

UCI Pilot Project Application Questions

Thank you for your interest in IAALS' *Uncomplicated Courts Initiative* Pilot Project. This application is your opportunity to tell us about your court, your team, and why your jurisdiction is the right partner for this work. Before you begin, please review both the [pilot project page](#) and the **Request for Applications** document in their entirety.

A bit about this application:

- **Format.** The application is organized into seven sections:
 - Primary Contact
 - About Your Court
 - Target Case Type
 - Your Team & Partners
 - The Pilot
 - Data & Evaluation Capacity
 - Readiness & Capacity

Most open-response questions have a 500-word limit. Please answer every part of the question that is applicable.

- **Required attachment(s).** All applications must include a letter of support from the chief or presiding judge of the applying court and a letter of support from the court administrator or the court clerk. The letters may be submitted separately or jointly. You will be prompted to upload these documents in either Word or PDF format at the end of the survey. Applications submitted without these letters will not be reviewed.
- **Saving your progress.** You may exit and return to this survey at any time before the submission deadline.
- **Deadline.** Applications must be submitted by **October 23, 2026**, at **11:59 PM**. Late submissions will not be accepted.
- **Questions?** If you have questions about the application or pilot, [please visit this webpage](#) for more information and answers to frequently asked questions or contact Danielle Kalil at danielle.kalil@du.edu. Please do not contact NCSC or the State Justice Institute directly.

We're trying to understand your court, your team, and the problem you're positioned to take on so we can assess whether this pilot is a good fit for where you are right now.

We're not looking for courts that have already solved this problem. We're looking for courts that are honest about where their process falls short, genuinely curious about what it would take to simplify it, and ready to do that work in partnership with us. There are no trick questions here.

Primary Contact

Who will serve as the primary point of contact for this project, and approximately what percentage of their time will be dedicated to it?

- Name
- Title
- Address
- Phone
- Email
- Percentage of time

About Your Court

What court are you applying on behalf of?

- Name of court
- Chief Judge or Justice
- State or local court administrator
- Clerk (if separate elected office)
- Court website

To assess your court's authority to implement a redesigned process, we need to understand its structural and administrative context. Is the court in a unified or non-unified system? Are budgets controlled locally or at the state level? Is the clerk a separate constitutional officer? What is the process for modifying court rules and procedures? Does the court control its

own technology? Can your court receive authority to create provisional rules to implement process simplifications for this pilot?

Target Case Type

This project focuses on high-volume cases, defined as cases with high frequency, high stakes, and a high likelihood of self-representation. Eviction and consumer debt are primary examples, but any high-volume civil docket with these dynamics qualifies. **Complex civil litigation, personal injury, family law and domestic relations, and traffic cases are not eligible case types for this pilot.**

What case type are you proposing to focus on? Why?

Help us understand the scope and profile of this case type in your court. How many cases with that case type are filed in your court annually? How many judgments are entered? How many default judgments are entered? How many litigants represent themselves in this case type?

Are there specific rules or practices you believe could be simplified in your target case type? Which ones?

Your Team & Partners

We want to know who you're collaborating with and what they'll each bring to the project.

Who will be on your core team for this project? For each person, please identify their role at the court and their relationship to this project. (Team members can be internal or external partners. Examples of potential project team members can include a judge, clerk, court administrator, law library, self-help staff, court navigator, A2J staff, legal aid, community organization, bar foundation, bar association, community mediation center, private practice attorneys, etc.)

Who has decision-making authority on this project? If different from the primary point of contact, please explain how decisions will be made and who needs to be involved.

The assessment phase of this project will require coordination with community partners and outreach to self-represented litigants. What community organizations, legal aid providers, or other court-adjacent partners do you have existing relationships with? What support could you provide in reaching and engaging self-represented litigants during the assessment phase of this project?

The Pilot

We want to get a sense of what you're hoping this pilot will achieve in your court.

Why does your court want to participate in this pilot, and why now?

What do you know or suspect about where self-represented litigants struggle most in your target case type?

Have you previously attempted any reforms to help self-represented litigants in high-volume cases? If so, what did you try and what did you learn?

What's an example of a creative solution your court has implemented?

How do you plan to build buy-in across stakeholders?

Data & Evaluation Capacity

An important part of this project is setting the stage to evaluate the effectiveness of process redesign. It's important for us to understand your data infrastructure and management.

What case-level data do you currently collect on your target case type(s)? This might include filing dates, disposition dates, appearance rates, default judgment rates, continuances, and representation status.

How is this data stored? Would you be able to share this data with IAALS (and its project partners) pursuant to a data-sharing agreement? In what format(s) are you able to export it?

What case management system(s) and other data collection systems do you use? What ability do you have to add or edit fields in the case management system?



What feedback, if any, do you currently collect from court users? What types of feedback do you collect? How do you collect it? How is it stored? If you don't currently collect feedback, have you collected it in the past?

Readiness & Capacity

We want to know how to set you up for success if you're selected for this project.

What resources, support, or conditions would most help your court succeed in this project? What support will you be looking to IAALS and NCSC for?

What do you anticipate will be your greatest barrier(s) to success?

Required Attachments: Letters of Support

All applications must include (1) a letter of support from the chief or presiding judge of the applying court and (2) a letter of support from the court administrator or the court clerk. Letters may be submitted separately or jointly. Please upload as a Word document or PDF.