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Planning

New Legal Support Grant Funding (February 2023 – March 2025)

Ministry of Justice

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-033636

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-0388c2

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Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Ministry of Justice

102 Petty France

London

SW1H 9AJ

Email

grace.marvell@justice.gov.uk

Telephone

+44 02033343555

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://ministryofjusticecommercial.bravosolution.co.uk/web/login.html>

I.3) Communication

Additional information can be obtained from another address:

Chloe Wall

London

Email

chloe.wall1@justice.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://ministryofjusticecommercial.bravosolution.co.uk/web/login.html>

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

I.5) Main activity

Public order and safety

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

New Legal Support Grant Funding (February 2023 – March 2025)

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 79100000 - Legal services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Manage the selection of front-line organisations who support individuals to resolve their legal problems and run the ongoing administration of the grant

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £10,400,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 79100000 - Legal services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

To note this is only a Prior information Notice for an upcoming Grant. For more information and to feedback at this stage, please join our early market engagement session at 12pm on 7 December. During the session the potential requirements,

assessment criteria and rules of the process will be outlined and feedback will be gathered from potential applicants. The grant competition will then launch on 12 December. For further details and to be added to a mailing list, please contact Chloe Wall (chloe.wall1@justice.gov.uk)

The Legal Support Action Plan, published in February 2019, committed the Ministry of Justice to deliver better support for people experiencing legal problems. A key component of the Action Plan is for the Ministry of Justice to pilot and evaluate different forms of early legal support. The Ministry of Justice has ensured a strong focus on data collection and evidence-gathering in the previous grants that have been funded (see, for example, the Legal Support for Litigants in Person Mid-Grant review). The Ministry of Justice expects that this new Legal Support grant funding will build on the evidence and data that has already been collected, strengthening the existing evidence base and developing a stronger understanding of the impact of early legal support.

The total value of the new Legal Support Grant will be £10.4m to fund front-line organisations from 1 July 2023 – 31 March 2025. The Ministry of Justice will be inviting applications to manage the selection of front-line organisations who support individuals to resolve their legal problems and run the ongoing administration of the grant. It is expected that the successful intermediary will sign a Primary Grant Agreement with the Ministry of Justice in early February 2023 and run a secondary competition amongst organisations from February 2023 – May 2023 to make sure that this funding reaches organisations by 1 July 2023. The Ministry of Justice may direct the distribution of funding between different stages of the legal support user journey, from early intervention through to attending a court or tribunal.

Applicants should anticipate working directly with at least 50 front-line organisations and should have the capability to foster an environment of, and create fora for, information and data exchange and promoting collaboration and partnership working between the organisations.

If you are an organisation that is seeking to secure funding for your support services, this stage of the process is not for you. You will need to apply directly to the successful grant administrator in due course. Further details on this competition process will be provided in early 2023.

Applicants must be:

- A charity or institution (other than a charity) which is established for charitable, benevolent or philanthropic purposes

It is strongly desirable that applicants also:

- Are a specialist grants administrator

- Have experience of administering grants in the legal support sector
- Have sufficient resource to run a secondary competition across England and Wales with up to 200 applications within 3 months
- Have experience of working closely with data analysts, or the capability to work closely with data analysts, to produce an interim and final report and ad hoc analysis as the Ministry of Justice may require

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

12 December 2022

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.8) Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: No

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

The successful applicant will work closely with the Ministry of Justice to manage the secondary competition process for front-line delivery organisations, help to build capacity across the sector by facilitating collaboration and partnership working, and oversee monitoring and evaluation of the services that front-line organisations provide using the new Legal Support grant funding.

In the secondary competition, grant funding will go to a range of legal support organisations, who play an important role in early intervention and help people to resolve their issues before they escalate. For those who do need to go to a court or tribunal, these organisations help people to prepare and in some cases assist them on the day.

The objectives for the new Legal Support grant funding will be set by the Ministry of Justice and are currently being determined. Secondary grant agreements will include standard requirements for secondary grant recipients and the grant objectives. As a guide, previous grant funding objectives have included:

- Improve and sustain access to early legal support to avoid unnecessary court proceedings, and to prepare litigants in person for proceedings where these are necessary.
- Sustain collaborative partnership working and networks to improve access to the most appropriate advice at the right time so the majority of clients' cases are resolved.
- Deliver services based on user needs, improving the efficiency of digital and remote delivery, and safeguarding in-person services for the most vulnerable.
- Contribute to building a stronger evidence base in order to inform service delivery and increase understanding of the value of early legal support.