

Dear mandated representation leaders, county and city officials,

We are very happy to inform you that we have received authorization for the release of Distribution 11 from the Division of Budget.

This funding distribution, which was approved by the Indigent Legal Services Board at its meeting on September 25, 2020, consists of \$46,464,684 over three years (\$15,488,228 per year) to 57 counties and New York City, to improve the quality of mandated representation – criminal defense and parental – within each locality. The annual amount and the three-year total for which each locality may apply, as well as the designated contract number, are set forth in the attachment. The contract period runs from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2023.

To receive these funds, a locality must engage in meaningful consultation with the leader of each provider of representation under article 18-B of the County Law; and a result of that consultation submit a three-year plan to ILS demonstrating that the funding provided will be used to improve the quality of representation under that law. This submission must include a budget narrative that serves as a written justification for your line item costs and describes how each component of the plan will improve the quality of representation. To facilitate review, a proper budget narrative should also explain how the costs associated with each line item or category relate to the implementation of the project as outlined in your proposal.

Please note that Distribution # 11 is a new authorization for the funding amount you have been receiving under Distribution # 8, for which the contract period (unless extended) expired on December 31, 2020. Thus, in your consultations, you may wish to review your uses of Distribution # 8 funding to determine whether you will seek its continuation in whole or in part under Distribution # 11.

Once we have reviewed each proposal and are satisfied that it is the product of meaningful consultation and that the funds sought will be used to improve the quality of representation, we will consider approval of the proposal. Once approved, the terms of the proposal will be formalized in a contract, which will include a Budget and Work Plan to govern the expenditures. To expedite this process, I encourage you to include a fully developed Budget and Work Plan in your proposal.

Please submit your proposal as soon as it is ready, or by the close of business on **February 12, 2021**, and send it to Proposals@ils.ny.gov. If you have not yet submitted your proposal for Distribution # 10 or earlier, we encourage you to do so promptly, and send them also to Proposals@ils.ny.gov.

We look forward to continue working in partnership with you to improve and strengthen the quality of legally mandated representation in every locality.

Best wishes to everyone,

Bill

