

Fresno County Project Grant Questions

1. Please briefly describe your proposed program, project or initiative. <u>(200 Words Max)</u>	The Fresno County Public Defender's Office is requesting seed support for the newly established Clean Slate Program in and for Fresno County. The Clean Slate Program, also known as a reentry program, would assist low-income or indigent persons with post-conviction relief and help connect them to services that facilitate healthcare, employment and housing access. The program would assist individuals with applying for Expungements, Certificates of Rehabilitation, and various other post-conviction relief services. Program participants can receive services via a bimonthly clinic and weekly personal consultations. The program will work in partnership with the Fresno Housing Authority (HUD) to refer participants for assistance with HUD's Voucher Program. A successful expungement can make an individual eligible for: housing, job placement/advancement, financial aid, immigration relief, and many federal government assistance programs such as healthcare. Additionally, a reentry program such as this not only increases the participant's earning potential but it also decreases their need for government assistance and helps reunify families through better economic and health stability.
2. Please briefly describe the community health need or opportunity that this program, project or initiative will address. <u>(150 Words Max)</u>	Unemployment can have devastating consequences for a former offender. For example, unemployed workers are 83% more likely to have heart disease, increased blood pressure, stress disorders, unhealthy coping behaviors, and increased depression. The Fresno Superior Court reports that drug court participants who are unable to secure housing and employment will have increased health consequences, and are more susceptible to HIV and overdose. In fact, increased income benefits allow the individual and their family to live healthier lives, have better access to healthy food and healthcare, and ultimately better daycare and support for their children. A successful expungement can lead to self-sufficiency, fiscal stability, improved mental health, and ultimately stronger families and community network ties.

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3. If you previously received Endowment support to work on this need or opportunity, please briefly describe the results and accomplishments of the prior grant, and explain how this new grant would build on those results and accomplishments. <u>(150 Words Max)</u> (If no previous Endowment grant, please enter "n/a".)	The office received a small grant of \$25,000 for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. The purpose of the grant was to conduct outreach for Proposition 47 – recently passed legislation that made many nonviolent felonies into misdemeanors. Along with educating the community about this new post-conviction relief, we also assisted eligible individuals with applying for this relief. As of April 5, 2017, we assisted 134 people in applying for Proposition 47 and 64 relief. Additionally, the program helped create and strengthen our relationship with community partners. We would like to enhance our services with a new grant by expanding the types of post-conviction relief we offer such as Expungements and referrals to housing, employment and healthcare services.
4. How is your organization uniquely qualified to undertake this work and achieve the targeted changes. <u>(150 Words Max)</u>	The Public Defender's office is the only not-for-profit criminal law office in Fresno County. While there are other legal aid offices in the county, their services are civil in nature. The other two criminal law offices that assist indigent defendants are for-profit agencies and are composed of independent contractors. The Public Defender's Office has been offering services such as these for the last 50 years and has established a relationship with the many individuals who would benefit from a program such as this.
5. Please briefly describe how your proposed program, project or initiative relates to the efforts of other organizations working on the same issue, with the same population and/or in the same geographic area, as well as, how it relates to the BHC collaborative work. <u>(150 Words Max)</u>	The Fresno Superior Court and law enforcement have tangential interests in the Clean Slate Program. If a former offender is unable to secure employment and housing, they are more likely to relapse or reoffend. The Department of Social Services (DSS) and the Economic Opportunities Commission (EOC) each have some form of reentry program whether it be securing driver's licenses and reducing court fines, to increasing employability, to job training and assistance with reintegration. The Public Defender's Office has collaborated with both of these organizations to expand these programs to include post-conviction relief. As discussed above, increasing a participant's earning potential helps the participant successfully reintegrate into the community, their family, and increases the health benefits to the participant and their family.

WORK PLAN
Fresno County Public Defender's Office

Project Goal: To increase the number of persons obtaining post-conviction relief in Fresno County.

Activities/Objective and Indicators	Outcomes and Indicators	Timeline
Objective: Develop and implement the Clean Slate Program in Fresno County to offer post-conviction relief. Activities: • Recruit and Hire program staff; • Enact MOUs w/ HUD and EOC (for clinic locations); • Purchase equipment, furnishings, and program materials. • Develop referral process and forms; and, • Conduct County of Fresno hiring process, including recruitment, selection, and County approval. Indicator for all: Program implementation.	The Fresno County Public Defender's Office (PD) will establish a county wide, "Clean Slate" program which will provide post-conviction relief and referral services for juveniles and adults, in collaboration with county departments and community based organizations, as evidenced by: 1. Defense Attorney and Paralegal staff will be hired to coordinate the program. 2. Program staff will complete necessary MOUs with the Fresno Housing Authority (HUD) and the Fresno County Economic Opportunity Commission (EOC); 3. Program staff will develop/formalize referral processes between with Fresno County PD, other county departments, and community based organizations based on existing relationships, in order to facilitate effective implementation.	Months 1-4

Objective: Provide free legal services to indigent, low-income persons convicted of offenses eligible for record clearance (hereafter referred to as clients). Activities: • Assist clients by reviewing rap sheets/criminal histories to determine offenses eligible for clearance. - o Indicator: Number of clients and number of completed reviews. • Review eligibility for public housing assistance with program partner, the Fresno Housing Authority (HUD). - o Indicator: Number of client housing checks through HUD. • Review eligibility for employment services and/or training with program partner, the Economic Opportunities Commission (EOC) - o Indicator: Number of clients referred to EOC; Number of clients referred to One-Stop • Preparing court documents to apply for record clearance. - o Indicators: Number of petitions/applications filed with the Fresno Superior Court. • Provide assistance through free, bimonthly clinics and ongoing personal consultations with qualified personnel working through the Public Defender's Office. - o Indicator: Number of clients who attend clinics and appointments. • Providing process service and court filing assistance. - o Indicator: Number of completed and served documents to the District Attorney's Office and Probation Department.	The Fresno County PD will establish an operational infrastructure (Clean Slate Program) for delivering post-conviction and referral services to underserved individuals involved with the criminal justice system in Fresno County, as evidenced by: 1. Approximately 400 underserved individuals will be assisted through Clean Slate's post-conviction services. 2. A demonstrated decrease in the rate of recidivism among Clean Slate clients compared to the PD's general client pool. 3. Clean Slate clients accessing public housing at higher rates than the general PD client pool. 4. An increase in the number of clients who successfully complete employment training and/or gain employment after being served, as compared to the PD's general client base.	Months 4-12
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Fresno County Public Defender

Budget Narrative

Personnel

Defense Attorney III @ .5 FTE.....\$40,756
Responsible for managing the Clean Slate Program including all aspects of operations, training, and applicant assistance.

Paralegal II @ .5 FTE.....\$14,661
Assist in filling out judicial council forms, copies, filtering calls, pulling records from all databases, drafting template letters, assisting during drop-in hours, answering eligibility questions – all under the supervision of the attorney.

Benefits @ 32%\$17,733
Calculated at 78% of salaries; (Retirement 57.18%; Medical 12%; FICA Medicare 1.45%; FICA Social Security 6.2%; Unemployment Insurance .1%; Workers' Comp .92%; Benefit Administration .15%), only requesting the maximum allowed by The California Endowment 32%.

Total Personnel.....\$73,150

Non-Personnel

Operating Costs

Office Space/Utilities.....\$1,710
Office space and utilities for Attorney and Paralegal to be hired and housed offsite for grant period: \$285/month.

Laptops\$2,000
Two laptops: \$2000/each for the Attorney and Paralegal to remotely support clients and programmatic activities.

Project Supplies\$1,600
Project supplies include basic office furniture: 2 desks (\$250 x 2), 2 chairs (\$500 x 2), 1 filing cabinet (\$250), and 1 shelf (\$250). Office supplies, stationary, and postage is estimated at \$100/month.

Professional Memberships\$213
Fresno County attorneys and paralegals are required to have memberships with American Bar Association: based on \$385 and Fresno Paralegal Association: \$40.

Total Non-Personnel\$5,523

Direct Costs Total Project \$78,672

Indirect Costs\$11,801

Calculated at 14.97% of Direct Costs; (Administrative time 10.97%; general office supplies 1 . 3 6 % ; maintenance 2.64%).

Total Direct and Indirect..... \$90,473

Other Costs

Subcontracts

Fresno Housing Authority\$2,855

Includes a representative from Fresno Housing Authority to give a presentation at monthly seminars regarding housing issues, including the application/appeal process and forms to requalify for housing vouchers at \$37.59/hr for 5 hrs/month. Fresno Housing Authority will also require a laptop to look up potential former residents at a cost of \$600.

Total Project Budget.....\$242,371

Total Request to TCE\$93,329

File #, Fresno County

	Total Project Budget		Request to The California Endowment		TCE Staff Recommendation	
	Year 1	Total	Year 1	Total	Year 1	Total
Personnel						
Defense Attorney III @ 1.0 FTE	81,512	81,512	40,756	40,756	40,756	40,756
Paralegal II @ 1.0 FTE	29,321	29,321	14,661	14,661	14,661	14,661
		0				
Benefits @ 32%	86,450	86,450	17,733	17,733	17,733	17,733
Total Personnel	197,283	197,283	73,150	73,150	73,150	73,150
Non-Personnel						
<u>Operating Costs</u>						
*Office space/utilities	3,420	3,420	1,710	1,710	1,710	1,710
**Laptop with accessories	4,000	4,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Program supplies	3,200	3,200	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600
***Professional Memberships (American Bar Association, Fresno Paralegal Association)	425	425	213	213	213	213
Total Non-Personnel	11,045	11,045	5,523	5,523	5,523	5,523
Direct Costs	208,328	208,328	78,672	78,672	78,672	78,672
Indirect Costs @ 15%	31,187	31,187	11,801	11,801	11,801	11,801
Total Direct and Indirect	239,515	239,515	90,473	90,473	90,473	90,473
Other Costs						
<u>Subcontracts</u>						
Fresno Housing Authority	2,855	2,855	2,855	2,855	2,855	2,855
Total Other Costs	2,855	2,855	2,855	2,855	2,855	2,855
					0	
Grand Total	242,371	242,371	93,329	93,329	93,329	93,329

Annual Organizational budget	11,901,343	11,901,343	11,901,343	11,901,343	11,901,343	11,901,343
% of organizational budget	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%
% of project budget			39%	39%	39%	39%

Budget Notes: * Grant will require renting space for new staff for allotted grant period.

** Laptop to remotely support clients and programmatic activities.

*** (Fresno County attorneys and paralegals required to have memberships with American Bar Association and Fresno Paralegal Association)