

ACCESS TO CIVIL JUSTICE

BENEFITS ADVOCACY

Strategy Description

This service strategy will support legal assistance in matters of income maintenance, health and long-term care, and benefits advocacy, including but not limited to:

- CalWORKs;
- CalFresh;
- Social Security (including Disability Insurance);
- Supplemental Security Income;
- Unemployment compensation;
- Veteran benefits;
- Workers' Compensation;
- Medicare;
- Medicaid; and
- Medi-Cal.

When a client-attorney relationship has been established, service types can include Limited Services and Extended Services. Additional eligible activities include community-based workshops.

Limited Services may include:

- Counsel and advice, such as preparing and providing advice to the client, reviewing relevant information, and counseling the client on how to take action to resolve the issue; and
- Limited action, such as services provided to a client that involve the preparation of relatively simple or routine documents and relatively brief interactions with other parties. This may include preparing short letters, drafting routine documents or power of attorney, making a telephone call, or helping a pro per client prepare court or other legal documents.

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Strategy Description (continued)

Extended Services may include:

- Negotiating a settlement with or without litigation;
- Representing a client in court or in an administrative agency; and
- Providing another extensive service, which may include research, preparation of complex legal documents, interaction with third parties on behalf of clients, ongoing assistance to clients, etc.

Benefits in income maintenance and health and long-term care matters include, but are not limited to:

- Obtaining, preserving or increasing benefits to which client is entitled, including: foster care benefits, veterans or military benefits, disability or age-related benefits, benefits to relieve hunger, and benefits to help maintain economic self-sufficiency;
- Obtaining or preserving eligibility under publicly-funded health insurance, long-term care services, or coverage under private insurance;
- Increasing access to health services or long-term care services; and
- Obtaining protection from abuse and neglect in a health and long-term care context.



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Key Metrics

Here are some suggested outcomes to include in your proposal:

Outcome Metric
of residents receiving legal counsel or advice
of residents receiving legal representation
of residents who obtained or preserved benefits
of residents whose access to services increased

Feel free to expand on these, or offer other measures of success in your proposal.

Applicant Qualifications

- Applicants must be nonprofit organizations whose purpose or mission is to provide free civil legal services to vulnerable populations in San Francisco;
- Applicants must have demonstrated knowledge of local, state and federal benefit programs; and
- Applicants must have the ability to provide culturally competent and humble legal services or translation in languages needed to serve the target population(s).