

Possible Pro Bono Resources

This chart may be used as a guide to assist potential grantees in finding competent legal counsel. The field of pro bono support is quickly evolving and there may be additional resources not reflected on this chart. Organizations should investigate these and other resources as they see fit. If there are names to be added please let us know.

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Resource Name	What They Offer	Eligibility	Website (Hyperlink)	Notes for Grantees
We The Action	Matches nonprofits with volunteer lawyers for discrete projects (governance, contracts, compliance, research, policy support)	Must be a 501(c)(3); projects must be discrete and clearly scoped	https://www.wetheaction.org	Best general starting point for nonprofits without counsel
Nonprofit Legal Defense Network	Legal risk assessments and compliance guidance for advocacy and civic engagement	Advocacy-focused nonprofits and civic engagement organizations	https://nonprofitdefense.org/	Ideal for policy, democracy, and advocacy grantees
Orrick – Pro Bono Program (René Kathawala)	Strategic pro bono representation, impact litigation, governance and policy support	Mission-aligned nonprofits; subject to conflicts and firm capacity	https://www.orrick.com/People/0/D/0/Rene-Kathawala	Best for high-impact or rights-based matters
Exponentum™ Network	Directory of nonprofit legal centers providing transactional legal services	Nonprofits; eligibility varies by member (budget/geography)	https://www.exponentum.org	Gateway to state-level nonprofit legal help
Pro Bono Partnership	Business and nonprofit law (contracts, employment, governance, real estate)	Established nonprofits; modest admin fee; region-specific	https://www.probonopartner.org	High-quality transactional legal assistance
Lawyers Alliance for New York	Governance, tax, contracts, real estate, mergers	New York-based nonprofits; revenue limits apply	https://www.lawyersalliance.org	Model nonprofit legal center (NY only)
LegalCORPS	Formation, IP, contracts, governance, employment	Small nonprofits in Minnesota; budget limits	https://www.legalcorps.org	Strong for early-stage organizations
Lawyers for Nonprofits	Formation, policies, compliance, contracts	Small nonprofits nationwide; must be tax-exempt	https://www.lawyers4nonprofits.org	Especially helpful for grassroots orgs

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<u>Charitable Allies</u>	Ongoing nonprofit counsel, employment, governance, disputes, IRS matters	Nonprofits able to pay reduced fees	https://www.charitableallies.org	Good fallback when pro bono is unavailable
<u>Democracy Protection Network</u>	Free/low-cost legal help for congressional investigations; cybersecurity, physical security, crisis communications	Any organization receiving a congressional inquiry and lacking experienced counsel	https://democracyprotectionnetwork.org	Immediate-response resource for investigations
<u>Protecting & Advancing DEI Pro Bono Initiative</u>	Legal advice on DEI and racial diversity efforts post-SFFA	Nonprofits concerned about legal risk to DEI programs	https://www.lawyerscommittee.org	Targeted DEI compliance and defense guidance
<u>ICNL – Resources for U.S. Nonprofits</u>	Guidance on nonprofit law, advocacy rules, compliance, risk management	All nonprofits	https://www.icnl.org	Educational resource; not a law firm
<u>Alliance for Justice – Bolder Advocacy</u>	Lobbying and election-law guidance, trainings, tools	Advocacy and civic engagement nonprofits	https://www.bolderadvocacy.org	Excellent preventive compliance resource
<u>Pro Bono Net – National Opportunities Guide</u>	Directory of legal aid and pro bono providers by state	Nonprofits and individuals; directory only	https://www.probono.net/oppsguide	Useful for finding local legal aid
<u>State Nonprofit Associations</u>	Legal education, referrals, connections to local counsel	State-based nonprofits	https://www.councilofnonprofits.org	Often know which firms provide pro bono help
<u>Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts</u>	IP, contracts, governance, employment law	Arts & cultural nonprofits; some budget limits	https://vlany.org	Excellent for arts & cultural grantees
<u>PILnet – The Global Network for Public Interest Law</u>	Connects civil society organizations to pro bono lawyers through regional clearinghouses (Global, Asia, Eurasia, Hungary). Legal support includes advice and advocacy, research, analysis and drafting, and training. Also	Civil society organizations globally; matters can be discrete legal needs or longer-term public interest projects. Regional clearinghouses serve specific geographies; the Global Clearinghouse covers cross-jurisdictional matters	https://www.pilnet.org/access-legal-help/get-legal-assistance/	Strong option for organizations with international or cross-border legal needs; also valuable for refugee/displacement-focused grantees via dedicated clearinghouse

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	offers dedicated assistance for organizations supporting refugees and forcibly displaced populations	and all locations not covered regionally.		
Forefront (Illinois Nonprofit Alliance)	Curated legal resource hub for Illinois nonprofits including referrals to free legal help, guidance on DEI compliance and federal funding risks, a library with legal research databases (EBSCO suite for members), and connections to pro bono providers. Co-launched the Nonprofit Resilience Hub (with Chicago Bar Foundation and Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights) to help nonprofits respond to federal uncertainty and organizational risks. Does not provide direct legal advice.	Illinois-based nonprofits; some resources (e.g., EBSCO databases) require Forefront membership; Nonprofit Resilience Hub open to Illinois nonprofits broadly	https://myforefront.org/hub-legal/	Best as a gateway resource for Illinois nonprofits; the legal hub page may require login. Check the Nonprofit Resilience Hub for current programming and consultation opportunities.
Nonprofit Together	Training, strategic planning, and networking for small nonprofits. Offers programs in computer skills (Microsoft Office, Google Workspace, QuickBooks, AI tools), marketing/communications (Canva, Adobe, social media), and specialized topics (fundraising, team development, onboarding new technologies). Does NOT provide legal services.	Small nonprofit organizations; training bundles start at \$750 with scholarships available.	https://www.nonprofittogether.org/	Capacity-building resource, not a legal provider. May be helpful for operational support but does not offer legal counsel or pro bono legal services.

