

GRANT APPLICATION EVALUATION CRITERIA

Alignment with Foundation Mission

9 – Fully and completely aligns with the Foundation’s mission – A specific case has been identified that directly addresses a significant systemic legal problem in an area identified in the Foundation’s mission, and the case has a high probability of significantly improving the economic well-being, social conditions, and/or civil liberties of a large number of disadvantaged persons and groups throughout the United States. The case is not an individual case and does not involve a criminal charge.

7 – Significantly aligns with the Foundation’s mission - A specific case has been identified that addresses an important systemic legal problem in an area identified in the Foundation’s mission, and the case has a high probability of improving the economic well-being, social conditions, and/or civil liberties of a moderate to large number of disadvantaged persons and groups throughout the United States. The case is not an individual case and does not involve a criminal charge.

5 – Generally aligns with the Foundation’s mission - A specific case has been identified that addresses a systemic legal problem in an area related (at least indirectly) to one of those identified in the Foundation’s mission, and has a reasonable probability of improving the economic well-being, social conditions, and/or civil liberties of moderate number of disadvantaged persons and groups throughout the United States. The case is not an individual case and does not involve a criminal charge.

3 – Loosely aligns with the Foundation’s mission – A specific case has been identified, but it does not address a systemic legal problem, addresses a legal issue only indirectly related to an area identified in the Foundation’s mission, and/or has only a small chance of improving the economic well-being, social conditions, and/or civil liberties of disadvantaged persons and groups throughout the United States. The case is not an individual case, and does not involve a criminal charge.

1 – Does not at all align with the Foundation’s mission – The application does not include a specific case, the case does not address a systemic legal problem in an area identified in the Foundation’s mission, the case involves an individual, or the case involves a criminal charge.

Quality of Proposed Project

9 - Exceptional Quality- The quality of the proposed project is clearly of exceptional quality in that both the goals and methodology of the project are very well defined, the attorneys who would be working on the project have extensive experience and expertise in highly similar matters, and the submitting organization has an exceptional track record and reputation as a leader in similar matters.

7 - Very Good Quality - The quality of the proposed project is very good in that both the goals and methodology of the project are well defined, the attorneys who would be working on the project have significant experience and expertise in similar matters, and the submitting organization has a successful track record and a strong reputation in similar matters.

5 - Good Quality - The quality of the proposed project is good in that both the goals and methodology of the project are reasonably well defined, the attorneys who would be working on the project have some experience and expertise in similar matters, and the submitting organization has experience and a good reputation in similar matters.

3 - Fair Quality - The quality of the proposed project is fair in that the goals and/or methodology of the project are stated but not well defined, the attorneys who would be working on the project have limited experience and expertise in similar matters, and/or the submitting organization has limited experience in similar matters.

1 - Poor Quality - The quality of the proposed project is poor in that neither the goals nor the methodology of the project are well defined, the attorneys who would be working on the project have little or no experience and expertise in similar matters, and/or the submitting organization does not have a successful track record or reputation in similar matters.

Capacity of the Organization to Carry Out the Project

9 - Exceptional Capacity - The organization has demonstrated exceptional capacity to successfully carry out the project as evidenced by a very strong history of success with similar legal matters in terms of size and scope, a very strong financial position (in terms of budget, overhead and financial history), and has allocated proper resources (type and amount) to the project.

7 - Very Good Capacity- The organization has demonstrated very good capacity to successfully carry out the project as evidenced by a history of success with similar legal matters in terms of size and scope, a strong financial position (in terms of budget, overhead and financial history), and has allocated proper resources (type and amount) to the project.

5 - Good Capacity - The organization has demonstrated good capacity to successfully carry out the project as evidenced by at least some experience with similar legal matters in terms of size and scope, a solid financial position that appears to not put the project at risk, and has allocated proper resources (type and amount) to the project.

3 - Fair Capacity - The organization has demonstrated only a fair capacity to successfully carry out the project as evidenced by either a small amount of experience with similar legal matters in terms of size and/or scope, a financial position that while not solid, appears to not put the project at significant risk, and/or has allocated questionable resources (type and/or amount) to the project.

1 - Poor Capacity - The organization has not demonstrated a capacity to successfully carry out the project as evidenced by little or no experience with similar legal matters in terms of size and/or scope, a financial position that could put the project at risk, and/or has allocated insufficient resources (type and/or amount) to the project.

Urgency of Proposed Project

9 - Highly Urgent - The nature of the proposed project is highly urgent and greatly in need of the Foundation's grant. The project has the potential to have a highly significant impact that is fully aligned with the Foundation's mission, but if it is not funded and initiated immediately, the opportunity will likely be lost, or will not have as large an impact on society. The Foundation's grant will have a significant impact on the organization's ability to carry out the project, and will be the primary funding source.

7 - Urgent - The nature of the proposed project is urgent and very much in need of the Foundation's grant. The project has the potential to have a significant impact that is aligned with the Foundation's mission, but if it is not funded and initiated in the near future (within 1 year), the opportunity may be lost, or will not have as large an impact on society. The Foundation's grant will have a significant impact on the organization's ability to carry out the project, and will be one of the project's primary funding sources.

5 - Somewhat Urgent - The nature of the proposed project has a sense of urgency and is in need of the Foundation's grant. The project has the potential to have a significant impact that is aligned with the Foundation's mission, but if it is not funded and initiated within the next 1- 2 years, the opportunity may be lost, or will not have as large an impact on society. The Foundation's grant will have an important impact on the organization's ability to carry out the project, but would not necessarily be the most significant source of funding.

3 - Not Very Urgent - The nature of the proposed project has a low sense of urgency but is in some need of the Foundation's grant. The project has the potential to have an impact that is aligned with the Foundation's mission, but there is no immediacy to its implementation. The Foundation's grant will have an impact on the organization's ability to carry out the project, but would not necessarily be the most significant source of funding.

1 - Not at all Urgent - The nature of the proposed project does not have a sense of urgency and/or does not appear to require the Foundation's grant for its execution.

Financial Resources Available to the Grantee

9 - Grantee has significant need for a grant from the Foundation - The Grantee lacks internal resources to bring its proposed litigation or engage an expert(s) without support from the Foundation. The Grantee has the internal staff to support the litigation and has significant expertise in its proposed area of litigation. Without funding from the Foundation, the proposed litigation or the hiring of an expert(s) would not be possible. The Grantee has no additional litigation partners to help in carrying out the litigation through providing financial or professional support.

7 - Grantee has minimal resources to support its proposed litigation - The Grantee's proposed litigation or engagement of an expert could proceed based upon its own resources while straining the Grantee's overall financial capabilities which could be bolstered by a grant from the Foundation. The Grantee has no additional litigation partners to aid it financially in maintaining the litigation, the engagement of expert(s), or providing additional professionals to support the proposed litigation effort.

5 - Grantees has moderate financial resources to bring the litigation on its own - The Grantee has adequate financial resources allowing it to proceed with the litigation and/or the engagement of an expert(s). A grant from the Foundation would allow the Grantee to employ additional resources to the litigation effort or the engagement of higher quality experts that would not be possible without the support of a grant from the Foundation. The Grantee receives professional support from an outside litigation partner(s) but no financial support.

3 - Grantee has significant financial resources to maintain the litigation or engage adequate expert(s) - The Grantee does not need a grant from the Foundation to maintain the litigation or engage adequate experts. A grant from the Foundation would enhance the proposed litigation efforts by allowing the engagement of additional professionals working at the Grantee and competent but not top of the line expert(s). The Grantee receives professional support from outside litigation partner(s) but no financial support.

1 - The Grantee does not need a grant from the Foundation to mount its proposed litigation or engage top-of-the-line experts. A grant from the Foundation would not enhance the Grantee's litigation effort or its ability to engage the most competent experts. A grant from the Foundation would provide a surplus of funding to support the litigation or engage expert(s), if necessary. The Grantee receives both professional and financial support from outside litigation partner(s).