



LEGAL AID
FOUNDATION
of
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

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EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL

April 28, 2016

Adriana de Bruin
Business Manager, County Executive Office
105 E. Anapamu Street, Room 406
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear Ms. de Bruin:

The Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County is requesting \$60,000 from the Board of Supervisors as an outside agency funding request, if funding is available.

The County has been a major supporter of Legal Aid for many years. Traditionally, Legal Aid received County funding primarily through the CDBG process or the HPRP process. Legal Aid also receives CDBG funding from the cities of Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, and Lompoc. Over the past five years, CDBG funding from the cities has decreased and both last year and this year, Legal Aid's request for funding for our main program through the County CDBG process was rejected. The Board of Supervisors has generously funded our program for the past two years with an outside agency budget request to make up the shortfall in CDBG funding.

Legal Aid relies on steady local government support to keep our program open and countywide. We aggressively pursue federal and state grants and this year, all of our attorneys except two are funded through federal and state grants. However, our attorneys cannot work without assistance from intake coordinators. Intake coordinators answer the phone and manage the reception area, intake all clients, check for conflicts, refer people we cannot help to more appropriate organizations, and provide translation and interpretation for clients when necessary.

In 2015, Legal Aid assisted 5962 county residents. Most of these residents were ordinary people experiencing routine legal issues and most were assisted by attorneys at our Legal Resource Centers or by pro bono attorneys at walk-in clinics. 823 individuals were accepted as clients and provided attorney representation. These individuals included people who were victims of domestic violence, elder abuse, or sexual assault. They included families who were facing eviction, uninhabitable dwellings, or foreclosure. And they included very young and very old individuals who had been targeted to be economically defrauded because of their age, lack of education, or lack of English comprehension.



A 501 (c)(3) charity; all contributions are fully tax-deductible as provided by law. IRS No. 95-2112634.

Macintosh HD:Users:moloravadnais:Desktop:Legal Aid:Legal Aid Letters and Stationary:Letterhead copy.docx

Legal Aid is financially secure and has ended each of the past two years with a small surplus. The organization employs 18 individuals including 12 attorneys, 4 intake coordinators, and two homeless advocates. Our administrative costs are 11% of the budget. We do not anticipate growing the organization at this time but we are working to maximize our efficiency through the use of pro bono attorneys, interns, and upgrades to technology and administrative processes.

We intend to pursue County CDBG funding for FY 17-18 year if it is available. But for FY 16-17, we respectfully request that the County Board of Supervisors ensure that the County continues to be a partner in the work that we do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Molara Vadnais". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Molara Vadnais
Executive Director
Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County



FY 2016-17 Outside Agency Funding Request Form

Deadline for Submission: Monday, May 2, 2016, 5:00 p.m.

The Board of Supervisors *may* consider funding requests from outside agencies during the **FY 2016-17** budget hearings in June 2016, if funding is available. An allocation of funding to outside agencies is not guaranteed.

Please submit the following by **5:00 p.m., Monday, May 2, 2016, NO EXCEPTIONS, via Email or Hardy Copy (postmarks will not be accepted)**:

1. Provide a cover letter explaining your request; and
2. Fill out this application (no more than 2 pages); and
3. Attach the Line Item Budget spreadsheet (no more than 2 pages) for the agency's program request

Hearings are scheduled for June 13, 15, and 17, with Outside Agency Requests considered on one of these days (yet to be determined). The **requesting agency must be represented and present**; please plan accordingly.

Total Request: \$ 60,000
 Name of Organization: Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County
 Title of Program: Intake Coordinators New or ongoing program? ongoing
 Location(s) of services delivered: Countywide
 Name of Agency Executive Director: Molara Vadnais managing.director@lafsb.org
 Phone #: 805-687-0621 Email: managing.director@lafsb.org Website: www.lafsb.org

1. Briefly summarize the purpose of the program, why the funds are needed, and the benefit to the community:

The Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County (LAF) provides civil legal services to low income and senior residents of Santa Barbara County who are facing a housing crisis (eviction, foreclosure, discrimination, and substandard living conditions); are victims of domestic violence, human trafficking, or sexual assault; or have been defrauded. Intake coordinators run the offices. They intake potential clients, check for conflicts, field calls, and assist attorneys with filing cases, translation and interpretation. Approximately 9 of 10 calls received are from people needing services we do not provide. Intake coordinators refer these individuals to various community resources including County Social Services, the Legal Resource Center, the Lawyer Referral Service, the Rental Housing Mediation Task Force, law enforcement and the district attorney. Most LAF attorneys are paid with federal, state, and bar grants specific to the area of law that they practice. Traditionally, LAFSBC has mainly funded intake coordinators with local CDBG funding. We are asking the County to assist the cities this year in paying for these critical positions.

2. Briefly summarize the service to be provided and how many people will be served:

In 2015, LAF assisted 5962 county residents. 4611 were briefly assisted by an attorney at a Legal Resource Center for a variety of legal problems and 823 were accepted as clients in LAF offices located in Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, and Lompoc. Approximately 85% of these individuals lived at or below the federal poverty level. Of the 823 clients, 275 were victims of domestic violence, elder abuse, or sexual assault, 526 were housing clients, and 32 were facing foreclosure or were victims of economic fraud. Approximately 54% of clients and customers were residents of the North County and 46% were residents of the South County. It is anticipated that the number of individuals served in FY 2016-17 will be similar to the number served in 2015--about 6000.

3. Detail the timeline for providing the service:
LAF services are ongoing.

4. Describe key outcomes to be achieved with the funding and how they will be measured:
Each quarter, approximately 65 victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, elder abuse, or human trafficking will be represented by an attorney. Approximately 130 low income residents needing assistance with a housing matter will be represented by an attorney. Approximately 1150 county residents will be assisted by an attorney at a Legal Resource Center. Each client or customer is tracked through a database. Client benefits of representaiton including economic benefits are also now being collected and will be available for reporting by fall 2016.

5. Describe if this is a one-time or ongoing request, and if funded in prior years and amounts:
LAF has relied on county funding for many years. In FY 12-13 and 13-14, LAF received \$61,812 each year. In FY 14-15, LAF received \$158,626. In FY 15-16, another outside budget request totalled \$100,000 for two programs. The past two years, LAF has applied for CDBG funding for our main program and our requests were rejected. We believe that maintaining a county partnership is critical to continuing to provide civil legal services to all residents.

6. Describe the agency’s expertise and capacity to deliver services including fiscal stability:
LAF has been in operation since 1959 serving the residents of Santa Barbara County. For the past two years, LAF has ended each FY with a surplus. LAF has been working hard to build up a three month reserve to be able to weather the quarterly grant cycle. We currently have about a one month to one and a half months operating reserve.

7. Agency staff responsible for application: Molora Vadnais

County Staff Comments Only:

Address submittals to:
Adriana de Bruin
Business Manager, County Executive Office
105 E. Anapamu Street, Room 406
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Requests can be emailed to: outsideagency@countyofsb.org

Questions: Please contact Adriana de Bruin, Business Manager, County Executive Office, at 568-3400.

FY 2016-17 Line Item Budget
For Program

#17

Agency: *Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County*
Program Name: Intake Coordinators
Amount \$\$ Requested: \$60,000

Program Budget	FY 2016-17	
	Funding Sources/Revenues	Committed Uncommitted
County of Santa Barbara		60,000
<i>City of Santa Barbara CDBG</i>	\$34,000	
<i>City of Santa Maria CDBG</i>	\$8,000	
<i>City of Lompoc CDBG</i>	\$5,500	
<i>Donations</i>		48,227
Total	47500	108227

Funding Uses/Expenses	Budget
<i>Salaries and Benefits for 3.0 FTE Intake Coordinators</i>	155,727
Total	155727