

ABE AMERICAN BAR ENDOWMENT

More than 80 years of service

2025 Opportunity Grant Recipients

American Immigration Council (National)

\$25,000

The American Immigration Council seeks to develop an innovative asynchronous training module focused on the "particular social group" statute of asylum law, using LGBTQ cases as a primary example. This project aims to address the urgent need for specialized legal services for LGBTQ asylum seekers, who often face significant barriers in disclosing their identities during initial interviews, which can negatively impact their cases. To learn more, visit [American Immigration Council](#).

The Arc of the Capital Area (TX)

\$25,000

The Arc of the Capital Area is addressing a legal services desert by launching an all-in-one, accessible, and integrated platform that hosts Intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) legal support services for our guardianship program. The program will include systems navigation support for our juvenile justice program, estate planning, and access to AI software that offers 24/7 legal access outside of regular business hours. To learn more, visit [The Arc of the Capital](#).

Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project (National)

\$25,000

ASAP will launch a new legal-education project designed to guide asylum seekers through the increasingly digital process of seeking asylum in the United States. Through this project, ASAP will create and update new self-help resources about the online asylum process and provide individualized support to members with their questions through our legal help desk. This project will democratize access to legal knowledge for asylum seekers, helping them navigate online processes to seek asylum and build a safe, stable life for their families. To learn more, visit [ASAP](#).

Center for Justice and Human Dignity (WA)

\$25,000

CJHD is beginning to develop and provide resources, recommendations, implementation, and evaluation assistance to multiple jurisdictions, tailored to individual jurisdictions' needs and landscape. CJHD is developing a training and technical assistance program that supports jurisdictions in developing alternatives to incarceration (ATI) models that have stakeholder buy-in, are sustainable, and are informed by evidence-based practices. To learn more, visit [CJHD](#).

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Detroit Justice Center

\$25,000

(MI)

The Detroit Justice Center will distribute a comprehensive family law handbook geared specifically toward incarcerated parents. The intention of the handbook is to help people involved in the criminal justice system retain their parental rights. The handbook covers the entire spectrum of interaction with the court system, from pre-incarceration legal considerations for arrested parents to guardianship plans and custody arrangements for pregnant individuals during incarceration. Additionally, it will provide guidance on family reunification post-incarceration. To learn more, visit [Detroit Justice](#).

Public Interest Law Center of New Jersey (NJ Appleseed)

\$25,000

(NJ)

New Jersey Appleseed Public Interest Law Center (NJA) is developing a toolkit to help consumers navigate addressing medical debt. Accessible on a stand-alone website, from which the consumer handbook will be downloadable in pdf format, the toolkit will provide plain language guidance on consumer rights and legal steps to address medical debt. The project seeks to empower consumers to avoid or mitigate the effects of medical debt, while offering resources to assist in the process. To learn more, visit [NJ Appleseed](#).

Redemption Earned, Inc.

\$25,000

(AL)

Through the new and innovative JusticeBridge project, Redemption Earned seeks to address access to justice issues for prospective parolees from underserved and historically excluded populations by developing resources and training to facilitate the establishment of JusticeBridge student organizations on college campuses. Further, JusticeBridge will allow us to create a detailed guide as to how any other legal organization nationwide can follow the processes and steps Redemption Earned has taken in encouraging involvement from students in legal aid and research. To learn more, visit [Redemption Earned](#).

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Santa Fe Dreamers Project (NM)

\$25,000

Our Program, Bridging Divides for Immigrant Legal Services brings together immigrant serving organizations in order to provide much needed pro-bono and low-bono legal services to undocumented immigrants and their families living in rural areas of New Mexico. This program will bring top quality immigration attorneys to rural communities across the state. Equipped with Starlink internet devices, our legal representatives will be able to provide top quality consultations and legal representation to these underserved communities. To learn more, visit [Santa Fe Dreamers](#).

Integrative Communities (The Social Impact Center) (CA)

\$25,000

The Virtual Pro Bono Engagement Program aims to break barriers marginalized individuals face in accessing legal services, particularly for clearing criminal records. The program addresses these challenges by providing remote legal services through bimonthly virtual clinics, where pro bono attorneys assist clients with expungement petitions, RAP sheet reviews, and declarations. Trauma-informed care is integral, considering the mental and emotional toll that criminal records impose on these communities. To bridge the technology gap, the program will create Virtual Access Points in underserved communities, equipped with laptops and headsets for individuals without personal access. To learn more, visit [The Social Impact Center](#).

Duquesne University on Behalf of Youth Advocacy Clinic (PA)

\$25,000

Responding to Autism in the Justice System is a new and innovative community program designed specifically for children with autism who are involved in the juvenile justice system. The goal of Responding to Autism in the Justice System is to prevent court-involved children with autism from being punished for not succeeding in programs which do not contain the necessary accommodations to meet their specific needs, which is a major issue in Allegheny County. This new program will significantly improve the outcomes for children with autism who are court-involved and prevent them from becoming entrenched in the juvenile justice system by helping the courts better understand the needs of children with autism and aid judges in determining appropriate conditions that will benefit both the children and the community. To learn more, visit [Duquesne University](#).

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Kids in Need of Defense

\$25,000

(National)

As the preeminent provider of pro bono legal services to unaccompanied immigrant children, KIND understands that the foundation of a successful attorney-client relationship is communication. Client communication includes education surrounding the complex U.S. immigration legal system and clients' rights and responsibilities. To increase accessibility and enhance understanding of key information for immigrant children about rights, responsibilities, and the legal process, KIND will use funding to create an animated video covering the process for seeking Lawful Permanent Residence (LPR) through Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)—a key form of relief. By reinforcing information currently provided by KIND attorneys via a child-friendly medium—video-shorts—we will create an essential tool for communication that can be referenced on-demand. To learn more, visit [KIND](#).

Economic Justice Institute, Inc.

\$25,000

(WI)

The LIFT Wisconsin Library project is designed for rural librarians and the individuals they serve, who use the library as a "third space" to find resources and information on civil legal issues. By training librarians on our groundbreaking and innovative Legal Tune Up tool (an online site for pro-se resolution of civil legal barriers to economic stability) and partnering with them to provide resource support and education, we believe we can positively impact the communities they serve and enhance librarians' knowledge of legal resources. The goal of this program is to reach low-income individuals in rural areas of the state who are facing a justice crisis, where the demand for legal assistance far exceeds the number of available attorneys. Through this program, we aim to help these individuals overcome legal obstacles and improve their chances of securing steady employment. To learn more, visit [Lift Wisconsin](#).