



PLF 2023–2024 Home Equity Theft Partnership Grant Opportunity

Purpose: Pacific Legal Foundation seeks six to eight SPN affiliate organizations to partner on meaningful state home equity theft (HET) reform via a comprehensive policy framework intended to end HET, improve foreclosure notices, and better protect taxpayers' property rights.

Eligibility: This competitive grant program is open to all affiliate members of SPN. A limited number of organizations will be selected for grant awards of up to \$5,000.

Additional information: On May 25, 2023, the Supreme Court of the United States issued its unanimous decision in *Tyler v. Hennepin County*, holding that the practice of government taking more than it is owed when it collects back taxes—better known as home equity theft—violates the U.S. Constitution. This decision requires legislatures in non-compliant states to act to reform their forfeiture laws—otherwise, these states face millions of dollars in claims from property owners who are deprived of their equity. It is past time to act, both to protect private property and to protect the government from extensive monetary liability. PLF has been fighting HET for a decade and has unparalleled expertise in HET policy.

Here's where you come in: PLF believes the most effective way to immediately end HET and strengthen private property protections is to collaborate with our allies who share our commitment to property rights and have superior local knowledge and beneficial relationships in their communities. Combining forces with state policy organizations to best leverage our respective resources and comparative advantages is a recipe for success. The top priorities of this partnership program will be: educating policymakers about the constitutional implications of HET, enacting real policy reforms, and promoting our state-based partners.

In addition to the financial grant, PLF will provide:

- Assistance with messaging HET reform and individual policies
- Assistance in analyzing your state's laws regarding HET and suggested policies
- Support with technical review of bills
- Media support, including assistance with op-ed drafting and placement
- Committee testimony, as requested
- Flights, hotel, and meals for one person from your organization and two state legislators (to the extent allowed by state law) to attend a policy retreat October 23-24, 2023, in Denver, CO
- Funding for a co-sponsored event to promote these policy reforms in your state

Expectations for grantees:

- Participation in a joint plan of action for specific HET reform, including research and coalition development
- Promotion of the framework via traditional media, existing organizational communications channels, and legislative outreach
- Attendance at a PLF-hosted policy retreat October 23-24, 2023, in Denver, CO
- Securing two reform-minded legislators to attend PLF's policy retreat (preferably relevant committee chairs or legislators in leadership)



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- Hosting a co-sponsored event, meal, or briefing funded by PLF to promote HET reform in your state
- Communication with the PLF team regarding any legislative action on HET reforms in your state

Application Instructions: As part of the application process, you will need to submit a brief (one to two-page) project outline describing:

- Why your organization is particularly well positioned to lead HET reform in your state
- The circumstances in your state that will allow you to be successful
- Lists of existing contacts with policymakers and partner organization who can champion reform
- How your organization would meet the expectations for grantees outlined above

To apply: With questions and to apply, please email Daniel Dew at ddew@pacificlegal.org