

MASSBAR FOUNDATION

TOGETHER IN THE PROMISE OF JUSTICE

2022/2023 IOLTA Grants Program Awards

Barnstable County

Organization: **Barnstable County Bar Association**

Program: Barnstable County Probate & Family Court Project

Description: Provides direct legal assistance to pro se individuals through a Lawyer for the Day program and a Pro Bono Conciliation Program at the Barnstable Probate and Family Court. Volunteer attorneys are recruited from the BCBA.

Award: \$19,920.00

Website: www.barnstablebarassociation.org

Organization: **Cape Mediation**

Program: Court Mediation and Conciliation Program (Court ADR)

Description: Provides no-fee mediation services in Barnstable and Nantucket Counties. Funds will be used to provide summary process mediation in Falmouth and Orleans District Courts, small claims mediation in Falmouth and Nantucket District Courts, and a civil conciliation program in both the Orleans & Barnstable District Courts.

Award: \$16,500.00

Website: www.capemediation.org

Organization: **South Coastal Counties Legal Services**

Program: South Coastal Counties Legal Services, Inc. - Homelessness Prevention Project

Description: Provides direct representation to tenants and homeowners in Southeastern Mass. who are at risk of homelessness due to eviction, foreclosure, termination of rental assistance benefits, discrimination, and/or denial of access to subsidized housing or emergency shelter.

Award: \$37,000.00

Website: www.sccls.org

Organization: **WE CAN**

Program: WE CAN Legal Services, Consultations and Workshops

Description: Provides free legal consultations to low-income women of Cape Cod regarding primarily family law matters, including divorce, child support, and custody issues. Funds will also be used to provide attorney-led Divorce Boot Camps, Family Law Overview workshops, workshops on Legal Issues Facing Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, and workshops on Child Support.

Award: \$16,500.00

Website: www.wecancenter.org

Berkshire County

Organization: **Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority**

Program: Housing Services and Mediation Program (HSMP)

Description: Provides legal counseling, informal mediation/negotiation services, and in-court mediation services to resolve landlord/tenant, neighbor, and some small claims disputes to all Berkshire County landlords, tenants, homeowners, and consumer disputants. Funds will also be used for community legal education programs.

Award: \$36,000.00

Website: www.bcrha.com

Organization: **Berkshire Immigrant Center**

Program: Immigration Legal Services and Education

Description: Assists low-income Berkshire County immigrants by providing advice, information, advocacy, referral and support on issues related to immigration, employment, citizenship, housing, and social services. Funds will be used to conduct a semi-monthly walk-in clinic offering clients consultation with an immigration attorney.

Award: \$22,500.00

Website: www.berkshireic.org

Organization: **Health Law Advocates, Inc.**

Program: Mental Health Advocacy Program for Kids-Western MA

Description: Provides legal representation to families to help overcome barriers to mental health care for children and minimize their involvement in juvenile court. Initially launched in 2012 in two pilot sites (Lowell and Lynn), MHAP for Kids now serves a statewide service area, and 10 total sites. This grant specifically provides funding for the Pittsfield office.

Award: \$15,000.00

Website: www.healthlawadvocates.org

Bristol County

Organization: **Bristol County Bar Association**

Program: Bristol County Bar Association Pro Bono Conciliation Program

Description: Offers a pro bono conciliation project that seeks to remove as many cases as possible from the Bristol County Probate & Family Court trial docket and to get the parties to self-determine case outcomes. Pro bono conciliators drawn from the BCBA focus primarily on pro se litigants.

Award: \$10,000.00

Website: www.bristolcountybarassociation.org

Organization: **Catholic Social Services of Fall River, Inc.**

Program: Catholic Social Services of Fall River, Inc., - Immigration Law Programs (ILEAP & IVRP)

Description: Provides low and no-cost legal assistance for low-income refugees and immigrants, including legal services such as representation in court proceedings and interviews, multi-lingual community education forums, and outreach to local detainees and victims.

Award: \$110,000.00

Website: www.cssdioc.org

Organization: **South Coastal Counties Legal Services**

Program: South Coastal Counties Legal Services, Inc. - Education Advocacy Project

Description: Provides legal representation in special education and school discipline matters to children of color, children with disabilities, and English language learners enrolled in the public school systems of Fall River, Brockton, and New Bedford. Funds will also be used for Know Your Rights presentations for students and parents.

Award: \$45,000.00

Website: www.sccls.org

Organization: **South Coastal Counties Legal Services**

Program: South Coastal Counties Legal Services, Inc. - Elder Law Project

Description: Provides direct representation to low-income elders regarding the significant problems they are facing. SCCLS will focus on three critical issues: affordable housing preservation, financial security, and access to appropriate health care and advanced directives.

Award: \$27,500.00

Website: www.sccls.org

Organization: **The Women's Center**

Program: Legal Advocacy Program

Description: Assists individuals seeking protection from abusive relationships by advising them of their options in regard to filing restraining orders and/or criminal charges, offering victims the information and resources needed to make informed choices, and by assisting them to access pro-bono legal services. Program serves the 12 towns and two cities that comprise the greater New Bedford/Fall River area.

Award: \$30,000.00

Website: www.thewomenscentersc.com

Essex County

Organization: **Children's Law Center of Massachusetts, Inc.**

Program: Child & Adolescent Legal Services (CALS) Program

Description: Provides a comprehensive approach to child advocacy, implementing a wide range of legal and related services to children in MA. Services include direct representation, information and referral, technical assistance and training to attorneys, parents, and youth-serving professionals; community outreach and education, and systemic advocacy.

Award: \$65,000.00

Website: www.clcm.org

Organization: **Essex County Bar Association**

Program: Multi-Court Pro Bono Conciliation Program

Description: Removes as many cases as possible from the Essex County trial docket using over 192 pro bono conciliators from the ECBA to resolve conflict, at no cost to the parties or courts, prior to trial at six courthouses in Essex County.

Award: \$17,000.00

Website: www.essexcountybar.org

Organization: **Essex County Bar Association**
Program: Northeast Housing Court Lawyer for a Day Program
Description: Provides legal advocacy and mediation to low-income or marginalized tenants and landlords in the Salem session of the Northeast Housing Court. Low-income or marginalized clients will receive assistance from pro bono attorneys serving as lawyer for the day. This is a successor program of North Shore Community Action Programs' LDP which has operated at the housing court for nearly 20 years.
Award: \$17,500.00
Website: www.essexcountybar.org

Organization: **Essex County Bar Association**
Program: Probate and Family Court Pro Bono Lawyer for the Day Program
Description: Supports low-income individuals in Probate and Family Court matters, such as divorce, custody, child support, visitation, guardianship, abuse prevention, and restraining orders. Attorneys volunteer their time at Essex County Probate Courts.
Award: \$16,000.00
Website: www.essexcountybar.org

Organization: **Greater Lawrence Community Action Council**
Program: Greater Lawrence Community Action Council Immigration Services Program
Description: Provides immigration legal services through direct representation by staff and pro bono attorneys to low-income clients in Lawrence, Methuen and Lowell. Includes outreach and efforts to educate the community and local service providers about immigration law and available resources.
Award: \$5,000.00
Website: www.glcac.org

Organization: **Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center**
Program: Domestic Violence Family Law Program
Description: Provides free and reduced fee legal representation to low-income victims of domestic violence in northern Essex County with their safety and family law issues. Services are provided both by a staff attorney and a pro bono attorney panel.
Award: \$19,900.00
Website: www.jeannegeiger.org

Organization: **North Shore Community Mediation, Inc.**
Program: Court and Community Mediation Program
Description: Provides pre-screening and mediation services at the small claims and summary process sessions in the Salem, Peabody, and Gloucester District Courts, to juvenile CRA or HPO cases from the Essex County Juvenile Court, and complex divorce and separation cases from the Salem session of the Essex County Probate & Family Court.
Award: \$5,500.00
Website: www.nsmmediation.org

Organization: **Northeast Legal Aid**
Program: Consumer Law Project
Description: Provides civil legal services to low-income and elderly Northeastern Mass. residents to obtain economic benefit and relief from oppressive debt collection. Funds will be used to provide direct representation, advice, screening and referral, and community outreach on consumer issues.
Award: \$20,000.00
Website: www.northeastlegalaid.org

Organization: **Northeast Legal Aid**
Program: Domestic Violence Helpline Project
Description: Offers free family law legal services to clients who fall just outside the eligibility requirements of NLA's MLAC funded Domestic Violence Legal Advocacy Program. Services will be provided directly or through a helpline system and will include community education, counsel and advice, and assistance in District Court on protective order matters.
Award: \$12,000.00
Website: www.northeastlegalaid.org

Organization: **Northeast Legal Aid**
Program: Immigrant Victims of Domestic Violence Project
Description: Provides direct representation to immigrants with inter-related immigration, domestic violence, and family law matters with the goal of obtaining immigration status in the US. The program attorney will also engage in community education, pro bono attorney programming, and helpline legal services.
Award: \$35,000.00
Website: www.northeastlegalaid.org

Organization: **Northeast Legal Aid**
Program: Lawyer for A Day Program
Description: Provides legal aid, ranging from counsel and advice to full representation, in the Northeast Housing Court to low-income tenants and landlords. The service will be available in the Lowell, Lynn, and Lawrence sessions. A lawyer will also attend Lynn United's evening meeting to promote the community lawyering model.
Award: \$59,900.00
Website: www.northeastlegalaid.org

Franklin County

Organization: **Collaborative Resolutions Group**
Program: Family Mediation Program
Description: Offers low or no-cost divorce, post-divorce, custody, and relationship mediation services to low-income couples. Funds will also support the On-site Introductory Mediation Programs at the Franklin, Hampshire & Hampden Probate and Family Courts.
Award: \$15,000.00
Website: www.collaborativeresolutionsgroup.org

Organization: **Franklin County Bar Association Advocates, Inc.**
Program: Franklin County Bar Association Advocates for Justice
Description: Supports reduced-fee attorneys providing legal services to low-income children, elders, and victims of domestic violence who are at risk of exploitation, abuse, homelessness, and continued poverty. The Franklin Probate and Family Court encourages program participation to assist in dealing with the high volume of pro se litigants.
Award: \$44,500.00
Website: www.franklincountybar.org

Organization: **Quabbin Mediation**
Program: Rural Court Mediation
Description: Provides free mediation services for small claims cases in Orange and Eastern Hampshire District Courts, and referrals from the Franklin County Probate & Family Court's Orange sessions. Veteran mediators, trained through Quabbin's Veteran Mediation Program, will be utilized for any cases involving veterans.
Award: \$7,500.00
Website: www.quabbinmediation.org

Hampden County

Organization: **Community Legal Aid, Inc.**
Program: Hampden County Education Law Project
Description: Provides legal assistance to low-income children in Hampden County faced with unlawful or unfair disciplinary actions, with the goal of ensuring they remain and succeed in school.
Award: \$10,000.00
Website: www.CommunityLegal.org

Organization: **Community Legal Aid, Inc.**
Program: Seniors Partner for Justice - West
Description: Supports the recruitment and coordination of pro bono attorneys to serve as volunteer conciliators and/or volunteer lawyers on a limited assistance representation basis to low-income, pro se litigants in the Hampden Probate & Family Court.
Award: \$13,580.00
Website: www.CommunityLegal.org

Organization: **Community Legal Aid, Inc.**
Program: Western Mass. Family Law Advocacy Project
Description: Provides a holistic program of legal assistance for low-income families in crisis, most of whom are victims of domestic violence. The Project uses a combination of outreach, education, and advocacy to help low-income Berkshire, Franklin, and Hampshire County families achieve safety, stability, and economic independence. The Project's work focuses on obtaining protective orders, divorce, safe custody and parenting time arrangements and child support for low-income custodial parents and also assists the region's social service agencies and domestic violence providers to achieve these goals for their consumers.
Award: \$45,000.00
Website: www.CommunityLegal.org

Organization: **Community Legal Aid, Inc.**
Program: Western Massachusetts Eviction Defense Project
Description: Provides legal assistance to tenants facing eviction in the Western Division of the Housing Court. It combines the services that VFJ provided during the court's Thursday "summary process" (eviction) session in Springfield, and the services provided by HCIP, which stationed CLA attorneys in the court's satellite sessions in Hadley and Greenfield and the public housing eviction session in Springfield on Fridays. In response to COVID, CLA shifted its resources to provide staff attorneys to serve as virtual lawyers-for-the-day (LFD) for tenants from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. every day of the week.
Award: \$65,000.00
Website: www.CommunityLegal.org

Organization: **Hampden County Bar Association**
Program: Children's Law Project
Description: Provides legal representation for children involved in cases in the Probate and Family Court. Funds will also be used to recruit and train lawyers to serve as advocates at a reduced fee for children involved in family law cases.
Award: \$60,000.00
Website: www.hcbar.org

Hampshire County

Organization: **Center for New Americans**
Program: Center for New Americans Citizenship & Immigration Program
Description: Provides immigration legal services to low-income immigrants at low or no cost. Funds will be used to provide informational workshops, legal counsel, and application assistance.
Award: \$16,500.00
Website: www.cnam.org

Organization: **Hampshire County Bar Association**
Program: HELP & DRPC
Description: Addresses the unmet civil legal needs of the low-income elders 60 years of age or older in Hampshire County and provides direct representation for children exposed to conflict in domestic relations cases in Hampshire County and who are ineligible for any other form of legal assistance. Local attorneys are paid on a reduced fee basis and each attorney takes at least one case pro bono.
Award: \$15,000.00
Website: www.hampshirebar.org

Organization: **Safe Passage**
Program: Legal Advice and Referral Panel
Description: Provides legal assistance to low-income survivors of domestic violence. Services will be provided by a staff attorney and a panel of reduced fee attorneys who provide legal consultation, advice, and representation to clients
Award: \$20,000.00
Website: www.safepass.org

Middlesex County

Organization: **Community Dispute Settlement Center**
Program: Divorce/Family/Juvenile District Court Mediation
Description: Provides mediation services to low and moderate income litigants in the Probate & Family and District Courts, both on-site at the courts and off-site at CDSC. Funds will be used to provide mediation to address issues related to married and unmarried separating couples, as well as small claims, summary process, and other complex civil issues.
Award: \$17,340.00
Website: www.communitydispute.org

Organization: **De Novo Center for Justice and Healing**
Program: The Domestic Violence Advocacy Project
Description: Assists victims of domestic violence and their children in securing long-term protection from abuse, safe custody and visitation arrangements, child and spousal support, and access to health care. Funds will also be used to recruit, train, and supervise pro bono attorneys to handle domestic violence cases, as well as for various outreach activities.
Award: \$36,000.00
Website: www.denovo.org

Organization: **De Novo Center for Justice and Healing**
Program: The Homelessness Prevention Project
Description: Prevents homelessness by providing legal assistance to low-income families and individuals, people with disabilities, senior citizens, and victims of domestic violence in order to obtain or retain access to safe, affordable housing. Funds will also be used to recruit and train pro bono attorneys
Award: \$20,000.00
Website: www.denovo.org

Organization: **De Novo Center for Justice and Healing**
Program: The Immigration Law Project
Description: Provides free immigration legal services to immigrants seeking political asylum, battered immigrants, and unaccompanied immigrant minors. Funds will also be used to conduct comprehensive asylum intake and referral to pro bono resources, to recruit and train volunteer attorneys, and to conduct systemic advocacy.
Award: \$55,000.00
Website: www.denovo.org

Organization: **Housing Families, Inc.**
Program: Homelessness Prevention & Legal Services Program
Description: Assists low-income clients at-risk of becoming homeless by staffing the Lawyer for the Day Program at Malden District Court, as well as the Woburn session of the Northeast Housing court, and providing weekly Eviction Defense Clinics. Funds will support the legal staff who, together with a pro bono panel, will provide legal representation, information, advice, and referrals.
Award: \$25,000.00
Website: www.housingfamilies.org

Organization: **Mediation Works Incorporated**
Program: MWI Volunteer Court Program
Description: Prevents homelessness and streamline court proceedings by providing court-connected mediation services for summary process cases at 6 district courts in Norfolk, Suffolk and Plymouth Counties. MWI is approved to serve at 5 add'l District Courts in Suffolk, Bristol and Middlesex counties, and hopes to expand services to those courts as well. Funds will also be used to recruit and train volunteer mediators, with a special focus on multilingual mediators.
Award: \$10,000.00
Website: www.mwi.org

Organization: **MetroWest Legal Services**
Program: Children's Education Advocacy Project
Description: Supports an attorney who will provide advice, brief services, outreach, and representation to parents whose children are not receiving the services they need to succeed academically (either special education or discipline issues).
Award: \$23,000.00
Website: www.mwlegal.org

Organization: **MetroWest Legal Services**
Program: Domestic Violence Project
Description: Provides a full range of free legal services to low-income victims of domestic abuse in their contested family law cases, with highest priority given to custody and visitation cases.
Award: \$47,000.00
Website: www.mwlegal.org

Organization: **MetroWest Legal Services**
Program: Juvenile Immigrant Relief Project
Description: Provides legal representation to undocumented students who are eligible for relief in their immigration cases. The goal of the Project is to obtain legal status for its clients in the form of Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, asylum, U-visa derivative status and then adjustment to receive legal permanent resident status.
Award: \$27,000.00
Website: www.mwlegal.org

Organization: **MetroWest Mediation Services, Inc.**
Program: Court Mediation & Conciliation Services
Description: Provides mediation services to individuals referred by the Framingham, Natick, Concord, and Marlborough District Courts, as well as the Middlesex County Juvenile and Probate and Family Courts.
Award: \$12,500.00
Website: www.metrowestmediationservices.org

Organization: **Middlesex County Bar Association**

Program: Pro Bono Conciliation Program

Description: Reduces the backlog of pending cases in the Middlesex Probate and Family Court using pro bono conciliators. The conciliators will meet with the parties and counsel to provide guidance and insight into what a Judge may do on a certain issue or to provide a reasonable solution to an existing logjam in the negotiations.

Award: \$12,000.00

Website: www.middlesexbar.org

Organization: **Saheli, Inc.**

Program: Saheli Legal Advocacy Program

Description: Increases awareness about the cultural aspects and challenges unique to immigrant communities by organizing workshops for law students at Boston area law schools. Funds will also be used to organize free legal clinics and educational workshops led by practicing attorneys, making legal help for immigrant victims of domestic violence more accessible.

Award: \$10,000.00

Website: www.saheliboston.org

Organization: **The Second Step**

Program: Steps to Justice

Description: Provides high-quality, trauma-informed, free legal services to survivors of domestic violence. Services include direct representation and limited assistance on matters related to abuse prevention, family law, housing and immigration. Serves Middlesex, Suffolk, Norfolk, and Essex counties.

Award: \$7,500.00

Website: www.thesecondstep.org

Norfolk County

Organization: **DOVE, Inc.**

Program: Legal Advocacy Program

Description: Provides direct legal assistance through advice, document preparation, and/or limited representation to domestic violence survivors primarily in Norfolk County.

Award: \$25,000.00

Website: www.dovema.org

Plymouth County

Organization: **Pilgrim Advocates, Inc.**

Program: Pilgrim Advocates, Inc. Lawyer of the Day

Description: Supports a Lawyer for the Day program in the Plymouth and Brockton Probate and Family Courts every court day of the year, as well as two attorneys one day a week in the Southeast Housing Court. Volunteer lawyers will assist pro se litigants onsite at the courts.

Award: \$12,000.00

Website:

Organization: **Plymouth County Bar Association**

Program: Plymouth County Probate & Family Court Conciliation Program

Description: Supports a pro bono conciliation project that will seek to remove as many cases as possible from the Plymouth County Probate & Family Court trial docket. Funds will be used to train pro bono conciliators drawn from the PCBA and to support the program coordinator.

Award: \$5,000.00

Website: www.plymouthcountybar.com

Organization: **South Coastal Counties Legal Services**

Program: South Coastal Counties Legal Services, Inc.- Immigration Law Project

Description: Provides direct representation immigration legal services to eligible clients in the Greater Brockton area. Services have recently expanded to providing assistance to unaccompanied minors residing in Bristol County and to adding Know Your Rights trainings throughout the region.

Award: \$65,000.00

Website: www.sccls.org

Suffolk County

Organization: **Boston CASA, Inc.**

Program: Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children and Youth

Description: Recruits, trains and supervises volunteer "court appointed special advocates" who are appointed by judges of the Suffolk County Juvenile Court to serve and advocate for court-involved children who have experienced abuse and neglect.

Award: \$10,000.00

Website: www.bostoncasa.org

Organization: **Casa Myrna Vazquez, Inc.**

Program: Legal Advocacy Program

Description: Provides legal representation, information and referral, legal counseling, court accompaniment, outreach, and education to victims of domestic violence who are shelter guests, community clients, and hotline callers. Funds will also be used to support a medical-legal partnership program at MGH and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Casa Myrna's anti-trafficking program.

Award: \$45,000.00

Website: www.casamyrna.org

Organization: **Finex House, Inc.**

Program: Legal Advocacy Program

Description: Provides in-house, comprehensive legal services to survivors of domestic abuse and their children. The staff attorney will assist clients with family law issues such as divorces, spousal support, child custody and support, benefits, housing advocacy, and immigration issues.

Award: \$20,000.00

Website: www.finexhouse.org

Organization: **Flaschner Judicial Institute**
Program: Education Programs and Publications for Judges
Description: Provides independent educational programs designed specifically for the Massachusetts Judiciary.
Award: \$155,000.00
Website: www.flaschner.org

Organization: **Greater Boston Legal Services**
Program: Affordable Housing, Shelter Access, and Foreclosure Prevention Project
Description: Provides legal assistance to tenants and conduct impact advocacy to improve rules and regulations to protect as many low-income tenancies in Greater Boston as possible.
Award: \$47,500.00
Website: www.gbls.org

Organization: **Greater Boston Legal Services**
Program: Families Work and Welfare Project (FWWP)
Description: Protects families from economic destitution and increase opportunities for economic stability through enforcement of rights and protections in the welfare laws. Funds will be used primarily to support individual representation. GBLS will continue to pursue administrative advocacy and litigation to address harmful agency policies and practices.
Award: \$32,500.00
Website: www.gbls.org

Organization: **Greater Boston Legal Services**
Program: Pro Bono Employment and Health Care for Low-Wage Workers' Project
Description: Leverages resources of the private bar to ensure a high quantity of legal rep. to low-wage workers in employment-related cases. Provides pro bono attorneys and law students to secure unemployment compensation, training, and health insurance benefits for qualified individuals and their families.
Award: \$42,500.00
Website: www.gbls.org

Organization: **Greater Boston Legal Services**
Program: Refugees and Immigrant Protect Project (RIPP)
Description: Addresses emerging and ongoing immigration and asylum needs of low-income refugee and immigrant communities in Massachusetts. Funds will be used to provide individual case representation, community legal education programs, and training and systemic advocacy at local and national levels.
Award: \$47,500.00
Website: www.gbls.org

Organization: **Health Law Advocates, Inc.**
Program: Medical Legal Partnership for Immigrants
Description: Increases access to health care for low-income immigrants by providing them with direct legal services to help them enroll in MassHealth and receive coverage for specific services. Services are delivered through partnerships with community health centers where legal assistance is provided on site.
Award: \$15,000.00
Website: www.healthlawadvocates.org

Organization: **JRI Health Law Institute**
Program: Serving the Underserved: Closer to Home
Description: Provides legal assistance to indigent people living with HIV/AIDS primarily in southeast and western Mass. Project lawyers will provide onsite intakes with formally collaborating agencies and health centers and provide representation on matters involving vital needs, such as access to disability benefits, housing, and health insurance.
Award: \$15,000.00
Website: www.jri.org/hli

Organization: **Justice at Work**
Program: Small Claims Wage Theft Project
Description: Assists workers in low-paying jobs in utilizing small claims court as an effective tool to rectify, punish, and deter wage theft (a situation in which an employer violates wage and hour laws, often through nonpayment of a worker's regular and/or overtime wages). Funds would be used to train law students, advocates, and staff; provide legal advice; and represent workers in small claims court.
Award: \$20,000.00
Website: www.jatwork.org

Organization: **KIND, Inc.**
Program: Legal Aid for Unaccompanied Immigrant Children Negatively Impacted by the Covid-19 Pandemic
Description: Supports a staff attorney who will represent high needs unaccompanied children in the Boston area. Given the children's complex legal cases and social needs, high needs unaccompanied minor cases are not a good fit for most pro bono attorneys and this project expands KIND's capacity to help them.
Award: \$10,000.00
Website: www.supportkind.org

Organization: **Lawyers Clearinghouse on Affordable Housing & Homelessness, Inc.**
Program: MA Legal Clinic for the Homeless and Nonprofit Assistance Program
Description: Offers legal services clinics to the homeless and near homeless using volunteer attorneys at several area homeless shelters, including the Pine Street Inn, St. Francis House, Medeiros Center, and the Women's Lunch Place. Funds will also be used to provide training to volunteer attorneys.
Award: \$17,500.00
Website: www.lawyersclearinghouse.org

Organization: **Lawyers for Civil Rights - Boston**
Program: Medical-Legal Partnership
Description: Supports a medical-legal partnership with MGH Health Care Center in Chelsea. A LCR attorney will receive referrals from the medical providers and provide free legal assistance in matters that impact a family's abilities to seek and sustain medical treatment that leads to improved health outcomes.
Award: \$10,000.00
Website: <http://www.lawyersforcivilrights.org>

Organization: **Mabel Center for Immigrant Justice**
Program: Legal Representation for the Dedicated Docket
Description: Provides pro bono legal services to asylum-seeking families that have been separated, detained in family detention centers, and/ or subjected to expedited removal through the dedicated docket
Award: \$10,000.00
Website: www.mabelcenter.org

Organization: **Massachusetts Advocates for Children**
Program: Children's Law Support and Education Justice Project
Description: Provides in-house and pro bono legal advice and representation to address the legal needs of MA children from low-income families who face barriers to equal educational opportunities. Funds will also be used to conduct systemic advocacy, training, and support to private attorneys and advocates.
Award: \$40,000.00
Website: www.massadvocates.org

Organization: **Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy (MIRA) Coalition**
Program: 40-Hour Immigration Law Training
Description: Provides an in-depth, 40-hour training on immigration law to staff at nonprofit organizations. Following completion of the training, MIRA will support students through the process of applying for recognition and accreditation through the DOJ's Office of Legal Access Programs.
Award: \$10,000.00
Website: www.miracoalition.org

Organization: **Massachusetts Law Reform Institute**
Program: Mass Legal Answers Online
Description: Supports a statewide virtual legal helpline. Through a secure website, low-income clients statewide pose questions regarding civil legal issues that are answered online by attorneys. Attorneys and clients can access the site at anytime with an internet connection. Part of an ABA effort to launch virtual legal helplines in every state.
Award: \$10,000.00
Website: www.mlri.org

Organization: **Massachusetts Law Reform Institute**
Program: Statewide Equity, Stability & Justice Project
Description: Supports MLRI's impact advocacy and technical assistance to frontline legal aid providers and anti-poverty advocates, with particular focus on immigration, housing, racial equity & justice issues.
Award: \$48,000.00
Website: www.mlri.org

Organization: **Pension Action Center, University of Massachusetts Foundation as fiscal agent**
Program: Pension Action Center Helpline and Case Advocacy for Older Adults
Description: Assists elders in recovering rightful pension benefits through advice, counsel and full representation. PAC is the only source of free pension legal assistance in Massachusetts.
Award: \$10,000.00
Website: www.umb.edu/pensionaction

Organization: **Pine Street Inn**
Program: Homeless Court Program
Description: Supports the Homeless Court, which is currently held at the Pine Street Inn. This specialty court assists homeless individuals in the removal of default warrants for low level felonies which are legal barriers that impede their ability to secure housing, employment, and substance disorder treatment.
Award: \$15,000.00
Website: www.pinestreetinn.org

Organization: **Political Asylum/Immigration Representation Project**
Program: PAIR Asylum and Detention Program
Description: Provides representation for immigrants seeking political asylum by combining the resources of the private bar, law schools, and nonprofit agencies and to advise and represent detained immigrants seeking asylum, waivers, and other relief in Immigration Court, and release on bond, parole, and habeas corpus petitions in federal court. Program also conducts Know Your Rights presentations to detainees, refers clients to its pro bono and reduced fee panels, and trains attorneys on detainee issues.
Award: \$100,000.00
Website: www.pairproject.org

Organization: **Prisoners' Legal Services**
Program: Health Equity and Brutality Project
Description: Ensures that prisons and jails identify, provide treatment for, and accommodate prisoners with chronic illness and mental health issues, and to provide advocacy for prisoners who have been assaulted by correctional staff. The project works to enforce prison regulations and other significant prisoners' rights.
Award: \$72,500.00
Website: www.plsma.org

Organization: **Rian Immigrant Center**
Program: Immigration Legal Services
Description: Assists low-income immigrants by providing a full range of legal services, beginning with consultation at the program's weekly legal clinics. Staff attorneys and BIA accredited representatives provide immigrants, asylees, and refugees with legal advice and/or full representation. Includes services provided through the Medical Legal Partnership for Immigrants in collaboration with Health Law Advocates.
Award: \$35,000.00
Website: www.riancenter.org

Organization: **Third Sector New England**
Program: Family Law Project at the Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee
Description: Provides legal representation to low-income parents with mental illness who are at risk of losing custody and all contact with their children. This project is a collaboration between Third Sector New England and the Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee.
Award: \$30,500.00
Website: www.mhlac.org

Organization: **Veterans Legal Services, Inc.**
Program: Expansion of Legal Aid Services for Massachusetts Veterans
Description: Provides free civil legal services to low-income military veterans so that they may achieve and maintain stable housing, economic security, and healthy families. Services are delivered on-site at veterans' homeless shelters, service centers, and VA facilities and range from on-the-spot advice to full representation.
Award: \$45,354.00
Website: www.veteranslegalservices.org

Organization: **Victim Rights Law Center**
Program: Pro Bono Enrichment Project: Improving Services for Marginalized Survivors
Description: Provides specialized training curricula for pro bono attorneys working with sexual assault survivors. The trainings will focus on three specific areas of need: gender marker changes, eviction, and working with survivors with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. The goal of these trainings is to increase access to legal services for the most vulnerable survivors.
Award: \$5,500.00
Website: <https://victimrights.org/>

Organization: **Women's Bar Foundation of Massachusetts, Inc.**
Program: The Family Law Project for Domestic Abuse Survivors
Description: Provides referrals for pro bono legal assistance to low-income survivors of domestic violence. The project recruits and provides ongoing training and mentoring for volunteer attorneys in the areas of domestic violence, divorce, child support, custody, and visitation.
Award: \$15,000.00
Website: <https://wbawbf.org/content/wbf>

Organization: **Youth Advocacy Foundation**
Program: EdLaw Project
Description: Provides educational advocacy to the state's highest risk children, as well as training and technical assistance to professionals and parents working with this population. The EdLaw Project is an initiative of the Youth Advocacy Foundation of CPCS, housed within the Youth Advocacy Division.
Award: \$13,500.00
Website: www.youthadvocacyfoundation.org

Worcester County

Organization: **Ascentria Community Services, Inc.**
Program: Immigration Legal Assistance Program
Description: Provides free legal services, including direct representation, managed referrals, and pro se assistance, to low-income political asylum seekers, unaccompanied minors, and victims of trafficking, violent crime, domestic violence, and labor exploitation.
Award: \$65,396.00
Website: www.ascentria.org

Organization: **CASA Project, Inc.**
Program: Child Court Advocacy Program
Description: Provides volunteer CASA court advocates for abused and neglected youth in the Worcester County Juvenile Court to ensure they receive needed services while in litigation and help them move quickly to safe, permanent homes. Funds will be used to monitor each case and volunteers serving in the program.
Award: \$50,000.00
Website: www.thecasaproject.org

Organization: **Community Legal Aid, Inc.**
Program: Central-West Veterans' Outreach & Advocacy Project
Description: Provides free legal assistance to low-income and elderly veterans in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, and Worcester Counties. The project will focus on helping veterans with income maximization issues to ensure they receive the benefits to which they are entitled.
Award: \$15,000.00
Website: www.CommunityLegal.org

Organization: **Community Legal Aid, Inc.**
Program: District Court Debt Collection Project
Description: Coordinates a pro bono program assisting low-income litigants in debt collection cases in the Worcester District Court. Volunteer attorneys will provide Limited Assistance Representation to eligible litigants including advice, forms preparation, negotiation with adverse parties, and representation at a hearing.
Award: \$10,000.00
Website: www.CommunityLegal.org

Organization: **Community Legal Aid, Inc.**
Program: Pro Bono Representation in Family Court
Description: Limits the time and assistance needed from the court by pro se litigants by providing lawyers to advise clients and pro bono attorneys to represent clients in uncontested divorces.
Award: \$25,000.00
Website: www.CommunityLegal.org

Organization: **Community Legal Aid, Inc.**
Program: Worcester County Education Law Project
Description: Provides legal assistance to low-income children in Worcester County faced with unlawful or unfair disciplinary actions, with the goal of ensuring they remain and succeed in school.
Award: \$23,110.00
Website: www.CommunityLegal.org

Organization: **Community Legal Aid, Inc.**
Program: Zarrow Homeless Advocacy Project
Description: Supports a staff attorney and team of volunteer attorneys from the WCBA who will provide legal counsel and advice to residents of homeless shelters and individuals and families who are at-risk of homelessness in order to reduce or prevent the incidences of homelessness.
Award: \$55,000.00
Website: www.CommunityLegal.org

Organization: **Dismas House of Central Massachusetts**

Program: BAR None Program

Description: Provides assistance to recently released ex-prisoners on any outstanding civil legal issues that are barriers to successful community reintegration. All assistance is provided free of charge to the client.

Award: \$18,500.00

Website: www.dismasisfamily.org

Organization: **YWCA of Central Massachusetts**

Program: Court Advocacy (Gtr Worcester and North Central Mass)

Description: Provides certified advocates onsite in the district and probate courts to provide advocacy and support services to victims of domestic violence seeking intervention and protection through the courts. The program serves Worcester Probate and Family Court, as well as the District Courts in Ayer, Clinton, Fitchburg, Gardner, Leominster, Winchendon, and Worcester.

Award: \$25,000.00

Website: www.ywcacm.org