

Equity Corps of Oregon
Notice of Award
For
Clearinghouse Services

August 9, 2022

Equity Corps of Oregon Contract - Notice of Award for Clearinghouse Services

AWARD - The ECO Clearinghouse contract is awarded to Innovation Law Lab. The contract provides for vendor services per hour or proportional fraction of an hour, invoiced no less frequently than monthly for services rendered according to a approved fee scheduled.

BACKGROUND

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 million 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. In June 2021, the State of Oregon provided \$2 million in funding for the period July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023. The City of Portland provided \$2 million in funding through December 1, 2024. On March 23, 2022, the State of Oregon enacted a permanent fund called the Universal Representation Fund. See Senate Bill 1543 (2022 Regular Session), Oregon Laws 2022, Chapter 88. The legislation allocates \$10.5 million in funding to Oregon Worker Relief for the purposes of providing universal representation, in addition to \$4.5 million provided to the Oregon State Bar for similar purposes. Of this overall budget, which is to be disbursed by June 30, 2023, On July 13, 2022, Oregon Worker Relief solicited proposals for Clearinghouse Services. The application period closed on July 29, 2022, 5pm.

AWARD DETERMINATION

Innovation Law Lab is an eligible entity. Innovation Law Lab's Clearinghouse Service team can provide the coordination, creation, development, management, and implementation of case management software, navigator portal, interpretation, forensic services, related technology and system management and a client-service fund to support the navigation program, case management, and full-scope and limited scope representation for universal representation under ECO. Innovation Law Lab manages a similar suite of clearinghouse services for the ECO program on an ongoing basis since 2018, facilitating a wide array of advice and legal services related to defeating deportations. Innovation Law Lab has a team of full-time accredited representatives and attorneys who are national, regional and local experts on immigration law, immigration and experienced in the logistics of a large-scale universal representation programs for those in danger of deportation. Innovation Law Lab is a 501(c)(3) organization registered in Oregon and has been in operation for more than 2 years. Innovation Law Lab was registered on June 9, 2014. Law Lab is a member in good standing of the Oregon Worker Relief network. Law Lab is a founding member of Oregon Worker Relief. Law Lab's mission and programming includes services to immigrants and is also culturally responsive. Equal parts lawyers, engineers, and organizers,

Innovation Law Lab leverages advocacy, technology and law to fight for immigrant and refugee justice. Our collaborative legal representation model and technology transform the way lawyers and advocates scale their work to provide effective support to immigrants in hostile jurisdictions so that every case that should win, does win, every time, everywhere. Law Lab's services are multi-cultural and centered on the client's needs.

Law Lab has more than two years of previously managing clearinghouse services and managing, creating, developing, and deploying technology systems. Law Lab has created and managed the ECO Clearinghouse since ECO's inception, including providing case management software, navigator portal, and related technology. Innovation Law Lab has created specialized software for ECO that has been highly successful in operationalizing core components of the project. A team of Innovation Law Lab engineers works to ensure the software is up to date as well as to expand what the technology can do to more effectively meet the program needs. The LawLab software has advanced reporting capabilities to ensure that our program impact can be measured, quantified, and duplicated. Law Lab has deployed its systems at scale to serve small projects as well as the nation's largest pro bono project involving tens of thousands of individuals.

Law Lab has more than five years managing, operating, and representing individuals as well as providing technical assistance to organizations within the immigration adjudication system. Law Lab's technical assistance experience includes teaching and mentoring brand new lawyers, experienced lawyers new to the immigration space, and experienced immigration lawyers handling complex and innovative litigation or cutting-edge cases. Innovation Law Lab's Law Team has been providing technical assistance at all experience levels to ECO attorneys and accredited representatives, including case strategy and a template library since ECO's inception. Innovation Law Lab's staff is composed of experienced immigration attorneys and accredited representatives with significant past and current experience representing clients before the Immigration Court, USCIS and other Federal and State agencies. We have implemented internal systems to ensure that ECO cases are properly triaged and then reviewed again by an experienced lawyer or accredited representative. Innovation Law Lab's staff bring a variety of legal expertise to our existing Clearinghouse services, including litigation in Immigration Court, Federal Courts, and State Courts.

Law Lab currently engages in community education projects to provide ECO participants and community members with accurate and approachable information about the immigration court system and ICE. Innovation Law Lab has created [multilingual videos](#), infographics and Facebook Live events in plain English, Spanish and indigenous languages. They also maintain a bilingual statewide call center to answer ECO participant's questions in real time.

Law Lab has direct federal court litigation experience with several impact cases, complex class actions, and other types of lawsuits which Law Lab has successfully litigated at the District Court, Circuit Courts, and Supreme Court. Their attorneys have substantial direct experience in immigration court, motions practice before the immigration courts and Board

of Immigration Appeals, USCIS, and other DHS and DOJ components. They have defended civil rights claims and tort claims before DHS. Our attorneys have practiced in Oregon state courts and are fully admitted to practice in all the courts in Oregon. Law Lab has substantial direct experience working with federal and state immigration and refugee agencies, stakeholders, and partners. Indeed, Law Lab is the attorney of record for such agencies and is currently defending two of them in court. Law Lab convenes and manages several coalitions with national, state, and regional, and local stakeholders and has formed different partnerships, such as the Sheridan Pro Bono Project, to achieve unprecedented outcomes on behalf of the immigrant and refugee community.

Law Lab has significant experience working under the urgency of ICE detention. In fact, Innovation Law Lab began as a rapid response to mass ICE incarceration. Innovation Law Lab led a team of pro bono lawyers to successfully end immigration detention at the Sheridan Federal Prison in Sheridan, OR. Now that immigration detention has been abolished in Oregon, Innovation Law Lab has subsequently implemented the same model of Massive Collaborative Representation to provide legal support and anti-carceral organizing in other jurisdictions. Innovation Law Lab has been working to leverage technology to provide legal services and information to more detained individuals, with the goal of ending ICE detention nationwide.

Law Lab's director team and board is composed of immigration lawyers, accredited representatives, community organizers, software engineers, designers, law professors, and educators. This diverse team ensures the efficient management of programs as well as strong financial controls. Law Lab uses time-tracking, has received federal grant awards. Law Lab employs a Director of Operations and Compliance, who oversees its accounting, bookkeeping, and auditing deliverables. The Board of Directors has a finance and audit committee, as well as an investment committee to intelligently and safely manage its financial resources. Law Lab is the recipient of numerous private foundation grants, develops ground-breaking reporting, and is a data-driven organization. Innovation Law Lab was founded on the goal and concept of universal representation. Their programs are open to all and do not make exclusions based on criminal justice contact.

The Law Lab team is composed of licensed attorneys and DOJ accredited representatives, both partially and fully-accredited. Their supervision structure and work culture allows for concurrent oversight and enrichment of non-lawyer staff to ensure a high standard of legal services, technical assistance, and case management. Law Lab has worked in coalition with other community-based and legal services organizations to ensure that legal services programming originated from the community. Their programming evolves in constant conversation with community members and stakeholders to ensure we are responsive to issues facing the community.

Accordingly, the Clearinghouse Services contract is hereby awarded to Innovation Law Lab.