



Title III Legal Support Services for Tribal Nations in Minnesota

RE: Letter of Intent Process for Legal Services Provider to Serve Tribal Elders

Introduction

Minnesota Indian Area Agency on Aging seeks a qualified legal service provider to provide comprehensive legal support – including direct representation before federal, state, and tribal legal and administrative entities; education; and outreach- to Tribal elders in Minnesota in accordance with the Older Americans Act (OAA). The selected provider will assist Tribal Nations in addressing legal issues impacting older adults, including but not limited to the following priority legal areas:

- **Elder Abuse and Neglect:** Providing legal representation and advocacy for elders who are victims of abuse, neglect, or exploitation.
- **Defense of Guardianship:** Providing education and representation for older individuals in reducing unnecessary or overbroad guardianships, offering assistance to individuals and Tribal Nations in the area of supported decision making and use of least restrictive alternatives, including developing and implementing guardianship and conservatorship procedures that respect individual rights are culturally appropriate and comply with federal and state law and tribal code.
- **Long-Term Care:** Advising elders on long-term care planning (including wills, health care directives and power of attorney forms), Medicaid eligibility, and nursing home regulations.
- **Housing and Homelessness:** Providing legal assistance to older adults facing housing instability or homelessness, including eviction defense, fair housing, public housing and utilities issues.
- **Benefits and Entitlements:** Helping older adults access and maintain eligibility for Social Security, Health Care Programs, Long Term Care Programs, Nutrition Programs and other Federal and State benefits.
- **Age Discrimination:** Providing consultation and assistance in situations involving discrimination related to age and educating others on ageism.

Services are to be provided to eligible individuals with the most economic and social need, as determined through consultation with MIAAA and the Minnesota Board on Aging's Legal Assistance Developer. Services, including pro bono legal representation, must be provided in accordance with Legal Service Corporation guidelines, either by an LSC funded agency or an entity working in conjunction and coordination with an LSC funded agency.





The legal provider is expected to work collaboratively with elder justice partners including, but not limited to, those listed within the OAA such as the Office of Ombudsman for Long Term Care, Adult Protection, and the MBA Legal Assistance Developer. Effective monitoring of provided services is required, including quarterly reporting on persons served and funding expended on the Grant Utility system; quarterly reporting on cases, outreach and education through provided template forms; and an annual report of the services provided by the agency within the previous federal fiscal year on a provided template form.

Services are to be provided from the contract start date of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026. Award amounts will be between \$14,500.

Letter of Intent Requirements

MIAAA is requesting a letter of intent from interested providers. Letters of intent should generally discuss the experience and qualifications of the provider, the proposed services, current or proposed staffing, ideas for outreach and education, and ability to report and measure performance. Providers selected for further consideration will be asked to provide a more detailed workplan and budget addressing the following:

1. Experience and Qualifications:

- Demonstrated experience in providing legal services to Tribal Nations.
- Knowledge of federal, tribal and state laws impacting tribal elders, including the OAA.
- Understanding of Tribal sovereignty and cultural sensitivity.
- A team of licensed and qualified attorneys and paralegals with expertise in the priority legal areas. Pro bono attorneys and legal interns may provide services under the direct supervision of a supervising or managing attorney.

2. Proposed Services:

- A detailed description of the legal services to be provided, including the scope of representation and the number of hours allocated to each priority legal area.
- A plan for outreach and education to Tribal Nations to inform them of available legal services.
- A plan for engaging in an annual legal clinic for Indian Elders at Wisdom Steps or another multi-tribal nation gathering. This plan should include provisions for educating attorneys (pro bono and other) to offer assistance, providing technical assistance and offering direct legal services to eligible elders.
- A plan of outreach and education to Tribal elders and others regarding available legal services and information about legal rights.
- A system for case management and tracking to ensure timely and effective delivery of services and outcomes.





3. Staffing and Resources:

- A description of the staff assigned to the project, including their qualifications and experience.
- A plan for allocating resources, including personnel, technology, and funding.

4. Performance Measures and Reporting:

- A proposed performance measurement system to track the impact of the legal services provided.
- A plan for regular reporting on the number of cases handled, outcomes achieved, and lessons learned.

5. Budget:

- A detailed budget outlining the costs associated with providing the legal services, including personnel costs, travel expenses, and administrative fees.

Submission Deadline: Letters of Intent must be submitted by November 7, 2025, to Michelle_Reynolds@redlakenation.org.

Questions: For any questions or clarifications, please contact Michelle Reynolds at Michelle_Reynolds@redlakenation.org or (218) 542-6145.

