



**Host Site:** Legal Services of North Florida, Inc.

**Topic of Project:** Indian Law/General Practice

**Location:** Ft. Walton Beach, FL

**Description of Fellow Project:**

The Rural and Tribal Legal Assistance (RTLA) Fellow will work to increase trust and access to legal help within our service area. The Fellow will help low-income individuals and families in rural communities in northwest Florida, with a focus outreach and service to the members of the Muscogee Nation of Florida based out of Bruce, Florida, located in Walton County. This Fellow will have the unique opportunity to cultivate LSNF's service and legal assistance to members of the Muscogee Nation who reside in LSNF's service area. The chairwoman of the tribe has shared with us the great needs of its members, ranging from domestic violence, property title issues, disaster recovery, debt collection, and family law. In addition, the RTLA Fellow will engage in outreach through the rural communities and provide legal services such as helping survivors of domestic violence find safety and stability away from their abuser; housing issues - a rapidly growing area of need in our service area; and other areas of the law that support economic self-sufficiency.

The Fellow will improve access to those facing barriers to accessing legal services and will help grow LSNF's capacity to meet the needs of this community. The RTLA fellow will work with our managing attorney in our Ft. Walton Beach office and other staff to support legal work impacting members of the Muscogee Nation and other rural residents in northwest Florida. The fellow will also help with organizing legal clinics and community educational sessions as well as provide support for direct legal assistance. The Fellow will gain practical experience in the skills necessary to become a successful attorney. They will meet local judges and community leaders who will share their own stories about the importance of legal services, access to justice, and the rule of law in building strong communities. The Fellow will also learn about the impact of their work on the individual and family they help. They will have the opportunity to see how that impact can make an entire rural community stronger.

**Additional Applicant Qualifications:**

The Fellowship will be conducted in-person with hybrid work available to those eligible. Proficiency in Russian or Spanish is preferred but not required

