



Legal Aid Innovation & Infrastructure Grants Selection Criteria 2022-2023

This rubric provides reviewers with a common frame of reference when scoring the Applications. In addition to individual Application scores, the Selection Committee will consider other factors, such as seeking geographic diversity, in determining which organizations will be tentatively approved for funding. Because circumstances will vary, the rubric is intended to offer guidelines rather than hard rules. **Total Points Available = 40 (34 Points + 6 Priority Points)**

1. Organizational Vision, Capacity and Ability to Achieve Project Goals (Question 13)

The extent to which the organization demonstrates the ability to deliver and effectively manage the proposed activities and outcomes. This can include the articulated vision for the project and how it aligns with the organization’s mission. Overall considerations include where they are now, their intentions for the future, and their learning and growth capabilities. It is not limited to traditional capacity measures such as organization size, established infrastructure, or board stature, but rather can include important capacities such as strong community connections, established partnerships, and cultural competence.

6 Points Available

2. Need for Proposed Services and Populations Served (Questions 14-16)

The “why”: The application should explain the stated need to be addressed with these infrastructure and innovation grant funds. Depending on the nature of the project proposed, this may be a description of the population the organization serves and an articulation of the community needs, or it may be a description of organizational needs and the issues the organization will address with these grant funds.

8 Points Available + 2 Priority Points for serving rural communities and 2 Priority Points for serving immigrant communities (up to 12 total, including Priority Points)

3. Strength of Proposed Project to Address Identified Infrastructure and/or Innovation Needs (Questions 14, 15 and 16)

The project should describe the “what” and “how” of the proposed infrastructure and innovation activities. The application should explain how the grantee will address the stated need with proposed activities that have been thoughtfully conceived and well-articulated. Planning components should include an assessment of resources needed, including allocation of appropriate staff, analysis of the skills necessary to achieve deliverables, training, readiness, timeline, potential barriers, and outputs.

8 Points Available + 2 Priority Point for significant partnership (up to 10 total, including Priority Points)

4. Significance of Proposed Outcomes and Impact (Question 20)

Impact: will this project enhance the organization’s ability to provide quality legal services beyond the term of the grant? Outcomes may include the number of people served, increased efficiency measures, the nature of the impact and other quantifiable deliverables, or it may be qualitative descriptions of how change will impact service delivery in the future. Relative to the grant amount requested, will the project result in meaningful impact for applicant or identified constituents?

8 Points Available

5. Additional Factors (Question 26)

Additional points can be allocated, up to four points total, for each significant additional consideration. Additional factors could include considerations such as replicability, sustainability, long term impact, or contributions to the legal aid infrastructure or learning community as a whole (e.g., mapping of legal services).

4 Points Available