

Nonprofit Sustainability Initiative (NSI) Grantees: You May Qualify For Free Legal Assistance From Public Counsel!

Public Counsel provides free transactional legal assistance to nonprofit organizations that serve low-income and underserved communities in Los Angeles County.

Our services are free to qualifying organizations—you pay nothing. We employ a pro bono model that leverages the expertise of Public Counsel staff attorneys with the talent of volunteer lawyers from major law firms and corporations.

Free legal services may include:

- **Advice** with respect to the legal structure of a proposed partnership, merger, collaboration or other strategic alliance;
- **Analysis** of legal implications of any aspects of legal transactions affecting employees, tax exemptions, leased property, grants, licenses, bank loans, creditors and other third party rights;
- **Confirmation** that an organization is in good standing with state and federal tax and corporate regulatory bodies;
- **Protection** and/or transfer of trademarks, trade names, logos, copyrights and other intellectual property rights and licenses;
- **Documentation** of back office consolidation agreements, partnerships, MOUs, employment contracts, leases, merger agreements and co-locations.

How It Works

Your organization submits a short written application for legal services. Public Counsel contacts you to discuss the organization's readiness level for engaging legal services, determine whether the organization satisfies our scope of service requirements, identify primary legal issues and provide preliminary advice. After an organization has been accepted for assistance, Public Counsel recruits a qualified volunteer attorney or team of attorneys with expertise to take on the identified legal matter(s). If it involves multiple legal specialties (e.g. employment, real estate), we search for a team with expertise in all of those areas. Once a matter has been successfully placed, Public Counsel staff attorneys continue to support client organizations with tax exempt law assistance and monitor and assess progress on placed legal matters to help ensure they are completed on a timely basis.

How Long Does It Take?

Depending on the complexity of the issues and the number of legal specialties involved, pro bono placement typically takes up to 30 days. We encourage all NSI grantees who may be interested in exploring pro bono assistance to apply as soon as the potentially partnering organizations have agreed upon the basic terms of the collaboration.

How Can I Apply?

For further information or to apply, call Sarah Stegemoeller or Annie Marquit at (213) 385-2977, ext. 246 and say you are an NSI grantee.

Note: Public Counsel works to find a pro bono lawyer or legal team with all the legal specialties necessary to accomplish the proposed transaction. However, the size of the organization, complexity of the proposed transaction, or the nature of the legal specialties required can sometimes affect our ability to recruit volunteer attorneys, and so we cannot guarantee that we will be able to successfully place every applicant with free legal counsel. Any of these factors that may be relevant to your request for legal services will be discussed during the intake process.