



2026 GRANT INFORMATION SESSION

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www.coloradoeja.org



OVERVIEW

BACKGROUND

The Equal Justice Authority (EJA) was established through HB24-1286 and launched on January 1, 2025.

EJA collects and manages a small fee from civil cases filed in district and county courts. Each year on July 1, these funds are awarded as grants to qualified civil legal aid providers across Colorado.

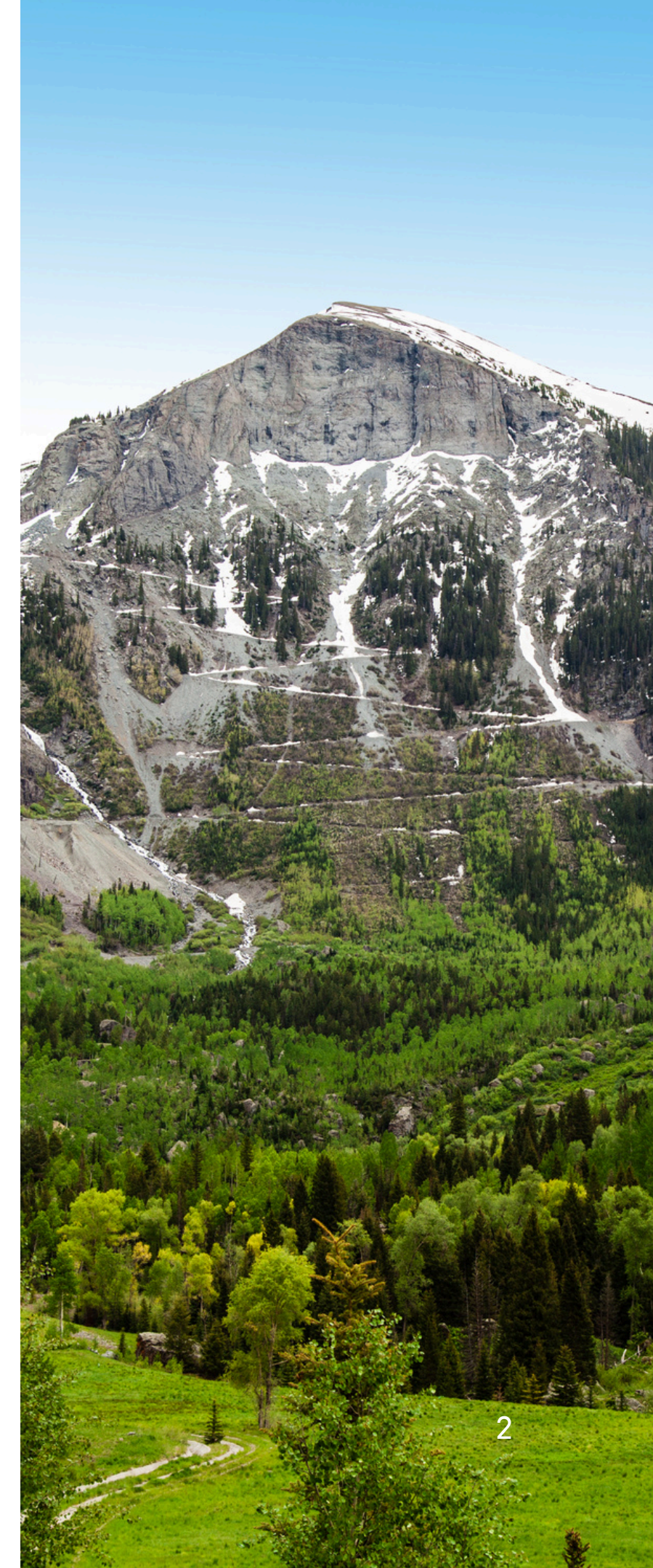
OPERATIONS

The EJA is governed by a seven-member Board of Directors, appointed by the Colorado Attorney General's Office, the Colorado Access to Justice Commission, the Colorado Bar Association, the Colorado Judicial Branch, and the Colorado Lawyer Trust Account Foundation (COLTAF).

GRANT AWARDS

Grant awards are distributed in compliance with HB24-1286:

- 67% of available funding is awarded to the Colorado recipient of a federal Legal Services Corporation field grant—Colorado Legal Services.
- The remaining 33% is available for distribution to qualifying 501(c)(3) organizations.

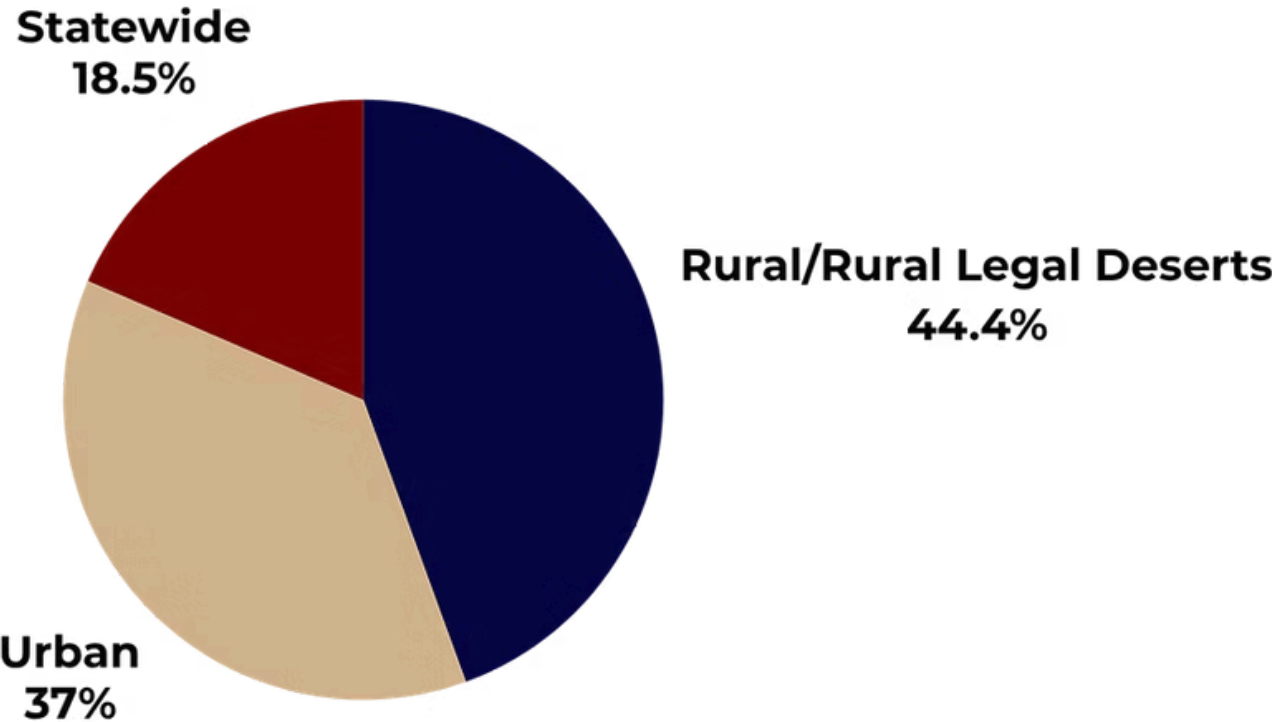


2025 GRANT AWARDS

The Equal Justice Authority awarded \$1,700,347 on July 1, 2025 to 27 nonprofits across Colorado. These organizations provide critical civil legal aid services to individuals under 250% of the federal poverty guidelines.

2025 EJA grant awardees brought a wide range of expertise—including housing, financial services, support for victims and survivors, and immigration—working to close the justice gap for individuals and families across Colorado.

Of the 27 funded organizations, 12 have a significant presence in rural areas and/or legal deserts, 10 primarily serve urban areas, and 5 operate statewide.



QUALIFIED APPLICANTS

Organizations may apply for funding if they are a qualified civil legal aid provider.

Per HB24-1286, an applying organization is a qualified civil legal aid provider if they meet 2 requirements:

Requirement #1

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization*

**applicants with a 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor or agent will be considered for funding*

Requirement #2

Provide legal representation and advice to people in Colorado who are at or below 250% of the federal poverty guideline to support their access to basic needs such as housing, employment, health services, education, and assistance with family matters and immigration status issues.

COMPLETING THE APPLICATION

The EJA grant application is due by **7:00 p.m. on May 15, 2026**. The online Google Form application is available at www.coloradoeja.org.

Application Overview:



Qualifying Questions & Applicant Information

This section includes applicant eligibility questions and contact information.



Data & Narrative Questions

This section is focused on the evaluation criteria for the grant, which will be used for the funding formula as required by HB24-1286.



Document Uploads

This section requires 3 uploaded financial documents, and a digital signature and date.

Upon successful submission, you will receive a confirmation email and a copy of your application.



SPENDING GRANT FUNDS

Funds are disbursed via electronic payment as a one-time award on July 1, 2026.

PARAMETERS



Funding received through this grant must be used to support access to legal representation for individuals in Colorado at or below 250% of the federal poverty guidelines, and increase the efficiency of Colorado Courts by reducing slowdowns caused by self-representation.

USAGE



Grant funds are eligible to be used for general operating purposes.

COMPLIANCE



Grantees must agree to follow all applicable federal, state, and municipal laws and regulatory requirements. Grant funds must not be used, either directly or indirectly, for lobbying or for political activities, such as supporting candidates for public office, advocating for ballot initiatives or measures, facilitating voter registration or transportation, or contributing to political campaigns. Grant funds cannot be used for gambling, liquor, entertainment, or personal purposes that do not clearly advance the purpose of the grant.



GRANT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

1. Grantees are required to join a 15-minute virtual onboarding meeting in July 2026.
2. Grantees are required to submit a mid-year report (due November 20, 2026) and an end-of-year report (due July 15, 2027).
 - a. These reports will be in Google Forms and grantees will receive a link a month ahead of the due date. Specific reporting requirements are included in the Grant Agreement that will be received upon award notification on June 22, 2026.
3. All grantees are required to participate in a virtual check-in in early 2027 (February - March).



CERTIFICATIONS

Certify funds have been spent in accordance with the statutory requirements and the grant agreement.



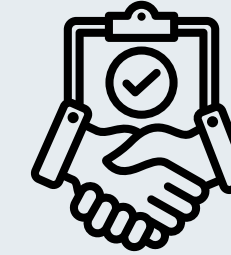
DATA

Share quantitative data how many people you have served and in what capacities.



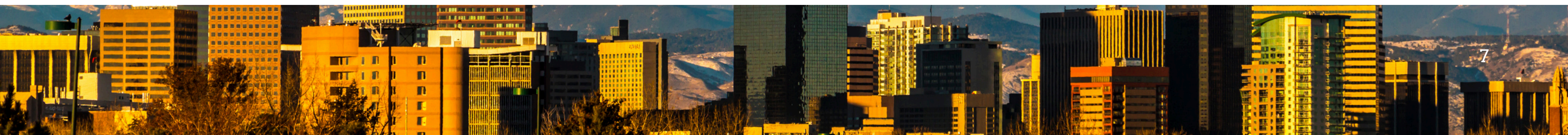
NARRATIVE

Share qualitative information on how the grant funds have impacted your organization and community.



2027 CHECK-IN

Join a discussion with EJA to review how the grant is going, how much funding remains, and prepare for the end of the grant cycle.





IMPORTANT DATES

2026 GRANT CYCLE: JULY 1, 2026 – JUNE 30, 2027

PRE-AWARD

- **April 1, 2026:** Application released
- **May 15, 2026:** Application closes – all materials must be submitted by 7:00 p.m.
- **June 22, 2026:** Applicants notified of award decision
- **June 26, 2026:** Signed Grant Agreement must be returned to EJA; grantee setup of BILL account for electronic payment

POST AWARD

- **July 1, 2026:** Funding disbursed and fiscal year funding cycle begins
- **July 2026:** Attend a 15-minute onboarding meeting
- **November 20, 2026:** Mid-year reporting due
- **February - March 2027:** Mid-grant check-in
- **June 30, 2027:** Fiscal year funding cycle ends
- **July 15, 2027:** Year-end reporting due



LINKS & CONTACT INFORMATION



**Application & Support
Materials**

www.coloradoeja.org



**Next Grant Information
Session**

Tuesday, May 5 at 12:00 p.m.



Contact Us

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