

December 14, 2021

South Dakota Commission on Equals Access to our Courts
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

Re: A2J, Inc./DPLS/ERLS Joint Grant Application

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of Access to Justice, Inc., East River Legal Services and Dakota Plains Legal Services, we submit for your consideration the following joint application for funding from the Commission on Equal Access to our Courts for general program support. All three organizations have utilized the criteria of SDCL § 16-2-56.1 to develop our application.

Our joint application seeks funding to continue our work with veterans, the elderly, individuals with a disability, and/or victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. In terms of the \$100,000 currently available in CEAC funds, East River Legal Services and Dakota Plains Legal Services are requesting funding of \$40,000 each to support their individual programs. Access to Justice is seeking \$20,000 in funding.

East River Legal Services intends to continue to utilize all CEAC funding awarded during this grant cycle to supplement existing unrestricted funds in support of assisting veterans, the elderly, individuals with disabilities, and victims of violence. This will enable the ERLS program to make more efficient use of existing ERLS restricted funds to better serve applicants who qualify for ERLS assistance.

Dakota Plains Legal Services intends to use additional CEAC funds in the manner as described in the attached joint CEAC grant application: All DPLS staff who provide services, or who receive or provide training regarding veterans' issues, will be charged against the grant in increments of .25 hour for work done under the grant. The costs will include the employee's gross wages and fringe benefits. In addition, an overhead cost of 28% of gross wages and fringe benefits will be charged and travel expenses will be charged at cost. The cost for travel via an employee's personal vehicle will be charged at the applicable IRS rate per mile.

Access to Justice intends to use all \$20,000 in CEAC funds awarded this cycle to supplement the A2J Judicare program.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit this joint application and we look forward to hearing from the Commission. Please feel free to contact any of the organization representatives should you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Tom Mortland, Director, Dakota Plains Legal Services
Denise Langley, Coordinator, Access to Justice, Inc.
Brent Thompson, Director, East River Legal Services