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July 10, 2026

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Cindy Roberts, Coordinator  
New Hampshire Bar Foundation  
2 Pillsbury St. Suite 300  
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Cindy,

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Attached please find the IOLTA Grant Final Report for the New Hampshire Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service Modest Means Program.

We appreciate the generous support of the New Hampshire Bar Foundation in providing much-needed funding to support the work of the Modest Means Program which helps bridge the justice gap in the Granite State. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like additional information.

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Best regards,

Misty Griffith  
Member Services Manager  
New Hampshire Bar Association

**Executive Staff**

SARAH T. BLODGETT, ESQ.  
*Executive Director*

VINCENT O'BRIEN  
*Director of Professional Development*

CAITLIN DOW  
*Director of Marketing & Communications*



## **IOLTA Grant Final Report for June 1, 2025 – May 31, 2026**

New Hampshire Bar Association  
Executive Director Sarah T. Blodgett  
New Hampshire Bar Association  
Two Pillsbury St., Suite 300, Concord, NH 03301  
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Report Submitted by:  
Misty Griffith, Member Services Manager  
Ph: (603) 715-3227 email: [mgriffith@nhbar.org](mailto:mgriffith@nhbar.org)

Website: [www.nhbar.org](http://www.nhbar.org)

Amount of Grant: \$40,000

### **Purpose of Modest Means Program and Work Supported**

The goal of the New Hampshire Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service's Modest Means program (LRS-MM) is to bridge the legal services gap by connecting people who do not qualify for free legal services, but who cannot afford standard ("full fee") attorney fees, with qualified New Hampshire attorneys who are willing to consider their case at a greatly reduced rate aligning with LRS-MM's sliding fee schedule.

LRS-MM serves individuals and families statewide whose income falls between 125 - 325% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). The LRS-MM eligibility floor of 125% FPL is the ceiling for most other legal aid services. Other NH legal services organizations often refer people to LRS-MM when the individual's income exceeds their program's guidelines, but the person's inability to pay standard legal fees is clear. The LRS-MM program promotes access to justice for individuals of low to modest means whose inability to afford an attorney might otherwise force them to represent themselves.

The LRS-MM's sliding fee scale of \$80-125 per hour is based on household size and income measured against the FPL. This fee range is far below the average fees charged by most attorneys in NH. Households with income of 125-200% of the FPL qualify for Modest Means Tier 1 with a maximum rate of \$80 per hour. Households with income of 201-275% of the FPL qualify for Modest Means Tier 2 with a maximum rate of \$100 per hour. Households with income of 276-325% of the FPL qualify for Modest Means Tier 3 with a maximum rate of \$125 per hour. The majority of clients (62%) qualify for Tier 1, and 29% qualify for Tier 2. Only 9% of clients fall into Tier 3 which is the higher end of the modest income scale.

The generous \$40,000 IOLTA grant helps defray the operating expenses for the LRS-MM program empowering the program to provide access to justice for hundreds of individuals whose household income is just above the poverty line. The IOLTA grant is essential to underwriting the cost of staffing for the Modest Means Program.

Our intake and referral specialists field dozens of calls daily. Callers who are within the program guidelines are prequalified for LRS-MM and referred to one of our attorney panel members. Callers who are over income are offered a referral to a full fee attorney, and callers who are under income are referred to other sources of legal aid. LRS-MM referred 1,125 cases to our attorney panelists between June 1, 2023 and May 31, 2026. This is more than double the 553 referrals made during the same timeframe during the 2023 Fiscal Year. This significant increase, doubling program capacity in three years was made possible by adding an additional staff member in fall 2023. Our IOLTA Grant funding empowers this growth.

The scope of LRS-MM is statewide, serving clients in all ten New Hampshire counties. The geographic areas which currently have a disproportionate need for LRS-MM attorneys are Coos, Carroll, Sullivan, Belknap, and Cheshire counties. Recruitment of attorneys in these counties is an ongoing challenge and remains a priority.

Family Law is the most common practice area, accounting for 62% of all LRS-MM referrals and 11% of referrals are for housing related matters. However, LRS-MM attorneys assist individuals in a wide variety of matters including consumer protection issues, estate planning and probate matters, DV, bankruptcy, immigration, and criminal misdemeanor charges.

LRS-MM also oversees the NH Free Legal Answers program (NHFLA) and LawLine which provide options for people who cannot afford even the reduced rate, but who are unable to obtain free services due to a lack of available resources at other legal aid organizations.

### **Evaluation of the Program**

For the 12-month period ending May 31, 2026, LRS-MM staff processed 1,785 requests for assistance and opened 1,125 new modest means cases. In addition to the 1,125 primary clients, 1,537 additional household members benefited from LRS-MM legal services, and 660 people were referred to other sources of legal help. During this time frame, our monthly LawLine volunteers assisted 481 callers, and our 148 volunteer attorneys for FLA-NH answered 362 legal questions. A total of 4,165 people were helped by LRS-MM during the 12-month period.

We send out client satisfaction surveys twice a month. Most feedback is extremely positive. One individual said of the program, "It has made affording an appropriate lawyer much more doable and less stressful for my situation including a DV case and divorce." Another client shared, "This made the daunting process of finding a lawyer significantly easier." When we receive negative feedback on a satisfaction survey, we follow up to determine the cause of the problem and rectify the problem if possible.



Participants' willingness to recommend the Modest Means program is a strong indicator of their satisfaction. A recent client shared, "This is a wonderful program that I will recommend to friends and family." Another client shared, "I will always advocate for something that I feel is beneficial and will help. This is exactly the kind of place I'd be happy to share with others. Thank you!"

We receive very positive feedback from attorneys who provide legal assistance through LRS-MM. One Modest Means attorney shared, "For the past five years, I have had the privilege of helping low-income individuals advocate for their interests in family law matters. Through the Modest Means Program, I have seen firsthand how meaningful access to legal assistance can be for people who otherwise may not be able to afford representation. It has been a privilege to be part of that work."

### **Case Examples**

D.C. was involved in a contentious dispute including eviction concerns and expressed deep appreciation for the attorney who accepted her as a Modest Means client. The client shared, "The legal system can be pretty hard to navigate. Having an attorney is golden; just knowing I have someone on my side helping me has alleviated so much of my stress. I thank God for your service and for (my attorney). No matter the outcome of these proceedings, I will pray for her for the rest of my life. I am eternally grateful, thank you."

#### **D.C. Strafford County - Landlord Tenant case**

R.R., an 80-year-old senior citizen living on a fixed income, had lived in his parents' home and paid all of the taxes and bills on the home for more than 50 years. His mother's will bequeathed the home to him, but other heirs, children of his deceased siblings disputed his right to sell the home. The Modest Means program referred him to "Attorney D" who was able to resolve the dispute to his satisfaction. The client declared that he was "very happy" with the outcome, and "'Attorney D.' is great!"

#### **R.R. Hillsborough County – Probate Case**

A.D. a mother with two young children was separating from her partner of 15 years. Her former partner refused to pay child support and felt that he should be able to drop by to visit the children at any time. The Modest Means program referred her to an attorney who was able to help develop a parenting plan and get her former partner to agree to contribute his fair share of child support. She said of the MM program, "During undoubtedly the hardest phase of my life so far, this program has been a true lifesaver. Thank you!"

#### **A.D. Merrimack County – Family Law Case**

### **Organizations Collaborated with to Deliver Services**

Internally, LRS-MM refers prospective clients to NH Free Legal Answers and Lawline (or LRS full fee program if the prospective client is over the LRS-MM income cap of 325% FPL). Externally, prospective clients falling below LRS-MM's minimum income are referred to 603 Legal Aid, Disability Rights Center, and other legal aid organizations, as appropriate.



We are especially grateful to the 68 attorneys who accept modest means clients, the 148 attorneys who volunteer for FLA-NH and the dozens of attorneys from 25 different legal employers that volunteered for LawLine. NHBA Leadership Academy also volunteered for LawLine.

#### **List of Attachments**

**Completed Statistical Survey – See Attachment A**

**Itemized Financial Statement for IOLTA-only Grant Revenue – See Attachment B**

**Most Current Financial Statement for LRS – MM – See Attachment C**

**Copies of Print Materials, Web Pages, and Other Materials Funded in Part by IOLTA Revenue – See Attachment D**

**Attachment A – NHBA Lawyer Referral Service Statistical Summary**  
**New Cases by Case Type June 1, 2025- May 31, 2026**

|                    | Consumer  | Family     | Health   | Housing    | Employment/<br>Income | Other      | Cases per<br>County |
|--------------------|-----------|------------|----------|------------|-----------------------|------------|---------------------|
| Belknap            | 3         | 30         |          | 6          | 1                     | 10         | 50                  |
| Carroll            | 4         | 17         |          | 4          |                       | 6          | 31                  |
| Cheshire           | 3         | 36         |          | 1          | 2                     | 11         | 53                  |
| Coos               | 1         | 10         |          | 1          |                       | 8          | 20                  |
| Grafton            | 3         | 26         |          | 3          | 2                     | 13         | 47                  |
| Hillsborough       | 22        | 208        |          | 36         | 2                     | 50         | 318                 |
| Merrimack          | 18        | 107        |          | 23         |                       | 35         | 183                 |
| Rockingham         | 14        | 107        | 1        | 28         |                       | 30         | 180                 |
| Strafford          | 8         | 70         |          | 11         |                       | 17         | 106                 |
| Sullivan           | 3         | 28         |          | 3          |                       | 10         | 44                  |
| Out of State       | 1         | 53         | 1        | 3          | 4                     | 24         | 86                  |
| Unspecified        |           | 6          |          |            | 1                     |            | 7                   |
| <b>Total Cases</b> | <b>80</b> | <b>698</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>119</b> | <b>12</b>             | <b>214</b> | <b>1125</b>         |

**Total People Helped by County June 1, 2025 – May 31, 2026**

| County       | Cases       | Additional Household<br>Members | Total People per<br>Household |
|--------------|-------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Belknap      | 50          | 85                              | 135                           |
| Carroll      | 31          | 50                              | 81                            |
| Cheshire     | 53          | 77                              | 130                           |
| Coos         | 20          | 24                              | 44                            |
| Grafton      | 47          | 69                              | 116                           |
| Hillsborough | 318         | 403                             | 721                           |
| Merrimack    | 183         | 228                             | 411                           |
| Rockingham   | 180         | 297                             | 477                           |
| Strafford    | 106         | 151                             | 257                           |
| Sullivan     | 44          | 72                              | 116                           |
| Out of State | 86          | 88                              | 174                           |
| Unspecified  | 7           | No data                         | 7                             |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>1125</b> | <b>1544</b>                     | <b>2669</b>                   |

**Total People Helped by Program June 1, 2025 – May 31, 2026**

| Program                     | People Helped |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Modest Means                | 2669          |
| Free Legal Answers - NH     | 362           |
| LawLine                     | 481           |
| Referrals to other programs | 660           |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>4172</b>   |

## Attachment B – Itemized Financial Statement for IOLTA-only Grant Revenue

|                                                                                              |                                        |          |  |  |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------|--|--|--|
| <b>IOLTA-ONLY<br/>GRANT REVENUE<br/>EXPENDITURES -<br/>NHBA LRS MODEST<br/>MEANS PROGRAM</b> |                                        |          |  |  |  |
| <b>Program Date</b>                                                                          | <b>June 1, 2025 - May<br/>31, 2026</b> |          |  |  |  |
|                                                                                              |                                        |          |  |  |  |
| <b>Grant Award</b>                                                                           |                                        | \$40,000 |  |  |  |
|                                                                                              |                                        |          |  |  |  |
| <b>Expenditures</b>                                                                          |                                        | \$40,000 |  |  |  |
| Applied to offset salaries of staff. LRS has 3<br>fulltime intake staff.                     |                                        |          |  |  |  |
|                                                                                              |                                        |          |  |  |  |
| <b>Remaining Balance</b>                                                                     |                                        | \$0      |  |  |  |



## Attachment C – Most Current Financial Statement for LRS-MM

NEW HAMPSHIRE BAR ASSOCIATION  
Income Statement  
LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE - MODEST MEANS  
For the Eleven Months Ending Thursday, April 30, 2026

|                                        | FY 2025<br>Prior Year to Date<br>ACTUAL | FY 2026<br>APPROVED<br>BUDGET | YEAR-TO-DATE ACTIVITY<br>(June Through April) |                 |               |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
|                                        |                                         |                               | ACTUAL                                        | BUDGET          | VARIANCE      |
| <b>REVENUES</b>                        |                                         |                               |                                               |                 |               |
| Client Fees                            | \$7,825                                 | \$8,125                       | \$8,025                                       | \$7,148         | \$577         |
| Grant Revenue                          | 33,000                                  | 30,000                        | 40,000                                        | 30,000          | 10,000        |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>                   | <b>40,825</b>                           | <b>38,125</b>                 | <b>48,025</b>                                 | <b>37,448</b>   | <b>10,577</b> |
| <b>EXPENDITURES</b>                    |                                         |                               |                                               |                 |               |
| <b>PERSONNEL</b>                       |                                         |                               |                                               |                 |               |
| Salaries                               | 68,771                                  | 87,944                        | 75,545                                        | 80,615          | 5,070         |
| Benefits                               | 15,086                                  | 25,014                        | 9,884                                         | 22,930          | 13,047        |
| Payroll Taxes                          | 5,429                                   | 6,848                         | 6,046                                         | 6,277           | 231           |
| Total Personnel Costs                  | 89,286                                  | 119,806                       | 91,475                                        | 109,822         | 18,348        |
| <b>PROGRAM EXPENSES</b>                |                                         |                               |                                               |                 |               |
| Program Support                        | 75                                      | 250                           | 39                                            | 229             | 190           |
| Program Development                    | 1,090                                   | 1,713                         | 845                                           | 1,570           | 725           |
| Professional Dues & Subscriptions      | 0                                       | 125                           | 0                                             | 115             | 115           |
| Postage - Programs                     | 409                                     | 392                           | 378                                           | 359             | (19)          |
| Printing & Materials                   | 341                                     | 265                           | 135                                           | 243             | 108           |
| Publicity & Advertising                | 0                                       | 575                           | 684                                           | 527             | (157)         |
| Hiring Expenses                        | 0                                       | 0                             | 410                                           | 0               | (410)         |
| Interpreter Expense                    | 0                                       | 1,125                         | 1,053                                         | 1,031           | (22)          |
| Total Program Expenses                 | 1,915                                   | 4,445                         | 3,544                                         | 4,074           | 530           |
| <b>OVERHEAD EXPENSES</b>               |                                         |                               |                                               |                 |               |
| Occupancy Allocation - Office Space    | 7,068                                   | 8,656                         | 7,316                                         | 7,935           | 619           |
| Office Supplies                        | 316                                     | 221                           | 252                                           | 203             | (49)          |
| Copier Maintenance & Supplies          | 511                                     | 1,203                         | 422                                           | 1,103           | 681           |
| Data Processing                        | 5,699                                   | 9,297                         | 7,802                                         | 8,522           | 720           |
| Equipment & Maintenance                | 208                                     | 1,383                         | 155                                           | 1,268           | 1,113         |
| Telephone                              | 608                                     | 696                           | 722                                           | 638             | (84)          |
| Insurance                              | 0                                       | 1,612                         | 0                                             | 1,478           | 1,478         |
| Miscellaneous Overhead Expenses        | 683                                     | 610                           | 7                                             | 559             | 552           |
| Total Overhead Expenses                | 15,093                                  | 23,678                        | 16,676                                        | 21,706          | 5,030         |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>              | <b>106,294</b>                          | <b>147,929</b>                | <b>111,695</b>                                | <b>135,602</b>  | <b>23,908</b> |
| <b>REVENUE OVER / (UNDER) EXPENSES</b> | <b>(65,469)</b>                         | <b>(109,804)</b>              | <b>(63,670)</b>                               | <b>(98,154)</b> | <b>34,485</b> |

## Attachment D

### Copies of Print Materials, Web Pages, and Other Materials Funded in Part by IOLTA Revenue

#### Screenshot of website

Means Program a pa x +

nhbar.org/lawyer-referral-service/modest-means-legal-program/

8a... Net2Phone New Hampshire FLA ABA Demographics My Account Home | KGA, Inc. Welcome | New Ha... Log In Employee Navigato... Paychex Flex Login... Sign In | Zoom



#### LRS Modest Means Program

The NHBA Lawyer Referral Services (LRS) Modest Means Program connects people in need of legal assistance with professionals who may be able to help. Our trained Intake and Referral Specialists\* match those who prequalify with a licensed NH attorney who charges reduced fees to income-eligible applicants. If you do not qualify or are looking for services other than those provided by an attorney, we may be able to point you towards other organizations, agencies, and resources.\*\*

**Because some types of matters are time sensitive, it's important to seek out help as soon as you know you have a problem.**

\* Our Intake and Referral Specialists are not attorneys and do not offer legal advice.

\*\* Even if our Intake and Referral Specialists pre-qualify you, the attorney and/or outside organization to whom you are referred may request documentation of your income and reserves the right to turn down your case for any reason.

#### How the LRS Modest Means Program Works

When you contact us, the information you provide will be used to determine eligibility. If you pre-qualify, LRS will attempt to match you with a nearby attorney who is experienced in the type of situation you have. You are not obliged to hire the attorney and the attorney is not obliged to take your case.

#### What do I need to apply?

You will need to provide the following information:

- Gross household income (income from ALL adults, regardless of involvement in your case).
- Balance of checking and/or savings accounts
- Child support and/or alimony payments received or paid
- Value of stocks, bonds, CDs, retirement accounts

#### Contact Us

Call **603-715-3290**

[Apply Online](#)

The NHBA LRS Modest Means Program is funded in part by



## Scan of Promotional Brochure

NHBA LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE  
**MODEST MEANS PROGRAM**

# Lower-Cost Legal Services



Looking for help with a legal problem, but don't think you can afford it?

If you have regular income, we may be able to connect you with the assistance you need!

**603-715-3290**  
or submit a referral request online at [nhbar.org](http://nhbar.org)



It's quick and easy  
to find out  
if you qualify for  
lower-cost legal help

The NHBA Lawyer Referral Service Modest Means Program connects people in need of legal assistance with professionals who may be able to help. Our trained Intake and Referral Specialists\* match those who pre-qualify with a licensed New Hampshire attorney who charges reduced fees to income-eligible applicants. If you do not qualify or are looking for services other than those provided by an attorney, we may be able to point you toward other organizations, agencies, and resources.\*\*

*Because some types of matters are time-sensitive, it's important to seek out help as soon as you know you have a problem.*

### NOTES

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Spoke With: \_\_\_\_\_

They Said: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Our Intake and Referral Specialists are not attorneys and do not offer legal advice.

\*\* Even if our Intake and Referral Specialists pre-qualify you, the attorney and/or outside organization to whom you are referred may request documentation of your income and reserves the right to turn down your case for any reason.

The NHBA Lawyer Referral Service Modest Means Program is appreciative for additional financial support from the

NEW HAMPSHIRE  
BAR FOUNDATION



NHBA LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE MODEST MEANS PROGRAM  
**603-715-3290 • NHBAR.ORG**



Promotional Copy Used in NHBA E-Bulletin

## Help Bridge the Justice Gap!



### Join the LRS Modest Means Panel

If you are looking to give back while earning a small fee, consider joining the Modest Means Program. Modest Means panelists provide much-needed legal assistance to moderate-to lower income individuals while still earning a reduced fee. Participants choose the type of cases they are willing to consider and the county(-ies) where they practice. It is free to join and there is no obligation to accept any referral.

Taking even one or two cases per year can make a big difference to individuals who would otherwise have to represent themselves. **More than 1,000 modest means clients were referred to participating**

[Join Lawyer Referral Service - LRS NHBA full fee public referral service](#)

*The Modest Means Program is funded in part by a generous grant from the New Hampshire Bar Foundation's IOLTA grant program.*

NEW HAMPSHIRE  
**BAR FOUNDATION**  
Strengthening Justice for All

