



Eligibility Guidelines for Free Legal Services

Nonprofit Organizations

LegalCORPS matches qualified nonprofit organizations serving Minnesota communities with volunteer attorneys who will provide pro bono legal services. LegalCORPS's primary mission is to assist organizations that serve the needs of persons of limited means.

LegalCORPS may also, to the extent that its resources permit, assist nonprofit organizations that seek to secure or protect civil rights, civil liberties, or public rights, and other charitable, religious, community, governmental, or educational organizations in carrying out their missions.

Services Provided

LegalCORPS recruits volunteer lawyers to provide free legal assistance in business law matters such as governance, maintaining tax-exempt status, lease review, employment advice, intellectual property (trademarks, patents, copyrights), contracts, debt issues, and general business advice. LegalCORPS does not match organizations with pro bono attorneys for matters in litigation.

Organizations Served

LegalCORPS assists small nonprofit organizations whose mission includes supporting low income communities in ways that encourage economic development or improve the quality of life. The organization must be a legal entity and have an active board of directors.

Generally, LegalCORPS seeks to serve nonprofits with annual revenue below the state-required audit threshold (currently \$750,000). LegalCORPS will consider applications from organizations with a larger annual budget if the organization can demonstrate that the payment of standard legal fees for the particular matter would significantly deplete its economic resources or would otherwise be inappropriate.

Application Procedure

Complete the application [<http://www.legalcorps.org/files/NPApp-Mail.pdf>] and include any documents requested. Although legal services will be provided at no cost, a \$50 placement fee must be paid with the application but will be refunded if LegalCORPS cannot place the matter with an attorney. Submit these to: LegalCORPS, 600 Nicollet Mall, Suite 390A, Minneapolis, MN 55402.

LegalCORPS will review each request to determine eligibility and will notify the organization of its status promptly. We are usually able to place a client with an attorney within one week, but on occasion the placement process may take longer. Although LegalCORPS will attempt to place all eligible clients, it cannot guarantee that all matters will be placed with an attorney.

Organizations will not be charged legal service fees or fees for attorneys' time. They will, however, be responsible for out-of-pocket expenses such as filing fees and copying costs. If you have questions about the eligibility guidelines, the application form, or the referral process, please call 612-752-6678 or 1-888-454-5267 or email us at info@legalcorps.org.

Other Assistance

If you are looking for help in setting up a nonprofit organization or filing for tax exempt status, there are a number of resources available. These include MAP for Nonprofits (www.mapfornonprofits.org), Minnesota Council of Nonprofits (www.mncn.org), Minnesota Secretary of State (www.sos.state.mn.us), and the Internal Revenue Service (www.irs.gov).