



Host Site: Montana Legal Services Association

Topic of Project: Housing/General Practice

Location: Helena, MT OR Billings, MT OR Missoula, MT

Description of Fellow Project:

The Housing Law Summer Fellow will support Montana Legal Services Association (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 participate in landlord-tenant mediations and to shadow MLSA or MEIP contract attorneys in eviction cases in court. The Poverty Law Summer Fellow will support MLSA's provision of general civil legal aid services, with a focus on core issues related to poverty law, such as public benefits, family law, and consumer law. MLSA considers addressing these legal problems to be at the heart of our mission to protect and enhance the civil legal rights of, and promote systemic change for, Montanans living in poverty.

The Poverty Law Summer Fellow will conduct intake interviews and provide supervised legal advice to clients facing a variety of poverty law issues, and will help route clients for full representation, advice, and other wrap-around services. The Fellow will also have the opportunity to shadow MLSA attorneys 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.



