

THE WORK OF OUR GRANTEEES



Foundation grantees, on limited budgets, effectively and efficiently guide low-income Texans through the complicated legal system. They assist abused women in obtaining protective orders against their abusers; they help the elderly gain access to public benefits to pay for food and medication; and they help families live in safe and affordable housing.

Everyone deserves safety, shelter and peace of mind. Legal aid gives hope to tens of thousands of disadvantaged Texans each year.

The Work of Legal Aid

- An electric utility company was about to suspend service to an elderly woman with diabetes and high blood pressure. A legal aid attorney intervened, disputed the bill and stopped all collection efforts.
- A grandmother sought to protect her two grandsons from their father—a longtime drug user that would not leave the house. A legal aid attorney helped her obtain a protection order and eventually custody of her grandchildren.
- In the restaurant where they worked, Joe and Carl were required to put in 60 to 65 hours a week. They were paid less than minimum wage and were never paid overtime. With the help of a law school legal clinic, they were successful in obtaining the unpaid wages owed to them.

Everyone deserves safety, shelter and peace of mind.

Legal aid organizations make a significant, positive difference in the lives of vulnerable Texans by assisting them with critical civil legal problems, such as housing issues, family law matters and public benefits. Funding from the Texas Access to Justice Foundation helps make these services possible.

You can help support legal aid by donating at: www.teajf.org

For lawyers with questions concerning IOLTA requirements, visit: www.teajf.org.

For legal assistance, visit www.texaslawhelp.org



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We are committed to the vision that all Texans, regardless of income, will have equal access to the civil justice system.



THE TEXAS ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOUNDATION



The Texas Access to Justice Foundation (TAJF) is the leading state-based funding source of legal aid in Texas. The organization is committed to the vision that all Texans will have equal access to justice, regardless of their income.

The Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, was created by the Supreme Court of Texas in 1984 to administer the Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) Program. Since then, TAJF has diversified its funding sources to include public and private funding.

The Texas Access to Justice Foundation works closely with the Supreme Court of Texas, State Bar of Texas, Texas Access to Justice Commission, the Texas Office of the Attorney General and in partnership with other law-related groups to ensure low-income Texans have greater access to the civil justice system.

The Foundation grants millions of dollars each year to legal aid organizations. With TAJF grants, these organizations provide free legal assistance in civil matters, such as protection from domestic violence and assistance with housing issues, to more than 100,000 low-income Texas families each year.

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FUNDING



The Foundation receives funding from the following:

Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) Program

The IOLTA Program requires attorneys to pool short-term or nominal client funds into one account. The interest generated is designated for legal aid organizations. The Court requires attorneys to place IOLTA accounts at eligible banks, which pay interest rates comparable to rates on similarly situated accounts.

Prime Partner Banks exceed the IOLTA requirement by paying higher interest rates, ensuring more funding for legal aid.

Basic Civil Legal Services (BCLS) Program

People who file lawsuits pay a small additional fee to the court. These funds are designated for legal aid organizations. Also included in BCLS is legislative funding, the annual Access to Justice fee assessed to Texas attorneys, specialty license plate proceeds, pro hac vice funds and other public funding.

Crime Victims Civil Legal Services (CVCLS) Program

The CVCLS Program, created by funding from the Texas Office of the Attorney General, allows for the provision of free legal aid to low-income victims of crime and their immediate family.

Private Donations

The Texas Access to Justice Foundation accepts private donations from individuals, firms, sections, corporations and foundations that support access to justice for all Texans.

Court Awards

The Foundation can be a designee for various court awards—like *cy pres*—to generate desperately needed resources for civil legal aid.

Texas Access to Justice Foundation funding comes from a variety of sources.

FOUNDATION PROGRAMS



Grants

The Texas Access to Justice Foundation grants millions of dollars to legal aid organizations statewide for their day-to-day operations in providing civil legal services to low-income Texans. Legal aid providers rely on grants and donations to maintain staff and facilities, hold legal clinics, and for special programs like veterans legal assistance.

Fellowships

The Foundation partners with Equal Justice Works and law firms to provide post-graduate fellowships to new law graduates who seek to champion justice for all. Many future leaders in Texas legal aid will begin their career as a fellow working on behalf of traditionally underserved populations and causes in Texas. These fellows work in legal aid organizations fighting injustice on behalf of the most vulnerable Texans.

Student Loan Repayment

The Foundation administers and provides funding for the Texas Student Loan Repayment Assistance Program. The program was created to assist attorneys who choose to pursue careers in legal aid in Texas. Low salaries coupled with high student loan debt make it difficult or impossible for lawyers to accept employment at legal aid or stay in those jobs long term. In 2011, the State Bar of Texas provided \$1.75 million to support the loan repayment program.

Grants. Fellowships. Student Loan Repayment.