

Northeast New Jersey Legal Services Awarded \$423,074 Pro Bono Innovation Fund Grant

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WASHINGTON – The Legal Services Corporation (LSC) announced today that Northeast New Jersey Legal Services will receive a \$423,074 Pro Bono Innovation Fund grant. LSC's Pro Bono Innovation Fund is intended to encourage and expand pro bono efforts and partnerships to serve more low-income clients.

Northeast New Jersey Legal Services will use the grant to build a replicable and scalable model for pro bono services and tackle current challenges. This grant will allow the organization to conduct a pilot program, scale up the program's impact by increasing opportunities for pro bono volunteers to become involved in cases and hire a data analyst to assist with this transition.

"Pro bono assistance enables Northeast New Jersey Legal Services to leverage its limited government-funded staff resources with privately contributed services," said LSC President Ronald S. Flagg. "This grant will promote this leverage and help Northeast New Jersey Legal Services to assist many more people in need."

Members of the New Jersey congressional delegation congratulated Northeast New Jersey Legal Services on receiving the grant.

"Too often the ability to pay has prevented people from seeking legal counsel and protecting their own rights. Offering free, pro bono services for those who can't afford a lawyer is vital to leveling the playing field in housing, employment, consumer, domestic and other disputes and to make sure the legal system works for everyone. It's especially important during the pandemic that people know their rights and they are protected from those who seek to take advantage," said New Jersey Senator Bob Menendez. "This federal funding will support Northeast New Jersey Legal Services' efforts to expand pro bono services and help residents of Hudson, Bergen and Passaic Counties get the legal representation they need, regardless of their income."

"Congratulations to Northeast New Jersey Legal Services for being selected for this Pro Bono Innovation Grant," said Congressman Donald M. Payne, Jr. (NJ-10). "We have worked with them often to help low to middle-income residents of our district obtain free or fee-reduced legal services for a variety of issues, such as housing and immigration. It has been a great

community partner in the past and I know these funds will strengthen that partnership for the future.”

Northeast New Jersey Legal Services is one of 19 legal aid organizations this year receiving Pro Bono Innovation Fund grants totaling \$4,347,185. Eleven legal aid organizations are receiving new grants to significantly expand their pro bono efforts and eight existing Pro Bono Innovation Fund grantees are receiving supplemental funding to continue their efforts to transform pro bono delivery in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

LSC awarded these grants from its \$4.5 million Pro Bono Innovation Fund included in its FY 2020 congressional appropriation. The creation of the fund was recommended by LSC’s Pro Bono Task Force in 2012. This is the seventh year LSC has received a designated appropriation to award pro bono grants. In all, LSC has awarded 102 grants totaling more than \$27.8 million.

[Legal Services Corporation](#) (LSC) is an independent nonprofit established by Congress in 1974 to provide financial support for civil legal aid to low-income Americans. The Corporation currently provides funding to 132 independent nonprofit legal aid programs in every state, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories.