



**Host Site:** Land of Lincoln Legal Aid, Inc.

**Topic of Project:** Domestic Violence

**Location:** Carbondale, IL (In-person preferred, hybrid possible)

**Description of Fellow Project:**

The Rural Summer Legal Corps Fellow at Land of Lincoln Legal Aid will have the opportunity to work alongside and under the supervision of their experienced Southern Regional Office (SRO) attorneys, all of which serve some of the organization's most rural and remote counties. The Fellow will have the opportunity to perform outreach, community education and provide legal assistance to a growing population of domestic violence survivors who face isolation and economic instability due to the remoteness of rural Illinois which lacks public transportation, childcare, and sometimes even cellphone service.

The greatest number of residents seeking help are survivors of domestic or sexual violence. The Student Fellow will be trained on how to assist and represent these at-risk clients in a holistic way, particularly as clients often have more than one legal issue at a time. The Fellow will work with attorneys and domestic violence advocates from local domestic violence service agencies. The Student Fellow will work directly with the supervising attorney to secure clients' immediate safety from their abusers, typically by seeking emergency and plenary orders of protection, the Fellow will help work with the client to identify other legal matters that the organization can assist with to ensure long-term independence from their abuser.

The Fellow will administer a civil legal needs assessment to each client and help other attorneys who may file matters on the survivor's behalf. The Student Fellow, under the supervision of an attorney, will conduct safety planning and future legal risk management counseling with the client, as well as draft pleadings and letters, obtain evidence, and attend court and negotiations. The Student Fellow will gain the knowledge and direct hands-on experience of providing holistic civil legal help to individuals in crisis in rural, southern Illinois.

**Additional Applicant Qualifications:**

Proficiency in a second language is not required.

