

“...all of this work is expensive. Few foundations support litigation. Because the Barbara McDowell Foundation does expressly support systemic reform litigation, we were eager to apply.”

Florida Institutional Legal Services

“There are very few foundations which support social justice litigation, which is the mission of our organization. When we learned about the McDowell grants, it seemed like a perfect fit for us to fund a very important issue for homeless persons.”

Southern Legal Counsel, Inc.

“The Foundation is one of the very few options for securing litigation support funds. Our litigation is spread across the country, and our funds are limited. This is a very important option for us.”

***Washington Lawyer’s Committee for
Civil Rights and Urban Affairs***

“Our motivation was mainly that it is very rare to find anyone willing to fund impact litigation. Many funders are afraid of this sort of work, even though they often benefit from the results. In our world (both litigation and mental health) funding is increasingly scarce, so to have a funder focused in this area is most welcome.”

***Judge David L. Bazelon Center for
Mental Health Law***

“Over the years, especially since support centers were defunded in 1995, it has become increasingly difficult to fund class action or other impact litigation. We are currently seeking to stop unlawful and mean spirited collection practices uniquely used against Department of Agriculture borrowers who have lost their homes through foreclosure, and, unfortunately, do not have any funding to pursue this matter, so we thought it was ideally suited for an application to the Barbara McDowell Foundation.”

National Housing Law Project

“HPRP and co-counsel had just begun the conciliation process in our case and were evaluating the need for experts and how we were going to pay for them. This grant presented an opportunity to obtain funds to cover the cost of experts that we otherwise would not be able to afford and which may be critical in achieving the systemic remedies we are seeking in the case.”

Homeless Persons Representation Project

“It is very difficult to find funding for litigation, especially impact litigation. Yet these types of actions require significant funds to pay for expert witnesses, etc.”

Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles

“The Foundation’s mission seemed to be a perfect fit with CLS’ work. CLS also seeks to have positive systemic impact in low income housing, immigration, disability rights, and disparities in community services and opportunities for economic development. CLS also seeks to improve the economic well-being, social conditions, and civil liberties of disadvantaged persons and groups throughout the United States, with a focus on Philadelphia and Pennsylvania.”

Community Legal Services

“We were motivated by the tagline "Social Justice Through Legal Action". We at CPHA have been engaged in many different social struggles for the citizens of the Baltimore region and sometimes the topics are not so popular or even worse topics that take on a very powerful establishment like the state of Maryland. As outlined in our grant application we have seen an injustice as it relates to affordable housing and have taken steps to remedy the situation.”

Citizens Planning and Housing Association, Inc.

“We are a very small non-profit organization. Our Legal Program represents clients with disabilities in civil rights cases. Our clients cannot afford legal fees, so we represent them for free. We can, if we are successful, recover our reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, but that is never certain, and it can take years to resolve cases. We must pay the costs associated with litigation upfront. As set forth in our application, these costs can amount to tens of thousands of dollars before we ever see reimbursement, if we do. Your grant is exactly what we need to continue bringing these cases and keep the doors open.”

Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition

“CRLA applied for a grant from the Barbara McDowell Foundation in order to obtain funds to support litigation. Litigating Impact cases can be very resource-intensive, so we are trying to obtain support.”

California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.