE) received continued funding in FY 2009 to provide legal services to low income victims of domestic violence through co-located services in Fort Totten at the Lighthouse Center for Healing, which opened in the spring of 2008, on the border of Wards 4 and 5. This funding supports the work of three lawyers and a paralegal. The Center

provides "one-stop" services for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence, and survivors of homicide, by co-locating an office of the MPD, US Attorney, Victim Services, and counseling and relevant legal services.

Grant Award for FY 2009 Award: \$293,529

15. Whitman Walker ---- Max Robinson Center, Southeast DC

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

Grant Award for FY 2009: \$170,000