

I am pleased to inform you that we have secured approval from the Office of State Comptroller for the release of ILS Distribution #8. On September 22, 2017, the Indigent Legal Services Board authorized the distribution of \$46,464,684 over three years (\$15,488,228 per year) to counties and New York City to improve the quality of mandated representation within each locality. The annual amount and the three-year total of state funding for which each locality may apply are set forth in the attachment above.

To receive these funds, a county or city must engage in meaningful consultation with the leader of each provider of representation under article 18-B of the County Law, and as a result of that consultation must submit a three-year plan to the Office of Indigent Legal Services (ILS) demonstrating that the funding provided will be used to improve the quality of services under that law. This submission must include a narrative describing how each component of the plan will improve the quality of services.

Please note that Distribution #8 is a new authorization for the funding you have been receiving under Distribution #5, for which the contract period is due to expire on December 31, 2017. Thus, in your consultations, you will want to review your current uses of Distribution #5 funding to determine whether you will seek its continuation in whole or in part under Distribution #8.

Once we have reviewed each proposal and are satisfied that it is the product of meaningful consultation and that the funds sought will be used to improve the quality of services, we will consider the approval of the proposal. Once approved, the terms of the proposal will be formalized in a contract, which will include a Budget and Work Plan to govern the expenditures made pursuant to it. To expedite this process, I encourage you to include a fully developed Budget and Work Plan in your proposal.

Please submit your proposals **as soon as they are ready, or by the close of business on February 2, 2018** to Jennifer Colvin (Jennifer.Colvin@ils.ny.gov) and Joe Wierschem (Joseph.Wierschem@ils.ny.gov). We look forward to working with you once again to improve the quality of legally mandated representation in your county or city.

Best wishes and happy holidays to everyone,

Bill