

VERMONT BAR FOUNDATION
PO Box 1170, Montpelier, VT 05601-1170
(802) 223-1400

Information and Guidelines for the
Vermont Bar Foundation IOLTA Grants Program *
funded by the Vermont IOLTA Program

I. The IOLTA Program

The Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) Program is a successful collaboration between Vermont lawyers and the banking community, leading to a statewide grants program aimed at promoting justice. With IOLTA, small or short-term client funds are placed in pooled interest-bearing accounts. The interest accrued in these IOLTA accounts is then directed to the Vermont Bar Foundation for utilization in charitable initiatives, following guidelines established by the Vermont Supreme Court.

Vermont IOLTA Program funds have been designated for use solely for the following purposes:

- A. The preponderance of the funds shall be used to support legal services for the disadvantaged;
- B. Remaining funds may be used for public education relating to the courts and legal matters.

II. Vermont Bar Foundation Grant Policy

The Board has the authority to decide how IOLTA funds are distributed between the two categories mentioned above. With this authority, a minimum of 90% of the available funds are typically given to support legal services for disadvantaged individuals, while up to 10% are allocated for public education initiatives. The Board encourages grant recipients to come up with innovative approaches to deliver necessary legal services or law-related public education.

It's important to note that programs seeking IOLTA funds should not directly compete with the private bar.

III. Important Grant Application Notes

- A. Legal services projects should involve the direct delivery of legal services by an attorney or by a qualified person under the supervision of an attorney.
- B. Public education projects should involve the direct education of a population group or groups about the courts or legal matters.
- C. The Foundation's grant cycle and fiscal year are July 1 - June 30.
- D. **The deadline for completed applications is March 29, 2024 by 5 p.m.** The application and all attachments must be included as one pdf file with all the requested information on the cover sheet. Use the link provided by the Vermont Bar Foundation to upload the pdf document and submit your application. Do not email the pdf document to the Vermont Bar Foundation.

Upon submission, all proposals become the property of the Vermont Bar Foundation, which has the right to use any or all ideas presented in any proposal submitted, whether or not the proposal is accepted.

*** For this grants program, the Vermont Bar Foundation doesn't accept unsolicited grant proposals. You need to be invited by the Vermont Bar Foundation to complete an application.**

IV. VBF IOLTA Grants Program Format

A. Cover Sheet (must be the first page of your pdf document)

Please include **ALL** of the following on the cover sheet:

1. The name, address and telephone number of the program/agency making application for funds;
2. The name of the chief executive officer along with email address;
3. The name and title of the person preparing this application, if not the chief executive officer;
4. The amount requested;
5. For those who have received grants from the Vermont Bar Foundation IOLTA Grants Program, please provide a list of the years and amounts you received during the fiscal years 2013-14 to 2023-24.

For instance, if you received grants starting in 2013-14, but not every fiscal year consistently, your list might look like the example below:

FY	Final Amount Awarded
2013-14	\$10,200
2017-18	\$11,000
2021-22	\$12,000
2022-23	\$15,000
2023-24	\$15,500

6. The category(ies) under which these funds are requested (grant categories include (1) civil legal services to the disadvantaged and (2) public education relating to the courts and legal matters). If the application requests funds in both categories because they are interrelated, specify the amount of funds requested for each category. If the application requests funds in both categories and they are not interrelated, a separate application must be submitted for each category;
7. A one paragraph summary of the grant request. This summary should be a description that is suitable for publication;
8. Timeline of proposed program;
9. Date and signature of person preparing application along with their email address.

B. Grant Narrative

1. Program History and Scope

- a) Describe the mission and history of the program/agency, and specifically how the requested IOLTA funds will be used - the goals and objectives, priorities and needs to be addressed, the population to be served, staff resources, and timeline.
- b) Please address the process by which the sponsoring program/agency determines client eligibility, if applicable, and attach a statistical summary of caseload data for the most recent year in which complete statistics are available.

2. Financial Need/Resources

Describe the program/agency's efforts to obtain other funding and community support and provide a listing of all current funding sources and the amount received in the current fiscal year from each source. Indicate if this same funding application or a similar application is being submitted to any other funding source and, if so, provide details about the funding source(s) being pursued and the amount(s) being requested.

NOTE: Please inform the VBF Board of Directors of grant awards received for the same or similar services(s) or project(s) while this application is under consideration.

3. Tax Status

Applicants for IOLTA funds must be Vermont nonprofit entities and restrict the use of Foundation funds to law-related activities and purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code.

C. Budget

Provide the program/agency proposed budget for a twelve-month period and detail the amount requested through IOLTA. The budget should follow the format of the attached sample budget.

Attach to the budget a program/agency audit/financial review for the most recent year in which a complete audit/review is available.

Audit/reviews should clearly segregate and track the expenditure - and ending balance - of previously awarded IOLTA funds.

D. Report Requirement (Current Grantees Only)

To be eligible for funding consideration, current recipients of the VBF IOLTA Grants Program must submit their six-month interim report, detailing activities and expenditures for the current grant cycle, to the Foundation by January 31, 2024. You can include your 2023-24 interim report with this application.

Current grantees are encouraged to attach samples of any publicity, articles, printed acknowledgments, etc. through which the recipient has acknowledged the receipt and use of IOLTA funding.

Current grantees are encouraged to conduct surveys of user satisfaction for the service or program and attach copies of the survey and results to their applications.

V. Ethical Considerations

All attorneys whose representation of individual clients or client groups is made possible in full or in part by the Vermont Bar Foundation IOLTA Program are expected to adhere fully to the provisions of the Vermont Rules of Professional Conduct and to be guided by the American Bar Association Standards for the Providers of Civil Services to the Poor.

VI. Application Evaluation

The VBF Board of Directors evaluates the extent to which applicants and programs meet the criteria listed below. These criteria do not represent eligibility requirements--many applicants or programs could not possibly meet them all--but instead represent considerations for the Board to use in deciding among competing applications.

The Board evaluates the extent to which PROGRAMS:

- a. provide direct legal services to low-income Vermonters;
- b. address underserved needs or populations;
- c. avoid duplication of services in the service area;
- d. achieve broad geographic or demographic benefits, or, if local, have the potential for statewide applicability;
- e. demonstrate innovative approaches or new ideas;
- f. have potential for independent continuity, or use challenge grants or other fund-matching arrangements to augment Foundation funds;
- g. demonstrate community support.

The Board evaluates the extent to which APPLICANTS:

- a. have a history of service reflecting clear ability to deliver quality services;
- b. demonstrate cooperative efforts between service providers in their area;
- c. request funds for program rather than capital expenses;
- d. have sources of income in addition to Foundation funds.

VII. The Monitoring of Grants

The VBF uses three monitoring procedures in order to insure accountability from its grant recipients. First, each applicant signs a GRANT CONTRACT as part of the application process, agreeing to certain terms and conditions.

Second, all IOLTA grantees submit both an INTERIM SIX-MONTH REPORT and a FINAL REPORT to the Bar Foundation. **Plases submit the reports on time.** In the Interim Report, grantees highlight the specific contributions or impact of IOLTA funding and describe and quantify the services or programs made possible by the grant expenditure to date. In the Final Report, grantees relate impact of funding, covering the entire grant cycle, and include a program narrative and a financial statement summarizing the expenditure of the IOLTA funds. *Grantees must either return any unspent funds at the end of the grant cycle, or submit a carry forward request with a full grant application for the next cycle.*

Third, the Vermont Bar Foundation's Board of Directors may visit or have virtual meetings with any organization that receives IOLTA funds for monitoring purposes.

VIII. Further Information

For questions on the Vermont Bar Foundation IOLTA Grants Program or any aspect of the above-described grant application guidelines and format, contact:

José M. Herrera, Executive Director
Vermont Bar Foundation
PO Box 1170
Montpelier, VT 05601-1170
(802) 223-1400
jherrera@vtbarfoundation.org

Sample Budget

This is a sample budget. You may adjust categories if needed as long as the format is followed.

Please explain below how the requested IOLTA funds are to be used in each category. Please provide details below as to what other funding you have, either in hand or as a pending application to another source or sources.

	IOLTA	Other Funding Source	Total
Personnel Costs:			
Professional Staff Salary			
Support Staff Salary			
Payroll Taxes			
Fringe Benefits			
Total Personnel Costs:			
Non-Personnel Costs:			
Equipment			
Postage/Delivery			
Printing and Copying			
Rent and Utilities			
Supplies			
Telephone and Fax			
Training			
Travel			
Other (explain)			
Non-Personnel Costs:			
Total Project Budget			