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Over \$3,000,000 Awarded from the Tennessee IOLTA Program

Nashville, TN – The Tennessee Bar Foundation announces awards totaling **over \$3 million** from the IOLTA program, specifically designed for charitable legal aid organizations and programs that provide vital legal services and improve the administration of justice across Tennessee.

This grant amount for 2025 is the largest in the 37-year history of IOLTA in Tennessee and results from higher interest rates paid by financial institutions on the funds in lawyer trust accounts. The total amount awarded through IOLTA grants has now passed \$30,000,000 since the Foundation's inception.

"Many Tennesseans face serious civil legal issues, such as escaping situations of domestic violence or elder abuse, and simply cannot afford to hire an attorney," said Jacqueline B. Dixon, chair of the board of trustees for the Tennessee Bar Foundation. "IOLTA is there to provide resources that help organizations meet their mission to provide legal representation to low income and vulnerable people and improve the administration of justice."

The IOLTA program awarded grants to 41 different projects, supporting organizations serving major cities and smaller towns, collectively reaching all 95 Tennessee counties. For example, the Community Legal Center in Memphis provides crucial civil legal services to low-income individuals and those at risk. The Avalon Center in Crossville continues its vital work helping victims of domestic violence access information and navigate the legal system.

"From Memphis to Jonesborough, programs across Tennessee bridge the gap to access to justice for impoverished, vulnerable, and at-risk communities," said John Murphy, the Foundation's executive director. "They are improving the administration of justice daily, and we're excited to support their critical work."

The projects provide an array of services, including individual legal representation in a variety of settings, dispute mediation, assistance for survivors of domestic violence, immigration counseling, and housing advocacy.

Visit our website to see the full list of grant recipients and learn more about the Foundation's mission:

<https://www.tnbarfoundation.org/iolta/#iolta-grants>

About the Tennessee Bar Foundation

The Tennessee Bar Foundation was established in 1982. The core of its mission is to support law-related public interest projects and to administer Tennessee's IOLTA program which was created by the Tennessee Supreme Court. The interest earned on lawyer trust "IOLTA" accounts is the source of revenue for Tennessee's IOLTA program, which provides grants to charitable legal aid organizations and programs.

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