



Host Site: New Mexico Legal Aid

Topic of Project: Veteran Benefits; Consumer/Finance; Education

Location: Albuquerque, NM

Description of Fellow Project:

The Student Fellow will assist the New Mexico Legal Aid (NMLA) Veterans Attorney with outreach, legal research, and all aspects of providing legal assistance to low-income veterans and patients in rural New Mexico. Legal issues will include various areas of law such as consumer protection, landlord/tenant, family law, benefits and discharge upgrades. The goal of the Veterans Legal Services Summer Fellowship Program is to expand services to veterans in rural areas by increasing awareness of the program, strengthening community partnerships, and improving access to direct legal services.

One of the Fellow's primary activities will include travel to rural Community-based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs), rural regional Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) offices, and regularly scheduled outreach events in rural areas (such as those currently held at senior centers, libraries, and food banks). Depending on context and location, the Fellow will distribute project flyers and brochures, prepare and distribute general legal informational materials, provide training on legal issue spotting to staff at veteran's facilities, and conduct client intakes and interviews.

One goal of the NMLA Veterans Project is to establish regular virtual office hours at rural CBOC locations, VA rural offices, or at other partner organization facilities. The Fellow will help organize, set up, and participate in these virtual office hours. The Fellow will also conduct legal research and otherwise support the Veterans Attorney in providing legal services to eligible veterans.

Additional Applicant Qualifications:

The Fellowship will be in-person. Proficiency in Spanish would be helpful but not required.

