



Internal Revenue Service

Low Income Taxpayer Clinic Grant Program; Availability of 2027 Grant Application Package

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Solicitation of grant applications.

SUMMARY: This document contains a notice that the IRS has provided a grant opportunity in www.grants.gov for organizations interested in applying for a Low Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) matching grant. The IRS is authorized to award multi-year LITC grants not to exceed three years. Grants may be awarded for the development/start up, expansion, or continuation of programs providing qualified services to eligible taxpayers. The budget period for the grant will be January 1, 2027 - December 31, 2027. For new grantees, the Period of Performance is generally one year (January 1, 2027-December 31, 2027.) The application period runs from May 6, 2026, through July 6, 2026.

DATES: All applications including continuation requests for the 2027 grant year must be filed electronically by 11:59 p.m. (Eastern Time) on July 6, 2026. The funding number is TREAS-GRANTS-052027-001, and the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance program number is 21.008, see www.sam.gov. . Details are also available at www.taxpayeradvocate.irs.gov/about-us/litc-grants. Session one: Tuesday, May 12, 2026 from 1-3 p.m. ET (Application Basics), Session two: Wednesday, May 13, 2026 from 1-3 p.m. ET (LITCGrants Portal overview and Application Considerations), Session three: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 from 1-3 p.m. (Budget Basics), Question and answer sessions: Tuesday, June 16 and June 29, 2026, from 1- 2 p.m. ET (No formal presentation). See www.irs.gov/advocate/low-income-taxpayer-clinics for complete details, including posted materials and any changes to the date and time. A

separate session for returning grantees submitting a continuation request will be announced separately on the LITC Toolkit.

- **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** The LITC Program Office at (202) 317-4700 or by e-mail at LITCProgramOffice@irs.gov. The LITC Program Office, located at: IRS, Taxpayer Advocate Service, LITC Grant Program Administration Office, TA:LITC, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room 1026, Washington, D.C. 20224. Copies of the *2027 Grant Application Package and Guidelines*, IRS Publication 3319 (Rev. 5-2026), can be downloaded from the IRS internet site at <https://www.taxpayeradvocate.irs.gov/about-us/litc-grants/>. See <https://youtu.be/6kRrjN-DNYQ> for a short video about the LITC Program. For more in-depth look at the work of the clinics, consider watching “Conversations with the National Taxpayer Advocate with three different clinicians.

Part I – Overview of the LITC Program

Part II – What I Wish I Knew When I Started

Part III – Advocating for Taxpayers: The Rewards

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Pursuant to Internal Revenue Code (IRC) § 7526, the IRS will annually award up to \$6,000,000 (unless otherwise provided by Congressional appropriation) to qualified organizations, subject to the limitations in the statute. The IRS will allow applicants to request up to \$200,000 for the 2027 grant year. The IRS will also continue the ESL Education Program. For FY 2027, if Congress significantly reduces the overall amount of LITC grant funding or reduces the per-clinic funding cap, the IRS will adjust each grant recipient’s award to reflect any limitations in place at that time.

For an applicant proposing to provide tax controversy representation, at least 90 percent of the taxpayers represented by the clinic must have incomes which do not exceed 250 percent of the federal poverty level as determined under criteria established by the Department of Health and Human Services. See 91 Fed. Reg. 1797 (Jan. 13, 2026). In addition, the amount in controversy for the tax year to which the controversy relates generally cannot exceed the amount specified in IRC § 7463 for eligibility for special small tax case procedures in the United States Tax Court currently \$50,000. IRC § 7526(c)(5) requires clinics to provide dollar-for-dollar matching funds, which may consist of funds from other non-federal sources or contributions of volunteer time or donated goods. See IRS Pub. 3319 for additional details. An applicant who is planning to operate a program to inform ESL taxpayers about their taxpayer rights and responsibilities must have either a volunteer or a staff member designated as a Qualified Tax Expert, generally an attorney, enrolled agent or certified public accountant, to review and approve all educational material.

Mission Statement

Low Income Taxpayer Clinics ensure the fairness and integrity of the tax system for taxpayers who are low-income or ESL by providing *pro bono* representation on their behalf in tax disputes with the IRS; educating them about their rights and responsibilities as taxpayers; and identifying and advocating for issues that impact low-income and ESL taxpayers.

Type of Qualified Services an Organization Can Provide

IRC § 7526(b)(1)(A) authorizes the IRS to award grants to organizations that represent low-income taxpayers in controversies before the IRS or provide education to ESL taxpayers regarding their taxpayer rights and responsibilities.

Pursuant to the ESL Education Program, a grant may be awarded to an organization to operate a program to inform ESL taxpayers about their taxpayer rights and responsibilities under the IRC without the requirement to also provide tax controversy representation to low-income taxpayers. See IRS Pub. 3319 for examples of what constitutes a “clinic.” When completing the Form 13424-M in the LITC Portal an applicant will be able to select

Selection Consideration

The IRS continues to expand access to clinic services through on-boarding new clinics and allowing for expanded service delivery models geared to reach areas where the IRS has been unable to attract qualified applicants. Special consideration will be given to applicants from the following states where there is no LITC physically located within the state: Hawaii, Kansas, Montana, Nevada, South Dakota, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. In addition, there are areas located within states where there is limited or no coverage: Arizona- Gila County Florida- Glades County, Hardee County, Hendry County, Hernando County, Highlands, County, Indian River County, Martin County, Okeechobee County, Sumter County Pennsylvania- Lehigh County, Northampton County Tennessee- Fayette County, Lauderdale County, Tipton County.

As in prior years, the IRS will consider a variety of factors in determining whether to award a grant, including: (1) the number of taxpayers who will be assisted by the organization, including the number of low income and ESL taxpayers in that geographic area; (2) the existence of other LITCs assisting the same population of low-income and ESL taxpayers; (3) the quality of the program offered by the organization, including the qualifications of its administrators and qualified representatives, and its record in

providing services to low-income taxpayers; (4) the reasonableness of the proposed budget; (5) the organization's compliance with all federal tax obligations (filing and payment); (6) the organization's compliance with all federal nontax monetary obligations (filing and payment); (7) whether debarment or suspension (31 CFR Part 19) applies or whether the organization is otherwise excluded from or ineligible for a federal award; and (8) alternative funding sources available to the organization, including amounts received from other non-federal sources such as state, local, or private endowments and other unrestricted funding sources of the institution sponsoring the organization.

For programs where all or most of cases will be placed with volunteers the following will be considered: (1) the quality of the representatives (attorneys, certified public accountants, or enrolled agents who have agreed to accept taxpayer referrals from an LITC and provide representation or consultation services free of charge) and (2) the ability of the organization to monitor referrals and ensure that the *pro bono* representatives are handling the cases properly, including taking timely case actions and ensuring services are offered for free.

New applications that pass the eligibility screening process will then be subject to technical review. Details regarding the scoring process can be found in Publication 3319. An organization submitting a continuation request for the second or third year of a multi-year grant will be required to submit a Continuation Request and will be subject to a streamlined screening process. Funding recommendations are made by the National Taxpayer Advocate and final approvals are secured from Treasury, Assistant Secretary for Management (ASM), or Treasury ASM designee.

The costs of preparing and submitting an application are the responsibility of each applicant. Applications may be released in response to Freedom of Information Act requests after any necessary redactions are made. Therefore, applicants must not include any individual taxpayer information. The IRS will notify each applicant in writing once funding decisions have been made.

Kim S. Stewart,

Deputy National Taxpayer Advocate on behalf of the National Taxpayer Advocate.

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