$900,000 in grants recently awarded

How FY’21 grants changed lives

IOLTA

mandated by nh supreme court rule 50

new hampshire bar foundation
strenthening justice for all

oCtOber 2021
$900,000 IN IOLTA GRANTS
AWARDED FOR FY 2021-'22

PROACTIVE AND RESPONSIVE

The organizations we fund collaborate closely, using their unique expertise to deliver legal services for a wide range of eligible Granite Staters, including those experiencing poverty, aging adults, and people with disabilities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRANTS</th>
<th>FY 2021-'22</th>
<th>FY 2020-'21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>603 Legal Aid*</td>
<td>$40,100</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>603 Legal Aid - Pro Bono Program*</td>
<td>$201,275</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability Rights Center</td>
<td>$53,925</td>
<td>$58,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law School Loan Assistance Program</td>
<td>$81,000</td>
<td>$60,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Advice &amp; Referral Center</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$43,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHBA Lawyer Referral Srvc. - Modest Means</td>
<td>$7,000</td>
<td>$7,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NH Legal Assistance</td>
<td>$516,700</td>
<td>$561,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHBA Pro Bono Referral Program</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$218,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$900,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>$950,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*On June 1, 2021, the NHBA Pro Bono Referral Program & the Legal Advice & Referral Center (LARC) merged to form 603 Legal Aid.

All activities in this report are derived from annual reports filed by IOLTA grantees. These reports can be found at NHBarFoundation.org.
ACCOUNTABILITY

IOLTA grant applications are analyzed by an independent, five-member committee of attorneys elected by IOLTA account holders, who recommend allocations to the New Hampshire Bar Foundation Board of Directors.

Here’s how organizations awarded IOLTA Grants in FY 2020–’21 used the funds they received to benefit the community:

New Hampshire Legal Assistance (NHLA)

Sarah Mattson Dustin, Esq., Executive Director

smattsondustin@nhla.org

NHLA.org

NHLA provides high quality civil legal aid to people with low income and older adults (age 60 and up), advocating alongside clients to solve problems that impact their basic human needs. NHLA also works to influence policies and practices that adversely affect people with low income and older adults in New Hampshire.

FY2020–’21 Return on Investment (ROI): This reporting period, NHLA assisted 943 clients and their 1,161 family members. It made 4,282 referrals. In total, it helped 6,673 people.

Disability Rights Center-NH (DRC-NH)

Stephanie Patrick, Executive Director

stephaniep@drcnh.org

DRCNH.org

DRC-NH eliminates barriers to the full and equal enjoyment of civil and other legal rights by people with disabilities. DRC-NH provides legal advice, information and referral, representation, outreach and training. It engages in systemic advocacy and impact litigation, abuse and neglect investigations and monitoring those institutions that interact with people with disabilities.

FY2020–’21 ROI: IOLTA Funds enabled the DRC-NH to provide information, advice and assistance to 988 people regarding eligibility and/or delivery of services for individuals with disabilities.
NHBA Lawyer Referral Service - Modest Means Program (LRS-MM)

Lynne G. Sabean, Esq., Director of Marketing, Communications, and Member Outreach

Lsabean@nhbar.org
NHBar.org

LRS-MM provides lower-to-moderate income individuals and families with access to affordable legal services. Under this program, clients with income between 150% and 325% of the federal poverty level (FPL) may qualify to be referred to a panel member who agrees to consider representation for a reduced rate between $80 to $125 per hour, as well as a reduced retainer.

FY2020-'21 ROI: LRS-FF applied the received funds to its general operating expenses, which helped it make 804 referrals for potential clients meeting program guidelines in the operating year.

NHBF Law School Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP)

Anna K. Gleason, Associate Executive Director

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LRAP assists IOLTA-funded legal services organizations by providing student loan repayment grants that lighten the financial burden for newer lawyers working on the frontlines of legal aid.

FY2020-'21 ROI: Nine lawyers received assistance, enabling IOLTA agencies to avoid the costs and disruption of new hiring.

Legal Advice & Referral Center (LARC)

merged with NHBA Pro Bono Referral Program in June 2021 to form 603 Legal Aid

FY2020-'21 ROI: Over the period of this grant, LARC completed more than 6,000 applications for assistance.
16,424 people were assisted through IOLTA Grant programs in FY 2020-'21.

The chart at right shows assistance by county.
EVERY GRANT AWARD IMPROVES LIVES

Learn more how these civil legal aid organizations have helped provide quality advice and assistance to the under-served, thanks in part to the IOLTA grants they received in FY 2020-’21.

New Hampshire Legal Assistance

In 2017, NHLA helped a client obtain a protective order to keep her safe from abuse by her former partner. The client sought NHLA’s help again during this reporting period when the former partner accrued a child support arrearage of over $16,000, which led to the client falling behind on her rent and facing eviction. NHLA filed contempt proceedings; in turn, the opposing party requested a downward modification of his child support obligation. NHLA was eventually able to settle the case with a new child support order including payments toward the arrearage as well as a built-in mechanism for reviewing compliance with the order. In the meantime, NHLA helped the client avoid eviction through the protection of the eviction moratorium. The client was able to keep her home and is receiving child support consistently.

Disability Rights Center-NH

When the parent of a young child with developmental disabilities contacted DRC-NH, the child was relegated full-time to a contained classroom and did not have any opportunities to interact with children without disabilities.

As a result of DRC-NH’s efforts, the child was transitioned to a general education classroom for most of the school-day. In addition, DRC-NH secured a reading evaluation and, as a result, with input from the evaluator, successfully advocated for reading goals and services from a special educator to address delays in acquiring reading skills.

NHBA Lawyer Referral Service - Modest Means Program

“Ms. F”’s fiancé passed away intestate and their house was only in his name. She was afraid that her and her children would lose their family home, so she tried calling a few attorneys. She quickly realized that she was unable to afford their fees and discovered the Lawyer Referral Service - Modest Means Program. After qualifying, she was referred to an attorney with a fee cap of $80 per hour.

Mrs. F’s attorney drafted a letter to the bank and she was ultimately able to stay in the home and continue making her mortgage payments. The same attorney is also currently assisting her with transferring the deed to her name as a surviving spouse.

To protect client confidentiality, all names have been changed and all accompanying photographs are from a stock agency.
NHBA Pro Bono Referral Program

After nearly a decade of abuse at the hands of her husband, “Emma” reached out to a crisis center for assistance. Emma had sought help in the past after multiple sexual assaults but was discouraged by the lukewarm police response. When the physical abuse escalated, Emma feared for her life. The crisis center advocates encouraged her to make another report and to file a protective order after her husband woke her one evening, assaulted her, threatened to kill her, and restrained her in the home when she tried to escape. Emma’s advocate also connected her with a local volunteer DOVE attorney to represent her in the protective order case.

Like many survivors of domestic violence, Emma was terrified to speak about her abuse in a public courtroom, in front of her abusive husband. Navigating the justice system alone can feel like an insurmountable barrier for survivors in crisis. The attorney and her legal assistants spent more than 20 hours preparing for the case, submitting and responding to motions, collecting police reports and medical records, and helping the client understand the co-occurring criminal case. Following a contested hearing, the judge granted a final protective order and ordered the defendant to attend 18 months of a batterer’s intervention program. After Emma stabilized, the DOVE volunteer accepted her divorce case as well.

Legal Advice & Referral Center

“Ann” was a 74-year-old woman living alone in central New Hampshire. Several rent increases put her apartment beyond her ability to afford. Ann received permission from her landlord to bring in a roommate, to help defray expenses. The roommate scammed Ann out of $7,000 before moving out. When Ann fell behind in rent, the property manager demanded back rent, plus thousands in late fees.

Ann told LARC that she was moving into her daughter’s home, so she wasn’t facing homelessness. Her biggest fear was that she would be sent to jail if she did not pay the property manager demands. Ann suffered from heart disease and said the stress of the situation was giving her chest pains.

LARC reassured Ann that debtors prison do not exist in the United States. It noted that federal law prohibited the management company from attaching her social security income if she lost a lawsuit. LARC advised Ann that she would not face loss of liberty or social security income, provided she did not ignore any summons to court after leaving the apartment. Finally, LARC suggested Ann contact the NH-AG’s office for help possibly retrieving the stolen $7K.

“I’ve been so scared these last few weeks,” said Ann. “With this information, I can finally feel my heart starting to slow down.”
The New Hampshire Bar Foundation promotes the role of lawyers in securing equal access to justice and supports the charitable and educational aims of the New Hampshire Bar and its members. The Bar Foundation carries out its mission by reliably administering the Supreme Court Rule 50 IOLTA (“Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts”) program, responsibly managing the Foundation’s Justice Grants program, and encouraging thoughtful philanthropy by members of the profession.

**KEY ISSUES**

The Bar Foundation’s justice-related philanthropy addresses core issues involved in providing meaningful access to justice, including:

*Protection of Legal Rights*: Legal advice and representation for disadvantaged residents struggling to overcome poverty, abuse, and discrimination.

*Education*: Civic and constitutional education for students; training programs for attorneys offering pro bono (free) civil legal services; public seminars on fair housing laws and other protections for the elderly, the homeless, low-income populations, and social service agency staff; and multilingual programs for immigrants and refugees regarding their rights and responsibilities.

*Emerging Needs*: The Bar Foundation facilitates the identification of justice-related issues regarding emerging civil legal needs in our state, paying close attention to changing demographics, the economy, and the legal struggles facing different population groups. The Bar Foundation is involved in evaluating and identifying new approaches in the delivery of civil legal aid and education to help ensure New Hampshire residents will have access to critical legal services.

*Resource Development and Management*: The Bar Foundation initiates and builds relationships with the legal community and banks supporting the IOLTA Grants Program; promotes contributions to the Bar Foundation’s endowed Justice Funds in support of Justice Grants; provides planned giving opportunities for donors; encourages organizational development and coordination among legal aid agencies; and communicates funding needs to donors and others committed to ensuring meaningful access to the justice system for all New Hampshire residents.