Funding Principles
Adopted November 2, 2006

The New Hampshire Bar Foundation is a public charitable foundation supported by the generous contributions of members of the New Hampshire Bar Association and other committed individuals, families, and organizations who support our mission. The Bar Foundation envisions “Justice understood by and available to all people in New Hampshire.”

The Bar Foundation promotes philanthropy dedicated to ensuring that all people in New Hampshire, especially those with limited means, are able to understand and obtain meaningful access to the justice system. It carries out its mission through two grant programs that support a variety of organizations.

All requests for IOLTA Grants shall be for purposes specified by New Hampshire Supreme Court Rule 50.

- Each year, the Bar Foundation's IOLTA Grants Program awards the majority of its grants to nonprofit organizations in New Hampshire whose programs provide civil legal services to New Hampshire's disadvantaged populations. The IOLTA program also provides grants to nonprofit organizations in New Hampshire that provide public education relating to the law and the courts.

- As a general guideline:
  - 90% of IOLTA grants will be allocated for direct legal services, and 10% for education relating to the law and the courts;
  - All other factors being equal, NH Bar Association and NH Bar Foundation funding requests shall be given funding preference.

- Each year, the Bar Foundation’s Justice Grants Program provides a limited number of grants to further the Bar Foundation’s mission. The Bar Foundation is committed to promoting creative thinking, innovation, and risk-taking in the short term, and encourages the development of federal, state, local and community funding in the long term for projects that demonstrate success.

To be considered for IOLTA funding, grant applicants are required to provide:

Consistently effective, innovative or supportive high-quality direct civil legal services programs for the disadvantaged; or provide public education relating to the law and the courts.

Direct legal services include volunteer attorney recruitment and support, legal advice and counsel, representation in all courts and administrative bodies, mediation services, targeted outreach to vulnerable populations, and all ancillary support services.
Education about the law and the courts includes school programs, public programs and publications, civil legal information training for educators and service providers, and other pertinent educational efforts.

In addition, all grant applicants should be prepared to demonstrate:

a) Fiscal stability of the organization and/or sustainability of the project and reasonable overhead costs.

b) Organizational efficiency, sound management, and a solid understanding of the population being served.

c) The capacities to administer, implement, execute and evaluate the program for which funds are granted in an effective and efficient manner.

d) When appropriate, collaboration with existing programs to expand the scope of available services, avoid duplication of services, and maximize available resources to serve unmet current or emerging civil legal needs of the disadvantaged.

e) The ability to leverage Bar Foundation support with other sources of financial support or private bar pro bono involvement, whenever possible.

f) That their programs have a state-wide impact, or respond to an identified and crucial unmet need.