**Wisconsin Trust Account Foundation (WisTAF)**

Have you ever watched an effort to protect marginalized people flounder on unforeseen obstacles?

Sometimes, achieving justice requires highly technical expertise.

That’s the idea behind *civil legal aid*: that everyone deserves access to legal expertise, information, and representation when facing a life-altering challenge related to civil law. *And many life challenges turn out to relate to civil law.*

All over Wisconsin, civil legal aid providers help low-income clients navigate the complexities of — for example — protecting their families from abuse, removing unlawful medical debt, staying in their homes, or accessing unemployment insurance.

Legal aid providers often receive support from us, the Wisconsin Trust Account Foundation, Inc. (WisTAF). The Wisconsin Supreme Court established WisTAF in 1986 to “aid in the administration of justice” via civil legal aid funding administration and grantmaking.

But we can’t guarantee justice on our own.

Despite civil legal aid being necessary for achieving equity in society — not to mention for our justice system to function — it isn’t guaranteed by current law, and is therefore underfunded. Thousands, especially women, and particularly women of color, swim unaided through seas of legal complexities.

To remedy this, WisTAF is seeking, building on, and administering grants to encourage new partnerships and support to increase access to justice. It’s an exciting time to be joining WPN.

All of us at WisTAF look forward to meeting more of our Wisconsin Philanthropic family over the months and years to come.