



The State Bar of California

OPEN SESSION

AGENDA ITEM

1.2 FEBRUARY 2025

LEGAL SERVICES TRUST FUND COMMISSION PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND IMPACT COMMITTEE

DATE: February 7, 2025

TO: Members, Legal Services Trust Fund Commission Program Development and
Impact Committee

FROM: Kim Turner, Senior Program Analyst, Office of Access & Inclusion

SUBJECT: Recommend Delegation of Authority to Reallocate Remaining 2023–2024
Homelessness Prevention (HP 4) Grant Funds

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Legal Services Trust Fund Commission (LSTFC) Homelessness Prevention Funds Committee (HP Funds Committee) approved 63 2023–2024 Homelessness Prevention (HP 4) grants totaling \$28,500,000. Of the 63 grants, there were 46 initial awards totaling \$25,229,306 and 17 supplemental awards totaling \$3,270,694. Following the end of the grant period on June 30, 2024, \$1,007,981 remains unspent. Furthermore, the State Bar estimates that it has up to \$170,000 remaining from its funds to administer the HP 4 awards potentially available to reallocate. State Bar staff (staff) recommends that the Program Development and Impact Committee (PDI Committee) seek a delegation of authority from the LSTFC at its meeting on February 28, 2025, for the PDI Committee to reallocate the remaining HP 4 funds. The reallocation would run through December 31, 2025.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends that the PDI Committee seek a delegation of authority from the LSTFC for the PDI Committee to reallocate the remaining HP 4 funds to continue supporting HP 4 projects through December 31, 2025.

DISCUSSION

The Budget Act of 2022 allocated \$30 million for competitive awards to qualified legal services projects (QLSPs) and support centers to provide homelessness prevention legal services.¹ After administrative costs of up to five percent (\$1.5 million), the amount available for grants was \$28.5 million. The LSTFC approved 46 initial awards totaling \$25,229,306. The grant period for these awards started January 1, 2023. The HP Funds Committee then approved 17 supplemental awards totaling \$3,270,694. The grant period for the supplemental awards began July 1, 2023. The grant period for all HP 4 awards ended June 30, 2024.

Eleven HP 4 awards had a total of \$1,007,981 remaining at the end of the grant period. Additionally, the State Bar estimates that it has up to \$170,000 remaining from its funds to administer the HP 4 awards potentially available to reallocate. Staff recommends reallocating these funds as there is a high chance of changes to federal spending and housing-related programs that would increase the risk of homelessness to indigent Californians across the state. Additionally, current natural disasters have already increased the risk of homelessness in some communities.

Staff also recommends that the PDI Committee seek a delegation of authority from the LSTFC for the PDI Committee to reallocate the remaining HP 4 funds this spring.² Delegating authority would streamline the reallocation of a relatively modest sum of funds, providing the participating HP 4 grantees more time to spend additional amounts this calendar year.

Other than a new end date of December 31, 2025, the reallocated funds would generally be subject to the same requirements as the original HP 4 awards. Given the amount remaining, staff proposes that HP 4 grantees opt in to receive a share of the funds that is proportional to their prior HP 4 award(s). This would ensure reallocated amounts reflect the HP Funds Committee's previous competitive processes for these dollars.

If the LSTFC delegates authority to the PDI Committee, staff will present a recommendation for reallocation recipients and amounts at a PDI Committee meeting this spring. In the meantime,

¹ The HP 4 grants must fund:

[E]viction defense, other tenant defense assistance in landlord-tenant rental disputes, or services to prevent foreclosure for homeowners, including preeviction and eviction legal services, counseling, advice, and consultation, mediation, training, renter education, and representation, and legal services to improve habitability, increasing affordable housing, ensuring receipt of eligible income or benefits to improve housing stability, legal help for persons displaced because of domestic violence, and homelessness prevention.

See the Budget Act of 2022, available at:
leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB179.

² Staff has conferred with the Judicial Council of California which would support reallocating the unspent funds to promote their full spend down on qualifying homelessness prevention legal services. The State Bar will need to amend its contract with the Judicial Council to provide for the new end date and other aspects of a reallocation. A process to amend this agreement has begun.

grantees may opt in and submit a reallocation budget proposing how they would spend the additional funds.

PREVIOUS ACTION

None.

FISCAL/PERSONNEL IMPACT

None.

AMENDMENTS TO RULES

None.

AMENDMENTS TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES POLICY MANUAL

None.

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS & IMPLEMENTATION STEPS

None.

RESOLUTIONS

Should the PDI Committee concur it is:

RESOLVED, that the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission (LSTFC) Program Development and Impact Committee (PDI Committee) recommends that the LSTFC delegate authority to the PDI Committee to reallocate the remaining 2023–2024 Homelessness Prevention (HP 4) Grant funds to continue supporting HP 4 projects through December 31, 2025.

ATTACHMENT(S) LIST

None.