



County of Marin Community Service Fund Program Application Form

Application Date March 29, 2021

Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

Organization Information

Full Legal Name: Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco

Organization URL: <https://www.sfbar.org/jdc/>

Mission

Mission/purpose of your organization:

The Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco (JDC) pursues its mission to advance fairness and equality by providing pro bono legal services to low-income people and educational programs that foster diversity in the legal profession.

Founded in 1977, JDC is the primary means through which attorneys and law firms in the San Francisco Bay Area provide pro bono legal services to low-income families, individuals, and the organizations that serve low-income communities. JDC's staff and volunteer pool of more than 1,800 active legal professionals serve at least 9,000 low-income clients annually. JDC's purpose is to provide holistic legal services for the community's most vulnerable members to resolve issues related to housing, homelessness, poor health, domestic violence, immigration, public benefits, tax and consumer issues, poverty, and racial and social inequities.

Description and quantifying impact of COVID-19 pandemic on your organization or the residents that it serves.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit our community in March 2020, JDC suspended all in-person services and transitioned them to virtual platforms, like email, telephone, and video conferencing software. While many JDC projects were able to shift seamlessly to a remote service structure, some of our projects were greatly disrupted by the suspension of court proceedings where we serve low-income individuals. One such project is JDC's Attorney of the Day (AOD) Program, proposed here for funding.

When the San Francisco Immigration Court suspended all Master Calendar Hearings indefinitely, it deprived the AOD Program of its primary venue for both identifying and serving unrepresented respondents. JDC quickly shifted its AOD Program services to virtual legal clinics and telephonic consultations via a new hotline. While we cannot serve as many individuals via the hotline as we could with in-court in-person services, we are able to provide much more in-depth consultations for each respondent.

Grant Request Information

Program/Project Name: Attorney of the Day (AOD) Program

Summary description of your project:

The Attorney of the Day Program coordinates volunteer immigration attorneys, who provide legal consultations and limited scope representation to unrepresented immigrants on the day of their master calendar hearings at the SF Immigration Court.

Amount Requested Dollar: \$10,000.00

Total Project Cost: \$363,542.00

Description of the proposed project/program, including the proposed project's goal(s), and the nature of the costs in specific terms, i.e. materials, labor costs, etc. Specifics of how the requested County funds will be used.

There are currently 1,562 Marin County residents with deportation hearings pending before the San Francisco Immigration Court who do not have legal representation. Without legal assistance, these individuals have very little chance of opposing their deportations and will very likely be removed from the country without adequate due process. Unfortunately, the organizations providing free full-scope legal representation services are overwhelmed by the demand for their services. Meanwhile, many decisions that impact the outcome of a case are made in court while

an individual is still looking for an attorney.

JDC's Attorney of the Day (AOD) Program is designed to step into this situation and prevent deportations by providing unrepresented individuals with the legal resources, tools, and documents they need to oppose an order of removal. In addition to providing one-on-one legal consultations and informational packets, attorneys in the AOD Program draft a variety of legal motions, Freedom of Information Act filings, requests to remove ankle monitors, employment authorization documents, and other documents critical to advancing immigrants' freedom and due process rights.

JDC trains, supports, and coordinates staff and volunteer attorneys to provide AOD Program services, which are normally based at the San Francisco Immigration Court, but have been conducted remotely since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, the AOD Helpline that we launched in response to COVID-19 now makes it easy for anyone to receive an intensive legal consultation on their immigration or asylum matter.

We partner closely with the CANAL Alliance in Marin County and will continue to work with them to identify Marin County residents in need of AOD Program services. Marin Community Service Funds will be used exclusively on outreach efforts in Marin County and the provision of AOD Program services to Marin County residents. In 2021, our AOD Program will aim to serve at least 20 Marin County

List of all community interests that will be affected by the proposed project/program and the public benefit to be derived from it:

Every year, thousands of unrepresented immigrants are ordered deported by an Immigration Judge because they miss a hearing or are unfamiliar with the proceedings. Many of these individuals have not been given the time or resources needed to secure their own counsel. The AOD Program provides staff and volunteer attorneys on the day of Immigration Court hearings to meet with unrepresented respondents, review their rights and responsibilities, advise them of their legal options, and represent them directly in a limited scope capacity. Outside of court, the AOD program continues to offer services through our helpline, such as legal consultations and targeted referrals to Marin County non-profit organizations and experienced immigration attorneys.

Until full-scope representation is universally available to immigrants facing deportation, the AOD Program will form a critical link in the continuum of legal services. Further, with an enormous increase in the number of immigration and asylum cases expected to flow through the San Francisco Immigration Court in the coming years, the lack of available full-scope representation for respondents will only become more of a pronounced problem.

In Marin County, the greatest community interest served by this program is the cohesiveness of the immigrant community and their families. In 2019, JDC served 49 Marin County residents through the AOD Program, of whom 36 were monolingual Spanish speakers and 7 only spoke an indigenous language such as Mam or Quiche. These individuals would have almost no chance of protecting their due process rights without the AOD Program's services. And if they were to be ripped from their families and communities and deported, the effects would ripple through Marin County as families would be deprived of breadwinners, children of parents, and businesses of workers. The harm done to communities and families by deportations is immense; JDC's AOD Program is here to alleviate that harm for Marin County.

This organization has never received Community Service funds.

No County funding was received for this project or others.

Project/program can be completed if amount received is less than requested amount of Community Service funds.

Applicants are encouraged to leverage funding from other non-County sources, and priority will be given to requests that represent no more than 50% of total project cost. To demonstrate all sources of project funding, including other County sources, please provide a project/program budget below. Please fill in as applicable, and round to the nearest dollar.

Project Funding Sources	Funding Agency	Funding Requested	Received	Notes
County CSF		\$10,000	\$0	
Federal Grant				
State Grant	California Department of Social Services	\$100,000	\$58,000	
Individual Contributions				
Other Local Agencies	City of San Francisco and Santa Clara Co	\$204,351	\$194,351	<i>Three total contracts in support of AOD Program</i>
In kind services				
Other	Heising-Simons Foundation	\$100,000	\$100,000	
Total Sources		\$414,351	\$352,351	
Project Expenses		Budgeted	Spent to Date	Notes
Personnel Costs		\$262,864	\$65,716	
Services and Supplies		\$53,259	\$13,315	
Capital		\$0	\$0	
Other		\$47,419	\$11,855	
Total Expenses		\$363,542	\$90,886	