

Equity Corps Of Oregon

Notice of Award

For

Limited-Scope Legal Representation Contract

October 4, 2021

Equity Corps of Oregon Contract - Notice of Award for Limited-Scope Legal Representation Contract

AWARD - The ECO Limited-Scope Legal Representation contract is awarded to PCC Clear Clinic. The contract provides for up to \$300,000, billed in increments of an hour at \$85/hour, over the course of twenty-one months with a projected start date of October 15, 2021 to provide the following, at a minimum:

1. Limited-Scope Legal Representation for individuals enrolled in Equity Corps of Oregon;
2. Participation in routine case cohort and planning conferences.

BACKGROUND

The ongoing, massive buildup of immigration policing, anti-immigrant sentiment, and the weaponization of our immigration court system has fueled an unprecedented deportation and detention crisis that is devastating immigrant families and immigrant communities of color in Oregon. It threatens to undermine the safety of our community and Oregon's collective prosperity. Equity Corps of Oregon's objective is to provide universal representation, which protects our communities by making sure that no individual has to face the risk of deportation alone. Equity Corps ultimately aims to end unjust and unfair deportations by providing access to an attorney and support services for every eligible Oregonian at risk of removal on account of immigration status.

The Equity Corps program launched in October 2018 with funding from the City of Portland and Multnomah County. In June 2019, the State of Oregon provided \$2,000,000 in funding to expand the Equity Corps pilot. The funding covered services from October 1, 2019 to June 30, 2021. The City of Portland provided additional support for services for eligible individuals with \$250,000 in funding from September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021. Legislation (HB5006) enacted on June 30, 2021 allocates \$2,000,000 in bridge funding to Innovation Law Lab for immigration defense. Of this overall budget, which is to be disbursed over two years (2021 & 2022), Innovation Law Lab solicited for a limited-scope legal services component on September 27, 2021. The application period closed on October 1, 2021 at 4pm Pacific Time.

AWARD DETERMINATION

The PCC Clear Clinic is an eligible entity. The Portland Community College (PCC) Community Legal & Educational Access & Referral Clinic (CLEAR Clinic) is a free legal clinic that has provided limited-scope legal services, including criminal record and eviction expungements, DACA renewals, housing and immigration court navigations, legal name and gender-marker changes, and legal advice and referrals to people in the Portland area since summer 2020. The CLEAR Clinic partners with PCC programs and community-based

organizations to holistically support clinic participants. PCC Clear Clinic provides limited-scope legal services, all of which are free and open to the public.

The CLEAR Clinic helps reduce barriers to employment, housing, education, wellbeing, and self-actualization, and increases access to justice. Our mission is to help tear down some of the barriers that keep our community from enjoying the benefit of each members' full participation. The CLEAR Clinic seeks to help alleviate the struggles that lead to involvement in the criminal legal system, immigration system, and housing system, as well as to help disentangle people from these systems, through legal advocacy.

The PCC Clear Clinic has demonstrated a history of service provision and the capacity to provide limited-scope legal services to immigrant Oregonians as described in the RFP. The CLEAR Clinic prioritizes immigrants' rights work as one of our areas of focus, because we know that a majority of immigrants, especially those facing deportation, have critical legal and essential life needs that are not being met. Because of the immense justice gap for low-income immigrants, the CLEAR Clinic has ranked immigration work as one of our top priorities, along with tenants' rights work and expungements. The CLEAR Clinic model is a free limited-scope teaching clinic, featuring law students, paralegals, and in the future, licensed paraprofessionals, who provide legal services under the supervision of a managing attorney, contract attorneys, and attorney volunteers. Their limited-scope legal clinic model maximizes the use of funds to serve more people. This approach has proven successful for prior CLEAR Clinic projects, including expungement and DACA assistance, and allows them to scale to serve hundreds of people effectively. The CLEAR Clinic has Spanish-speaking, bi-cultural staff, and recruits interns and externs who are diverse in age, national origin, cultural and linguistic background, race, and gender identity. The CLEAR Clinic requires trauma-informed care training; staff and interns must complete four modules through Trauma-Informed Oregon, at a minimum. Cultural humility is a key component of trauma-informed care, and one that we take seriously. Cultural humility requires taking a respectful approach toward individuals of other cultures, and continuously challenging our own cultural biases. The CLEAR Clinic is committed to centering clinic participants in our interactions, acknowledging the limitation of its own cultural perspectives, critically examining power dynamics, and taking responsibility for its interactions.

CLEAR Clinic Director Leni Tupper, as a former removal defense attorney and current pro bono immigration attorney, has experience providing the services requested in the RFP. We also have another experienced immigration attorney already on contract. In addition, if awarded this contract, the CLEAR Clinic plans to contract with other experienced immigration attorneys, to scale up our model and supervise our paralegals and law students in their removal defense work.

Accordingly, the Limited-Scope Legal Services contract is hereby awarded to the PCC CLEAR Clinic.

Funding Summary

Funding Mechanism:	Contract to PCC Clear Clinic
Anticipated Total Available Funding:	\$300,000
Number of Awards:	1, with a possible secondary provider authorized
Funding Amount per Award:	\$85/hour or proportional fraction of an hour; invoiced no less frequently than monthly for services rendered
Project Period:	21 months: October 2021 - June 2023