



Host Site: Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, Inc.

Topic of Project: Housing

Location: Mankato, MN & Winona, MN

Description of Fellow Project:

The Student Fellow will assist with the Preventing Rental Evictions Program (PREP). PREP was recently developed along with the Mankato/Blue Earth County EDA, Blue Earth County Supportive Housing, Minnesota Valley Action Council, and Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership (and other organizations) as an eviction diversion program. PREP offers an opportunity to landlords and tenants to meet to resolve disputes outside of court. An eviction action can be costly for landlords. An eviction on a tenant's public record can also make finding housing in the future quite difficult. The intention of PREP is to resolve disputes in a manner that has less negative impact on the parties.

The Fellow will participate in meetings between landlords, tenants, and the PREP navigators to resolve disputes. The Fellow will help housing attorneys represent tenants being evicted in formal eviction actions in District Court. The law student may have the opportunity to become a student attorney and provide limited representation in eviction hearings. This could include participation in our multi-county Zoom based eviction clinic which consolidates all evictions from a nine-county service area.

The work through the PREP eviction diversion program, representation of tenants in eviction actions, and petitioning for eviction expungements will give the law student a comprehensive experience and understanding of the housing and eviction law in Minnesota from start to finish. The law students would have the ability to work directly with tenants to maintain housing stability and resolve disputes with landlords both through the formal legal system and through informal mediation-like processes.

Additional Applicant Qualifications:

The Fellowship will be hybrid. Proficiency in a second language would be a bonus but not required



