



DEEP DIVE INTO THE BAR SUCCESS GRANTS PROGRAMS





EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LAWYERS®

Through student-focused initiatives, research and policy advocacy, nonprofit **AccessLex Institute** works to help purpose-driven students find their path from aspiring lawyer to fulfilled professional.

In partnership with our nearly 200 member law schools, improving access and positively influencing legal education have been at the heart of our mission since 1983.




Agenda

- ✔ AccessLex Grant Programs
- ✔ Grant Application Process
- ✔ Elements of Strong Proposals
- ✔ Application Resources
- ✔ Questions

Purpose

We believe in an impact-driven approach to grantmaking — supporting projects that have the potential to “move the needle” in legal education.

Overview of AccessLex Grant Programs

-  **Diversity Pathway Intervention Grant Program**
Seeks to broaden access to legal education and increase law school diversity
-  **Bar Success Intervention Grant Program**
Seeks to increase bar exam passage rates among students and graduates most at-risk of not passing
-  **Bar Success Research Grant Program**
Supports efforts to better understand the substance and format of the bar exam and its alignment with the practice of law

Bar Success Intervention Grant Program



Scope

Provides funding to programs and interventions aimed at helping increase bar exam passage rates among students and/or graduates most at-risk of not passing



Goal

To increase the knowledge base around effective bar exam success programming that is scalable and replicable




Bar Success Intervention Grant Requirements

To be fundable, proposals must:

- ✔ Have a duration of 12–24 months and seek funding in the amount of \$150,000–\$300,000
- ✔ Focus on law students and/or graduates most at risk of not passing the bar exam or institutions with ultimate bar examination passage rates that fall below 70%
- ✔ Include clear statements of program goals and tangible, measurable objectives
- ✔ Include an evaluation plan

Bar Success Intervention Grant Requirements

Optional elements will be given preference in the selection process:

-  Differential treatment of participants for purposes of program evaluation
-  Relevant long-term support for participants
-  Collaboration with other institutions, organizations, etc.

Bar Success Research Grant Program

Scope

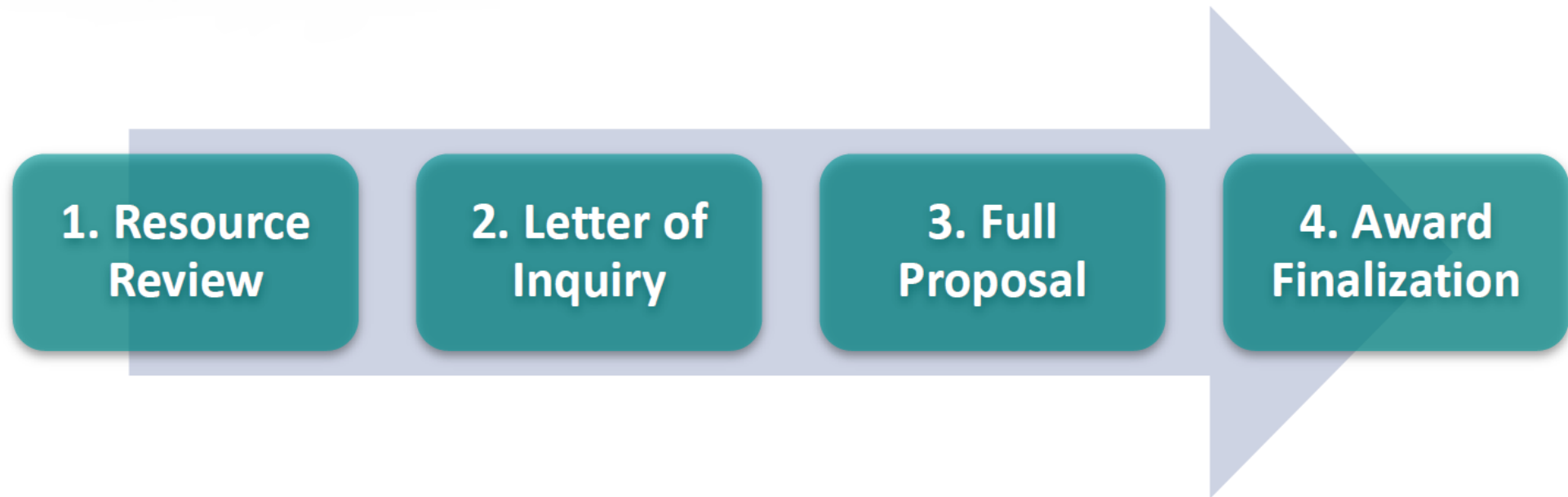
- ✔ Funds well-designed and rigorous studies of the bar examination
- ✔ Examples of focus include predictors of bar exam performance; bar exam test design and/or efficacy; and successful study or preparation methodologies
- ✔ Proposals focusing on other relevant aspects of the bar exam are also welcomed

Bar Success Research Grant Requirements

To be fundable, proposals must:

- ✔ Have a duration of 12–24 months and seek funding in the amount of \$150,000–\$300,000
- ✔ Include a clear research design using appropriate methodologies

Grant Application Process



Resource Review

AccessLex reviews grant proposals from its member law schools and other U.S.-based nonprofit and public organizations.

The grant application process is divided into two phases:

- ✔ Letter of Inquiry (LOI)
- ✔ Full proposal

Letter of Inquiry (LOI)

The LOI should include:

- ✔ General information about your program/project and your proposal
- ✔ Key elements of the intervention or research design
- ✔ Purpose of your proposal
- ✔ Structure and implementation of your proposal
- ✔ Allocation of funds in the event of an award

Full Proposal

The full proposal should:

- ① Build on, elaborate, and clarify information about the intervention or study
- ② Include detailed timelines for completion, including milestones
- ③ Provide a detailed and comprehensive budget that includes:
 - ☑ Direct costs (e.g., staff salaries, travel, and research consultants)
 - ☑ Indirect costs (e.g., facilities, IT equipment, and administration support)

Award Finalization

If selected as a grant award finalist, applicants:

- ✔ Are required to enter into a written agreement for each grant awarded
- ✔ Will have 90 days from the date they receive a funding invitation to fully execute the grant agreement before the award offer expires
- ✔ Must follow the provisions regarding publicity and the publication of interim and final research results

Recent Application Trends

	2022	2023	2024
LOIs Received	17	10	27
Full Proposals Received	4	3	4
Proposals Funded	2	1	2

Proposals **Funded**

2022

- University of Miami
- Willamette University

2023

- Hampton University

2024

- The Law College Association of the University of Arizona (LCA) on behalf of the James E. Rogers College of Law
- TBD

ELEMENTS OF A STRONG PROPOSAL

Intervention-based Proposals Should Have:

- ✔ Clear statement of goals, objectives and expected outcomes
- ✔ Clearly defined scope and participant eligibility
- ✔ Specific focus on a manageable number of program components
- ✔ Rigorous assessment and evaluation plan
- ✔ Well-defined and realistic timetable for completion
- ✔ Emphasis on generalizability, scalability, and sustainability

Clear Statement of Goals, **Objectives,** and Expected **Outcomes**

1. Think carefully about the problem or issue that your program seeks to address
2. Focus on measurable objectives and realistic expected outcomes for the intervention

Clearly Defined Scope and Participant Eligibility

1. Think carefully about the scope of your program and its relationship to the goals, objectives, and expected outcomes
2. Think carefully about the number of participants your program will serve
3. The target population should be law students and/or law graduates who are at-risk of not passing the bar exam or institutions with ultimate bar examination passage rates that fall below 70%

Specific Focus on a Manageable Number of **Program Components**

1. Focus on the most important elements of your program and how they are relevant to the intervention
2. Should be directly aligned with goals, objectives, and expected outcomes

Rigorous Assessment and **Evaluation Plan**

1. What data are you planning to collect?
2. Assessments can include formative (process-based) and/or summative (outcome-based) evaluations.
3. Is there assessment/evaluation expertise on the grantee team?

Well-defined and Realistic **Timetable for Completion**

1. Is the research or intervention achievable within the grant program timeline?
2. Does your timeline make sense in the context of preparation for the bar examination?
3. Does your program give participants sufficient time to absorb content and undertake program activities?

Emphasis on Generalizability, **Scalability, and Sustainability**

1. Can your proposal help contribute to bar success best practices?

2. What are your strategies for funding and continuing the program beyond the expiration of any grant funds from AccessLex?

Research-based Proposals Should Have:

- ✔ Clear statement of research questions and theoretical framework
- ✔ Clear statement of data collection and analysis methods
- ✔ Clearly defined scope and participant eligibility
- ✔ Sound research design and methodology
- ✔ Well-defined and realistic timetable for completion

Additional Considerations

Applicants who are invited to submit a full proposal for the Bar Success Intervention Grant Program will be required to:



Work with an independent evaluation consultant to develop evaluation questions and plans for data collection and analysis



Upload a proposed monthly timeline of program and assessment activities throughout the duration of the grant period

Final Recommendations



Plan ahead



Proofread



Seek
feedback

Bar Success Grant Application Review Schedule

LOI Accepted	Proposal Invitation Notification	Full Proposal Deadline	Funding Invitations Announced
March 17, 2025 through April 20, 2025	On or before June 20, 2025	August 29, 2025	On or before October 31, 2025

Please note that the dates above are subject to change.

Application Resources

Applicants can preview the grant programs' LOI forms and Full Proposal applications on the website.



Learn more about our grant application policy, frequently asked questions, and other resources for current and potential grantees at: **AccessLex.org/grant-programs**

QUESTIONS?

Grants@accesslex.org



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THANK YOU!

Please visit **AccessLex.org**

