

2026 Opportunity Grant Recipients

**Children's Law Center
(DC)**

\$25,000

The 2026 ABE Opportunity Grant will support the launch of a new Community-Led Advocacy Program, which will train parents and caregivers to become peer advocates who help friends and neighbors solve legal problems related to health-harming housing conditions, students' educational rights and access to public benefits to alleviate family poverty.

**Public Counsel
(CA)**

\$25,000

The Disability Justice Project will enhance the civil rights of people with disabilities in the immigration system by educating immigration lawyers, the immigrant community, and the public about these rights and by building bridges between immigration and disability rights lawyers. Resources created through the program will destigmatize disability, enhance knowledge of the rights of people with disabilities in the immigration system, and help the public advocate for these rights.

**Education Law Center
(PA)**

\$20,000

ELC works to improve education access for children living in poverty, children of color, multilingual children and families, children with disabilities, children in the foster care and juvenile justice systems, children experiencing homelessness, LGBTQ+ youth, and children at the intersection of marginalized identities. The ABE Opportunity Grant will help ELC develop new, accessible digital resources to disseminate via social media and via the ELC website that clarify rights-based information and dispel myths about the legal implications of Federal Executive Orders and Actions.

**Genesis Women's Shelter & Support
(TX)**

\$16,500

Genesis works to help women overcome every obstacle in their journey to an abuse-free life including the costly legal battles that can hinder escape for her and her children. The ABE opportunity grant will enhance the capacity of the no-cost Genesis Legal Clinic by allowing Genesis to implement a client portal for real-time assistance and a case management system to increase the efficiency of the legal team.

**JustFix, Inc.
(NY)**

\$20,000

The ABE opportunity grant will support the JustFix Eviction Defense Navigator which will equip unrepresented tenants with a free, scalable online tool to generate and file comprehensive defenses in housing court. By empowering families to assert all their legal defenses, the Navigator will expand access to justice, reduce unjust evictions, ease the strain on overextended courts and legal aid attorneys, and preserve stability in neighborhoods most at risk of displacement.

**LegalWorks, Inc.
(OH)**

\$20,000

LegalWorks Decriminalizing Poverty Project addresses an urgent need for both attorneys and the community they serve, building LegalWork's capacity while training its legal staff in a new practice while documenting the process for eventual replication state-wide. The program focuses on adopting an innovative tool, tested in other states, to position attorneys to argue more effectively for the reasonable assessment of fees and fines during the initial sentencing process, which can eliminate countless additional fines and warrants for failure to pay, having a lasting and positive impact on fair justice and decriminalizing poverty in Ohio.

Logistical Assistance for Migrant People (OH) \$25,000

Logistical Assistance for Migrant People provides Accredited Legal Representative services (recognized by the United States Department of Justice (DOJ)) to help low-income immigrants & refugees with immigration paperwork with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS), & DOJ. The ABE Opportunity grant will support innovative workshops for incoming immigrants interested in becoming U.S. Citizens, that train them for their citizenship tests and pair them with U.S. mentors, meeting the unmet needs for outreach and education in rural areas, where services are less available.

Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (DC) \$20,000

The LSSNCA works to foster resiliency, self-sufficiency, and access to opportunity for immigrant families who face barriers to legal access including fear, language challenges, transportation, cost, and exploitation. With the ABE Opportunity Grant, LSSNCA will launch a mobile know your rights and consultation project to address these issues by bringing trusted, bilingual professionals into community spaces to expand access to trainings, consultations, and referrals to legal services.

Nebraska Lawyers Foundation (NE) \$23,000

The Nebraska Lawyers Foundation operates the Volunteer Lawyers Project to deliver essential civil legal services to low-income Nebraskans. The ABE Opportunity grant will address critical technology challenges by integrating AI into the online intake system allowing VLP to streamline processing of applications and improve service delivery. This will scale the program's impact, reduce barriers for vulnerable populations, and continue setting a high standard for legal service delivery.

Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts (PA) \$25,000

The ABE Opportunity grant will support the expansion of PMC Civics, an in-school civics education program. The program, designed for Title 1 schools, brings judges and lawyers into classrooms to teach students about the judicial system, civic responsibility, and legal career pathways. The funds will expand the program beyond Philadelphia into schools across Pennsylvania, ensuring more young people, particularly in under-resourced communities, gain the civic knowledge and confidence needed to participate fully in our democracy.

Project Citizenship, Inc. (MA) \$20,500

Project Citizenship provides free legal services to lawful permanent residents pursuing U.S. Citizenship with a focus on serving immigrants with low-income, older adults, people with disabilities and those with complex immigration cases. The ABE Opportunity grant will further invest in innovation by expanding a newly launched online screening tool. adding multilingual access and resources to a new website, launching a full-service application portal, and increasing process automation, including exploration of AI tools.

The Defender Association of Philadelphia (PA) \$30,000

The ABE Opportunity grant will fund the development of an app targeted at foster youth in Pennsylvania with the aim of providing teenagers and young adults in the foster system with a sense of agency through targeted, accessible, and actionable information. The interactive app will include vetted, relevant Pennsylvania law and other publicly available information in language and format that will be engaging and useful to teens and young adults.

Western State College of Law (CA) \$30,000

Western State College of Law, with the help of an ABE Opportunity grant, will launch a Mediation Clinic in partnership with the Orange County Superior Court. The Clinic will be the only law school-based mediation clinic in Orange County, offering free, trauma-informed mediation services while training a new generation of mediators under California's Dispute Resolution Programs Act (DRPA) standards.