



Host Site: Montana Legal Services Association

Topic of Project: Housing Law & Eviction Intervention

Location: Helena, MT

Description of Fellow Project:

The Housing Law Summer Fellow will support MLSA's Housing Law Practice Group, with a particular focus on MLSA's Montana Eviction Intervention Program (MEIP). MLSA established MEIP in the Fall of 2020 using CARES funding through the MT Department of Commerce to rapidly deploy a program to boost eviction legal assistance needed by Montanans impacted by the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic. The success of the program led to an extension and expansion of services and starting in 2022 we implemented a fully integrated Eviction Diversion Program that includes a mix of legal advice, direct representation, mediation, expedited rental assistance, and housing assistance navigation.

The Housing Law Summer Fellow will conduct intake interviews and provide supervised legal advice to tenants facing eviction, and will help route clients for full representation, mediation, and other wrap-around services. The Fellow will also have the opportunity to participate in landlord-tenant mediations and to shadow MLSA or MEIP contract attorneys in eviction cases in court.

Additional Applicant Qualifications:

The Fellowship will be in-person with remote work allowed upon supervisor approval. Proficiency in a second language is not required. Given the lack of public transportation options in Montana, it is recommended that the Fellows have access to a vehicle. MLSA will provide a rental vehicle or MLSA-owned vehicle for any required travel outside of Helena.

