

# State Access to Justice Tools

## Access to Justice Checklist

The following are some initiatives undertaken by state Access to Justice entities. The list is not meant to be exhaustive or to apply to every state. Use it to develop ideas for your state.

### Education, Research, Awareness

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- Supreme Court hearing regional hearings
- Statewide Access to Justice report and recommendations
- Legal needs study
- Legal aid open houses
- Annual Access to Justice conference
- Bar/court education campaign—speakers, materials, track or sessions at bar conference, newsletters
- Media campaign—op-eds, editorial board meetings, press releases, public services announcement, video

### Funding for Civil Legal Assistance

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- State appropriation
- Court filing fee/fine surcharge
- Attorney registration fee surcharge or dues assessment
- Bar dues check-off or add-on
- Pro hac vice* (practice by out-of state attorneys) fee
- Statewide private bar fundraising campaign
- Cy pres* awards and structured class action settlements—education and development
- Modification of IOLTA rules/structure to increase yield
- Statewide resource development plan—by consultant or task force
- Court or legislative task force on civil legal aid funding
- Civil right to counsel—legislation and research
- National—support for LSC funding with state congressional delegation

### Pro Bono

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- Court-based statewide and/or regional pro bono structure
- Pro bono reporting, mandatory or voluntary
- Rule setting aspirational pro bono standards
- Continuing legal education credit for pro bono and/or related mentoring
- Recruitment campaign, led by state bar and Supreme Court
- Pro bono case priority on court docket
- Emeritus rule—waiver of bar dues/fees for retired attorneys engaged in pro bono work
- Creation of web-based and other resources to support pro bono attorneys.
- Annual bench/bar conferences focused on pro bono
- Statewide data collection on current pro bono to develop ideas for expanding

## Student Loan Repayment Assistance

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- State appropriation
- Campaign to develop law school based programs/scholarships
- Privately funded program
- Bar or bar foundation funded or sponsored program

## Court Access and Pro Se

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- Statewide action plan on self-represented litigants
- Statewide action plan on litigants with limited English proficiency
- Court assistance offices, self-help centers
- Web sites with court information and forms
- Simplification and standardization of forms and pleadings
- Revision of rules to allow “unbundling” of legal services
- Training for court personnel
- Review of new rules, forms, and legislation affecting access to courts for low-income people
- Access to Justice award for judges and court staff
- Evaluation and data collection

## State Agency Administrative Fairness

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- Analysis and report on state agency procedures
- Awards and identification of best practices
- Training for hearing officers and agency personnel

## Program/Delivery/Collaboration

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- Development/expansion of capacity to serve clients who cannot be served with LSC funds
- Development/expansion of capacity to serve clients with limited English proficiency
- Development/expansion of capacity for systemic advocacy
- Substantive task forces, conferences, training and support for legal aid and volunteer advocates
- Statewide plans and staffing for coordination of advocacy, training, technology