
The CBF Grants List

2025-2026



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SUMMARY

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 \$12 million in grants in 2026-2026, 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 4,300 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 \$977,500
- 2) Special Project grants and support totaling more than \$1,304,360
- 3) Public interest law fellowships, scholarships, and internships totaling \$78,600
- 4) Other grants totaling more than \$650,916

In addition, the CBF awarded \$9.8 million dollars in grants associated with a groundbreaking program to provide critical help for people facing evictions, consumer debt challenges, foreclosure, and other issues. The County, City, and State combine funding for this program which assists tens of thousands of people in Cook County each 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;
- Make it possible for pro bono attorneys to most effectively make a difference; and
- Respond to emerging, urgent legal needs with targeted support.

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 2025-2026 grants. For additional information about the CBF's grants and the rigorous grants process, please refer to the [CBF's website](#) or contact the CBF's Chief Grants & Operations Officer, Melanie MacBride, at 312/554-1206 or mmacbride@chicagobarfoundation.org.

ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT GRANTS

The CBF's 2025-2026 Organizational Support grants were funded entirely by the 2026 [Investing in Justice Campaign](#). These grants provide critical and consistent general operating support for pro bono and legal aid organizations in our community. The need for legal services continues to increase, but because of our dedicated donors, tens of thousands of Chicagoans were able to access critical legal help.

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. 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; and the number of people impacted by the organization's work.

The CBF considers the full scope of support that it provides to each organization in determining the amount of each award. Organizations that receive larger project grants may receive comparably lower general operating support.

In 2025-2026, the CBF made the following Organizational Support grants:

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

Cabrini Green Legal Aid (CGLA) \$42,500

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) \$27,500

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) \$30,000

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) **\$27,500**

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 **\$25,000**

GCLC 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) **\$25,000**

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 maintained <http://www.illinoislegalaid.org>, which is visited annually about 2 million times.

Impact for Equity **\$25,000**

Impact for Equity (f/k/a 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.

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 project and has civil legal aid clinics at three Evanston elementary schools.	
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.	
Lawndale Christian Legal Center	\$25,000
Lawndale Christian Legal Center provides holistic criminal defense and engages in systemic advocacy on behalf of juveniles and emerging adults.	
Lawyers for the Creative Arts (LCA)	\$20,000
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	\$65,000
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 remain healthy. The organization delivers legal services primarily through medical-legal partnerships.	
Life Span	\$40,000
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	\$20,000
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.	
Pro Bono Network	\$15,000
Pro Bono Network provides opportunities for attorneys who want to volunteer but need additional support to participate in discreet projects that are co-developed with legal aid organizations.	
The Roger Baldwin Foundation of the ACLU of Illinois—<i>Children’s Initiative</i>	\$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)	\$50,000
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 **\$17,500**

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.

Initial-Support Grants

Included in the organizational support grant total are the CBF’s **Initial-Support grants**, a steppingstone to Organizational Support grants. Initial-Support grantees receive many of the benefits of being an organizational support grantee, including unrestricted financial support, and, in time, they may be invited to apply for an organizational support grant. In 2025-2026, Initial-Support grants were awarded to:

Chicago House **\$5,000**

Chicago House’s TransLegal Program provides direct legal support and access to legal information for transgender and gender non-conforming individuals.

Disability Rights Advocates **\$5,000**

Disability Rights Advocates is a nonprofit legal center with the mission of advancing the rights, inclusion, and equity of people with disabilities, primarily through high-impact litigation.

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.

Legal Action Chicago **\$5,000**

Legal Action Chicago complements Legal Aid Chicago by using litigation and legislative advocacy to address systemic issues affecting entire communities.

Raise the Floor Alliance **\$5,000**

Raise the Floor Alliance is an organization that advocates for low-wage workers, offering free legal assistance in areas like wage theft, discrimination, and immigration relief, and engaging in systemic advocacy to improve workplace standards.

TOTAL: \$977,500

SPECIAL PROJECT GRANTS

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 serve over 10,000 people annually and help the courts run more smoothly.

The CBF's Special Project grants and other support are primarily 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.

2025-2026 Special Project Grants

Projects that provide services in the Circuit Court of Cook County:

Chancery Advice Desk-- Greater Chicago Legal Clinic (GCLC) \$100,357

A joint project with the Circuit Court of Cook County, the CBF, this Desk provides free legal assistance (brief advice, document drafting) to low-income people without lawyers who have cases in the chancery division.

Domestic Relations Self-Help Desk-- CARPLS \$249,068

A joint project with the Circuit Court of Cook County, the CBF, and CARPLS, this Desk provides free legal assistance to low-income individuals with pre-decree domestic relations cases.

Domestic Relations/ Domestic Violence Desk- Marham Courthouse--

Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Family Services (LAS) \$50,759

A joint project with the Circuit Court of Cook County, the CBF, and LAS, this Desk provides free legal assistance to low-income individuals with domestic relations and domestic violence cases at the Markham Courthouse.

Minor Guardianship Assistance Desk-- CVLS**\$97,045**

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

Municipal Court Advice Desk-- CARPLS**\$360,118**

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

Municipal Court Advice Desk-- Greater Chicago Legal Clinic (GCLC)**\$135,135**

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 cases, including eviction, torts, and consumer cases.

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.

Projects that provide services in the Federal Court:**The Judge William J. Hibbler Memorial Pro Se Assistance Desk—****Uptown People's Law Center****\$92,561**

This Desk is a partnership between the Federal District Court, Uptown People's Law Center, and the CBF. Pro bono attorneys provide people without lawyers in Federal Court with legal information, advice, and limited legal assistance.

Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights—**Federal Court Settlement Assistance Project****\$30,000**

Through this project, pro bono attorneys represent people without lawyers in settlement conferences in federal cases, including employment and prisoner civil rights.

Legal Aid Chicago—Bankruptcy Assistance Desk**\$111,793**

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.

Other Projects:

City of Chicago Administrative Hearings Advice Desk-- CARPLS

\$43,524

This Desk is a joint project with CARPLS, the City of Chicago, and the CBF 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.

TOTAL: \$1,304,360

FELLOWSHIP, SCHOLARSHIP, AND INTERNSHIP GRANTS

One of the CBF's priorities is to make it possible for dedicated lawyers to pursue careers in legal aid and public interest law in the face of often overwhelming financial challenges. The CBF provides significant funding for a number of public interest law fellowships, scholarships, and internships that have made it possible for a growing group of committed law students and attorneys to pursue their chosen line of work.

The CBF Kimball R. Anderson and Karen G. Anderson Public Interest Law Fellowship \$30,000

This Fellowship provides loan repayment assistance (payable over five years) to recent law school graduates who work for CBF-funded public interest organizations. In 2025-2026, the CBF supported five fellowships for:

- Alyssa Phillips, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless
- Lydia Sharp, Equip for Equality
- Nicole Schur, DePaul College of Law's Racial Justice Initiative
- Andy Froelich, James B. Moran Center
- Spencer Haydary, Law Center for Better Housing

Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI)

\$28,600

This grant supports three summer internships and two school-year internships for law students working at CBF-funded pro bono and legal aid organizations in the Chicago area.

The CBF Moses Scholarship	\$20,000
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This \$60,000 scholarship (payable over three years) is awarded once every three years by rotation to one of the six Chicago-area law schools for an incoming law student who plans to pursue public interest law. In 2025-2026, the CBF provided year two of the three-year grant to Ava Trevino at Chicago-Kent College of Law.

TOTAL:	\$78,600
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OTHER GRANTS

The CBF made a number of other grants in 2025-2026 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, Rapid Response 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
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A cash prize was awarded to Cynthia Cornelius, Cabrini Green Legal Aid.

The Edward J. Lewis II Pro Bono Service Award	\$2,500
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A grant was awarded to Legal Aid Chicago in honor of Rich Klawiter.

The Outstanding Corporate Counsel Award	\$2,500
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A grant was awarded to the National Immigrant Justice Center in honor of Kathy Malamis.

The Leonard Jay Schrager Award of Excellence	\$2,500
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A grant was awarded to the Chicago-Kent Public Interest Center in honor of Michelle Vodenik.

The Maurice Weigle Exceptional Young Lawyer Award	\$2,500
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A grant was awarded to Chicago Volunteer Legal Services in honor of Missy Turk Firmage.

The Justice Thomas L. Kilbride Public Service Award **\$2,500**
A grant was awarded to Prairie State Legal Services in honor of Judge Veronica O'Malley.

TOTAL: \$22,500

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) **\$10,000**
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 **\$5,000**
This grant supports the Wills for Heroes, which provides essential estate planning documents free of charge to our nation's veterans and first responders

TOTAL: \$28,000

Rapid Response Grants

The CBF made a number of other grants in 2025-2026 designed to enhance the Chicago legal community's communication and coordination response to crises and emerging legal issues impacting the Chicago area that require a large pro bono and/or legal aid effort.

Grants were provided in two primary areas:

- Support for the Nonprofit Legal Support Hub, which assists nonprofits attempting to navigate an evolving landscape of federal legal requirements and compliance challenges and is part of the [Nonprofit Resilience Hub](#): \$136,791
- Support for organizations assisting individuals impacted by increased immigration enforcement: \$309,000

TOTAL: \$445,791

Other Grants

The CBF made a number of other grants in 2025-2026 to support a variety of access to justice and related philanthropic initiatives.

ABA Fund for Justice & Education- Judicial Intern Opportunity Program \$3,000

This grant supports the Judicial Intern Opportunity Program.

ABA Fund for Justice & Education- Rule of Law Campaign \$2,500

This grant supports the Rule of Law Campaign.

The Chicago Bar Association \$88,125

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.

Chicago Community Foundation \$10,000

This grant supports the Illinois Immigration Funders Collaborative.

Chicago Funders Together to End Homelessness \$10,000

Chicago Funders Together to End Homelessness (CFTEH) is a collaborative of more than 30 philanthropic partners learning together and aligning resources around a shared strategy to prevent and end homelessness. Through its grantmaking efforts and convening power, CFTEH promotes more equitable housing policy, aligns public and private sector resources, and shifts power to communities most impacted by homelessness.

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

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.

Institute for the Advancement of the Legal System (IAALS) **\$10,000**

This grant supports IAALS' work on the Above the Line Network, a network of individuals and organizations that are committed to using innovative approaches to make legal services more affordable and accessible to underserved legal consumers in the middle class.

Legal Aid for New Entrepreneurs (LANE) **\$5,000**

This grant supports LANE, a newer non-profit organization that assists low-income small business owners with legal services.

The Roger Baldwin Foundation of the ACLU of Illinois—Children's Initiative **\$1,000**

The winner of a special Passport to Chicago drawing designated a grant to Life Span.

TOTAL: \$650,916

COOK COUNTY LEGAL AID FOR HOUSING AND DEBT/ EVICTION COUNSEL PROGRAM

The CBF is a lead partner in an innovative program that provides critical help for people facing evictions, consumer debt challenges, foreclosure, and other issues. This program is a public/private partnership between Cook County, the Circuit Court of Cook County, the City of Chicago, the State of Illinois and many other government, legal, and community partners and includes both the groundbreaking [Cook County Legal Aid for Housing and Debt \(CCLAHD\)](#) program and the [Eviction Counsel Program](#).

In 2025-2026, the CBF administered over \$9.8 million in grants and contracts to support this innovative model. 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 of Metropolitan Family Services

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