



RURAL SUMMER LEGAL CORPS

Ohio State Legal Services Association

Host Site

Ohio State Legal Services Association
Various offices in rural Ohio

Experience/Description

Project: Court costs

The Rural Summer Legal Corps fellow will work with Ohio State Legal Services' "Court Costs Group" out of the field office of his or her choice (Athens, Chillicothe, Marion, Newark, New Philadelphia, Portsmouth, or Steubenville). Some of the court costs issues identified by the Court Costs Group include: courts refusing to accept poverty affidavits, refusing to journalize entries or schedule hearings until costs are paid, adding "special fees" to court costs not authorized by statute, denying appointment of guardians ad litem for children in custody cases if the parents are too poor to pay, and charging for incarceration ("pay-to-stay"). The fellow will work closely with experienced poverty law advocates and participate in the office's weekly Group Case Acceptance Meeting. He or she will assist the office with cases in the project's area of focus by helping with interviewing, gathering facts and documents, and doing research. He or she will learn about Ohio's court system and the barriers faced by indigent individuals in accessing the justice system; interview individuals hurt by court costs problems; interact with various counties' clerks of court and other court personnel; help review court and public records; assist with legal research; draft letters or court pleadings and motions; and attend hearings on related issues. His or her daily work will be supervised by his or her office's managing attorney.

Project: Working with medical professionals to improve health outcomes in Appalachia

The Rural Summer Legal Corps fellow will work with Ohio State Legal Services Association's (SEOLS) Athens office on its medical/legal partnership, which is part of a multidisciplinary project titled "A Comprehensive Patient Navigation Program for Rural Appalachia." The program is targeted at addressing the high rates of diabetes in rural Ohio Appalachia. The medical partners refer Type 2 diabetes patients to Ohio State Legal Services' Athens office. The office then screens the patients for legal problems that may interfere with maintaining and complying with their medical care, or that may be causing them stress, which can aggravate diabetes. SEOLS then works to address those legal problems. The fellow will interview clients, work with community partners, do factual and legal research, and attend hearings. He or she will work closely with experienced poverty law advocates and participate in the office's weekly Group Case Acceptance Meetings. The fellow will do initial interviews and legal screening of patients in the program for legal problems, assist office attorneys with accepted cases by gathering records and documents and doing needed legal research, be a contact/resource person for the nurse navigator, interview and develop stories for those clients who agree to track their health histories, and accompany the nurse navigator on field visits to patients to do additional screening for legal problems.



RURAL SUMMER LEGAL CORPS

Applicant Qualifications

N/A

[Apply Now](#)

Contact: James Daniels
email: jdaniels@oslsa.org