

ACCESS TO CIVIL JUSTICE

HOUSING JUSTICE

Strategy Description

This service strategy will support housing legal services that are outside the scope of the Tenant Right to Counsel strategy, which focuses on full scope representation for tenants facing eviction.

For applicants interested in applying for eviction-related legal services, see the Tenant Right to Counsel strategy under the Eviction Prevention & Housing Stabilization program area on page 38. For applicants interested in applying for know-your-rights education, tenant counseling, and other tenant services not provided by an attorney, see the Tenant Counseling & Education strategy under the Eviction Prevention & Housing Stabilization program area on page 42 of this RFP.

There are a range of crucial housing law issues that tenants and homeowners face that are not related to eviction. Services in the Housing Justice strategy may include, but are not limited to:

- Threats of eviction;
- Rent increases;
- Rent Board proceedings;
- San Francisco Housing Authority proceedings;
- Publicly-assisted housing matters;
- Safety and habitability matters;
- Reasonable accommodations;
- Fair housing matters;
- Foreclosure and property fraud;
- Title disputes; and
- Other tenant-landlord matters

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

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Strategy Description (continued)

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.

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 housing matters may include, but are not limited to:

- Obtaining or preserving access to housing;
- Preventing, ending or obtaining relief from unfair or illegal behavior, or otherwise enforcing rights or obtaining remedies related to housing;
- Enforcing rights to safe and habitable housing;
- Obtaining relief from foreclosure or property fraud; and
- Resolving title disputes.

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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 granted a reasonable accommodation request or appeal
of residents granted a favorable Rent Board decision
of residents granted a favorable San Francisco Housing Authority decision

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 expertise in housing law; 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).