

Equal Justice Authority

2026 Grant Application Guide

Important Dates for FY 2026-2027 Equal Justice Authority Grant

- **April 1, 2026:** Application released
- **May 15, 2026:** Application must be submitted by 7:00 p.m.
- **June 22, 2026:** Applicants notified of award decisions
- **June 29, 2026:** Signed Grant Agreement must be submitted by 7:00 p.m.
- **July 1, 2026:** Funding disbursed and fiscal year funding cycle begins
- **October 1, 2026:** Mid-year reporting form emailed to grantees
- **November 20, 2026:** Mid-year reporting due
- **February – March 2027:** Annual virtual check-ins
- **June 30, 2027:** Fiscal year funding cycle ends and year-end reporting form released
- **July 15, 2027:** Year-end reporting due

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I. Overview

The Colorado Equal Justice Authority (EJA) is a Special Authority created under [HB24-1286](#) and is composed of seven board members that are responsible for distributing the equal justice fee for the purpose of providing equal access to legal aid services and to increase the efficiency of the court system for all court users.

The Equal Justice fee was implemented on January 1, 2025 and is collected by the courts on behalf of the Equal Justice Authority in the same way it collects other fees.

Visit www.coloradoeja.org to learn more about the Colorado Equal Justice Authority.

II. Qualified Applicants

Applicants may apply for funding if they are a qualified civil legal aid provider. Per [HB24-1286](#),¹ an applying organization is a qualified civil legal aid provider if they:

- Are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization; and,
- Provide legal representation and advice to people in Colorado who are at or below 250% of the [federal poverty guidelines](#)² to support their access to basic needs such as housing, employment, health services, education, and assistance with family matters and immigration status issues.

Organizations with a 501(c)(3) fiscal agent or sponsorship will be considered for funding.

250% of the [2026 federal poverty guidelines](#) for Colorado is as follows:

Household/Family Size	Income
1	\$39,900
2	\$54,100
3	\$68,300
4	\$82,500
5	\$96,700

¹ <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb24-1286>

² <https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/poverty-economic-mobility/poverty-guidelines>

6	\$110,900
7	\$125,100
8	\$139,300
9	\$153,500
10	\$167,700
11	\$181,900
12	\$196,100

III. Available Funding

Applicants do not request a specific amount for funding.

Per C.R.S. 13-5.7-206, eligible funding will be divided based on a weighted formula to qualifying applicants. The Equal Justice Authority shall annually distribute all money deposited into the Authority’s account, less the Authority’s direct and indirect expenses in administering the funds. The Authority shall distribute 67% of the remaining revenue to the Colorado recipient of a federal legal services corporation field grant (Colorado Legal Services) and 33% to qualified civil legal aid providers.

IV. Use of Grant Funds

Funding received from this grant must be used in support of providing access to legal representation for people in Colorado and increasing the efficiency of Colorado Courts by reducing slowdowns caused by self-representation.

These funds may be used for general operating purposes.

The Equal Justice Authority reserves the right to modify grant conditions or terminate grant funding should there be a misuse of funds or misrepresented information submitted in the grant application.

V. Application Overview

The 2026 Equal Justice Authority grant application is an online form. The application link can be found www.coloradoeja.org/grant-funding.

This digital form consists of the following questions:

1. To qualify for funding, the applying organization must provide legal representation and advice to people in Colorado who are at or below 250% of the federal poverty guidelines.

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

*If you answered "No" to this question, you are ineligible for this grant. Please contact ejaboard@coloradoaccesstojustice.org with any questions.

Please reference the poverty guidelines chart listed in this Application Guide and/or visit <https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/poverty-economic-mobility/poverty-guidelines>.

2. Legal name of organization:
3. Is the applying entity a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization?
 Yes
 No
4. If the organization is not a 501(c)(3), but is applying under a 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor or agent, please provide your Doing Business As (DBA) name and describe the fiscal sponsor relationship.
5. Organization mailing address:
6. Organization Website:
7. Organization Employer Identification Number (EIN):
8. Name, phone number, and email address of CEO or Executive Director:

9. Name, phone number and email address of individual completing this application (if different from CEO or Executive Director):
10. Organization's mission statement:
11. Explain how your organization determines client eligibility.
12. Enter the number of attorney hours your organization spent serving people in Colorado who are at or below 250% of the federal poverty guidelines from January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025.

This answer should be a number. Limit any contextual information to 100 words or fewer.

13. Enter your organization's total number of full-time staff attorneys and contracted attorneys as of the application date.

This answer should be a number. Limit any contextual information to 100 words or fewer.

14. Enter your organization's total number of part-time staff attorneys or contracted attorneys as of the application date.

This answer should be a number. Limit any contextual information to 100 words or fewer.

15. Enter your organization's total number of active (at least monthly) pro bono attorneys as of the application date.

This answer should be a number. Limit any contextual information to 100 words or fewer.

16. Enter the number of people living at or below 250% of the federal poverty guidelines in Colorado that received educational legal services from your organization from January 1, 2025–December 31, 2025.

Educational legal services refers to providing general education on a topic that is not case specific - e.g. know your rights clinics or educational materials.

This answer should be a number. Limit any contextual information to 100 words or fewer.

17. Enter the number of people living at or below 250% of the federal poverty guidelines in Colorado that received brief legal services from your organization between January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025.

Brief legal services (unbundled or limited scope representation) refers to case specific advice or limited assistance on a case - e.g. helping an individual complete paperwork.

This answer should be a number. Limit any contextual information to 100 words or fewer.

18. Enter the number of people living at or below 250% of the federal poverty guidelines in Colorado who received full representation legal services from your organization between January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025.

Full representation legal services refers to representing an individual in a specific case.

This answer should be a number. Limit any contextual information to 100 words or fewer.

19. Select the primary service region where your organization regularly (at least monthly) delivered civil legal aid services to people at or below 250% of the federal poverty guidelines from January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025.

- Denver-Boulder Metro
- Northern Colorado
- Southern Colorado
- Eastern Plains
- Western Slope
- Northwest Colorado
- Southwest Colorado
- Mountain/Central
- San Luis Valley

Regional County Index

Denver-Boulder Metro: Denver, Boulder, Jefferson, Arapahoe, Adams, Broomfield, Douglas

Northern Colorado: Larimer, Weld

Southern Colorado: El Paso, Pueblo, Fremont, Custer, Huérfino, Las Animas

Eastern Plains: Logan, Morgan, Washington, Elbert, Yuma, Phillips, Sedgwick, Kit Carson, Cheyenne, Lincoln, Baca, Bent, Crowley, Kiowa, Otero, Prowers

Western Slope: Mesa, Garfield, Delta, Montrose, Ouray, Pitkin, Gunnison, Hinsdale

Northwest Colorado: Moffat, Rio Blanco, Routt, Grand, Jackson

Southwest Colorado: La Plata, Archuleta, Montezuma, Dolores, San Juan, San Miguel

Mountain/Central: Summit, Eagle, Lake, Chaffee, Park, Teller, Clear Creek, Gilpin

San Luis Valley: Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, Saguache

20. Select any additional regions where your organization regularly (at least monthly) delivered civil legal aid services to people at or below 250% of the federal poverty guidelines from January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025:

- Denver-Boulder Metro
- Northern Colorado
- Southern Colorado
- Eastern Plains
- Western Slope
- Northwest Colorado
- Southwest Colorado
- Mountain/Central
- San Luis Valley

Regional County Index

Denver-Boulder Metro: Denver, Boulder, Jefferson, Arapahoe, Adams, Broomfield, Douglas

Northern Colorado: Larimer, Weld

Southern Colorado: El Paso, Pueblo, Fremont, Custer, Huérfano, Las Animas

Eastern Plains: Logan, Morgan, Washington, Elbert, Yuma, Phillips, Sedgwick, Kit Carson, Cheyenne, Lincoln, Baca, Bent, Crowley, Kiowa, Otero, Prowers

Western Slope: Mesa, Garfield, Delta, Montrose, Ouray, Pitkin, Gunnison, Hinsdale

Northwest Colorado: Moffat, Rio Blanco, Routt, Grand, Jackson

Southwest Colorado: La Plata, Archuleta, Montezuma, Dolores, San Juan, San Miguel

Mountain/Central: Summit, Eagle, Lake, Chaffee, Park, Teller, Clear Creek, Gilpin

San Luis Valley: Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, Saguache

21. For each region selected in questions 19 and 20, describe the geographic reach of your services, including whether your services were physical or virtual.

Limit your response to 750 words or fewer.

22. List each barrier to legal assistance your organization actively addresses — including but not limited to disabilities, limited English proficiency, and limited technology proficiency.

For each barrier, describe the dedicated program, designated staff role, written policy, and/or complementary service partnership your organization has established. Include how cultural considerations are incorporated into your approach.

Limit your response to 750 words or fewer.

23. Applicants must submit three attachments:

- Proof of IRS federal tax-exempt status dated within the last five years.
- A copy of your organization's operating budget for the current fiscal year.
- A copy of your current year-end income and expense statement.

If you do not have a Google-based account that allows you to upload these files, please email them to ejaboard@coloradoaccesstojustice.org with your organization's name in the subject line.

24. By entering your name and the date below, you certify that the information contained in this application is true and correct to the best of your knowledge.

VI. Selection Criteria

Per C.R.S. 13-5.7-206, eligible funding will be divided based on a weighted formula to qualifying applicants.

VII. Award Notification & Grant Agreement

Successful applicants will be notified by **June 22, 2026** via the email provided on the application. Award notification will include both an Award Letter and a Grant Agreement that details terms and conditions.

To accept your award, the successful applicant's Executive Director or CEO must sign and return the Grant Agreement to ejaboard@coloradoaccesstojustice.org by **7:00 p.m. on June 29, 2026**.

Awards will be disbursed on **July 1, 2026**.

VIII. Reporting Requirements

Successful applicants will have required reporting due **November 20, 2026** and **July 15, 2027**. All grantees are required to attend a virtual check-in **February – March 2027**.

IX. Inquiries

If you have any questions or need support to complete this application, please contact ejaboard@coloradoaccesstojustice.org.