

**Mission Statement**

The mission of the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism is to support and encourage lawyers to exercise the highest levels of professional integrity in their relationships with their clients, other lawyers, the courts, and the public and to fulfill their obligations to improve the law and the legal system and to ensure access to that system.

AS APPROVED —  
2020.08.28

**GRANT CRITERIA**

**I. Requirements**

- A. Programs or projects must serve the people of Georgia and
  - 1. Relate to the regulation of the legal profession; and/or
  - 2. Promote, enhance, improve, or develop:
    - a. Professionalism among Georgia's lawyers and judges (i.e., the competence, civility, and character of lawyers or judges as counselors and officers of the court);
    - b. Professionalism legal education for lawyers or judges as set forth in the [\*Revised Professionalism CLE Guidelines\*](#);
    - c. Access to justice (i.e., access to the legal system); and/or
    - d. The administration of justice (i.e., processes, operation of the legal system).
- B. Applicants eligible for grants are limited to:
  - 1. Charities/nonprofits organized under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code;
  - 2. Law schools and law-related educational programs;
  - 3. Courts; or
  - 4. Local or voluntary bar associations.
- C. Applicants must be able to demonstrate:
  - 1. Fiscal stability;
  - 2. Sustainability of the project and reasonable overhead costs; and
  - 3. Capacity to efficiently and effectively administer, implement, execute, and evaluate the program or project for which the grant is sought.

**II. Priority will be given to programs or projects that:**

- A. Are new rather than existing or ongoing;
- B. Promote one of the core goals of foundation grants (see above) in new and innovative ways;
- C. Do not duplicate services or activities already available;
- D. Address underserved needs or populations;
- E. Use technology in new or innovative ways to, e.g., increase efficiency, reduce costs, or expand access to legal services programs or;
- F. Demonstrate potential to continue independent of Commission funding;
- G. Have sources of funding in addition to the Commission funds requested; and/or
- H. Use challenge grants or other fund-matching arrangements to maximize impact of Commission grant funds.

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**III. Exclusions**

- A. Applicants that are:
  - 1. For-profit entities;
  - 2. Operating under § 501(c)(4), § 501(c)(6), or § 501(c)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code;
  - 3. Grant making organizations; or
  - 4. Engaged in activities that are not for charitable or educational purposes as those terms are used in § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- B. Requests to fund:
  - 1. Direct provision of legal services;
  - 2. Ongoing or recurring financial obligations (e.g., permanent salaries or wages, rent, other general overhead);
  - 3. Repayment of loans;
  - 4. Capital improvements;
  - 5. Activities, programs, or projects that the State or local governments are required to provide by law (e.g., programs required to comply with the ADA);
  - 6. Political campaigns or activities;
  - 7. Lobbying efforts;
  - 8. General wellness programs;
  - 9. Endowments;
  - 10. Fundraising benefits or solicitations;
  - 11. Individual scholarships;
  - 12. Any project or program for which providing funding would risk the violation of state or federal law; or
  - 13. Any project of program which the Commission in its sole discretion deems outside of the mission of the Commission.
- C. The Commission will not accept repeat applications from the same applicant for the same project absent an invitation from the Commission to apply.

**IV. No Vested Rights in Commission Grants**

- A. The Commission can suspend grant-making at any time for any reason. The Commission is creating no vested rights.