

VERMONT BAR FOUNDATION

Invest in Justice

Providing access to justice for all Vermonters since 1982

Empower Change: Support the Vermont Bar Foundation's Mission

1. **Increasing Demand for Grant Funding:** The necessity for expanded grant funding from the Vermont Bar Foundation is on the rise among legal aid organizations throughout the state. Last year, Vermont Legal Aid elevated their request to the Vermont Bar Foundation, seeking \$1,193,000 compared to the previous year's \$800,000.
2. **Grant Allocation Challenges:** Despite allocating \$1.1 million in grants and funding for the Poverty Law Fellowship in 2023, the VBF faced overwhelming demand, surpassing available resources. However, the Board of Directors' transparent acknowledgment of this shortfall underscores their unwavering dedication to effectively addressing community needs.
3. **Tangible Impact and Economic Contribution:** A commissioned economic study funded by the Vermont Supreme Court highlights the significant impact of the Foundation's work in enhancing access to justice for Vermonters in need. For every dollar invested in funding legal aid, there is an \$11 return on investment, further bolstering the state's economy.
4. **Strategic Partnerships for Amplified Impact:** The Vermont Bar Foundation strategically leverages partnerships to amplify its impact. By strengthening existing collaborations and forging new ones, the VBF enhances its effectiveness in addressing community needs, ensuring the sustainability of its initiatives and benefiting the wider community.
5. **Strengthening Community Resilience:** The VBF funds programs tackling issues dealing with housing, healthcare, employment, and family matters, fostering community resilience. Legal aid empowers individuals and families, enabling them to overcome challenges, stabilize their lives, and make positive contributions to their communities.
6. **Promoting Fairness and Equity:** The Vermont Bar Foundation's commitment to funding initiatives that promote fairness and equity within the legal system helps mitigate disparities and ensures that marginalized populations receive equal treatment under the law. This fosters a more just and inclusive society for all Vermont residents.
7. **Empowering Pro Bono:** Beyond grants and funding the Poverty Law Fellowship, the VBF champions pro bono initiatives, helping legal aid providers mobilize volunteer attorneys to offer legal aid to low-income individuals and families. These endeavors extend the reach of legal services, profoundly impacting the lives of those facing adversity.

Thank you for your generosity and for trusting the Vermont Bar Foundation with your valuable support.