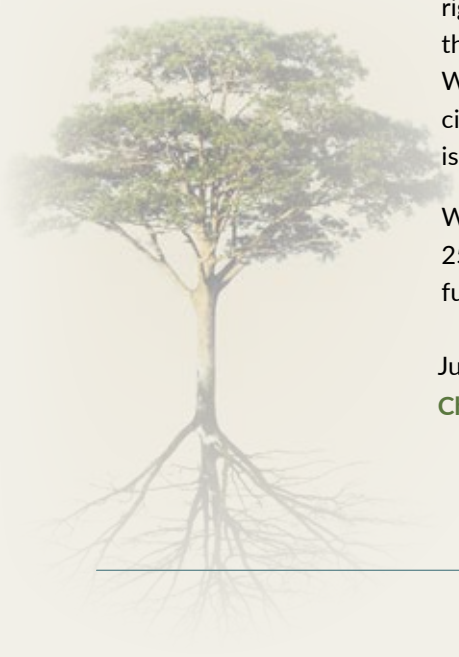
NORTH CAROLINA
IOLTA

A Vital Funder *of* Civil Legal Aid

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Message From *the* Leadership

Upholding the promise of equal access to justice for all



Our shared commitment to helping ensure all North Carolinians have equal access to justice has its roots in the late 19th century, when the first legal aid societies in the United States formed to provide legal assistance in civil cases such as domestic violence, debt collection and employment disputes. Following the growth of independent programs across the country, the Legal Services Corporation was established in 1974 under President Richard Nixon, ensuring federal funding and support for the role of legal aid organizations in providing access to the justice system.

From the earliest origins through today's modern structure, the foundation of civil legal aid was built upon the founding principles made manifest in the United States Constitution, bearing the original American promise: "justice for all." In addition to the deep support of the legal profession, resources — public and private, charitable and governmental — have been critical to providing access to legal services.

What else has been vital to upholding this promise of justice for all? The innovative contribution generated by interest earned on lawyers' trust accounts, known as IOLTA, a proven nationwide model.

In our state, NC IOLTA has worked for more than 40 years to create a North Carolina where all people can fairly navigate the justice system to have their basic needs met and rights protected. Funding from NC IOLTA ensures our neighbors in all 100 counties get the legal services they need to successfully raise families and build thriving communities. Without legal assistance, families can lose their home, income and children. In that way, civil legal aid isn't merely an ideal. Civil legal aid is shelter, stability and health. Legal aid is community.

We at NC IOLTA are grateful to our partners who bring us closer every day to that nearly 250-year-old promise of "justice for all," and we remain committed to serving as a vital funder of civil legal aid.

Judge John Arrowood
Chair, Board of Trustees

Mary L. Irvine
Executive Director

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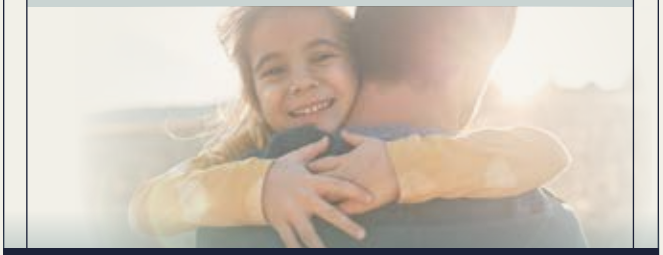
Explore NC IOLTA's Impact

Civil Legal Aid Grants

In 2025, NC IOLTA distributed more than $11 million in Civil Legal Aid grants, which provide basic access to the justice system for low-income individuals, families and children residing in North Carolina.

Our funding helped to support these outcomes for North Carolinians in 2025.

94,696



Household Members Benefited

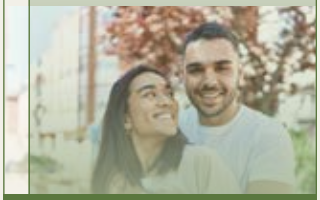
345

Homes Saved *from* Foreclosure

564

Wills Obtained

79,984



Individuals Attending Online *or* In-Person Community Education Sessions

3,184

Domestic Violence Protective Orders Secured

6,327

Evictions Prevented

43,061

Clients Provided Direct Representation

16,311

Pro Bono Hours *of* Service Provided

LANCMobile: Delivering Services *to* Rural Communities

Staff and pro bono attorneys aboard the LANCMobile visited **42 counties,** participated in **47 community events** and came into contact with nearly **5,000 individuals** across North Carolina.

Legal Aid of North Carolina's mobile legal services unit — the LANCMobile, which launched in mid-2024 and played a critical role in the nonprofit's response to Hurricane Helene that fall — continued to make a difference in underserved communities throughout the state in 2025.

With operations funded in part by an NC IOLTA Civil Legal Aid grant, the LANCMobile has proven to be an essential component of LANC's focus on rural services. Staff and pro bono attorneys aboard the LANCMobile visited 42 counties, participated in 47 community events and came into contact with nearly 5,000 individuals across North Carolina.

"These engagements not only increased awareness of LANC's services but also improved our ability to identify unmet legal needs in rural communities and connect residents with appropriate resources," LANC staff shared with NC IOLTA.

New on board in 2025 was Mobile Outreach Coordinator Juanita Thomas, who manages the mobile unit's statewide operations — from scheduling and coordinating with community partners to driving the van to events all across the state.

"Juanita's deep commitment to community engagement and her ability to build and strengthen partnerships have substantially increased the effectiveness and reach of the LANCMobile," the organization reported. "Under her leadership, LANC has expanded collaboration with local agencies, nonprofits and grassroots organizations that serve low-income and rural residents."

"I Decided *to* Represent Her Pro Bono"

LANC Volunteer Commits to Complex Case

After meeting with Gina, who fled her home following a harrowing assault by her husband, attorney Susan Yanagi stayed by her side through both a DVPO hearing and a custody trial.

CONTENT WARNING:
This story includes an account of domestic violence.

When Safe Alliance, a 2025 NC IOLTA grantee that provides domestic violence services, first contacted Legal Aid of North Carolina volunteer attorney Susan Yanagi about Gina's* case, the complaint she received suggested that legal advice was likely all that was needed.

But as the details of Gina's harrowing assault at the hands of her husband emerged, Susan recalled, "I saw the case was more complex. I decided to represent her pro bono."

Gina was awarded sole physical and legal custody of their child — and was given permission to move out of state. They're now safely living with family.

Gina shared that her husband had beaten her repeatedly, and in the last assault — which took place in front of their toddler — he had held a gun to her head and a knife to her throat. When Gina grabbed the child and fled, he chased them in his vehicle, attempting to run them over.

Gina reported the abuse to the police and decided to seek a domestic violence protective order (DVPO) and legal custody of the couple's child. But it wasn't until she met with Susan, who gently earned her trust, that **she shared a detail that would prove critical to her case: a crib camera in their toddler's bedroom had captured both the assault and the child's voice begging him to stop.**

At the hearing, Susan obtained the DVPO and a temporary custody order, but Gina's husband denied her version of events and filed for custody himself, insisting on a trial to settle the matter.

Susan, who works at Epperson Law Group, agreed to represent Gina in this case as well.

The video provided the evidence Gina needed to win the case. While her husband had been given the opportunity to view the video prior to trial, he chose not to, and the version of events he gave as testimony was proven by the video to be false.

"That didn't help his case," Susan remembered. **"The judge said she'd never seen anything like this [assault] in her 17 years on the bench."**

Gina was awarded sole physical and legal custody of their child — and was given permission to move out of state. They're now safely living with family. "She's happy and doing well and thinking about going back to school," Susan said.

Reflecting on the case, Susan said building trust with this client was "crucial."

"Gina was very embarrassed to have found herself in this position. She had kept quiet about the abuse to keep up the facade that their life was perfect," Susan said. "I got personal with her, told her a little about my own story, and she realized I wasn't going to judge her. That's when she shared the video with me.

"It really shows that if you're willing to be vulnerable with clients in these situations, they'll be vulnerable with you."

**To protect the client's identity, a pseudonym and stock photo have been used.*

Case shared by Legal Aid of NC, a 2025 NC IOLTA grantee. Story is excerpted from content that originally appeared in the NC State Bar's 2024-25 Domestic Violence Victim Assistance Act report, "Combating Domestic Violence With Legal Services." *See p. 15 for more information.*

Explore NC IOLTA's Impact

2025 Civil Legal Aid Grantees

These legal services providers and other organizations work to ensure that low-income and financially vulnerable North Carolinians have access to the justice system.

Amica Center for Immigrant Rights

$55,000 Civil Legal Aid grant funding supports the Immigration Impact Lab.

Carolina Migrant Network

$55,000 Civil Legal Aid grant funding supports immigration legal representation.

Carolina Parent Defenders

$99,000 Civil Legal Aid grant funding supports pre-petition advocacy for indigent parents.

Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy

$765,000 Civil Legal Aid grant funding supports programs including health care, housing, immigrant justice, low-income taxpayers and veterans. This amount included a system support grant for organizational capacity building.

Children's Law Center of Central North Carolina

$85,000 Civil Legal Aid grant funding supports legal services for children in high-conflict custody cases. This amount included a system support grant for strategic planning.

Church World Service Greensboro

$50,000 Civil Legal Aid grant funding supports the Immigration Legal Services program.

Council for Children's Rights, Inc.*

$135,000 Civil Legal Aid grant funding supports the Custody Advocacy Program and the Education Law Program.

Disability Rights North Carolina

$550,000 Civil Legal Aid grant funding supports the Special Education Juvenile Justice Project and the Homelessness Prevention Project. This amount included a system support grant for technology upgrades.

Financial Protection Law Center

$75,000 Civil Legal Aid grant funding supports programs to preserve homeownership and property and to protect families from predatory financial practices.

Home Defense Project

$600,000 Civil Legal Aid grant funding supports six legal agencies working to preserve homeownership and housing stability for financially vulnerable and economically disadvantaged North Carolinians.

Inner Banks Legal Services

$110,000 Civil Legal Aid grant funding supports legal services in the area of family law.

* *Effective July 17, 2025, Council for Children's Rights ceased programming and subsequently closed. The Education Law Program was transferred to Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy, which utilized remaining grant funds to support that project.*

International House of Metrolina

$55,000 Civil Legal Aid grant funding supports the Immigration Law Clinic.

JusticeMatters

$240,000 Civil Legal Aid grant funding supports advocacy for survivors of human trafficking. This amount included a system support grant for organizational capacity building.

Land Loss Prevention Project

$100,000 Civil Legal Aid grant funding supports advocacy for family farmers and landowners.

Legal Aid of North Carolina

$5,325,000 Civil Legal Aid grant funding supports programs including domestic violence, education, employment, health care, housing, public benefits and seniors. This amount included a grant to support access to legal aid for rural communities and a system support grant for technology upgrades.

National Health Law Program (NHeLP)

$50,000 Civil Legal Aid grant funding supports legal assistance related to health care access.

North Carolina Equal Access to Justice Commission

$160,000 Civil Legal Aid grant funding supports the North Carolina Pro Bono Resource Center, which encourages and facilitates pro bono legal service among North Carolina attorneys.

North Carolina Equal Justice Alliance

$124,952 Civil Legal Aid grant funding supports operating expenses for the Alliance, which serves to coordinate a sustained, comprehensive, integrated, statewide system to provide the most effective legal services to low-income North Carolinians.

North Carolina Justice Center

$1,070,000 Civil Legal Aid grant funding supports the litigation team. This amount included a system support grant for technology upgrades.

North Carolina Prisoner Legal Services

$66,500 Civil Legal Aid grant funding supports the Safe and Humane Jails Project. This amount included a system support grant for organizational capacity building.

Pisgah Legal Services

$1,160,000 Civil Legal Aid grant funding supports programs including children's law, domestic violence prevention, expunctions, health care, housing and more. This amount included a system support grant for organizational capacity building.

Safe Alliance

$100,000 Civil Legal Aid grant funding supports legal services for individuals impacted by domestic violence and sexual assault.

U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants

$55,000 Civil Legal Aid grant funding supports the Humanitarian Legal Services program.

World Relief Durham

$55,000 Civil Legal Aid grant funding supports the Immigration Legal Services program.

Learn more about the impact of our 2025 grantees at nciolta.org/grantees.

Explore NC IOLTA's Impact

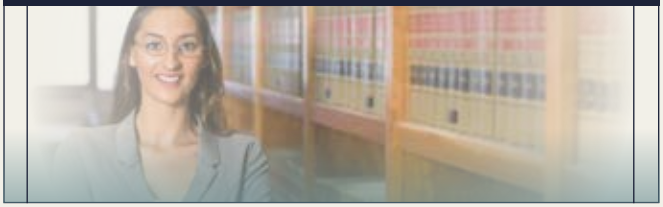
Administration of Justice Grants

In 2025, NC IOLTA distributed nearly $850,000 in Administration of Justice grants, which seek to improve the administration of justice in North Carolina through a variety of programs that have a statewide impact or provide seed funding to pilot an innovative program in a local area.

Our funding helped to support these outcomes for North Carolinians in 2025.

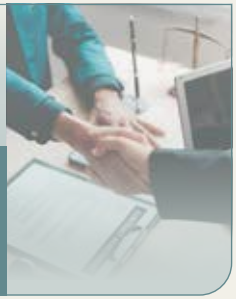
2,940

hours of pro bono service provided to assess actual innocence claims



8,723+

participants engaging in mediation or other dispute-resolution approaches



18

NC judges trained in trauma-informed practices

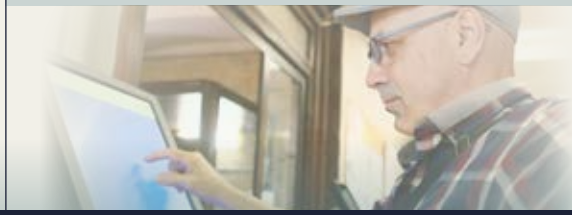
172

lawyers and law students supported in public interest careers and legal desert service

1,091

high school students learning about the law through NC Mock Trial program

13,373



self-represented litigants in Wake County provided with resources and assistance

NC LEAF:
Making It Easier *to* Make a Difference

The educational loan repayment assistance program empowers North Carolina lawyers to dedicate their careers to public service.

Since 1990, the North Carolina Legal Education Assistance Foundation — known as NC LEAF — has eased the burden of law school debt for North Carolina attorneys with a passion for public interest law.

"Student debt is widely cited as a key obstacle to retaining assistant district attorneys and assistant public defenders," Leigh Wicclair, NC LEAF's executive director, said. "A key component of NC LEAF is keeping well-trained attorneys in their jobs, which strengthens the delivery of justice in our courts and helps ensure that North Carolinians have a skilled, dedicated attorney in their corner when they need it most."

In 2025, NC IOLTA's Administration of Justice grant funding contributed to the nonprofit's support of 106 participants — 45 assistant district attorneys, 26 assistant public defenders, 19 nonprofit attorneys, and 16 attorneys serving in judicial and other public interest roles. Their service spans 70 of North Carolina's 100 counties, including many that are experiencing a shortage of attorneys.

"The burden of student loan debt drives many attorneys away from rural communities and toward large-firm jobs in cities, causing legal deserts and exacerbating economic strain," Wicclair noted. "NC LEAF helps fill these vacancies, ensuring that rural communities have access to critical legal services."

NCLEAF

NC LEAF helps recruit and retain public interest attorneys by providing loan repayment assistance for law school debt.

"A Frontline Resource *to* People *in* Need": Wake County Legal Support Center

The center — a free resource hub for self-represented litigants — builds on its success with NC IOLTA-funded website upgrades and translation of materials into additional languages.

Wake County Legal Support Center Director Anh LyJordan, at center, stands with center staff Faith Reeves and Julissa Corporan.

"The process of representing yourself can be very intimidating and overwhelming," Jared Graham*, a Wake County self-represented litigant, said of his experiences in civil court.

While many North Carolinians navigate such legal matters on their own — often because they can't afford an attorney's help — the prospect can indeed be daunting.

At every step, whether it's a divorce or child custody agreement, a pending eviction or foreclosure, a contract dispute or another civil matter, the stakes are high.

That's why the North Carolina Equal Access to Justice Commission, charged with identifying and implementing strategies to increase access to justice across the state, has made it a priority to develop resources that support residents as they address problems through legal processes.

One innovative program resulting from that work is the Wake County Legal Support Center, which opened in January 2023. Housed in the Wake County Courthouse in downtown Raleigh, the center is a free, walk-in resource hub where self-represented, or pro se, litigants can access online tools, get help filling out forms, learn more about how their cases will be adjudicated and receive referrals for attorneys and other services. Trained volunteers also assist visitors in using Odyssey, the state's new e-filing system.

As 2026 approached, staff continued to expand the center's offerings to improve access to justice for pro se litigants in Wake County and beyond — including NC IOLTA-funded website upgrades and translation of key materials into additional languages.

In its first two years, the center served more than 22,000 residents, with community outreach programming making these resources available to even more county residents.

"We're a frontline resource to people in need," attorney Anh LyJordan, the center's director, noted. "We can put them in touch with community partners who can provide further support across a range of services."

In June 2025, LyJordan and team rolled out the Legal Hand Call-In Center, a first-of-its-kind resource in the state offering free legal information, live assistance and referrals via phone, text or email. The resource provides a critical service at a time when nearly half of NC's counties, most of them rural, are experiencing a shortage of attorneys.

"In the first six months, we had 721 calls from 48 different counties, and that's with no real advertising," LyJordan said. "The statewide reach of the call center has helped us understand the issues facing access to justice across North Carolina."

The call-in center is also a boon for Wake County residents for whom transportation, parking and accessibility are concerns.

"Coming to the courthouse is a barrier for so many people," LyJordan said. "Even people who've been to the Wake County Legal Support Center [before] can use the call center to avoid having to return downtown."

As 2026 approached, staff continued to expand the center's offerings to improve access to justice for pro se litigants in Wake County and beyond — including NC IOLTA-funded website upgrades and translation of key materials into additional languages.

"As demand grows, our responsibility to meet people where they are becomes even more urgent," LyJordan said. "Every step is about ensuring that rising need is met with real, practical access to justice."

**To protect the visitor's identity, a pseudonym has been used.*

Explore NC IOLTA's Impact

2025 Administration of Justice Grantees

These organizations seek to improve the administration of justice for all North Carolinians through alternative dispute resolution, education, training and other programs with an emphasis on supporting an effective and timely justice system.

Bolch Judicial Institute of Duke University School of Law

$42,000 Administration of Justice grant funding supports the Trauma-Informed Courts project to educate and train North Carolina judges in applying trauma-informed practices to courts.

Dispute Settlement Center

$50,000 Administration of Justice grant funding supports restorative justice processes in Orange County.

Incubator for Legal Practice and Innovation

$15,000 Administration of Justice grant funding supports a program for entrepreneurial attorneys building law practices that serve underserved communities.

Mediation Network of North Carolina

$39,000 Administration of Justice grant funding supports a network of mediation centers across the state and their district criminal court mediation services.

North Carolina Center on Actual Innocence

$50,000 Administration of Justice grant funding supports a program identifying, investigating and litigating credible claims of innocence.

North Carolina Dispute Resolution Commission

$100,000 Administration of Justice grant funding supports a pilot program to provide district criminal court mediation at no cost to participants.

North Carolina Equal Access to Justice Commission

$110,000 Administration of Justice grant funding supports the Wake County Legal Support Center, a resource hub in the courthouse for self-represented litigants.

NC LEAF (North Carolina Legal Education Assistance Foundation)

$110,000 Administration of Justice grant funding supports the educational loan repayment assistance program, which makes it easier for attorneys pursuing careers in public service to remain in these critical roles without being encumbered by debt.

North Carolina Mock Trial Program

$35,000 Administration of Justice grant funding supports operating expenses to expand the statewide program for high school students to include more teams from rural counties.

North Carolina Office of Indigent Defense Services

- $160,000 Administration of Justice grant funding supports a Recruitment and Training Coordinator position aimed at improving retention and effectiveness of attorneys providing public defense.
- $33,800 Administration of Justice grant funding to the Office of the Juvenile Defender supports the expansion of the roster of qualified juvenile attorneys.

Religious Coalition for a Nonviolent Durham

$55,000 Administration of Justice grant funding supports the Restorative Justice Durham project, an alternative process in Durham's criminal justice system to repair harms.

University of North Carolina Criminal Justice Innovation Lab

$30,000 Administration of Justice grant funding supports technical assistance to court improvement projects in rural, underserved Eastern North Carolina counties.

Learn more about the impact of our 2025 grantees at nciolta.org/grantees.

NC IOLTA's Public Interest Internship Program

An additional $241,945 was allocated to the state's six accredited law schools to fund the 2025 Public Interest Internship Program, which provides stipends for students to work alongside legal aid attorneys, district attorneys and public defenders, and judicial offices in North Carolina communities experiencing a shortage of legal professionals.

As the second cohort of this program, 36 rising second- and third-year law students at Campbell University, Duke University, Elon University, North Carolina Central University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Wake Forest University received funding to serve in North Carolina counties classified as legal deserts.

Defined as areas that have less than one lawyer per 1,000 residents, legal deserts — which can occur anywhere but are often rural areas — see a significant portion of needs in both civil and criminal matters go unmet. This program works to address the dearth of lawyers practicing in such communities by providing interns the opportunity to live and work there while serving in critical public interest roles.

As NC IOLTA Executive Director Mary Irvine explained, "The internship experiences can have a really significant impact on students' future career paths. Those early experiences in the law result in long-term relationships, community connections, interest in particular areas of practice and commitment to supporting underserved individuals."

Combating Domestic Violence *With Legal Services*

Each year, funding from North Carolina's Domestic Violence Victim Assistance Act provides legal aid to help survivors of domestic violence and their children escape abuse and rebuild their lives.

NC IOLTA administers this funding on behalf of the North Carolina State Bar.

In the state's most recent fiscal year, 2024-25, **$862,856** was distributed: **$44,770** to Pisgah Legal Services to serve Buncombe, Henderson, Madison, Polk, Rutherford and Transylvania counties, and **$818,086** to Legal Aid of North Carolina to serve all other counties.

These resources made it possible for these legal aid providers to close 9,170 cases, including:

- Obtaining domestic violence protective orders for **5,046** survivors
- Protecting custody rights for **452** survivors
- Securing essential property and income for **167** survivors
- Enforcing housing rights for **200** survivors

Learn more at nciolta.org/2024-25-domestic-violence-victim-assistance-act-report.

IOLTA Accounts: Expanding Access *to* Justice, Building Strong Communities

Funding provided from IOLTA accounts comes at no cost to lawyers, their clients or North Carolina taxpayers. In partnership with financial institutions and lawyers who set up IOLTA accounts, we at NC IOLTA help create a North Carolina where all individuals, families and children can fairly navigate the justice system, ensuring that their basic needs are met and their rights are protected. Lawyers retain the discretion to set up dedicated trust accounts for clients when the amount held is sufficient to earn interest as an investment for the client.

Our **Prime Partners and Benchmark Banks** go above and beyond the eligibility requirements of the IOLTA rule by setting higher interest rates on IOLTA accounts. This boost in funding enables NC IOLTA to maximize grants that support access to legal aid around important civil matters and basic human rights including housing and shelter, family safety and health care.

We'd like to recognize our banking partners for their commitment to expanding access to justice and building strong, equitable communities across North Carolina.

PRIME PARTNERS

Pay the higher of 75% of the Federal Funds Rate or 0.75%

ABNB Federal Credit Union

Roxboro Savings Bank
Come closer to home

WELLS FARGO

BENCHMARK BANKS

Pay the higher of 65% of the Federal Funds Rate or 0.65%

American Bank of The Carolinas
American Pride Bank
Bank of America
Bank of Oak Ridge
Blue Ridge Bank
Huntington National Bank
JP Morgan Chase
Live Oak Bank
New Republic Bank
Pinnacle Bank
PNC Bank
Regions Bank
Triad Business Bank

OTHER ELIGIBLE BANKS

Allegacy Federal Credit Union
Ameris Bank
Atlantic Union Bank
Bank OZK
Benchmark Community Bank
BlueHarbor Bank
Capital Bank NA
Carter Bank & Trust
Coastal Federal Credit Union
Commercial Bank
Encore Bank
Farmers & Merchants Bank
Fidelity Bank
Fifth Third Bank
First Bank
First Bank & Trust Co. of Virginia
First Bank of the Commonwealth
First Capital Bank
First Carolina Bank
First Citizens Bank
First Community Bank
First Federal Bank
First Federal Savings Bank of Lincolnton
First Horizon Bank
First National Bank of PA
First Reliance Bank
HomeTrust Bank
KS Bank
LifeStore Bank
Lumbee Guaranty Bank
Mechanics and Farmers Bank
Morganton Savings Bank
Nantahala Bank
North State Bank
Oakworth Capital Bank
Paragon Bank
Park National Bank
Peoples Bank
Piedmont Federal Bank
Providence Bank
Riverside Savings Bank
ServisFirst Bank
Skyline National Bank
Southern Bank
Southern First Bank
SouthState Bank
Taylorsville Savings Bank
TD Bank
TowneBank
Truist Bank
TruPoint Bank
United Bank
United Community Bank
US Bank
Uwharrie Bank

SETTLEMENT AGENTS ONLY

In addition to the banks on the Eligible Bank List, settlement agents may maintain accounts at banks that do not have a branch in North Carolina. Settlement Agent Accounts are defined as accounts maintained by settlement agents that are not associated with an attorney licensed in North Carolina.

PRIME PARTNERS

Forbright BANK

servbank

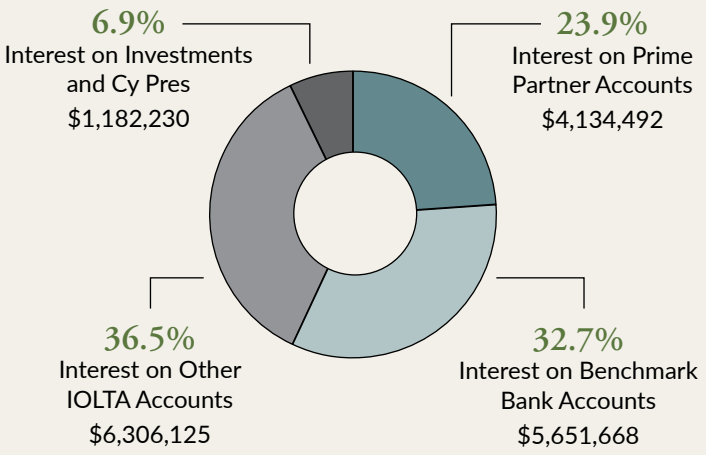
Other Eligible Banks

Associated Bank
Bank of Georgetown
BankUnited
Citibank
Customers Bank PA
First American Trust
Integrity Bank for Business
MVB Bank

List of banking partners as of June 1, 2026. For the most current information, visit nciolta.org/trust-accounts.

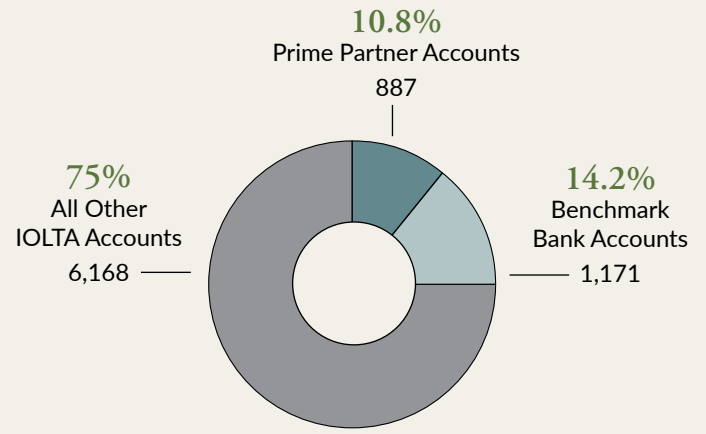
2025 Financial Information

2025 Income Earnings by Source



Total Income $17,274,515

2025 IOLTA Accounts by Bank Partnership Type



Total IOLTA Accounts: 8,226

2025 Income and Expenses

INCOME	
IOLTA participant income	$15,561,968
Settlement Agent Accounts income	$530,317
Interest on Investments	$1,181,585
Cy Pres	$645
Total Income	$17,274,515
Additional Assets	
2025 Grant Funds Returned*	$117,735
EXPENSES	
2025 Matching Grants	$0**
2026 Grant Awards	$0**
Personnel	$604,544
Non-Personnel	$165,394
Total expenses	$769,938
NET 2025 INCOME***	$16,622,312

Percent of income used for operating expenses in 2025 **4.5%**

**Grantees who are unable to use award dollars consistent with the grant agreement are required to return unused funds.*

***Per the July 2025 Public Safety Act, IOLTA funds "shall not be encumbered or expended for the purpose of awarding grants or for any purpose other than administrative costs during the period beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026." This includes $40,000 in 2025 matching grant funds met but not paid.*

****The program's net 2025 income is high due to the absence of grant awards made for 2026.*

Legislative Freeze *on* 2026 Grantmaking

The North Carolina General Assembly included a provision in the July 2025 Public Safety Act that freezes NC IOLTA grantmaking from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. Pursuant to the legislation, the 2026 grant application cycle has not been opened, and no grants have been awarded by the Board of Trustees.

As of June 1, 2026, no further legislation on this issue has been passed. NC IOLTA continues to seek a resolution to preserve funding for civil legal aid. Please visit nciolta.org/media-resources for any updates.

NC IOLTA Performance Audit Demonstrates Compliance With All Policies

On April 21, 2026, the Office of State Auditor published its report on the performance audit of NC IOLTA's grantmaking and grant monitoring for the period of Jan. 1, 2023, to June 30, 2025.

The report confirms that NC IOLTA's grantmaking complies with the current rules, policies and procedures governing the program's administration and does not identify any instance of a grantee misappropriating NC IOLTA funds.

The report offers two areas for improvement: expansion of measurable outcomes-based goals in grant applications and stricter monitoring procedures of grantee use of IOLTA funds. NC IOLTA leadership has committed to bringing these recommendations to our Board of Trustees with proposed changes to build on and strengthen existing policies.

"Since the program's inception in 1983, our board and staff have strived to follow best practices as an IOLTA program and funder," Executive Director Mary Irvine said. "We were gratified to have the opportunity to demonstrate that commitment — and our adherence to all current NC IOLTA regulations — throughout the audit. We believe this transparent and open process has provided the Office of State Auditor with a clear and thorough understanding of our important work and will result in an even stronger program going forward."

More information and any updates are available at nciolta.org/media-resources.

How NC IOLTA Supports Your Community

We partner with **financial institutions** across the state to secure the highest rates and lowest fees possible.

We assist **lawyers and law firms** with establishing mandatory interest-bearing IOLTA accounts to hold client funds. Interest from those accounts is sent to NC IOLTA.

We distribute funds to **grantees across the state** who provide legal advice and representation to low-income residents.

Access to justice can help low-income and vulnerable North Carolinians protect their rights, access resources, avoid foreclosure or eviction, and keep their families safe — so they can thrive.

NORTH CAROLINA
IOLTA

A program of the North Carolina State Bar

P.O. Box 25996, Raleigh, N.C., 27611-5996
217 E. Edenton St. (27601)

919.828.0477 • IOLTA@ncbar.gov
www.nciolta.org