



Introduction

603 Legal Aid (603LA), Disability Rights Center-New Hampshire (DRC-NH), and New Hampshire Legal Assistance (NHLA) are New Hampshire's three civil legal services providers. We are statewide, nonprofit law firms serving low-income households, people with disabilities, and older adults. Our civil legal work helps our clients navigate some of the most pressing challenges that Granite Staters face in their daily lives, including housing, health care, safety from domestic violence, and education. We are cornerstone nonprofits with more than a century's collective experience, deeply embedded in the human services fabric of our state.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Planning Grant

603LA, DRC-NH, and NHLA are all headquartered in Concord. We seek now to headquarter *together*, in a hub for civil legal services we are calling the Community Justice Center in Concord.

First and foremost, the Community Justice Center would optimize the experience for members of the public seeking help with civil legal problems:

- A welcoming space for all with family-friendly design and features intended to promote accessibility for people with disabilities.
- Seamless connection with all available civil legal resources for people visiting in person.
- Maximizing coordination between 603LA, DRC-NH, and NHLA; already one another's closest partners, a shared space will further deepen our collaboration.
- Reduction of occupancy costs, allowing our organizations to serve more people.

Our organizations are seeking support from the City of Concord to apply for a CDBG planning grant of \$25,000 to hire an architectural firm to assess the space needs and requirements of each organization, develop a space plan and conduct site analyses of potential buildings and/or land for development, and acquire preliminary architectural and engineering designs and cost estimates. If eligible, this funding will also be used to hire a consultant to assess the feasibility of and plan for a capital campaign to seek funding from individual donors, foundations and businesses.

This planning grant will allow our organizations to prepare to apply for CDBG Public Facility funding in the next year and will position us to pursue other public and private resources to reach the estimated total project cost of \$4,000,000 - \$6,000,000.

With this support, we hope to create a home for all our organizations, a place where we will support justice for low-income people in Concord and across New Hampshire.