



ALL ACCESS: BUILDING A FAIRER CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM

ILLINOIS EQUAL JUSTICE FOUNDATION STRATEGIC PLAN, 2022-2026

Who We Are: The Illinois Equal Justice Foundation (IEJF) funds civil legal aid programs across Illinois to champion the rights of people burdened by barriers to justice.

Over the past 20+ years, the IEJF has grown from managing a single state legal aid appropriation of \$500,000 to overseeing four separate state appropriations for civil legal aid, totaling more than \$10 million annually.

This tremendous growth underscores our responsibility to more effectively address the ever-changing and increasing legal aid demands in Illinois in the years ahead.

OUR VISION:

We want to make it easier and more equitable for everyone to access and navigate our civil justice system, regardless of their age, religion, race, gender identity, heritage, sexual orientation, physical and mental abilities, and/or socioeconomic status.



“IEJF’S FUNDING HAS MADE MORE OF AN IMPACT ON OUR ORGANIZATION THAN WE COULD PROBABLY EVER PUT INTO WORDS.”

- Current IEJF Grantee

A FOUNDATION OF EQUITY

We recognize that structural barriers of all kinds impact people's ability to access our justice system. **As a major funder of Illinois' legal aid programs, the IEJF is committed to leading the charge to help more low-income and marginalized Illinoisans gain access to the lifelines provided by existing law.**

Moving forward, the IEJF will use an equity approach for all of its decision-making.

- ★ Focusing on how marginalized communities, particularly communities of color, will be affected by the funding decisions we make.
- ★ Engaging with these communities and key stakeholders to learn more about their experiences and viewpoints to better inform our work.



“IEJF FUNDING IS A KEY BUILDING BLOCK FOR OUR FINANCIAL STABILITY, AS WELL AS A BADGE OF RESPECTABILITY WHICH HELPS LEVERAGE OTHER FUNDS.”

- Current IEJF Grantee

A ROADMAP FOR THE FUTURE

Through our Strategic Plan, **we believe we can dismantle some of the barriers to justice so struggling Illinoisans can protect their rights, escape poverty, and transform their lives.**

Four Key Goals:

- ★ Increase Our Grantmaking Impact
- ★ Develop Partnerships to Drive Collective Change
- ★ Increase Bi-Partisan Education and Outreach Efforts
- ★ Expand Fundraising to Diversify Funding Sources

