



# ILLINOIS BAR FOUNDATION

## Law Clinic Grant Program – Application Now Available

The Illinois Bar Foundation is now accepting applications for our fourth annual Law School Clinic Grants Program. The program supports Illinois Law Schools and their clinics that serve the crucial role of educating and training law students to become the future of the legal profession while meeting the legal needs of the most vulnerable members of the Illinois community. There are several objectives at the heart of the new Law Clinic Grants Program that are a continuation of the work of the former Post-Graduate Civil Legal Fellowship Program.

- Increase the amount of civil legal services available in Illinois by providing efficient and effective civil legal services by qualified lawyers and law students under their supervision.
- Develop additional legal, interpersonal, professional, and business skills to enable the clinic participants to obtain marketable legal skills and aid in their full-time employment after law school.
- Help the participating law students develop professional networking skills and to establish their own professional network.
- Enhance the legal profession by instilling in a young lawyer a commitment to pro bono and legal aid services to be provided to all, regardless of their ability to pay.

### Availability of Funds

The IBF hopes to fund four to five \$10,000-\$15,000 grants in FY26.

### Projects to be Considered

Grant applications will only be accepted from accredited law schools which operate supervised and accredited legal aid clinics within the State of Illinois, providing civil legal aid to low-income Illinois residents. The IBF is interested in providing a grant that can have the greatest impact on the school, clinic, students, and clients they serve. We welcome creative and innovative projects and understand and support the need for practical operating expenses such as student stipends or transportation support.

### Limitations

- Funding requests for criminal legal aid will not be considered.
- Grants will not exceed \$15,000.

- The grant period will cover the 2026-2027 Academic year, but the program may be designed to expend the funds in a shorter period. (For example, if the grant request is to provide wages or stipends for clinic-participants over the summer).
- Only one clinic per Illinois Law School will be considered for a grant.

### General Evaluation Criteria

As a statewide organization, the Illinois Bar Foundation is invested in diversifying the use of grant funds, both geographically across the state and within subject matter areas.

Successful schools will have:

- A demonstrated record of incorporating their legal clinic into their curriculum.
- A civil legal aid clinic that is adequately supervised and provides students with a variety of opportunities to build on their knowledge and skills, including working with clients.
- A willingness to foster mentor relationships between clinic staff and students with the board and staff of the Illinois Bar Foundation.

### How to Apply

The grant application is currently available online by visiting the [www.illinoisbarfoundation.org](http://www.illinoisbarfoundation.org) and our online grants management system, where you can register and submit the application [here](#).

If you do not already have an account, please register the law school or clinic using one individual staff person by clicking the “Create New Account” link. We recommend that the person who will be responsible for compiling and submitting applications and reports, and who should receive information directly from the system should be the registered user. Once the organization (and one user) is registered, we can create additional users internally if you would like multiple individuals at the organization to have access.

Once registered – you will want to click on the “Apply” Button at the top of your homepage. You will be prompted to enter an Access Code at the top right-hand corner of the page which is: **FY26IBFLC**

Grant applications are due by 5pm on Friday, May 8, 2026.

Please reach out to Stacey Weiler, Director of Grants and Access to Justice Programs at the IBF with questions. Stacey can be reached at [sweiler@illinoisbarfoundation.org](mailto:sweiler@illinoisbarfoundation.org) or 312-920-4693.