

Legal Aid Ontario

Clinic Transformation Fund: 2013-14

Fund information and application



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Table of contents

1. Fund information	1
1.1 Purpose	1
1.2 Eligibility	1
1.3 How to apply	2
1.4 Criteria for projects	2
1.5 Report-back requirements for successful applicants	3
2. How <i>transformation fund</i> applications are evaluated	4
A. Mandatory requirements	4
B. Related evaluation criteria	4

Clinic Transformation Fund: 2013-14

On August 14, 2013, the Ministry of the Attorney General confirmed Legal Aid Ontario's program budget for the 2013-14 fiscal year. The budget includes an additional \$10 million as announced in the government's 2013 budget statement to improve Frontline Services for Low-Income Ontarians. The 2013 Budget states: *"As part of the government's commitment to social justice and fair society, additional funding of \$30 Million over three years will be provided to Legal Aid Ontario. This funding will improve access to justice and enhance outcomes for low-income families, victims of domestic violence and other vulnerable groups by strengthening the capacity of Family Law Service Centres and other community and legal clinics across Ontario to respond to evolving needs, and ensure services are sustainable."*

Part of the \$10 million allocation of the funding in the first year is to be used to create a \$1 million "**Clinic Transformation Fund**" to support clinic transformation and future savings in the context of the clinic modernization strategy outlined in *LAO's Clinic Law Services Strategic Directions* paper.

1. Fund information

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of the Clinic Transformation Fund is to support poverty law service providers in their transformation efforts by promoting innovation and strengthening clinics' abilities to demonstrate accountability for the use of public funds, provide consistent services to clients across the province, and increase access points for clients. It supports modernization and sustainability of services so as to achieve future savings in and after 2014.

1.2 Eligibility

All LAO-funded legal aid clinics with proposals to promote innovation and strengthen clinics' abilities to provide consistent, accountable services to clients are eligible to apply.

Applications may be from a single clinic or may be joint proposals from several clinics or in conjunction with community partners. Joint proposals from two or more clinics are encouraged and will be given preference.

Proposals may be for one to three year time-limited projects.

All applications must meet the "criteria for projects" set out below in order to be eligible for consideration. All applications will be assessed against the criteria outlined, and allocation of funds will be based on the strength of the applications.

1.3 How to apply

The application form must be completed and submitted to your Regional Vice President, c/o Clinic and Program Advisor:

- Janet Budgell, Vice President, Southwest Region and Specialty Clinics
- Randall Ellsworth, Vice President, North, Central and Eastern Region
- Vicki Moretti, Vice President, GTA Region

You can append other information you consider relevant to the application form. Applications may be submitted no later than January 15, 2014 for 2013/2014 funding.

If you have questions about the Clinic Transformation Fund or the application process, please contact your respective Regional Vice President or Clinic and Program Advisor.

1.4 Criteria for projects

All projects for the Clinic Transformation Fund must meet the following criteria in order to be eligible:

1. Meet the 2013 Budget objective: Allocation of the new funding meets the intent of the objectives of the 2013 budget funding.
2. Support poverty law transformation efforts in the transitional phase of modernization of poverty law services and take into account the key transformation goals identified in LAO's clinic modernization strategy and the Ontario Community Legal Clinics' Strategic Plan, such as the following:
 - a. Promote efficiency through strategic restructuring such as: increased administrative capacity and quality, economies of scale in purchasing, HR, finance, IT staffing and/or service provision;
 - b. Promote integration, coordination, collaboration, and leveraging of existing resources to elicit future savings;
 - c. Promote innovation through the use of best practices, and innovative use of technology and methods of service delivery;
 - d. Promote sharing of services, resources and space with other entities serving low-income and vulnerable clients;
 - e. Promote cost effective administration, including back-office integration;
 - f. Expansion of access and capacity to a continuum of client services;
 - g. Implement creative partnerships with community agencies to ensure a coordinated, holistic response to clients in need;
 - h. Use technology to facilitate holistic client service and improve coordination;
 - i. Identify and develop administrative efficiencies and cost savings across the system to reinvest in enhanced client service.

3. Investment must lead to future savings in and after 2014 in accordance with the criteria in section 2.
4. Results must be measurable. Estimated future savings identified and quantified as a result of the one-time investment and performance measures must demonstrate that savings have been achieved.

1.5 Report-back requirements for successful applicants

Transformation Fund recipients will be required to report back to LAO on the following:

- how the funds were used,
- what the project or initiative accomplished, based on the goals and outcomes identified in the application form,
- anticipated and actual savings,
- performance measures, and
- how goals will be achieved going forward.

Successful proponents will be required to enter into an additional funding agreement.

A report on the project's progress will be required semi-annually.

2. How transformation fund applications are evaluated

All applications for 2013/14 funding will be reviewed after Jan 15, 2014, after the application deadline has been reached. Decisions on successful proposals will be based on the strength of the applications, and with a province-wide view to the best use of the funds.

MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS (A) will be judged on a pass/fail basis. If the proposal fails on one or more of the mandatory requirements, the proposal will be returned to the Proponent with a letter of explanation. The proposal will not advance.

If the proposal passes all mandatory requirements, it will be evaluated based on the following RATED EVALUATION CRITERIA (B).

A.	Mandatory requirements	YES/NO
1	Fits with the Respective Principles of the Fund	
2	Fits within mandate of LAO and the legal clinics	
3	Clear, measurable benefits to clients	
4	Potential for collaboration and innovation	
5	Responses received for EVERY question on the Application Form.	
6	Clarity of Proposal	
7	Contact Information provided	

B.	Rated evaluation criteria	WEIGHT (points)
1	Does the proposal meet the intent of the objectives of the 2013 budget funding?	/25
2	Does the proposal support poverty law transformation efforts in the transitional phase of modernization of poverty law services and take into account the key transformation goals identified in LAOs' clinic modernization strategy and the Ontario Community Legal Clinics' Strategic Plan? (see section 2 of the criteria)	/35
3	Are estimated future savings identified and quantified as a result of the one-time investment, and does the proposal demonstrate that investment will lead to future savings in and after 2014 in accordance with the criteria in section 2 of the Fund Criteria?	/20
4	Are the results measurable and are the proposed performance measures capable of demonstrating that objectives of the project will have been achieved?	/20
	TOTAL	/100