



GUIDELINES FOR CONSIDERATION OF GRANT APPLICATIONS

As it relates to special grants, such as the Racial Justice Initiative, these guidelines are intended only to be advisory. Potential flexibility on these guidelines in order to achieve lasting of racial justice outcomes and institutional change will be solely determined by the Ohio State Bar Foundation's Board of Trustees.

The Ohio State Bar Foundation grant program assists organizations with law related projects that: (1) promote the pursuit of justice; (2) promote public understanding of the rule of law. All grant requests must fulfill one of these two goals. We welcome the opportunity to discuss your project idea.

While maintaining flexibility in considering grant applications, the Ohio State Bar Foundation Board of Trustees sets forth the following guidelines to aid potential applicants. These factors are intended only to be advisory.

- Single project – The project should be clearly defined. Projects that are innovative or address unmet needs will be favored. Single projects may include funding for legal services where such funding would be ancillary to a project that is new, innovative and capable of future replication without the use of OSBF funding.
- Length of OSBF funding – The Foundation generally awards funding on an annual basis. Funding for meritorious projects could be awarded beyond one year in special circumstances.
- Need – The applicant must demonstrate a need. Projects that duplicate similar services or programs already provided in an area may be disfavored. If there is a need for additional services of this nature, the applicant should demonstrate that they have developed means of coordinating with existing services.
- Other sources of funding – Applicants are encouraged to identify other potential sources of funding or have secured such sources to make the project viable.
- Geographic focus – The Foundation strives to fund projects in the state of Ohio with a focus placed on geographic diversity.
- Replication/Dissemination plan - Applications must include a plan to disseminate or replicate the product produced with the Foundation's grant funds.
- Evaluation - Applicants should incorporate a means for evaluating the project and must complete the Foundation's evaluation.

- Resulting products – Copies of data, written materials, audio visual materials or other products developed as a result of the Foundation’s grant must be provided.

The Racial Justice Initiative aims to support projects that specifically identify, address and challenge systemic racism which hinders the pursuit of justice and public understanding of the rule of law for historically marginalized communities of color in Ohio.

As with all OSBF grantmaking programs, proposals submitted for the Racial Justice Initiative must have a strong connection to our mission. Promoting the pursuit of justice and understanding of the rule of law are centric to the OSBF’s purpose and funding decisions for all grant programs.

Additionally, the OSBF encourages proposals which promote racial justice that:

- Identify and address systemic biases
- Provide stable, replicable framework to eliminate systemic racism
- Educate the public or other external stakeholders
- Collaborate with legal systems such as courts, law enforcement, corrections, and others
- And/or eliminate legal barriers for BIPOC collectively



The Ohio State Bar Foundation strives to identify and fund projects that most effectively further our mission of promoting the pursuit of justice and public understanding of the rule of law.

Please review our list of recently funded projects to see the breadth of our work in the state of Ohio.

We recognize that much work remains to improve the public understanding of the law. As such, we have determined that our grant funds will not support:

- Individuals, scholarships for individuals, or payment of fees for individuals
- Capital expenditure, construction, renovation, equipment or supplies
- Debt reduction, retroactive funding
- Endowment, endowment campaigns
- Fundraising benefits or mass appeal solicitation
- Political campaigns, election or political activities, propaganda, lobbying activities
- Compensation or other direct or indirect funding of lawyers to provide legal services, except for single projects as described in the Guidelines for Consideration of Grant Applications.

The Foundation discourages applicants from requesting funding for fixed costs such as salaries, employment benefits and operational expenses.

At this time, the OSBF must discourage against proposals aimed at improving internal organizational issues with diversity, equity and inclusion or performing internal equitability assessments. While these tools provide meaningful insight and guide organizations toward equitable practices, OSBF grant funding is limited and cannot adequately sustain requests for internal organizational improvements.

If you have questions about what the Ohio State Bar Foundation might fund, please contact Tiffany Patterson, Grants Manager, at 614.487.4483 or tpatterson@osbf.net.