

Appendix A
Community Grants Selection Criteria

1. In selecting projects for funding, the Board shall be guided by the Foundation's purposes, as stated in its Certificate of Incorporation, including, but not limited to, providing better representation for groups or individuals that seek to further the public interest in areas such as eradicating the various forms of discrimination, expanding educational and economic opportunities, improving living standards, increasing citizen access to judicial, legislative, and administrative processes, and encouraging law students and the bar to devote greater resources to public interest activities. Funded projects must intend to have a significant practical impact on an identifiable clientele, region, or issue. Projects that could be funded by the Foundation include the following examples:
 - a. litigation that promotes the Foundation's public interest objectives, including litigation or other activities to reform the criminal and civil justice systems.
 - b. efforts to educate the public or a particular group about its legal rights, and organizing and assisting people to exercise these rights, through means including handbooks, storefront offices, or ombudsman services.
 - c. drafting of legislation or model statutes, and commenting on legislation or administrative regulations that affect the Foundation's objectives.
2. Although the following four criteria shall not be completely determinative in the awarding of grants, the Board of Directors shall give preference to projects:
 - a. which are proposed by graduates of Columbia Law School;
 - b. which address issues or aid groups that have received inadequate attention or representation by other individuals, organizations, or governmental bodies;
 - c. which would be performed in coordination with a sponsoring organization, but a funded project ordinarily should not be one which the sponsoring organization would undertake itself in absence of the grant;
 - d. which afford opportunity for participation by members of the Columbia Law School community.
3. The Board of Directors shall not select for funding a proposal which primarily proposes to conduct:
 - a. research not associated with an activity otherwise eligible for funding;
 - b. private practice on behalf of particular clients or any other profit-seeking activity;
 - c. activities which replicate recognized governmental functions or which duplicate projects that are principally supported by governmental and other public funds.
4. The Board of Directors shall authorize funding for a period of one year, unless unusual circumstances warrant a longer grant period
 - a. Unusual circumstances may exist where an otherwise meritorious proposal demonstrates that it could not go forward without a Foundation commitment to fund it for longer than one year.
 - i. If the Foundation commits itself to funding for longer than a one-year term, funds shall be disbursed for the second year only if the grant recipient demonstrates adherence to the project proposal.
 - ii. The one-year funding period shall not prevent funding of projects for a lesser term.
 - iii. If a project cannot be completed within the one-year funding period, the Board shall consider the project's capacity for becoming self-supporting or obtaining financial support from other sources in determining whether to select it for funding.