

**Theory of Change:** High-quality legal services protect the rights of low-income individuals and families and improve their stability and self-sufficiency.

**Program Goal:** To increase access to legal services that address critical needs such as housing, economic security, health, family stability and personal safety.

All proposals submitted to the Foundation should adhere to one of the following strategies:

**STRATEGY A**

**Direct Assistance**

**Target Population:** Low-income Chicagoans, including immigrants, people with disabilities and those impacted by discrimination, domestic violence or abuse.

**Components:** Provides culturally competent services. Uses technology to support efficient operation. Evaluates services. Uses resources of the legal community. Connects clients with resources that address other needs. Provides ongoing training and mentorship for staff and volunteer attorneys.

**Evaluation Criteria:**

- Within each practice area for which funding is provided: number of clients represented in litigation; number represented without litigation; number provided with brief services; number served through information and referral
- Number of clients referred to organizations for other than legal services
- Self-help materials produced and distributed
- Number of trainings held for the public or other providers; number of attendees
- Retention of staff attorneys
- Percentage of cases in which desired legal outcome is achieved
- Impact on clients' lives (might include housing, employment, health, family stability and/or safety outcomes)

**STRATEGY B**

**Advocacy and Impact Litigation**

**Target Population:** Public systems and policies that affect the rights, health and welfare of low-income individuals and families.

**Components:** Pursues legal action to protect clients from government agencies and corporations that infringe their constitutional rights. Conducts research and education to inform policymakers.

**Evaluation Criteria:**

- Ability to document progress which could include meetings with policy makers, new legislation, court filings or appearances and favorable rulings
- Addresses issues that directly impact a significant number of individuals or families facing a specific issue or within a given population