

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

Misc. Docket No. 20-9128

APPROVAL OF GRANT AWARDS OF CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND FOR ESSENTIAL LEGAL SERVICES FOR MARCH 1, 2020-DECEMBER 30, 2020

In accordance with section 601(a) of the Social Security Act, as added by section 5001 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act”), whereas the CARES Act established the Coronavirus Relief Fund (“CRF”), the purpose of this funding is to support state, local and tribal governments navigating the impact of the coronavirus disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) outbreak. From this fund, the Office of Court Administration requested and the Office of the Governor of Texas has determined that the amount of \$4,218,000 is to be allocated throughout Texas for legal aid providers and pro bono attorneys to provide and support legal services to COVID-19 negatively-impacted residents of Texas who have been adversely affected by COVID-19 and face eviction, family instability including domestic violence, or have employment issues impacting their economic stability.

Grant awards from the CRF are approved in amounts not to exceed the following:

Statewide Programs - \$799,206

Disability Rights of Texas	\$50,882
Texas Advocacy Project	\$85,769
Texas Legal Services Center	\$662,555

Regional Programs

East/Gulf Texas Area - \$1,237,410

Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program	\$108,602
Lone Star Legal Aid	\$1,062,409
South Texas College of Law Houston Civil Practice Clinic	\$66,399

Northwest Texas Area - \$993,235

Dallas Bar Association Community Service Fund/Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program	\$15,000
Legal Aid of Northwest Texas	\$970,000
Texas A&M Research Foundation-Texas	\$8,235

A&M School of Law-Family and Veterans Advocacy Clinic

Southwest Texas Area - \$1,165,649

San Antonio Legal Services Association	\$14,789
Equal Justice Center	\$85,790
Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, Inc.	\$1,061,940
Volunteer Legal Services of Central Texas	\$3,130

Appointment of the Texas Access to Justice Foundation

The Court hereby appoints the Texas Access to Justice Foundation to administer the CRF grant program on behalf of the Court, including but not limited to, the application process, the recommendation to the Court of grant recipients, the distribution of funds by vouchers approved by the Court, the monitoring of grant recipients, the recommendation to the Court of sanctions, and the recommendation to the Court of appropriate reports.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

To support the efforts of Texas legal aid organizations providing essential legal services during the pandemic, the Governor's Office distributed PPE (masks, gloves, gowns, face shields and Plexiglas) to legal aid providers funded by the Texas Access to Justice Foundation.

Persons Eligible to Benefit from Grants

Funds may be distributed only to the listed nonprofit organizations that provide and support legal services to COVID-19 negatively impacted residents of Texas meeting the income eligibility requirements established by the Texas Access to Justice Foundation.

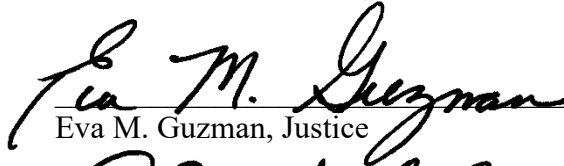
Administrative Costs to the Foundation

The Texas Access to Justice Foundation, as administrator of these funds on behalf of the Texas Supreme Court and the Office of Court Administration, may expend funds for costs in administering the CRF grant program to be reimbursed periodically upon application to the Court in an amount not to exceed \$22,500.

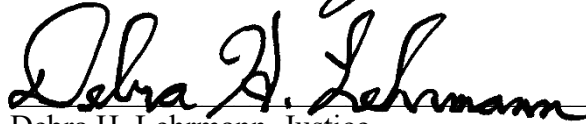
Signed this 23rd day of October, 2020.



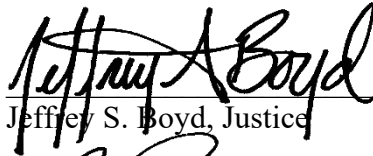
Nathan L. Hecht, Chief Justice



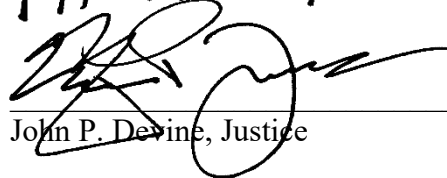
Eva M. Guzman, Justice



Debra H. Lehrmann, Justice



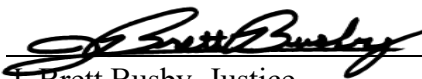
Jeffrey S. Boyd, Justice



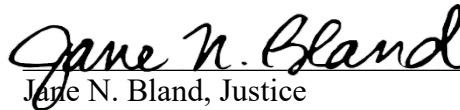
John P. Devine, Justice



James D. Blacklock, Justice



J. Brett Busby, Justice



Jane N. Bland, Justice