



2012  
TENNESSEE BAR FOUNDATION  
IOLTA GRANT PROGRAM  
DESCRIPTION AND APPLICATION

**PROVIDE LEGAL SERVICES  
Pro Bono Model**

Notes regarding the process:

**Repeat Applicants:**

Your documentation is reviewed as thoroughly as a new applicant. We are interested in the *current* challenges addressed by the organization. Although word processing programs seductively offer the ability to “cut and paste” from a previous narrative, that process frequently results in errors, particularly as the application format always includes changes. **PROOF CAREFULLY.** While the same or similar verbiage may be retained from year to year, the use of an outdated application or answers to questions not posed for 2012 will not be looked upon favorably.

**All Applicants:**

Make sure the specific activity for which IOLTA funds may be used is in compliance with the list of General Eligibility Standards (page 2).

Before appending the required signature, make sure the organization has fully reviewed the Grant Agreement (page B) and will comply.

**Answer each question and complete the package in the required page order explained on page 6.** Note that the submission requirements (below) of the completed application are unyielding and must be followed exactly.

Please do not initiate contact with a member of the Foundation’s Board of Trustees or Grant Review Committee regarding the application. The organization will be contacted if further information is necessary.

**HOW TO SUBMIT A COMPLETED IOLTA GRANT APPLICATION:**

Completed, **HARDCOPY** applications must be returned by **UNITED STATES MAIL** postmarked no later than **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2011.** **THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTION TO THIS DEADLINE.**

Applicants should obtain a "Certificate of Mailing" or other proof of mailing and a receipt.

Applications will **NOT** be accepted **ELECTRONICALLY** (email), by **HAND DELIVERY**, by **OVERNIGHT DELIVERY** or by **FAX**.

## GRANT PHILOSOPHY

The Tennessee Supreme Court created the IOLTA program in 1984 and approved the use of IOLTA funds for three purposes: (1) the delivery of legal services to the poor, (2) student loans, and (3) to improve the administration of justice.

## GENERAL ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS

The Board of Trustees will not make grants:

- (1) to political campaigns
- (2) to organizations designed primarily for lobbying
- (3) to support a specific activity that the local, state or federal government has an obligation to fund
- (4) to religious organizations where proselytizing is a part of the service provided.

To be eligible for an IOLTA grant, an organization must:

- (1) be exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, as amended; OR
- (2) agree to use the IOLTA grant only for purposes that are charitable or educational within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, as amended; AND
- (3) be an equal employment opportunity employer that does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, marital status, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

To be eligible for an IOLTA grant, an organization must **follow these procedures:**

- (1) submit its application pursuant to the guidelines by **United States mail** postmarked no later than September 9, 2011;
- (2) **respond adequately to any requests for additional information from the Committee;**
- (3) agree to carry out the project for which the IOLTA funds were requested;
- (4) agree that its completed application will be available for public inspection;
- (5) report on the progress of the project for which funds were granted; and
- (6) cooperate with data collection and evaluation requests of the Foundation or its representatives.

The Foundation reserves the right to change the procedures and priorities established in this program as the IOLTA funds grow or diminish and as needs change.

## REVIEW PROCEDURE

The initial paper review of applications will be conducted by the Foundation's executive director and the IOLTA Grant Review Committee. The Committee may allow or require individual applicants to appear and make oral presentations. A member of the Committee may contact the person(s) named on the application cover page to request additional information regarding the organization and/or its proposed use of IOLTA funds. Reply promptly to those requests.

At the conclusion of the Committee's review process, its recommendations will be made to the Tennessee Bar Foundation Board of Trustees. The Trustees will make the final decision regarding IOLTA grants and will announce funding decisions in December 2011. The first payment of the 2012 IOLTA grants will be made on January 2, 2012.

## IMPORTANT DATES

Applications Available:	August 12, 2011
Application Postmark Deadline:	September 9, 2011
Announcement of Grant Awards:	December 2011
First Payment of Grants:	January 2, 2012

The Board of Trustees plans to make the payment of 2012 IOLTA grants to Provide Legal Services in four, equal, quarterly installments on:

January 2, 2012	<b>In certain cases, such as one-time events, payments may be made in other intervals as determined by the Foundation's executive director in consultation with the recipient.</b>
April 27, 2012	
July 27, 2012	
October 26, 2012	

Each recipient of an IOLTA grant to Provide Legal Services must submit an assessment report, in accordance with the form provided, which describes how 2012 IOLTA funds have been spent, to the Executive Director of the Tennessee Bar Foundation by:

April 20, 2012  
July 20, 2012  
October 19, 2012  
January 25, 2013

**The April, July and October payments will not be released until the assessment report has been received. Failure to submit such reports may result in the withholding of further installments of the IOLTA grant.**

## **GRANTS TO PROVIDE LEGAL SERVICES**

### **1. General Philosophy**

The Tennessee Bar Foundation IOLTA program wishes to provide significant support to organizations that offer direct legal services to the indigent and to make sure those organizations address the particular needs and problems of various indigent groups in different geographical areas. The Board of Trustees encourages the use of IOLTA funds to develop cooperative efforts among providers in a service area.

### **2. Eligibility Standards**

In order to be eligible for an IOLTA grant to provide legal services to the poor, an organization must serve Tennessee residents who have no resources to obtain private counsel, which is generally defined as having income below 125% of the federal poverty guidelines (although in some cases, with documentation, income may go as high as 200% of the poverty level). A financially eligible client group is one whose membership includes 50% or more of persons eligible for services or whose primary purpose is the assistance of low-income persons.

No recipient of IOLTA funds may use those funds to provide legal services to the indigent in civil matters that, if undertaken on behalf of an indigent person by an attorney in private practice, might reasonably be expected to result in payment of a fee for legal services from an award to the client, from public funds or from the opposing party. However, this provision is not applicable in any case where the organization receiving IOLTA funds determines, in good faith, that the indigent person seeking legal assistance has made reasonable efforts to obtain the services of an attorney in private practice and has been unable to obtain such services because a potential fee is inadequate, is likely to be uncollectible, would substantially consume any recovery by the client or any other reason which the organization, acting in good faith, believes prevents a client from obtaining the services of a private attorney.

### **3. Allocation of IOLTA Funds**

Funds available under this subsection are available to all organizations, including those that are funded in whole or in part by the Legal Services Corporation (LSC).

The Committee requires that all grant applicants have sources of income in addition to the IOLTA funds requested. New organizations must demonstrate the ability to provide at least 10% of their projected annual budget from sources other than IOLTA funds during their first year of operation. The amount of funding from other sources must rise to 25% the second year and 50% the third year. Existing organizations must demonstrate that they have funding from sources other than IOLTA equal to at least 50% of their annual budget.

a. **Staff Attorney Model**

A portion of available Tennessee Bar Foundation IOLTA funds to provide legal services to the poor may be awarded to staff attorney legal aid organizations throughout the state. The amount of funding awarded to each organization will be determined through the review process and may also be partially based on the percentage of Tennessee's low-income population residing within the counties contained in its service area. For purposes of this subsection, low-income population is defined as persons with an adjusted gross income at or below 125% of the poverty level as defined by the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

b. **Pro Bono Model**

A portion of available Tennessee Bar Foundation IOLTA funds to provide legal services to the poor may be awarded to Pro Bono organizations through which a paid staff coordinates the efforts of private attorneys to provide free civil legal services to low-income individuals. The amount of funding awarded to each organization will be determined through the review process and may also be partially based on the percentage of Tennessee's low-income population residing within the counties contained in its service area. For purposes of this subsection, low-income population is defined as persons with an adjusted gross income at or below 125% of the poverty level as defined by the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

c. **Other Organizations**

A portion of available Tennessee Bar Foundation IOLTA funds to provide legal services to the poor may be awarded to organizations that combine the above categories, create new delivery of service models or offer service to different indigent populations. These grants are not restricted by geographic area.

## Application Format

### INSTRUCTIONS:

- (1) Prepare the application on 8 1/2" x 11" paper, single sided
- (2) Fasten the application pages securely in a PERMANENT manner (heavy duty staples - preferred, spiral binding - acceptable, etc.) **black "bulldog" clips ARE NOT acceptable**
- (3) Use the "IOLTA Grant Application Cover Sheet" (page A) as the **first/top page**. **DO NOT USE A BINDING PAGE - THE OFFICIAL COVER PAGE MUST BE VISIBLE**.

(4) **Submit the pages of the application in the following order:**

- Cover sheet (page A)
- Grant Agreement (page B)
- Budget Forms (pages C & D)
- Application narrative of questions and answers. First page of NARRATIVE should be numbered "1" - **Number all subsequent pages**.
- List of officers/directors/trustees of the organization with addresses *and term expiration dates*

- (5) Include in the application envelope:
  - a. **2** copies of the most recent **audit or accounting report**
  - b. **1** copy of **proof of tax-exempt status** (or a statement that the grant will be used only for purposes that are charitable or educational within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code)
  - c. **1** copy of **corporate charter**
  - d. **1** copy of **bylaws**
- (6) Submit the original application (clearly marked "original"), **3 application copies and the items above by United States mail, postmarked no later than Friday, September 9, 2011**. **Applications will not be accepted electronically, by hand delivery, overnight delivery or by FAX.**
- (7) Address the application to: Tennessee Bar Foundation  
618 Church Street, Suite 120  
Nashville, TN 37219-2456

## Application Content

- **REPEAT** the questions and answer them **AS THOUGH THE READER IS TOTALLY UNFAMILIAR WITH THE ORGANIZATION.**

- Do not answer a question solely by referring to the answer of another question. Answer each question in order, **at that location**, even if information provided elsewhere must be repeated.
- If a question is not applicable, repeat the question (as indicated above) and answer "N/A."

## Application Questions

### Priorities:

1. Describe the purpose of the organization (may be broader than the particular project for which funds are sought).
2. Narrowly describe exactly how the organization will use an IOLTA grant. Will the funds be used to maintain existing services, expand existing services or support a new service? If used for salaries, NAME the employee and provide a description of his/her duties. If the purchase of equipment or printing is proposed, submit a price quote on the vendor's stationery.
3. What subject matter cases are handled by the lawyers who participate in the pro bono program? Do the cases they accept extend beyond the types of cases handled by program staff attorneys (if any)?
4. Describe the parameters of financial eligibility for your organization's services and the process for making this determination. Who conducts it? How are ineligible applicants handled?
5. Describe with specificity how the organization intends to evaluate the effectiveness of the service it will provide with IOLTA funds. Will changes in the lives of clients be measured? Will the organization contact clients after time has passed to determine whether they followed through/if the situation for which assistance was rendered has improved? In addition to clients, will the evaluation process solicit comments from other professionals with whom the organization works (e.g. judges, clerks, attorneys)?

### Services:

6. Using statistics or other supporting documentation state the existence of the problem (in this community) that this program seeks to address.
7. Approximately how much of the need described in answer to question 6 is the organization able to meet? If the organization has a documented waiting list, how many persons are currently waiting to receive services?
8. Are outreach activities or advertising necessary to provide a stream of clients for the organization? If so, describe.
9. Is there a local bar association in the organization's geographic area? Describe how this organization has worked with or plans to work with that bar association, if at all.
10. List the names of the attorneys on the governing board.

### Resources:

11. How does the program encourage pro bono involvement by attorneys?
12. Describe how an attorney is contacted and offered a pro bono case.

13. Does the program have further contact with the client or attorney, after the referral is made, regarding the progress of the matter? Describe.
14. How many cases were accepted by pro bono attorneys during the past year? Compare to figures from the preceding year.
15. How many attorneys on the pro bono list were assigned a case in the last year?
16. How many hours (estimate) of service were provided during the past year by pro bono attorneys? Compare to figures from the preceding year.

**Financial Resources:**

17. List each of the program's corporate, foundation or governmental funding sources (over \$1,000), the amount and the time period for use of those funds. DO NOT LUMP THEM TOGETHER. LIST THE NAME OF EACH FUNDER.
18. In addition to the sources described in answer to question 17, is a local fundraising campaign or event(s) held? Describe each, list the net amount raised and compare the outcome to the previous year, if applicable.
19. Does the organization have other funding or potential funding sources including but not limited to a "reserve fund" or income from investments or an endowment? Describe and quantify.
20. (A) If there is a fee for the services provided by the organization, state the amount. (B) If the fee is based on a sliding scale, provide the scale and describe how the amount charged an individual client is determined.
21. What is the organization's fee-based income? What percentage of clients pay no fee?

**Final Issue:**

22. If there is anything else about the organization or proposed use of an IOLTA grant that the Committee should know, provide a BRIEF statement.

**2012  
TENNESSEE BAR FOUNDATION  
IOLTA GRANT APPLICATION COVER SHEET**

**PROVIDE LEGAL SERVICES  
Pro Bono Model**

This organization is: (check one)  first-time applicant       current grantee       prior grantee  
 prior applicant but denied funding (year? \_\_\_\_\_ )

Name of Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization website: \_\_\_\_\_ Main office located in \_\_\_\_\_  
County \_\_\_\_\_

Counties where services are provided: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of IOLTA Funds Requested: \$  Are funds requested for a one-time event? \_\_\_\_\_

Check should be made payable to: \_\_\_\_\_

Questions about this application and the proposed service should be directed to: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Title) Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street, P. O. Box)

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
(City, State, Zip)

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Chief Executive Officer: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street, P. O. Box)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City, State, Zip) Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson of Board of Directors: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street, P. O. Box)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City, State, Zip) Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Is this a request for: an existing project?  A new project?  Project Name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Brief Project Description: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

To be sent a confirmation email when the completed application is received, provide an email address here:

\_\_\_\_\_

## GRANT AGREEMENT

If granted IOLTA funds, \_\_\_\_\_  
(Applicant Organization)

agrees:

- (1) To carry out the project described in this application;
- (2) To report to the Tennessee Bar Foundation on the progress of the project as required;
- (3) To return to the Foundation any funds not expended or committed for the purposes of the grant within the period stated;
- (4) To allow the Executive Director of the Tennessee Bar Foundation, members of the IOLTA Grant Review Committee or the Board of Trustees to review, in person or otherwise, its actual use of IOLTA funds;
- (5) In some cases, grant payments will be held by the Foundation during the year, pending notice from grantee of the commencement of the specific project. If the project has not commenced, applicant will contact the Executive Director of the Foundation, in writing, by **October 19, 2012**, for guidance regarding the future availability of the award. If that contact is not made, the award may be forfeited;
- (6) The Foundation has no continuing obligation to make subsequent grants or otherwise finance any project of applicant's organization beyond the grant period specified; and
- (7) It is in compliance with each of the General Eligibility Standards of the 2012 Tennessee Bar Foundation IOLTA Grant Program Description and Application.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Applicant Organization

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Program Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Chair of Board of Directors

## BUDGET FORM

Name of Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Fiscal Year \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete the following form on a "grant year" basis, January 1 through December 31. Many organizations operate on a fiscal year, which does not coincide with this "grant year," but must be compared with the information provided by other applicants. Please add notes to this budget if additional explanation is necessary. **ROUND ALL NUMBERS TO THE NEAREST DOLLAR. DO NOT USE CENTS.**

Expenses:	(A) IOLTA Funds Requested	(B) Non-IOLTA funds Anticipated	(C) <b>TOTAL BUDGET</b> (A+B=C)
<b>A. Personnel Costs:</b>			
1. Lawyers/Professionals (No. ___)	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
2. Paralegals (No. ___) .....	_____	_____	_____
3. Others/Support (No. ___) .....	_____	_____	_____
4. Employee Benefits .....	_____	_____	_____
<b>B. Non-Personnel Costs:</b>			
1. Space .....	_____	_____	_____
2. Equipment .....	_____	_____	_____
3. Supplies .....	_____	_____	_____
4. Telephone .....	_____	_____	_____
5. Travel.....	_____	_____	_____
6. Training .....	_____	_____	_____
7. Other (specify) .....	_____	_____	_____
8. ....	_____	_____	_____
9. ....	_____	_____	_____
10. ....	_____	_____	_____
11. ....	_____	_____	_____
12. ....	_____	_____	_____
13. ....	_____	_____	_____
14. ....	_____	_____	_____
<b>C. TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

**SOURCES OF ALL FUNDING**  
**ROUND ALL NUMBERS TO THE NEAREST DOLLAR. DO NOT USE CENTS.**

List each type of funding source and amount	(A) IOLTA Program or Project	(B) All Other Programs	(C) TOTAL BUDGET (A+B=C)
1. 2012 IOLTA grant request	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____	_____
9.	_____	_____	_____
10.	_____	_____	_____
11.	_____	_____	_____
12.	_____	_____	_____
13.	_____	_____	_____
14.	_____	_____	_____
15.	_____	_____	_____
<b>TOTAL REVENUE:</b>	_____	_____	_____