

**Host Site:** Legal Action of Wisconsin, Inc.

**Topic of Project:** Employment/Re-Entry

**Location:** Racine, WI (Primarily in-person, remote work opportunities available upon approval)

**Description of Fellow Project:**

The purpose of this Fellowship is to reduce identified barriers to employment for people living at or below 200% of the poverty line in Walworth County, and portions of Racine and Kenosha Counties. Many people living in poverty in these counties are unable to get a job because they lack a valid driver's license and public transportation outside of the cities is very limited. Furthermore, many employers, such as those in the construction industry, require a person to have a valid driver's license to be hired. Helping someone obtain or reinstate their driver's license will greatly expand their employment opportunities.

The Fellow will spend part of their time advising people on the status of their driver's license, litigating on their behalf to lift driver's license suspensions and/or revocations (when applicable), and establishing reasonable payment plans or community service plans. People are also unable to get a job because of their criminal record. Therefore, in addition to the driver's license work, the Fellow will assist justice-involved individuals to 1) evaluate their criminal records, 2) resolve any errors in their record, 3) analyze their record for expungement and/or pardon eligibility, 4) assist in drafting and submitting petitions for expungement and/or pardons, and 5) participate in expungement and/or pardon hearings, including helping to prepare the client.

Finally, a portion of this Fellowship will be assisting individuals who are litigating civil citations in municipal court that could lead to driver's license suspension or revocation or other outcomes that would impact a client's ability to work (such as revocation of professional or other licenses). Additionally, The Fellow will complete outreach throughout the identified service area. Importantly, the Fellow will work with existing nonprofit organizations such as homeless shelters, food banks, and community development organizations. The Fellow will also work to do outreach with new types of potential referral partners.

**Additional Applicant Qualifications:**

Proficiency in a second language is not required.

