

Application: Legal Aid and Defender Association, Inc. Veteran Legal Clinic

Legal Aid and Defender Association, Inc.
Administration of Justice Grant Program

Summary

ID: AOJ2025--0000000084

Last submitted: Feb 6 2026 02:20 PM (EST)

Eligibility Criteria

Completed - Feb 6 2026

Form for "Eligibility Criteria"

Criteria

For this source of funding, grant proposals that include the following are favored.

You must check all that apply to this funding request.

Responses Selected:

Demonstrate innovative approaches or new ideas
Benefit Michigan residents
Have potential for independent financial and programmatic continuity
Demonstrate community support, collaboration, partnerships, and links with other entities doing similar work
Avoid duplication of service
Have potential for applicability or replication in other parts of the state
Include a meaningful evaluation component
Leverage a significant volunteer commitment
Show a history of quality service and fiscal responsibility

For this source of funding, grants are not made for the following.

Please check any item(s) below which applies to this funding request (check all that apply).

No Responses Selected

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Administration of Justice Grant Application

Organizational Overview

1. Describe how you learned of this grant opportunity:

We have had other grants through MSBF.

2. If you are not an annual grantee of the Michigan State Bar Foundation, please briefly describe your organization's mission:

LADA's mission is to provide holistic, innovative legal services that improve the quality of life and empower vulnerable and underserved individuals, families and communities. We are not an annual grantee, have been on in the past, and were funded in 2024 and 2025 to provide expungement services.

3. If you are not an annual grantee of the Michigan State Bar Foundation, please briefly describe your organization's history:

Headquartered in Detroit, Michigan, LADA, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit was established in 1909 has been serving metro Detroit residents providing free civil legal representation. We were previously funded by MSBF. We have funding from a variety of entities including municipalities, the federal government, private foundations and donations. We serve Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

Our current CEO (in her 4th year) is a licensed attorney with more than 30 years of legal practice, more than 20 years at LADA . LADA was also honored by the Oakland County (Michigan) Board of Commissioners on May 1, 2025 with a proclamation for Law Day.

4. If you are not an annual grantee of the Michigan State Bar Foundation, please briefly describe your organization's major achievements:

We served more than 14,000 clients in the last 10 years and returned more than \$2,272,000 in financial benefit to our client community for those clients. In the last 3 years we served almost 2,000 households with children and our dedicated full-time, part-time, contract and volunteer staff handled more than 2500 cases last year. We have been funded by the VA to provide free legal representation to Veterans who are homeless or at risk. We are currently in our 3rd grant cycle in this grant.

5. List the dates, purposes and outcomes of any prior applications for Michigan State Bar Foundation funds submitted within the last six years. (Date, Title of Project/Purpose, Approved/Denied/Pending)

1/1/2024 Expungements Approved
11/15/2024 Expungements Approved

Project Overview

1. Title of project:

Veterans Legal Clinic

2. Amount Requested:

\$ 50000

3. Anticipated beginning date (mm/dd/yyyy):

04/01/2026

4. Anticipated completion date (mm/dd/yyyy):

03/31/2026

5. In 125 words or less, describe a brief summary of the grant request covering the needs to be addressed, methods, target audience and anticipated outcomes.

The Veterans Legal Clinic funding will be a camp-on to our current Legal Services for Veterans project that serves Veterans who are homeless or at risk. The project aims to serve more Veterans at the places where we are already on-site providing legal services in a similar model to the medical-legal partnership with the addition of a Veteran pro bono training component – enabling Veterans to serve Veterans. We are already on-site at the VA Medical Center and have been approached about providing additional assistance specifically for Veterans at another medical facility. If approved, this funding would enable us to enlarge the current services and start a pro bono recruitment component to help Veterans serve Veterans.

6. List names/titles and describe the qualifications of key staff members or volunteers responsible for the project.

	Name/Title of Key Staff or Volunteer	Function/Qualifications
1	Staff Attorney	SBM Licensed attorney in good standing to provide legal advice and representation
2	Legal Assistant	To screen and open legal case files; provide other support; trained by LADA
3	Project Director	SBM Licensed attorney in good standing with at least 7 years of general practice experience and 3 years of supervisory experience
4	Pro bono attorneys	SBM licensed and in good standing; Veteran

7. Describe how this project furthers the mission of your organization

The underpinning of our organization is to uplift and empower the community. Community empowerment inures to both the clients we serve, and providing opportunities for others to serve. Like many communities, Veterans are particularly protective and supportive of other Veterans. This project will serve and create service opportunities.

8. Describe how this project advances the stated priorities of the Michigan State Bar Foundation

MSBF priorities innovation, projects that serve Michigan residents, that can be replicated and that have meaningful impact. This project does all of those. It will serve individuals in need of legal services, is not replicative of other funding but supports an expansion of services to a community in need, and has a target of both service and expanded impact through pro bono recruitment and training of Veterans to serve Veterans.

9. What will happen to this project if the Michigan State Bar Foundation denies the grant request?

If the grant request is denied, LADA will not be able to have current funding to implement the project but will continue to seek funding for the project.

Needs to be Addressed

1. What are the needs to be addressed?

We currently serve Veterans who are homeless or at risk through a grant from the VA. These are typically the Veterans in the most urgent need based upon their housing status. There is also a segment of the Veteran population who are similarly at need but who do not currently meet the statutory definition of homeless or at risk to be eligible for services under the grant, but are seen at the VA Medical Center and have legal needs, particularly for income support matters – garnishment, collections, child support, etc. This project would primarily be focused on serving these Veterans to help stabilize their income and households.

2. What is the target audience?

Low income Veterans in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties who are not eligible for our LSV program because they are not homeless or at risk.

3. What outreach will be undertaken to inform the audience of this project?

LADA currently has a network of community partnerships and relationships. We already provide legal services to the target community. We promote our services through online social media and through our community partnerships and agencies. We will also continue to promote and expand knowledge of the program through the VA Medical Center staff to generate additional clients.

4. List the counties in which services will be provided or indicate statewide.

Oakland, Macomb and Wayne Counties

Project Activities

1. How many people will be served?

70

2. Describe any services in this project that will be provided by pro bono attorneys.

This project includes a pro bono recruitment component specifically targeted at attorneys who are military Veterans. These attorneys are uniquely positioned to know some of the challenges faced by Veterans that may not always be readily understood by those without the same shared history. It seeks to provide opportunities for Veteran attorneys to serve with the added support of training and mentoring opportunities that may not always be available. This may particularly be an opportunity to harness the knowledge and expertise of attorneys who may be ready to dial back their practices and seek to increase their contribution to the community in general and may have a greater inclination if given the opportunity to engage more with Veterans.

3. Describe any services to be done by other volunteers.

We do not anticipate additional services.

4. Describe the timeline for major activities in this project.

Major Activity Timeline

1 Assign staff to project 4/10/2026

2 Draft project flyer/outreach materials 4/15/2026

3 Draft outreach schedule/timing to promote project 4/20/2026

Set up internal tracking and data reporting

4 Start accepting cases; ongoing 4/30/2026

5 Draft and submit quarterly progress report to MSBF 7/10/2026

Including outcomes

Draft funding plan/seek long term funding to sustain project

6 Draft and submit quarterly progress report to MSBF 10/10/2026

7 Draft and submit quarterly progress report to MSBF 1/10/2027

8 Evaluate program for continuation based on funding or 1/10/2027

Wind down project

9 Draft and submit final report to MSBF 4/10/2027

5. Describe any technology used to undertake this project.

We will continue to use our current technology: laptops, our case management system JusticeServer and other software such as the Microsoft suite and Adobe, and standard office equipment.

6. Describe supervision for the project.

The overall project will be supervised by the current project manager of the Veterans project.

7. If applicable, list up to three materials that will result from this project.

Flyer promoting the services; pro bono recruitment materials.

8. If applicable, how many people will be served? Complete chart below. (Enter numbers without punctuation: 1000 rather than 1,000.00)

Type of legal problem	Cases closed after limited service	Cases closed after extended service	Total projected cases closed
Consumer/finance	10	10	20
Education			
Employment			
Family	10	10	20
Juvenile			
Health			
Housing	10	10	20
Income maintenance			
Individual rights		10	10
Other*			
Total Cases	30.0	40.0	70.0

Collaboration/Coordination

1. Describe the support this project has from other individuals or organizations in your community.

	Organization/Individual	Describe Support	Upload Letter of Support
1	John D Dingell VA Medical Center	Space in facility	X
2			X
3			X
4			X
5			X

2. If other organizations in your area perform services or meet needs in a way similar to those you have proposed, describe how your proposed project avoids duplication with other organizations.

There are other legal service providers who provide legal services in general to the eligible population. This grant will enable us to enhance the services we currently provide through our Legal Services for Veterans program to serve a greater number of Veterans.

This project will not directly duplicate services provided by other organizations because we are proposing to enhance the clinics we already staff to streamline services to the Veterans that we intake at our community partner locations. We are already onsite at several locations within the community and being able to increase the number of Veterans eligible for services eases the burden on Veterans of seeking services from multiple providers, and also enables them to receive on-site services where they are already receiving other services.

3. Describe how you will coordinate activities with other organizations.

Our services are always promoted to other organizations and we frequently receive referrals from many legal and other agencies. Some agencies specifically refer Veterans to our office to help free up resources within their organizations to assist non-Veterans, enabling both agencies to serve more clients. We will continue to seek and accept referrals to this program.

4. Have you researched and utilized the information from other similar projects in developing this project? If so, describe.

We have not researched external models but have internal institutional knowledge from our long history of outreach within the community and providing legal services to clients.

Evaluation of Project

1. List three anticipated outcomes of the project.

1	Project will serve at least 70 clients, whose families will also benefit from the services.
2	80% of the clients will achieve positive outcomes from the legal services provided.
3	10 Veteran pro bono attorneys will be recruited and trained, and accept at least 1 pro bono case each.

2. Describe how you will evaluate the effectiveness of the project and include how you will measure the number of people impacted.

We will use JusticeServer to track the number of cases opened and the number of clients served (including the number of household members). We also assign level of service codes and outcome codes to cases to monitor the results from the legal services provided through our projects. Clients will receive a post-service survey to provide feedback on the services received and suggestions for improving/enhancing the program.

3. Describe to whom dissemination of project information or results will be made and how such dissemination will occur.

LADA will provide MSBF with a quarterly report on the status and outcomes achieved each quarter and a final report at the end of the project including benchmark outcomes and a summary of the survey results.

4. If this project can be replicated, describe the ways you will assist others in the process.

This project can be replicated. We are always available to discuss our projects with providers seeking input to implement similar projects.

Administration of Justice Grant Financial Information

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Form for "Administration of Justice Grant Financial Information

1. Describe how the project will be funded after these grant funds are spent.

LADA will seek additional funding to continue these needed services, and hope to utilize the services of the pro bono attorneys recruited to continue services.

2. Describe any matching funds requirements from other sources for this project.

This project is not funded by other sources that require a match.

3. Complete the chart below to reflect the project's estimated budget detailed by major line items. Include only what you are requesting for this project under the MSBF funds column. (Enter numbers without punctuation – for example, 1000 rather than \$1,000.00. In addition, you will need to manually total rows, but columns will total)

Category	MSBF Funds	Other Funds	In-kind Support	Total
Personnel - Existing	39000			
Personnel - New				
Employee benefits	7000			
Consultant fees				
Travel				
Space	1500			
Equipment				
Supplies	200			
Telephone	150			
Postage				
Printing/copies				
Audit	1000			
Other	1150			
Total	50000.0	0	0	0

4. Please describe the personnel costs above, including positions, whether or not it is a new position and projected percentage of time that the staff will spend on this project.

Position New position % of time

Staff Attorney No .20

Legal Assistant No .10

Program Manager No .10

5. If you requested funding for consultant fees, space, equipment or other expenses, please describe.

NA

6. Please list any funding sources that have changed in the last year, including source of funding and amount.

Michigan State Bar Foundation; \$89,000; grant ended

7. List the other anticipated funding sources for this project by name and amount.

	Source	Amount Requested	Amount Committed
1	None	0	0
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			

8. Comments

Please add any comments you wish to provide.

(No response)

Administration of Justice Grant Application Assurances

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Please download and complete the [Administration of Justice Grant Application Assurances](#) form. Once completed, upload the completed copy.

[AOJ Assurances](#)

Filename: AOJ Assurances.pdf Size: 590.6 kB