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# The CBF Grants List

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2022-2023



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## SUMMARY

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Thanks to the generous support of thousands of individual donors, hundreds of law firms and companies, and many other dedicated partners, the CBF grants program is able to invest in the entire pro bono and legal aid system and make an impact that no one individual or entity could acting alone. Due to this strong support, the CBF made more than \$7 million in grants in 2022-2023, supporting dozens of pro bono and legal aid organizations and a number of innovative projects that are making a longer-term impact.

The annual [CBF Investing in Justice Campaign](#) continues to be the primary engine for the CBF's core grants. The Campaign yielded more than \$2 million in grants and support for more than 30 pro bono and legal aid organizations and related initiatives, thanks to more than 4,000 individual donors and additional funds the CBF is able to leverage through the Campaign grants process from a number of dedicated foundation and government partners.

The CBF awarded four types of core grants over the past year:

- 1) Organizational Support grants totaling \$887,500
- 2) Special Project grants and support totaling more than \$703,416
- 3) Public interest law fellowships, scholarships, and internships totaling \$97,280
- 4) Other grants totaling more than \$156,048

In addition, the CBF awarded over \$5 million dollars in grants associated with Cook County Legal Aid for Housing and Debt (CCLAHD), a groundbreaking program to provide critical help for people facing evictions, consumer debt challenges, foreclosure, and other issues that helped tens of thousands of people in the last year.

CBF grants:

- Support dozens of outstanding pro bono and legal aid organizations serving our community;
- Underwrite court-based help desks, pro bono projects, and other related initiatives that make the justice system more user-friendly and accessible for people in need;
- Help dedicated attorneys pursue legal aid careers; and
- Make it possible for pro bono attorneys to most effectively make a difference.

The grants process is carried out by a highly-regarded and broadly representative board of lawyers and judges with the assistance of experienced CBF staff. The CBF carefully vets pro bono and legal aid organizations and strategically allocates funds to make the biggest difference for people in need.

This document contains the complete list of the CBF’s 2022-2023 grants. For additional information about the CBF’s grants and the rigorous grants process, please refer to the [CBF’s website](#) or contact Melanie MacBride at 312/554-1206 or [mmacbride@chicagobarfoundation.org](mailto:mmacbride@chicagobarfoundation.org).

## ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT GRANTS

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The CBF’s 2022-2023 Organizational Support grants were funded entirely by the 2022 [Investing in Justice Campaign](#). These grants provide critical and consistent general operating support for pro bono and legal aid organizations in our community. Coming out the pandemic, the need for legal services has been heightened, but because of our dedicated donors, tens of thousands of Chicagoans were able to access critical legal help at a time when it is more important than ever.

Our goal in the CBF grants process is to make the broadest impact possible across the whole continuum of services in line with our strategic priorities and to maximize leverage from Investing in Justice Campaign funds. Priority among the CBF’s Organizational Support grants is given to organizations that have a broad impact on increasing access to justice for those most in need in Cook County. The CBF considers several factors, including an organization’s overall systemic impact; the areas of law and communities served by the organization; the organization’s ability to support and develop staff; the organization’s incorporation of diversity, equity, and inclusion in all aspects of their operation; and the number of people impacted by the organization’s work. Consideration is given to the full scope of support that the CBF provides to each individual organization in determining awards.

In 2022-2023, the CBF made the following Organizational Support grants:

**Access Living—Legal Services Program** **\$20,000**

Access Living uses the legal system to further its mission of independent living for people with disabilities. Through its Legal Services Department, the organization provides free legal representation to people who have been discriminated against based on disability in housing, public accommodations, government programs, and other services and programs.

**Ascend Justice** **\$45,000**

Ascend Justice empowers individuals and families impacted by gender-based violence or the child welfare system to achieve safety and stability through holistic legal advocacy and systemic reform. The organization serves domestic violence survivors seeking legal assistance related to orders of protection, immigration, family law, housing, and employment, as well as individuals who are being investigated or are appealing a finding of child neglect or abuse.

**Business and Professional People for the Public Interest (BPI) \$25,000**

Business and Professional People for the Public Interest (BPI) works to combat systemic barriers to equity with a focus on police accountability, the criminal legal system, housing access, and early learning.

**Cabrini Green Legal Aid (CGLA) \$30,000**

CGLA provides free legal and social services to low-income people throughout Chicago who are impacted by the collateral consequences of contact with the criminal justice system. The organization's areas of focus include criminal defense, criminal records, eviction, and family law.

**CARPLS (Coordinated Advice & Referral Program for Legal Services) \$25,000**

CARPLS, the legal aid hotline for Cook County, provides advice, information, and referral services over the telephone and through court-based assistance desks to low-income residents of Cook County. Staff and volunteer attorneys provide over 60,000 legal consultations annually to over 25,000 low-income people on civil law matters ranging from adoption to zoning.

**Center for Conflict Resolution (CCR) \$30,000**

CCR provides over 1,600 free mediation services each year, trains new mediators, and works with the courts, government agencies, and organizations to create custom designed dispute resolution systems and training programs.

**Center for Disability & Elder Law (CDEL) \$30,000**

CDEL works to advance the legal rights of low-income persons with disabilities and elderly persons in Cook County. CDEL assists its clients through the combined efforts of a small staff and a network of about 300 pro bono attorneys. Currently, CDEL offers legal representation on various civil legal issues, including consumer, adult guardianship, housing, estate planning and wills.

**Centro Romero—*Latin American Legal Assistance Services* \$15,000**

Centro Romero is a community-based organization on Chicago's north side that serves primarily Spanish-speaking immigrants and refugees. Through its Latin American Legal Assistance Services, which is recognized by the Department of Justice, it offers legal representation and education in the areas of citizenship, naturalization, and DACA.

**Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation (CAASE) \$25,000**

CAASE works to eliminate sexual exploitation and assault through litigation and advocacy, organizing and policy reform, and prevention and resource development. CAASE’s legal program provides free legal services to survivors of rape and prostitution. It advocates with police and prosecutors, litigates against rapists using the Illinois Civil No Contact Order Act, and represents clients with landlords, employers, and schools.

**Chicago Coalition for the Homeless—*Law Project* \$30,000**

The Chicago Coalition for the Homeless Law Project provides civil legal services in select cases that advance the legal rights and remedies of persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, including ensuring that public school systems do not wrongly bar homeless children from enrolling in and attending schools.

**Chicago Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights \$50,000**

The Chicago Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights works to secure racial equity and economic opportunity in our community. Through partnerships with law firms, the Lawyers’ Committee provides legal assistance to clients and communities in litigation and transactional matters. The organization collaborates with community leaders, advocacy organizations, and attorneys to craft and implement community-based solutions and policy reform. Its current legal projects focus on education, housing, voting and civic empowerment, public safety, and community economic development.

**Chicago Volunteer Legal Services Foundation (CVLS) \$25,000**

CVLS volunteers and staff attorneys represent low-income Chicagoans in a wide variety of civil matters. Some of the many types of cases CVLS handles include divorce, adult and minor guardianships, adoption, tort defense, mortgage foreclosure and eviction cases. Over 2,500 volunteers and staff annually assist about 9,000 clients.

**Equip for Equality \$55,000**

Equip for Equality strives to advance the human and civil rights of people with disabilities in Illinois. It is the only comprehensive statewide advocacy organization providing self-advocacy assistance, legal services, and education, while also engaging in public policy initiatives and impact litigation.

**Greater Chicago Legal Clinic** **\$12,500**

CLC provides low cost and free legal services to low-income people living in Chicago and suburban Cook County. The Clinic offers representation in various areas of law, including family law, domestic violence, criminal records, mortgage foreclosure, eviction, and immigration law.

**Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO)** **\$20,000**

ILAO is a web-based technology project that improves access to justice for lower-income and vulnerable Illinois residents by providing online legal information and resources to the lower-income public as well as to legal aid and pro bono attorneys. ILAO developed and maintains <http://www.illinoislegalaid.org>, which annually is visited about 2 million times.

**Latinos Progresando—Immigrant Legal Services Program** **\$22,500**

Through its Immigrant Legal Services Program, Latinos Progresando, a Department of Justice-recognized organization, serves immigrants in Little Village and other Chicago-area communities by providing low-cost immigration legal services, including naturalization and citizenship.

**Law Center for Better Housing (LCBH)** **\$30,000**

LCBH provides free legal services to low- and moderate-income tenants with a goal of impacting the affordable housing crisis to the greatest extent possible. Each year, LCBH helps tenants from all over Chicago who are facing eviction with a combination of legal representation, supportive social services and policy advocacy.

**Lawyers for the Creative Arts (LCA)** **\$17,500**

LCA provides pro bono legal services to individuals and organizations in the arts. With the help of hundreds of volunteer attorneys, LCA advises artists and arts organizations on the full array of legal issues they encounter, such as general business, registering and protecting their intellectual property via copyright, trademark, contracts, and resolving other disputes.

**Legal Aid Chicago** **\$30,000**

Legal Aid Chicago is the largest organization in Chicago and suburban Cook County providing free civil legal services to individuals and families unable to afford a lawyer. Legal Aid Chicago helps over 20,000 people a year by providing comprehensive legal services on a wide range of civil legal problems including family law, eviction, mortgage foreclosure, bankruptcy, and public benefits.

**Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Family Services (LAS) \$30,000**

Founded in 1886, LAS is the second oldest legal aid program in the nation and today continues to provide legal assistance to low-income families who cannot afford a private attorney. Each year, LAS provides free legal assistance in family law and other civil matters, with services ranging from brief service and advice to full litigation.

**Legal Council for Health Justice \$55,000**

Legal Council for Health Justice uses the power of the law to secure health, dignity, and stability for chronically ill children, individuals facing homelessness, and people with HIV and other disabilities. Through its focus on three core areas – legal assistance, education, and public policy— Legal Council for Health Justice assists low-income people manage the complexities, barriers, and unique stigma they face to remaining healthy. The organization delivers legal services primarily through medical-legal partnerships.

**Life Span—*Center for Legal Services & Advocacy* \$35,000**

Life Span provides comprehensive services to low-income victims of domestic and sexual violence. The core of Life Span’s legal services includes legal advice, information and representation in all family law matters, such as divorce, custody, child support, visitation, and Orders of Protection. It also provides immigration legal services to survivors of domestic violence. Life Span pairs its legal services with in-house counseling for clients and their children.

**National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC) \$55,000**

NIJC serves low- and moderate-income immigrants without regard to legal status. Through a network of staff and over 1,500 volunteer attorneys, NIJC provides comprehensive immigration legal services to individuals, families and children, including immigrant visas, deportation defense, and asylum representation. NIJC also engages in policy reform and public education.

**North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic \$17,500**

North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic offers free legal services to low-income residents in suburban Cook County and Lake County. The Clinic offers representation in various areas of law, including family law, domestic violence, housing, and immigration law.



**Shriver Center on Poverty Law (Shriver Center) \$45,000**

The Shriver Center is a multi-issue legal advocacy organization dedicated to lifting people out of poverty. The Center helps shape state law and federal policies into affordable mechanisms to eliminate poverty, and its work includes broad legal assistance, policy advocacy, public education, and training of legal aid advocates. The Shriver Center is a unique and invaluable resource for frontline legal aid attorneys in the Chicago area.

**The James B. Moran Center for Youth Advocacy \$25,000**

The Moran Center provides legal and social work advocacy to low-income youth in the Evanston area. The organization’s legal practice involves juvenile and adult criminal court matters as well as administrative advocacy in special education and school discipline matters. The Moran Center also runs an Expungement and Sealing Help Desk at the Skokie Courthouse and civil legal aid clinics at three Evanston elementary schools.

**The Roger Baldwin Foundation of the ACLU of Illinois—*Children’s Initiative* \$15,000**

The CBF’s funding supports the Children’s Initiative, which serves as a legal advocate for the thousands of abused, neglected, and troubled children being held in state and county custody in Illinois.

**Uptown People’s Law Center (UPLC) \$30,000**

UPLC combines grass-roots advocacy with legal representation of poor and working people in Uptown and the surrounding communities. UPLC focuses its work in the areas of Social Security and public benefits, housing and tenant rights, and prisoner civil rights.

**World Relief Chicagoland—*Immigration Legal Services* \$12,500**

Located in Chicago’s Albany Park neighborhood, World Relief Chicago provides legal services to low-income immigrant and refugee families on a variety of immigration issues, including family reunification and citizenship. World Relief Chicago is recognized by the Department of Justice as an agency authorized to provide legal services to immigrants.

**TOTAL: \$882,500**

## SPECIAL PROJECT GRANTS

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The CBF makes Special Project grants to support innovative court-based projects that help make the legal system more fair, accessible, and efficient. These projects have a broad impact on the courts and justice system and align with the CBF’s overall priorities, including making the courts more user friendly and accessible to people without lawyers and supporting pro bono. The CBF’s Special Project grants enable thousands of low-income and disadvantaged Chicagoans to get critical legal assistance, information, and advice each year.

The court-based advice or help desks funded by the CBF assist people without lawyers with a wide variety of legal problems. Lawyers who staff these desks “triage” each person’s situation and provide the following services: help them better understand their legal problem; refer them to pro bono and legal aid lawyers when appropriate; give them brief advice and self-help resources for their legal problems; and assist them with completing court documents and forms. Collectively these desks served nearly 13,000 people last year and helped the courts run more smoothly.

The CBF’s Special Projects grant and other support primarily are made possible by contributions to the [Investing in Justice Campaign](#). These contributions also help leverage significantly more funding for the Special Projects from a special grant the CBF receives from The Chicago Community Trust’s Chicago Area Fund for Legal Assistance; funds from Cook County, the U.S. District Court, the Bankruptcy Help Desk Foundation, and the City of Chicago to support court-based advice desks and pro bono projects; and other funding partners.

### 2022-2023 Special Project Grants

#### **Municipal Court Advice Desk—CARPLS**

**\$274,863**

A joint project with the Circuit Court of Cook County, the CBF, CARPLS and Greater Chicago Legal Clinic, this Desk provides free legal assistance to low-income individuals with a variety of municipal case types, including eviction and consumer debt cases.

#### **Municipal Court Advice Desk—Greater Chicago Legal Clinic**

**\$103,176**

A joint project with the Circuit Court of Cook County, the CBF, and CARPLS, GCLC complements the work of CARPLS at this Desk by providing extended representation to low-income patrons of the Desk referred by CARPLS with more complex municipal case types, including eviction and consumer cases.

**Minor Guardianship Assistance Desk—Chicago Volunteer Legal Services** **\$82,582**

A joint project with the Circuit Court of Cook County, the CBF, and CVLS, this Desk offers assistance to persons representing themselves in seeking guardianship of a minor.

**The Judge William J. Hibbler Memorial Pro Se Assistance Desk—Legal Aid Chicago** **\$88,154**

A partnership between the Federal District Court, Legal Aid Chicago, the CBF, and a group of dedicated pro bono attorneys, this Desk provides people without lawyers in Federal Court with legal information, advice and limited legal assistance.

**Bankruptcy Assistance Desk—Legal Aid Chicago** **\$68,191**

With a corps of pro bono attorneys, this Desk provides legal information, advice, and brief legal assistance to people without lawyers in Bankruptcy Court. This Desk is a partnership between the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in the Northern District of Illinois, Legal Aid Chicago, and the CBF.

**Illinois JusticeCorps—Illinois Bar Foundation** **\$34,000**

Through a partnership with the Serve Illinois Commission, the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice, the Illinois Bar Foundation, and the CBF, this innovative statewide program recruits and trains students to serve as guides to make courts across Illinois more welcoming and less intimidating for people without lawyers.

**City of Chicago Administrative Hearings Advice Desk— CARPLS** **\$37,450**

This Desk is a joint project with the City of Chicago, the CBF and CARPLS that provides free legal assistance to low-income people with cases pending before the City’s Department of Administrative Hearings, including building code violation cases, vehicle impound cases, and other municipal matters.

**Federal Court Settlement Assistance Project—  
Chicago Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights** **\$15,000**

Through this Project, pro bono attorneys represent self-represented people in settlement conferences in federal cases.

**TOTAL: \$703,416**



## OTHER GRANTS

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The CBF made a number of other grants in 2022-2023 to support a variety of access to justice and related philanthropic initiatives, including the CBF's Pro Bono and Public Service Award grants, the CBF's Young Professionals Board/CBA Young Lawyers Section Partnership Grants, and discretionary grants.

### Pro Bono and Public Service Award Grants

Each year, the CBF co-sponsors with The Chicago Bar Association the Pro Bono and Public Service Awards Celebration. The awards honor the work of seven unsung heroes (including the Anderson Fellowship described above) from a broad cross-section of the greater Chicago legal community whose dedication to ensuring access to justice inspires those around them to join in their efforts. Many of these awards provide the recipient with the opportunity to designate a special grant to a CBF-funded organization.

**The Thomas H. Morsch Public Service Award** **\$10,000**  
A cash prize was awarded to Pat Wrona, CARPLS.

**The Edward J. Lewis II Pro Bono Service Award** **\$2,500**  
A grant was awarded to the Legal Aid Society in honor of Shelisa M. Thomas.

**The Exelon Outstanding Corporate Counsel Award** **\$2,500**  
A grant was awarded to the Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Family Services in honor of Chantal Kazay.

**The Leonard Jay Schragger Award of Excellence** **\$2,500**  
A grant was awarded to the DePaul University College of Law Legal Clinics in honor of Dean Jennifer Rosato Perea.

**The Maurice Weigle Exceptional Young Lawyer Award** **\$2,500**  
A grant was awarded to Legal Council for Health Justice in honor of Patrick Yingling.

**The Justice Thomas L. Kilbride Public Service Award** **\$2,500**  
A grant was awarded to the Roger Baldwin Foundation of the ACLU, Inc. in honor of Hon. Catherine Schneider.

**Legal Aid Chicago** **\$1,000**

The winner of a special Pro Bono and Public Service Awards Luncheon drawing designated the grant to Legal Aid Chicago.

**TOTAL: \$23,500**

### **CBF Young Professionals Board/CBA Young Lawyers Section Partnership Grants**

Through partnerships with The Chicago Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Section and the CBF Young Professionals Board (YPB) and other organizations, the CBF funds projects that educate vulnerable youth about their legal rights and responsibilities or otherwise provide or promote legal or civic-related education, including diversity initiatives.

**CBA Media & Civic Education, Inc. (Chicago Bar Association affiliate)** **\$5,000**

A \$5,000 grant supports the Edward J. Lewis II Chicago Lawyers in the Classroom Program at various Chicago Public Schools.

**Center for Disability & Elder Law** **\$5,000**

This grant supports the Serving Our Seniors Project and the Senior Center Initiative.

**Mikva Challenge** **\$3,000**

This grant supports the Democracy in Action course, Issues to Action Project, and Project Soapbox.

**Just the Beginning Foundation** **\$2,500**

This grant supports school year diversity pipeline programming.

**Legal Prep Charter Academy** **\$2,500**

This grant supports the Mentoring Program at Chicago’s legal-themed, college preparatory charter school in West Garfield Park.

**Wills for Heroes** **\$439**

Wills for Heroes provides essential legal documents free of charge to our nation’s first responders, including wills, living wills, and powers of attorney.

**TOTAL: \$18,439**

## Other Grants

The CBF made a number of other grants in 2022-2023 to support a variety of access to justice and related philanthropic initiatives.

### **The Chicago Bar Association** **\$72,537**

This grant supports CBA membership and complimentary Continuing Legal Education (CLE) for attorneys working at legal aid organizations receiving CBF organizational support grants. These memberships, which the CBA provides at a reduced rate, are offered in partnership with the CBA.

### **Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago—Legal Assistance** **\$5,000**

Catholic Charities Legal Assistance (CCLA) operates primarily through a hotline over which staff and volunteer attorneys advise clients on a broad range of legal issues, provide brief legal services or make referrals for representation. CCLA also provides community legal education at Catholic Charities' facilities in Chicago and the suburbs and extended representation in a limited number of cases.

### **Center for Conflict Resolution** **\$5,000**

This grant supports the launch of a pilot program between the Center for Conflict Resolution and the Chicago Police Department to provide mediation of select police misconduct complaints.

### **Chicago Community Foundation** **\$5,000**

This grant supports the Illinois Immigration Funders Collaborative.

### **DePaul University College of Law Legal Clinics** **\$5,000**

This grant supports the Legal Resource Project for Immigration Service Providers through the Asylum and Immigration Law Clinic

### **Farmworker & Landscaper Advocacy Project** **\$5,000**

Farmworker and Landscaper Advocacy Project (FLAP) works to fight human labor trafficking through systemic advocacy, education, and direct representation.

### **Illinois Equal Justice Foundation** **\$5,000**

This grant supports the Equal Justice Illinois Campaign and Foundation operations. The Foundation works to increase state funds to support organizations providing civil legal aid to low-income families and seniors throughout Illinois.

**ABA Fund for Justice & Education** **\$3,000**

This grant supports the Judicial Intern Opportunity Program.

**Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees** **\$2,500**

Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees (GCIR) is a network of local, state, and national funders who seek to leverage their grantmaking to expand opportunities for and address challenges facing immigrants, refugees, and their communities.

**Metropolitan Tenants Organization** **\$2,500**

The Metropolitan Tenants Organization educates, organizes, and empowers tenants to have a voice in the decisions that affect the affordability and availability of safe, decent, and accessible housing.

**Pro Bono Network** **\$2,500**

This Pro Bono Network connects attorneys who want to volunteer with workable pro bono opportunities through partnerships with community organizations and legal aid organizations.

**Shriver Center on Poverty Law** **\$1,072**

This grant supports training for Illinois legal aid organizations with the Shriver Center’s Racial Justice Institute, the premier training resource in the country for lawyers and advocates seeking to build their capacity and skills to champion racial justice in their communities and inside their organizations.

**TOTAL:     \$114,109**

## **COOK COUNTY LEGAL AID FOR HOUSING AND DEBT**

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The CBF is a lead partner in the groundbreaking [Cook County Legal Aid for Housing and Debt \(CCLAHD\)](#) program, an innovative public/private partnership between Cook County, the Circuit Court of Cook County, the City of Chicago, and many other government, legal, and community partners. In 2022-2023, the CBF will administer approximately \$5 million in grants to support this partnership. CCLAHD partners include:

- CARPLS
- Center for Conflict Resolution
- Center for Disability & Elder Law



- Chicago Volunteer Legal Services
- Greater Chicago Legal Clinic
- Law Center for Better Housing
- Legal Aid Chicago
- Legal Aid Society

In addition to the above partners, the CBF also supports more than two dozen community outreach grantees.

[To learn more about the CCLAHD program visit here >](#)