

Administrative Office of the Courts
FUNDING OPPORTUNITY
NOFO #: FO-2027-ATJ-002
Issue Date: January 12, 2026
Access to Justice Department



DEI GRANTS

As part of its mission to provide fair, efficient, and effective justice for all, the Maryland Judiciary receives state funds each year to support programs that enhance access to justice. Access to Justice DEI Grant funds are available for Maryland circuit court grantees only to support Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Coordinator positions and related activities.

GRANT PURPOSE

Access to Justice will award invitational demonstration grants to circuit courts for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Coordinator positions to establish a community advisory officer in each jurisdiction to serve as the community liaison/point of contact for the community and developing advisory boards in each jurisdiction with rotating membership to ensure a diversity of voices. Responsibilities to include:

- Foster an environment of welcoming and belonging for public users of the court's services.
- Identify, create, and implement plans to promote diversity within court settings.
- Incorporate diversity, equity, and inclusion in customer service functions of the court.
- Provide advice and guidance on DEI best practices and trends to Circuit Court administrators.
- Regularly attend EJC meetings and keep the court up to date on initiatives.
- Regularly interact with public users of the court and provide information resources available to help users navigate through the court system.
- Assist with the development of an advisory board and serve on committees formed by the court.

- Act as a liaison and develop strong relationships to serve as a resource for employees and public users of the court.
- Plan, develop, and market diversity and inclusion-focused programs, and events for court staff and the community.

Funding priority will be given to continue successful existing programs. New grants will be awarded based on funding availability.

Eligible Applicants

- Maryland Circuit Courts

AVAILABILITY AND AWARDS OF FUNDS

The availability of funds is contingent upon the provision of funds in the Maryland Judiciary budget by the Maryland General Assembly for Fiscal Year 2027. Applicants who are awarded funding will receive notice in early June of 2026.

Funding Cycle

- July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

Match Requirements

- No Match Requirement.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Application Due: March 13, 2026

Documents: Scanned PDF submitted by email only

Email: *(Please submit emails with the Subject as described.)*

Subject Line: "DEI Grant – FO-2027-ATJ-002, Applicant Name"

Delivery Address: atjgrants@mdcourts.gov

Grant Submission Checklist

- ☐ Signed Grant Application
- ☐ Proposed Budget with Justification
- ☐ Support Letter Signed by Admin. Judge

Additional Terms & Requirements

- ☐ General Grant Conditions
- ☐ Special Conditions for FY2027 Maryland Access to Justice Grants

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Conference Call

- ☐ **Zoom Meeting:** February 26, 2026, 2:00 p.m. Registration not required. To join Zoom meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/atigrantsfy27>.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT TOOLS & TIPS

- Before submitting your application, read the Funding Opportunity, General Conditions, Special Conditions and application instructions in their entirety.
- If needed, seek guidance with department staff prior to the application deadline.
- Provide a justification for every budgeted line item and review your application packet before submission.

Questions

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APPLICATION FORMS AVAILABLE