

Legal Empowerment Fund (2025)

ELIGIBILITY

Only 501(c)(3) organizations or those fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3) organization are eligible to apply.

Organization Name (required)

Limit: 300 characters

Are you a registered 501(c)(3) organization? (required)

- Yes
- No
- No, but I am fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3) organization

What is the name of your fiscal sponsor? (Please skip this question if you answered "Yes" indicating that you are a registered 501(c)(3) organization.)

Answer only if you selected "No, but I am fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3) organization."

Tax ID # (required)

Please provide the Tax ID # of your organization.
If you are a fiscally sponsored organization, please provide the tax ID # of your fiscal sponsor.
Please be sure to include the dash. Format example: XX-XXXXXXX

Organization's physical mailing address (required)

Country (required)

Address (required)

Address Line 2 (optional)

City (required)

State, Province, or Region (required)

Zip or Postal Code (required)

Organization's website

Name of the individual completing the application (submitter) (required)

First Name (required)

Last Name (required)

Please provide the name of the individual completing this application.

Submitter's email (required)

Please provide the email of the individual completing this application.

Submitter's phone number (required)



Please provide the phone number of the the individual completing this application.

Have you received funding from California ChangeLawyers (formerly California Bar Foundation) before?

(required)

Yes

No

Which region of the state would this funding primarily support? (Select all that apply) (required)

- Northern California
- SF Bay Area Region
- Central Coast
- Greater Sacramento/Sierra region
- Central Valley
- Southern Valley (Kern County and surrounding area)
- Inland Empire/High Desert
- Southern California (Los Angeles, Orange County)
- San Diego region
- Tribal land

Statewide

Other/Not listed

What is your organization's total operating budget for the current fiscal year? (If you're fiscally sponsored, and/or a project of a larger organization, please state the project or program's budget.) (required)

\$

Please use numbers ONLY. Do not use Commas.

Format example for a two hundred thousand dollar budget, please type in: **200000**

What year was your organization established? (required)

Number of staff/employees (If you are a project of a fiscal sponsor or a larger organization, list the number of employees specific to this project.) (required)

Mission statement (required)

Limit: 1000 words

Please choose the priority area where you are seeking funding (required)

- Movement Lawyering
- Capacity Building
- Leadership
- Next Gen Fellowship

Movement Lawyering: Under this priority, we seek to support organizations that are working at the intersection of law and community organizing. Strong applicants will have existing ties with community organizing groups, a base of community members, grassroots campaigns, etc. The result of ChangeLawyers funding in this area will be a stronger eco-system for movement attorneys who advocate for and win more equitable laws, policies, and outcomes for their communities and clients. Organizations can apply for a maximum grant amount of \$40,000 for one year.

Capacity Building: Under this priority area, we seek to support legal organizations committed to building a better justice system- one that works for all Californians. Organizations applying for funding in this priority area must have less than a \$1 million dollar budget, and should be able to showcase how they are ready to take the next step in growing their organization's work in supporting our most vulnerable communities. Organizations can apply for a maximum amount of \$40,000 for one year.

Leadership: Under this priority area, we seek to support organizations that are training changemakers to rise to positions of power and influence within the legal landscape. Examples include but are not limited to organizations working to: build young leaders (in law school or early career attorneys) and/or upskill established attorneys so they can reach their leadership potential and enhance their impact. *It is imperative that organizations be able to track and showcase the impact of their support/training in rising to positions of power within law.* Organizations can apply for a maximum amount of \$40,000 for one year.

Next Gen Fellowship: Under this priority area, we seek to support legal organizations with a clear mentorship/supervision model that will strengthen a legal fellow's knowledge of the law and build their professional skills. Priority will be given to organizations that have a legal project the fellow can immediately begin work on. Organization will receive a grant in the amount of \$80,000 for one year. *Due to the larger grant amount, this priority area will be the **most competitive**.

Grant amount requested (required)

\$ USD

Please list the amount of funding you are seeking. For formatting purposes, please don't use any commas.

Please note that ChangeLawyers does not plan to alter the grant amount. Please request the amount you truly need.

Please also note that the maximum for Movement Lawyering, Capacity Building, and Leadership is \$40,000. Next Gen Fellowship grants are \$80,000. So, if you are applying for a fellowship grant, please input \$80,000.

What substantive area of law would your legal fellow focus on? And why? Please describe the methodology, goals, outcomes of the fellow's work. (required)

Limit: 5000 characters

Applicants are welcome to use all of the characters provided, but are not required to. Most applicants will not use the full character limit.

Have you hosted a legal fellow before? If yes, please describe in detail the programming, support, and structure you had in place in order to create a successful fellowship experience. If you have not hosted a fellow before, please describe the proposed programming, support, and structure you envision so to create a successful fellowship experience. (required)

Limit: 5000 characters

Please include whether fellow will have a dedicated workspace, professional support, etc. We are seeking to understand the level of support your organization can offer the fellow.

Applicants are welcome to use all of the characters provided, but are not required to. Most applicants will not use the full character limit.

Do you have a person already identified as a potential fellow? If yes, please indicate whether you have an existing relationship with this person and also provide a short bio. If not, please describe your ideal candidate. (required)

Limit: 5000 characters

Applicants are welcome to use all of the characters provided, but are not required to. Most applicants will not use the full character limit.

Please provide the bio of the supervisor who would be working most closely with the fellow. (required)

Limit: 5000 characters

Applicants are welcome to use all of the characters provided, but are not required to. Most applicants will not use the full character limit.

Please provide examples of how your organization creates systemic change, affects policy change, and/or contributes to movements for social change. (required)

Limit: 5000 characters

Applicants are welcome to use all of the characters provided, but are not required to. Most applicants will not use the full character limit.

Do you have any feedback for the California ChangeLawyers grant process?

Limit: 2500 characters

Applicants are welcome to use all of the characters provided, but are not required to. Most applicants will not use the full character limit.

Save Draft

Submit Form

Drafts may be visible to the administrators of this program.