

Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice

Disability Access Grant

Grant Agreement 2026

NAME OF GRANTEE: Nineteenth Judicial Circuit, Lake County

ADDRESS: 18 N. County Street
Waukegan, IL 60085

DESIGNATED PROJECT LIAISON: Elizabeth Bogie

GRANT AMOUNT: \$14,000

GRANT PERIOD: January 1, 2026 - December 31, 2026

This Grant Agreement is hereby entered into between Grantee and the Grantor, Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice (ATJ Commission), as of the date the Grantee signs this Agreement. Both parties, intending to be bound by the terms and conditions of this Agreement, do hereby agree as follows:

Grant Conditions

Grant Purpose: The grant is to be used to support the designated Project Liaison Elizabeth Bogie to purchase Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) services and an automatic door opener for the Lake County Law Library.

Grant Requirements:

Grantor shall:

- a) Meet with the Grantee in August 2026, to check in at the midpoint of the implementation of the project or activity, by offering guidance directly, by discussing project activities, opportunities and challenges, number of individuals served (if applicable), and grant expenditures, and/or by providing technical assistance referrals to the Illinois Attorney General Disability Rights Bureau;
- b) Provide support to the Project Liaison to further the Grant Purpose; and



- c) Disburse funds to support Grantee upon execution by the parties of this Grant Agreement.

Grantee shall:

- a) Agree to regular reporting twice in the grant cycle (August 2026 and January 2027) and if further requested, to the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts (AOIC) Access to Justice (ATJ) Division about project activities, opportunities and challenges, number of individuals served (if applicable), and grant expenditures (including itemized receipts, invoices, pictures, etc.),
- b) Agree to meet once with AOIC ATJ Division Staff in August 2026, to receive guidance during the implementation of the project or activity and to share about project activities, opportunities, and challenges,
- c) Secure a replacement Project Liaison from the jurisdiction if the original one is unable to continue service as Project Liaison,
- d) Cooperate, coordinate, and collaborate with court departments, offices, communities, and people with disabilities to implement the project or activity, and
- e) Periodically partner, if requested, with the ATJ Commission, Disability Access Committee, AOIC, and other grant recipients to share data and information to better identify statewide needs, emerging trends, and create innovative solutions.

Reporting Requirements: Reports shall be submitted twice during this program year, (1) by July 31, 2026, for the period of January 10, 2026, through June 30, 2026, and (2) by January 12, 2027, for the period of August 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026. The reports will be made in a digital form and will ask for information on the project's activities and achievements, relevant data, number of litigants served (if applicable), and financial expenditures (including itemized receipts, invoices, pictures, etc., if applicable) for the period.

Notification of Changes in Personnel or Program: If there are significant changes in the Grantee's structure, mission, or personnel during the grant period, the Grantee must notify the Grantor of these changes in writing (via email) immediately. If the Project Liaison does not continue to work for the Grantee, the Grantee must appoint another employee to serve as the Project Liaison to satisfy the grant requirements. If the Grantee is unable to find another person to serve as the Project Liaison, Grantee shall return to the Grantor any funds not yet used by the Grantee.

Fund Disbursement: Grantee will provide the appropriate information for receiving payment of the Grant Amount by check or direct ACH transfer. Upon receipt of this information and the executed Grant Agreement, Grantor will release the funds. The Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice funds the Disability Accessibility Improvement grants. The Commission is funded through *pro hoc vice* fees, registration fees from Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission (ARDC), and royalties on certain publications; the Commission does not receive any state funds. Therefore, no state funds are used for the grants.

Fund Recompense: If Grantee submits a written request (via email) during the fourth quarter of the program year informing Grantor that they will not be able to use all the funds by the end of the program year and would like an extension to do so, Grantor may grant permission to utilize funds beyond the end of the grant period rather than returning the unused funds. Grantee must notify the Grantor in a timely manner if the funds cannot or will not be spent in accordance with the purpose of the grant. Grantee shall return to Grantor any funds not used by the end of the grant period by February 1, 2027.

If these conditions are acceptable, please sign this form (electronic signatures accepted) as well as the attached ATJ Commission Grant Payment Form and return them to August Hieber, Sr. Program Manager, Access to Justice Division of the AOIC, at ahieber@illinoiscourts.gov by **January 20, 2026**.

Accepted by:

Hon. Daniel B. Shanes

Chief Judge, Nineteenth Judicial Circuit

Date: _____


Accepted by:

Elizabeth Bogie

Project Liaison

Date: _____

For the Commission:



Hon. Jorge L. Ortiz

Chair, Commission on Access to Justice

Date: January 6, 2026

Please email the completed agreement to: ahieber@illinoiscourts.gov by **January 20, 2026**.