

Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Economic Services Administration | Community Services Division

Notice of Funding Opportunity Immigration-Related Legal Services 2022-2023 Questions and Answers – Updated 5/24/2022

1. Can an agency submit one application or multiple applications serving different counties and/or geographic location?

An agency should submit one application for the entire state. The application should detail the specific geographic areas that the organization will be able to serve and the number of people to be served in each area.

2. Our organization has just hired a DOJ Accredited Attorney for our immigration work, would this suffice for our organization submitting a proposal?

Organizations should submit proposals detailing the level of experience and the staff that are recognized by the Department of Justice.

3. Would it be possible for ORIA to post a Word version of the application cover sheet on the ORIA webpage so we don't have to recreate it?

Yes, ORIA will provide a Word version of the application.

4. In regard to the new NOFO, what is the expected term of the contract? Would it be one year, two years, or more? This helps us plan our staffing and budget.

The contract will a one-year contract be for state fiscal year 2023. If funding continues, there may be an opportunity to extend the contracts.

5. At our organization, immigration law is and will continue to be practiced **solely through attorneys**. As follows, would it be correct to proceed with our funding application *without* the proposal's requirement of organizational recognition from the DOJ OLAP?

DSHS and Commerce will consider all proposals submitted.

6. Under the “Direct Client Assistance” category, can individuals receive assistance with applying for temporary forms of relief (i.e. temporary protected status or extensions of their humanitarian parole) or is it limited to permanent forms of relief?

Applications for temporary forms of relief may be considered as a direct service that is permitted in the immigration-related legal services contract.

7. Also under the “Direct Client Assistance” category, can individuals receive assistance with filing work permit applications?

Applications for Employment Authorization may be considered as a direct service that is permitted in the immigration-related legal services contract.

8. Under the “Direct Client Assistance” category, can assistance to individuals overseas be provided (i.e. assist with applying for “Uniting for Ukraine” assistance where the supporter is located in Washington State or applying for an I-130 family based immigrant visa petition where the petitioner is located in Washington State and then assisting the family member with consular processing)? – for both of these scenarios, the beneficiary is overseas.

The funding for these services is restricted to supporting Washington residents with asylum applications or other matters related to adjusting immigration status. Therefore, these services cannot include helping supporters submit applications under Uniting for Ukraine.

9. The Department of Commerce funding via Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5693 must be expended by June 30, 2023. When must the DSHS ORIA funding from ORR (\$2.7 million) be expended?

The project time period for funding from the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement for legal services provided to Afghan humanitarian parolees is a three year time period beginning October 1, 2021 and ending September 30, 2023.

10. Do our proposals need to spell out which source of funding we are pursuing or will Commerce and DSHS assess that based on the services being proposed?

Please indicate the funding source your organization is interested in receiving on the cover page.

11. What contract period is envisioned by the request for proposals? We anticipate requesting two years of funding but we understand only one year of state funding has been approved. Is it permissible to present a budget that presumes continued state funding for a second year?

Please only project a budget for one year.