COMMUNITY SERVICE

THE LOUISVILLE BAR FOUNDATION

LBF 2023 Grant Recipients

The Louisville Bar Foundation recently awarded approximately $100,000 in grants for 12 law-related programs in the Louisville area. These grants were approved by the Board of Directors at its board meeting in June. Additional grants may be awarded in December. Our profession is helping in these times through our collective gifts to the Foundation.

Grants are made possible by the generosity of Louisville area lawyers and law firms. Since its founding in 1982, the Foundation has distributed more than $3.16 million in grant funds.

CASA OF THE RIVER REGION

Advocacy Academy: $7,500
CASA provides advocacy services to children with active cases in Family Court. To increase the number of volunteer advocates, CASA must continually train and provide education. The LBF grant will support CASA’s Advocacy Academy program and increase its number of trainings to boost volunteers’ advocacy skillset and their understanding of interrelated child welfare, justice and medical systems.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF LOUISVILLE

Fee Waiver Program: $12,500
Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services helps low-income refugees and immigrants living in Kentucky obtain legal assistance. The LBF grant will help refugees and immigrants to solve immigration and/or employment status issues so to achieve or maintain financial stability and economic independence.

FAMILY & CHILDREN’S PLACE

Child Advocacy Center: $5,000
The Child Advocacy Center at Family & Children’s Place is the only facility of its kind in Kentucky providing services to child victims up to age 17 with compassionate, coordinated intervention and investigation of child sex abuse. The LBF grant will be used to pay expenses for a highly trained forensic interviewer to record a child’s testimony and for lab kits used to gather and preserve evidence for later use at trial in prosecuting child sex offenses.

THE HEALING PLACE

Peer Mentor Program: $2,500
Many of the clients who come to The Healing Place for addiction recovery are involved in Jefferson County’s court system. The Peer Mentor Program at The Healing Place enlists men and women who have completed the program to serve as role models and mentors for newer participants. These peer mentors provide one-on-one counseling and support. In particular, peer mentors help participants comply with court dates, court orders and other issues related to the justice system. LBF funds will support the Peer Mentor Program as it increases the chances of a participant’s successful recovery and the efficient resolution of court issues.

KENTUCKY REFUGEE MINISTRIES

Immigration Legal Services: $25,000
Kentucky Refugee Ministries provides legal services to immigrants who have resettled in the Louisville area. Many of these immigrants need to file applications with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services for permanent residence status or to petition for asylum. In recent years, the number of requests for legal assistance far exceeded staff capacity, creating backlogs and waiting lists. The LBF grant will provide funds for KRM to strategically build staff capacity to meet this increased need and reduce the backlog and wait time.

KENTUCKY YMCA YOUTH ASSOCIATION

Civic and Leadership Development: $5,000
Kentucky YMCA Youth Association’s conferences bridge classroom civics education with personal understanding of our state’s branches of government. These experiential learning programs allow teens to meet their peers from throughout the state as they learn about the legislative process and understand the judicial and executive branches. The LBF grant will provide funds to make attendance and participation at these statewide conferences available to public school students in low-income communities which otherwise would not have access.

LA CASITA CENTER

Legal Outreach and Clinic Services: $10,000
In addition to the numerous social, nutritional and cultural programs La Casita Center provides in the Latinx immigrant community, it specifically conducts outreach to Latinx women and families in need of legal services. Through its targeted outreach and legal clinics, participants receive help on understanding the legal system, immigration issues, family law matters and other legal problems. LBF funds will support the Center’s targeted outreach to the Latinx community and the development of a pro bono attorney panel to assist program participants in understanding legal problems and how to resolve them.

LEGAL AID SOCIETY

Violence Intervention & Prevention Project: $15,000
Legal Aid Society has a long tradition of serving the civil legal needs of low-income individuals and families in Metro Louisville. Its Violence Intervention & Prevention Project is a new program to provide legal information and representation to interrupt and redress violent crime in Metro Louisville. It will offer direct civil legal services to low-income survivors of violent injury and work to eliminate barriers these survivors face when seeking legal assistance and victims’ rights enforcement. LBF funds will serve as a “match” to leverage other funds for staffing this new program.

LOUISVILLE BAR ASSOCIATION

Summer Law Institute: $5,000
The Summer Law Institute is a seven-day intensive program that teaches high school students about law. The Institute is conducted by the LBAs Public Service Committee. The program provides high school students with an opportunity to interact with prominent local attorneys, judges and professors. It is designed to attract talented, ambitious students who are interested in a career in the legal profession. LBF grant monies will cover a portion of the direct costs of the program, thereby keeping the tuition affordable.

MATTINGLY EDGE

Educational Trainings on Alternatives to Guardianships: $5,000
Mattingly Edge develops partnerships that enable people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) to thrive at work, at home and in relationships. It also offers trainings and education on legal structures that help support people with IDD in the least restrictive manner. The LBF grant will fund trainings by Mattingly Edge, working in coordination with the Jefferson County District Court, Division of Guardianship, that will educate parents and school officials on less restrictive alternatives to guardianship, such as Supported Decision Making. These trainings will help families understand options available to them, other than guardianship, to support a person with IDD.

UOFI BRANDEIS SCHOOL OF LAW

Ackerson Law Clinic Mediation Program: $10,000
The Ackerson Law Clinic at the University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law offers students who have completed initial course requirements the opportunity for practical experience by representing clients under the supervision of clinical instructors. The Mediation Program allows students to apply mediation skills to assist low-income clients on issues which traditionally complicate and delay judicial resolution of Family Court disputes — custody, visitation, child support. LBF funds will support and help expand this program designed to help the underserved population, to improve the efficiency of Family Courts and to enhance the practical skills of law students.

YMCA SAFE PLACE

YNOW Mentoring Program: $2,500
YMCA Safe Place focuses on breaking the generational cycle of incarceration by providing youth who have an incarcerated or substance-dependent parent with a mentoring program that engages the youth with a one-on-one trusted adult. The program is designed to help the youth overcome those barriers to success that result from the loss of adult guidance and financial stability. LBF grant funds will support a focused mentoring program for youth impacted by parental substance abuse, overdose and death.

For more information on the LBF’s grants process or to make a charitable contribution in support of the LBF’s grantmaking activities, contact Jeff Been at (502) 292-6734 or jbeen@loubar.org.