



CLEAR Assessment Project Scope and Application Q&A

The following questions were received by OCLA in writing or during the Applicant Conference, held on November 18, 2024. OCLA has provided a written response to each question.

1. The Project Scope describes a phased assessment and suggests a specific order for the phases. Can applicants propose alternatives to the phases described in the Project Scope document?

Yes. OCLA's intent is for the assessment to provide concrete feedback on how CLEAR's operations and resources could be best leveraged to meaningfully increase access to the civil legal aid system for low-income Washingtonians. OCLA is open to discussing alternative approaches to the assessment if an applicant believes that a different approach is necessary to produce the deliverables for this project.

2. Do the recommendations produced by the assessment need to be confined to current infrastructure and funding allocations of the CLEAR program?

No. OCLA's intent is for the assessment to yield specific recommendations that will result in increased access to civil legal aid for low-income Washingtonians. These recommendations can include how current resources could be redeployed for better outcomes and how future investments could be leveraged for the best outcomes for the client communities. However, OCLA is focused on how CLEAR could be better leveraged to create meaningful access to the civil legal aid delivery system for the client community in the current landscape. Our expectation is that the recommendations, in whole or in part, consider the current infrastructure and funding realities, are specific, and can be implemented in the current landscape.

3. What is the current level of staffing at CLEAR?

CLEAR has 15.5 FTE attorneys and 4 managing attorneys for the brief legal services function. The intake screening unit has 12 FTE screeners and 2 managers.

4. Is experience in civil legal aid delivery a requirement for successful applications?

No. OCLA's intent is for the assessment to provide concrete feedback on how CLEAR's operations and resources could be best leveraged to meaningfully increase access to the civil legal aid system for low-income Washingtonians. Experience in civil legal aid delivery is not necessary background for a successful applicant. OCLA's selection criteria will be based on which applicant is most likely to conduct an assessment that will produce the project's desired outcomes.

5. What are OCLA's budget and timeline for this project?

OCLA has up to \$35k for this project in fiscal year 2025, which ends June 30, 2025. We expect that this

project may require work in fiscal year 2026 which makes the total budget more flexible. OCLA's selection criteria will include a review of the resources in the proposed budgets and timelines for deliverables.

6. What is the current budget for CLEAR?

The CLEAR intake system is a multimillion-dollar program. This funding supports the necessary staffing and infrastructure to operate the hybrid screening, intake and referral functions.

7. Have there been any assessments of the CLEAR system before?

No. This will be the first external systemic assessment of CLEAR.

8. Does OCLA want applications to address the implementation of recommendations that result from the assessment?

No. This project is focused on the initial assessment and specific recommendations described in the Project Scope document. Implementation of the recommendations is outside the scope of this project application.

9. Will the successful application have access to contact information for the constituent/client population for the purposes of conducting this assessment?

OCLA will assist the successful project applicant in connecting with partners in the civil legal aid delivery system regarding feedback from the client community. However, a successful application will need to describe the scope of contact with the client community that the applicant believes is necessary to achieve the goals described in the Project Scope document. OCLA expects any outreach or contact with the civil legal aid constituent community to be client-centered and trauma-informed.