

\$250,000 GRANT UP FOR GRABS UNDER JUSTICE INNOVATION FUND

Tech heads, legal eagles and humanitarians across the state are being urged to get involved in the NSW Government's latest round of the Access to Justice Innovation Fund.

The \$250,000 grants program aims to reduce barriers to the justice system for those who need it most through tech-savvy solutions.

The Government has pledged \$1 million over four years to the AJIF, with applications for the second round of funding open from 1 February 2021 until 15 March 2021.

Grants of between \$50,000 and \$250,000 will be awarded to ideas for low cost, high impact projects targeting socially and economically disadvantaged communities.

Lawyers, community groups, coders and social entrepreneurs are encouraged to submit inventive proposals that improve the way legal problems are resolved, or help people navigate the justice system.

In December [Marrickville Legal Centre launched online chatbot NALA](#) (New Age Legal Assistant) after becoming the first \$250,000 grant recipient.

The LegalBot technology harnesses artificial intelligence to help vulnerable clients and is capable of being rolled out at Community Legal Centres across the State.

NALA answers commonly-asked questions in real time, automating straightforward administrative tasks such as traffic fines and rental bond issues. This frees up Community Legal Centre staff to assist clients personally with more complex problems, slashing wait times for hundreds of people each week.

The NSW Government is now on the hunt for the next big idea, and priority will be given to initiatives that address access to justice issues for regional communities, Indigenous Australians or groups experiencing hardship.

Grant entrants must be a non-government organisation, not-for-profit organisation, or a business that provides services to people living in NSW. Private individuals wishing to apply may only do so through partnership with an organisational entity.

To apply online, visit: <https://www.justice.nsw.gov.au/lrb/Pages/access-to-justice-innovation-fund.aspx>

For more information on the application process, email: accesstojusticegrants@justice.nsw.gov.au