
The CBF Grants List

2020



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SUMMARY

Thanks to the generous support of thousands of individual donors, hundreds of law firms and companies, and many other dedicated partners, the CBF grants program is able to invest in the entire pro bono and legal aid system and make an impact that no one individual or entity could acting alone. Due to this strong support, the CBF made more than \$1.72 million in grants in 2020, supporting dozens of pro bono and legal aid organizations and a number of innovative projects that are making a longer term impact.

The annual [CBF Investing in Justice Campaign](#) continues to be the primary engine for the CBF's grants. This year's Campaign was a great success in spite of the unprecedented circumstances we all faced in 2020. The Campaign yielded more than \$2 million in grants and support for more than 30 pro bono and legal aid organizations and related initiatives, thanks to more than 4,200 individual donors, a number of generous matching contributions from participating firms and companies, and additional funds the CBF is able to leverage through the Campaign grants process from a number of dedicated foundation and government partners.

The CBF awarded four types of grants over the past year:

- 1) Organizational Support grants totaling \$800,500
- 2) Special Project grants and support totaling more than \$636,800
- 3) Public interest law fellowships, scholarships, and internships totaling \$144,000
- 4) Other grants totaling more than \$144,000

CBF grants:

- Support dozens of outstanding pro bono and legal aid organizations serving our community
- Underwrite court-based help desks, pro bono projects, and other related initiatives that make the justice system more user-friendly and accessible for people in need
- Help dedicated attorneys pursue legal aid careers
- Make it possible for pro bono attorneys to most effectively make a difference.

The grants process is carried out by a highly-regarded and broadly representative board of lawyers and judges with the assistance of experienced CBF staff. The CBF carefully vets pro bono and legal aid organizations and strategically allocates funds to make the biggest difference for people in need.

This document contains the complete list of the CBF's 2020 grants. For additional information about the CBF's grants and the rigorous grants process, please refer to the [CBF's website](#) or contact Dina Merrell at 312/554-1206 or dmerrell@chicagobarfoundation.org.

ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT GRANTS

The CBF's 2020 Organizational Support grants were funded entirely by the 2020 [Investing in Justice Campaign](#). These grants provide critical and consistent general operating support for pro bono and legal aid organizations in our community. In the midst of the pandemic, the need for legal services was greater than ever before, but because of our dedicated donors, tens of thousands of Chicagoans were able to access critical legal help at a time when it is more important than ever.

Our goal in the CBF grants process is to make the broadest impact possible across the whole continuum of services in line with our strategic priorities and to maximize leverage from Investing in Justice Campaign funds. As outlined in more detail in our [grant guidelines](#), priority among the CBF's Organizational Support grants is given to organizations that have a broad impact on increasing access to justice for low-income and disadvantaged people in Cook County. In particular, the CBF takes into account the overall systemic impact the organization has; the areas of law and communities served by the organization; and the number of people impacted by the organization's work. We also consider the priorities and limitations of the other major access to justice funders in Illinois, and individual organization's access to other funding sources.

Using these parameters, the CBF has developed some general categories and associated funding ranges for similarly situated organizations to ensure objectivity and consistency in grant awards. The CBF realizes that every organization is different even within these categories; the categories simply provide guidance to the CBF Grants Committee and Board in determining the amount of grant awards within some general ranges.

In 2020, the CBF made the following Organizational Support grants:

County-Wide Legal Aid Hotline

CARPLS (Coordinated Advice & Referral Program for Legal Services) \$50,000

CARPLS, the legal aid hotline for Cook County, provides advice, information, and referral services over the telephone and through court-based assistance desks to low-income residents of Cook County. Staff and volunteer attorneys provide over 60,000 legal consultations annually to over 25,000 low-income people on civil law matters ranging from adoption to zoning.

County-Wide Pro Bono Program

Chicago Volunteer Legal Services Foundation (CVLS) \$45,000

CVLS volunteers and staff attorneys represent low-income Chicagoans in a wide variety of civil matters. Some of the many types of cases CVLS handles include divorce, adult and minor guardianships, adoption, tort defense, mortgage foreclosure and eviction cases. Over 2,500 volunteers and staff annually assist about 9,000 clients.

Organizations Providing Broader Impact Legal Aid Services and/or Advocacy Grants Range from \$25,000 to \$44,000

Cabrini Green Legal Aid (CGLA) \$44,000

CGLA provides free legal and social services to low-income people throughout Chicago who are impacted by the collateral consequences of contact with the criminal justice system. The organization's areas of focus include criminal defense, criminal records, eviction, and family law.

Equip for Equality \$44,000

Equip for Equality strives to advance the human and civil rights of people with disabilities in Illinois. It is the only comprehensive statewide advocacy organization providing self-advocacy assistance, legal services, and education, while also engaging in public policy initiatives and impact litigation.

Legal Council for Health Justice \$44,000

Legal Council for Health Justice uses the power of the law to secure health, dignity, and stability for chronically ill children, individuals facing homelessness, and people with HIV and other disabilities. Through its focus on three core areas – legal assistance, education, and public policy— Legal Council for Health Justice assists low-income people manage the complexities, barriers, and unique stigma they face to remaining healthy. The organization delivers legal services primarily through medical-legal partnerships.

National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC) \$44,000

NIJC serves low- and moderate-income immigrants without regard to legal status. Through a network of staff and over 1,500 volunteer attorneys, NIJC provides comprehensive immigration legal services to individuals, families and children, including immigrant visas, deportation defense, and asylum representation. NIJC also engages in policy reform and public education.

Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights**\$40,000**

The Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights works to secure racial equity and economic opportunity in our community. Through partnerships with law firms, the Lawyers' Committee provides legal assistance to clients and communities in litigation and transactional matters. The organization collaborates with community leaders, advocacy organizations, and attorneys to craft and implement community-based solutions and policy reform. Its current legal projects focus on education, housing, voting and civic empowerment, public safety, and community economic development.

Ascend Justice**\$32,000**

Ascend Justice empowers individuals and families impacted by gender-based violence or the child welfare system to achieve safety and stability through holistic legal advocacy and systemic reform. The organization serves domestic violence survivors seeking legal assistance related to orders of protection, immigration, family law, housing, and employment, as well as individuals who are being investigated or are appealing a finding of child neglect or abuse.

Life Span—*Center for Legal Services & Advocacy***\$28,000**

Life Span provides comprehensive services to low-income victims of domestic and sexual violence. The core of Life Span's legal services includes legal advice, information and representation in all family law matters, such as divorce, custody, child support, visitation, and Orders of Protection. It also provides immigration legal services to survivors of domestic violence. Life Span pairs its legal services with in-house counseling for clients and their children.

Legal Aid Chicago**\$27,500**

Legal Aid Chicago is the largest organization in Chicago and suburban Cook County providing free civil legal services to individuals and families unable to afford a lawyer. Legal Aid Chicago helps over 20,000 people a year by providing comprehensive legal services on a wide range of civil legal problems including family law, eviction, mortgage foreclosure, bankruptcy, and public benefits.

Greater Chicago Legal Clinic**\$25,000**

CLC provides low cost and free legal services to low-income people living in Chicago and suburban Cook County. The Clinic offers representation in various areas of law, including family law, domestic violence, criminal records, mortgage foreclosure, eviction, and immigration law.

Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing (LCBH) \$25,000

LCBH provides free legal services to low- and moderate-income tenants with a goal of impacting the affordable housing crisis to the greatest extent possible. Each year, LCBH helps tenants from all over Chicago who are facing eviction with a combination of legal representation, supportive social services and policy advocacy.

Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Family Services (LAS) \$25,000

Founded in 1886, LAS is the second oldest legal aid program in the nation and today continues to provide legal assistance to low-income families who cannot afford a private attorney. Each year, LAS provides free legal assistance in family law and other civil matters, with services ranging from brief service and advice to full litigation.

Organizations With System-Wide Impact That Also Support the Efforts of Other Pro Bono and Legal Aid Organizations

Grants Range from \$25,000 to \$36,000

Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO) \$36,000

ILAO is a web-based technology project that improves access to justice for lower-income and vulnerable Illinois residents by providing online legal information and resources to the lower-income public as well as to legal aid and pro bono attorneys. ILAO developed and maintains <http://www.illinoislegalaid.org>, which annually is visited about 2 million times.

Shriver Center on Poverty Law (Shriver Center) \$36,000

The Shriver Center is a multi-issue legal advocacy organization dedicated to lifting people out of poverty. The Center helps shape state law and federal policies into affordable mechanisms to eliminate poverty, and its work includes broad legal assistance, policy advocacy, public education, and training of legal aid advocates. The Shriver Center is a unique and invaluable resource for frontline legal aid attorneys in the Chicago area.

Center for Conflict Resolution (CCR) \$25,000

CCR provides over 1,600 free mediation services each year, trains new mediators, and works with the courts, government agencies, and organizations to create custom designed dispute resolution systems and training programs.

Organizations Providing Specialized Advocacy and/or Legal Aid Services

Grants Range from \$7,500 to \$25,000

Chicago Coalition for the Homeless—*Law Project* **\$25,000**

The Chicago Coalition for the Homeless Law Project provides civil legal services in select cases that advance the legal rights and remedies of persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, including ensuring that public school systems do not wrongly bar homeless children from enrolling in and attending schools.

Center for Disability & Elder Law (CDEL) **\$22,500**

CDEL works to advance the legal rights of low-income persons with disabilities and elderly persons in Cook County. CDEL assists its clients through the combined efforts of a small staff and a network of about 300 pro bono attorneys. Currently, CDEL offers legal representation on various civil legal issues, including consumer, adult guardianship, housing, estate planning and wills.

Uptown People’s Law Center (UPLC) **\$22,500**

UPLC combines grass-roots advocacy with legal representation of poor and working people in Uptown and the surrounding communities. UPLC focuses its work in the areas of Social Security and public benefits, housing and tenant rights, and prisoner civil rights.

The James B. Moran Center for Youth Advocacy **\$20,000**

The Moran Center provides legal and social work advocacy to low-income youth in the Evanston area. The organization’s legal practice involves juvenile and adult criminal court matters as well as administrative advocacy in special education and school discipline matters. The Moran Center also runs an Expungement and Sealing Help Desk at the Skokie Courthouse and civil legal aid clinics at three Evanston elementary schools.

Access Living—*Legal Services Program* **\$17,500**

Access Living uses the legal system to further its mission of independent living for people with disabilities. Through its Legal Services Department, the organization provides free legal representation to people who have been discriminated against based on disability in housing, public accommodations, government programs, and other services and programs.

Latinos Progresando—Immigrant Legal Services Program **\$17,500**

Through its Immigrant Legal Services Program, Latinos Progresando, a Department of Justice-recognized organization, serves immigrants in Little Village and other Chicago-area communities by providing low-cost immigration legal services, including naturalization and citizenship.

Lawyers for the Creative Arts (LCA) **\$15,000**

LCA provides pro bono legal services to individuals and organizations in the arts. With the help of hundreds of volunteer attorneys, LCA advises artists and arts organizations on the full array of legal issues they encounter, such as general business, registering and protecting their intellectual property via copyright, trademark, contracts, and resolving other disputes.

Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation (CAASE) **\$12,500**

CAASE works to eliminate sexual exploitation and assault through litigation and advocacy, organizing and policy reform, and prevention and resource development. CAASE’s legal program provides free legal services to survivors of rape and prostitution. It advocates with police and prosecutors, litigates against rapists using the Illinois Civil No Contact Order Act, and represents clients with landlords, employers, and schools.

First Defense Legal Aid (FDLA) **\$12,500**

FDLA connects people to the Cook County Public Defender’s Office to provide free, 24-hour legal representation to people in Chicago Police Department custody prior to their first court appearance, along with other resources. In addition, FDLA educates Chicagoans about how to protect their constitutional rights through Know Your Rights presentations in various Chicago communities.

Lawndale Christian Legal Center (LCLC) **\$12,500**

LCLC, a restorative justice organization, provides holistic legal services to low-income youth and young adults from North Lawndale who are involved in juvenile or adult criminal courts. It represents youth from the time of their arrest through their sentences of supervision, probation or parole, while also providing social services and mentoring that remove the obstacles youth may encounter in successfully complying with their sentencing orders.

The Roger Baldwin Foundation of the ACLU of Illinois—Children’s Initiative **\$12,500**

The CBF’s funding supports the Children’s Initiative, which serves as a legal advocate for the thousands of abused, neglected, and troubled children being held in state and county custody in Illinois.

Centro Romero—*Latin American Legal Assistance Services* **\$10,000**

Centro Romero is a community-based organization on Chicago’s north side that serves primarily Spanish-speaking immigrants and refugees. Through its Latin American Legal Assistance Services, which is recognized by the Department of Justice, it offers legal representation and education in the areas of citizenship, naturalization, and DACA.

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago—*Legal Assistance* **\$7,500**

Catholic Charities Legal Assistance (CCLA) operates primarily through a hotline over which staff and volunteer attorneys advise clients on a broad range of legal issues, provide brief legal services or make referrals for representation. CCLA also provides community legal education at Catholic Charities’ facilities in Chicago and the suburbs, and extended representation in a limited number of cases.

World Relief Chicagoland—*Immigration Legal Services* **\$7,500**

Located in Chicago’s Albany Park neighborhood, World Relief Chicago provides legal services to low-income immigrant and refugee families on a variety of immigration issues, including family reunification and citizenship. World Relief Chicago is recognized by the Department of Justice as an agency authorized to provide legal services to immigrants.

TOTAL: \$800,500

SPECIAL PROJECT GRANTS

The CBF makes Special Project grants to support innovative court-based projects that help make the legal system more fair, accessible, and efficient. These projects have a broad impact on the courts and justice system and align with the CBF’s overall priorities, including making the courts more user friendly and accessible to people without lawyers and supporting pro bono. The CBF’s Special Project grants enable thousands of low-income and disadvantaged Chicagoans to get critical legal assistance, information, and advice each year.

The court-based advice or help desks funded by the CBF assist people without lawyers with a wide variety of legal problems. Lawyers who staff these desks “triage” each person’s situation and provide the following services: help them better understand their legal problem; refer them to pro bono and legal aid lawyers when appropriate; give them brief advice and self-help resources for their legal problems; and assist them with completing court documents and forms. Collectively these desks served nearly 13,000 people last year and helped the courts run more smoothly.

The CBF’s Special Projects grant and other support primarily are made possible by contributions to the [Investing in Justice Campaign](#). These contributions also help leverage significantly more funding for the Special Projects from a special grant the CBF receives from The Chicago Community Trust’s Chicago Area Fund for Legal Assistance; funds from Cook County, the U.S. District Court, and the City of Chicago to support court-based advice desks and pro bono projects; and other funding partners.

2020 Special Project Grants

Municipal Court Advice Desk—CARPLS **\$251,297**

A joint project with the Circuit Court of Cook County, the CBF, CARPLS and Chicago Legal Clinic, this Desk provides free legal assistance to low-income individuals with cases pending in the 1st Municipal Division, including eviction and consumer cases.

Municipal Court Advice Desk—Greater Chicago Legal Clinic **\$94,907**

A joint project with the Circuit Court of Cook County, the CBF, and CARPLS, CLC complements the work of CARPLS at this Desk by providing extended representation to low-income patrons of the Desk referred by CARPLS with more complex cases pending in the 1st Municipal Division, including eviction and consumer cases.

Minor Guardianship Assistance Desk—Chicago Volunteer Legal Services **\$75,675**

A joint project with the Circuit Court of Cook County, the CBF, and CVLS, this Desk offers assistance to persons representing themselves in seeking guardianship of a minor.

The Judge William J. Hibbler Memorial Pro Se Assistance Desk—Legal Aid Chicago **\$66,000**

A partnership between the Federal District Court, Legal Aid Chicago, the CBF, and a group of dedicated pro bono attorneys, this Desk provides people without lawyers in Federal Court with legal information, advice and limited legal assistance.

Bankruptcy Assistance Desk—Legal Aid Chicago **\$40,000**

With a corps of pro bono attorneys, this Desk provides legal information, advice, and brief legal assistance to people without lawyers in Bankruptcy Court. This Desk is a partnership between the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in the Northern District of Illinois, Legal Aid Chicago, and the CBF.

Markham Eviction Advice Desk—Legal Aid Chicago **\$35,000**

This Desk assists low-income tenants in the Sixth Municipal District who are facing eviction.

Illinois JusticeCorps—Illinois Bar Foundation **\$34,000**

Through a partnership with the Serve Illinois Commission, the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice, the Illinois Bar Foundation, and the CBF, this innovative statewide program recruits and trains students to serve as guides to make courts across Illinois more welcoming and less intimidating for people without lawyers.

City of Chicago Administrative Hearings Advice Desk— CARPLS **\$25,000**

This Desk is a joint project with the City of Chicago, the CBF and CARPLS that provides free legal assistance to low-income people with cases pending before the City’s Department of Administrative Hearings, including building code violation cases, vehicle impound cases, and other municipal matters.

**Federal Court Settlement Assistance Project—
Chicago Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights** **\$15,000**

Through this Project, pro bono attorneys represent self-represented people in settlement conferences in federal cases.

TOTAL: \$636,879

FELLOWSHIP, SCHOLARSHIP AND INTERNSHIP GRANTS

One of the CBF's priorities is to make it possible for dedicated lawyers to pursue careers in legal aid and public interest law in the face of often overwhelming financial challenges. The CBF provides significant funding for a number of public interest law fellowships, scholarships and internships that have made it possible for a growing group of committed law students and attorneys to pursue their chosen line of work.

The CBF Sun-Times Public Interest Law Fellowship **\$20,000**

This Fellowship provides loan repayment assistance (payable over five years) to recent law school graduates who work at CBF-funded public interest organizations or at a qualifying legal organization serving other parts of Illinois. In 2020, the CBF supported 5 fellowships for:

- Adrian Barr, Prairie State Legal Services
- Cynthia Cornelius, Cabrini Green Legal Aid
- Liz Ptacek, Greater Chicago Legal Clinic
- Virginia Torres Ryan, Life Span
- Marisa Wiesman, Prairie State Legal Services

The CBF Kimball R. Anderson and Karen G. Anderson Public Interest Law Fellowship **\$50,000**

This Fellowship provides \$50,000 in loan repayment assistance (payable over five years) to recent law school graduates who work for CBF-funded public interest organizations. In 2020, the CBF supported five fellowships for:

- Sarah Hess, Legal Council for Health Justice
- Candace Moore, Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights
- Sue Pak, Cabrini Green Legal Aid
- Lydia Sharp, Equip for Equality
- Amanda Walsh, Legal Council for Health Justice

The CBF Abraham Lincoln Marovitz Public Interest **\$30,000**

This \$40,000 Scholarship (payable over three years) is awarded to an incoming J.D. student attending one of the nine Illinois law schools who plans to pursue a career in public interest law. In 2020, the CBF supported three scholarships for:

- Shannon Glover, Loyola University School of Law

- Christen Lee, Chicago-Kent College of Law

Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI) \$24,000

This grant supports three summer internships and two school year internships for law students working at CBF-funded pro bono and legal aid organizations in the Chicago area.

The CBF Moses Scholarship \$20,000

This \$60,000 scholarship (payable over three years) is awarded once every three years by rotation to one of the six Chicago-area law schools for an incoming law student who plans to pursue public interest law. In 2019-2020, the CBF provided year one of the two-year grant to Joseph A. Fay at The John Marshall Law School.

TOTAL: \$144,000

OTHER GRANTS

The CBF made a number of other grants in 2020 to support a variety of access to justice and related philanthropic initiatives, including the CBF's Pro Bono and Public Service Award grants, the CBF's Young Professionals Board/CBA Young Lawyers Section Partnership Grants, and discretionary grants.

Pro Bono and Public Service Award Grants

Each year, the CBF co-sponsors with The Chicago Bar Association the Pro Bono and Public Service Awards Celebration. The awards honor the work of seven unsung heroes (including the Anderson Fellowship described above) from a broad cross-section of the greater Chicago legal community whose dedication to ensuring access to justice inspires those around them to join in their efforts. Many of these awards provide the recipient with the opportunity to designate a special grant to a CBF-funded organization.

The Thomas H. Morsch Public Service Award	\$10,000
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A cash prize was awarded to Lisa Parsons, Legal Council for Health Justice.

The Edward J. Lewis II Pro Bono Service Award	\$2,500
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A grant was awarded to the Center for Disability & Elder Law in honor of Steven F. Pflaum.

The Exelon Outstanding Corporate Counsel Award	\$2,500
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A grant was awarded to the National Immigrant Justice Center in honor of Sherene Jodrey.

The Leonard Jay Schragger Award of Excellence	\$2,500
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A grant was awarded to Chicago-Kent College of Law's Self-help Web Center in honor of Dean Harold J. Krent.

The Maurice Weigle Exceptional Young Lawyer Award	\$2,500
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A grant was awarded to the National Immigrant Justice Center in honor of David Pi.

The Richard J. Phelan Public Service Award	\$2,500
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A grant was awarded to Lawndale Christian Legal Center in honor of Judge Cheryl Starks.

Center for Conflict & Resolution **\$1,000**
The winner of a special Pro Bono and Public Service Awards Luncheon drawing designated the grant to Center for Conflict & Resolution.

TOTAL: \$23,500

CBF Young Professionals Board/CBA Young Lawyers Section Partnership Grants

Through partnerships with The Chicago Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Section and the CBF Young Professionals Board (YPB) and other organizations, the CBF funds projects that educate vulnerable youth about their legal rights and responsibilities or otherwise provide or promote legal or civic-related education, including diversity initiatives.

CBA Media & Civic Education, Inc. (Chicago Bar Association affiliate) **\$5,000**

A \$5,000 grant supports the Edward J. Lewis II Chicago Lawyers in the Classroom Program at various Chicago Public Schools.

Center for Disability & Elder Law **\$5,000**

This grant supports the Serving Our Seniors Project and the Senior Center Initiative.

Mikva Challenge **\$3,000**

This grant supports the Democracy in Action course, Issues to Action Project, and Project Soapbox.

Just the Beginning Foundation **\$2,500**

This grant supports school year diversity pipeline programming.

Lawndale Christian Legal Center **\$2,500**

This grant supports the Court Advocacy Apprenticeship/Mock Trial Program.

Legal Prep Charter Academies **\$2,500**

This grant supports the lawyer mentoring program at Chicago’s legal-themed, college preparatory charter school in West Garfield Park.

TOTAL: \$20,500

Other Grants

The CBF made a number of other grants in 2020 to support a variety of access to justice and related philanthropic initiatives.

The Chicago Bar Association **\$60,625**

This grant supports CBA membership and complimentary Continuing Legal Education (CLE) for attorneys working at legal aid organizations receiving CBF organizational support grants. These memberships, which the CBA provides at a reduced rate, are offered in partnership with the CBA.

Ladder Up—Tax Clinic **\$15,000**

Ladder Up provides people with the financial resources and opportunities they need to move up the economic ladder. The CBF's grant supports Ladder Up's Tax Clinic, which provides free representation for low-income taxpayers involved in income tax controversies with the IRS or Illinois Department of Revenue.

Forefront **\$7,581**

This grant supports efforts to strengthen the philanthropic and nonprofit community in the Chicago area and Forefront's Count Me In 2020 Funders Collaborative program.

The Chicago Community Foundation **\$5,000**

Discretionary Grant to support the Illinois Immigration Funders Collaborative.

DePaul University College of Law Legal Resource Project for Immigration Service Providers **\$5,000**

Discretionary grant

Ascend Justice **\$2,500**

Discretionary grant to support the merger of Domestic Violence Legal Clinic and The Family Defense Center.

ABA Fund for Justice & Education **\$2,500**

Discretionary Grant to support Judicial Intern Opportunity Program.

Decarceration Project **\$2,500**

Discretionary Grant to support the Illinois Prison Project.

TOTAL: \$100,706

GRAND TOTAL: \$1,726,085