Leveraging Technology During COVID-19: Strategies and Challenges in Reaching Rural Communities



Panelists

- Moderator: Jillian Jin (she/her), Pro Bono Remote Volunteer Project Coordinator, Pro Bono Net
- Fatima Hernandez (she/her), Community Advancement Services Director
- Anne Hoefgen (she/her) Executive Director of Legal Services of Northwest Minnesota
- Shirley Peng (she/her) Managing Attorney at Legal Aid of Nebraska





- Provide Comprehensive Immigration Services
 - Removal Defense
 - DACA, Naturalization,
 Family Petitions, U-Visa,
 Etc.
- 5 Regional offices
 - 4 in California
 - Bakersfield, Salinas, Oxnard, Fresno
 - 1 in Arizona
 - Phoenix
- 16 CA Community Colleges



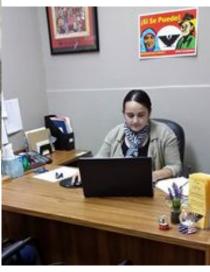


OPEN TO <u>ALL</u> FRESNO CITY COLLEGE STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF

Every 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the Month 9:00am to 5:00pm

CLICK HERE to schedule an appointment





Services Pre-Pandemic













Pivoting to Remote Service Delivery













Promotion of Services





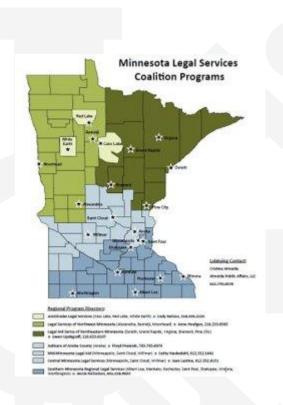








Legal Services of Northwest Minnesota



- *Three offices
- *24,000 square miles
- *Comprehensive civil legal aid office
- *Pre-pandemic-On-site 10 locations



Legal Services of Northwest Minnesota



Pre-Pandemic

Staff, pro bono and Judicare



Zoom, GoTo Meetings, Teams, Oh my!



Remote work, remote courts, remote outreach



Challenges
Tech
Lack of internet
Lack of privacy
Poverty shaming

Reach Justice Minnesota: Legal Kiosks

LEGAL KIOSKS

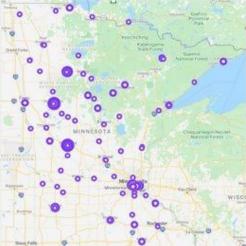


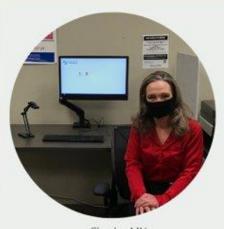
To address the digital divide, the Minnesota Legal Services
Coalition requested CARES Act funds to give communities
access to civil justice by creating a statewide network of legal
kiosks to be stationed in a variety of court, agency, non-profit,
and other community locations.

These community-based legal kiosks will help Minnesotans who face technology access and transportation barriers to have a healthy and safe experience interacting with civil legal aid experts, as well as the administrative and court systems in which their cases will be proceeding.

Duluth, MN

To date, there is at least one Legal Kiosk placed in 68 of the 87 counties in Minnesota.





Chaska, MN

Reach Justice Minnesota



Please use the hand sanitizer provided before you get started.

Welcome to the Legal Kiosk!

We can help you join a virtual meeting, get free legal assistance, or direct you to resources.











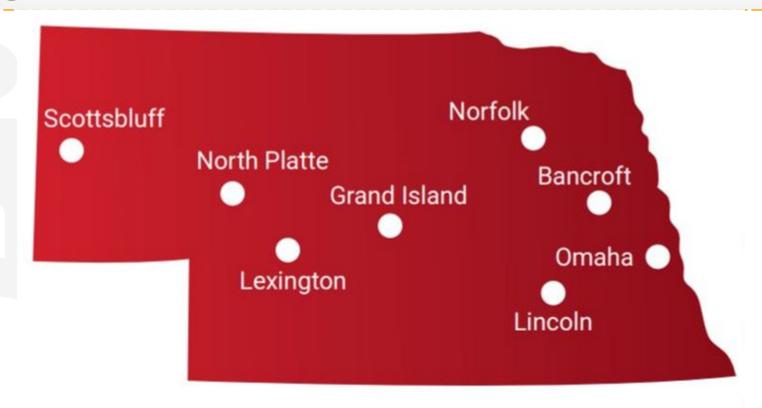




Reach Justice Minnesota: Justice Bus



Legal Aid of Nebraska



As Nebraska's largest nonprofit law firm, we serve:

8 locations.

93 counties.

1 unified goal.

Priorities



- · Eviction/foreclosure
- Unsafe conditions in rental unit
- · Utility shut off/risk of shut off
- · Return of security deposit



- Protection from abuse
- · Juvenile record sealing
- · Divorce, custody and child support



DEBT

- Bankruptcy
- Debt collection
- · Wage and bank garnishment
- · Student loan debt
- Tax and medical debt



- Disability benefits
- Public assistance programs (ADC, SNAP, Medicaid)
- Unpaid wages

Pandemic Pivoting

- 1. Remote Working
- 2. Zoom / Teams / Conference Calls / Emails
- 3. Hello Fax / Transcript Delivery Service / IRS
- 4. Videos / Webinars / Recordings
- 5. Social Media Postings
- 6. Target Marketing Facebook Ads/ Local Radio
- 7. Pro Bono Clinics: Wills, Set Aside, Name Change, Pro Se Divorce

Outreach / Educational Activities



2020 Tax Information for Native Americans **Event**

Tuesday, March 23, 2021

Thursday, March 25, 2021

REGISTER NOW

For more information: Kirby Williams kwilliams@legalaidofnebraska.org

FREE virtual education event

TOPICS WILL INCLUDE:

- Relief Stimulus Checks





Legal Aid of Nebraska

March 30 at 4:45 PM - 3

Important Update: The CDC has extended the national ban on evictions to June 30, 2021. It was originally set to expire in one day.

If you are in need of rental assistance or utility assistance, resources are now available. For assistance, call Legal Aid of Nebraska's COVID-19 Disaster Relief Hotline at 1-844-268-5627 or visit:

https://www.legalaidofnebraska.org/.../housingco.../tenants/

BREAKING

CDC will extend national eviction ban through June 30

Who is eligible?



Individuals who make less than \$99,000 a year.



Couples who make less than

\$198,000 a year. OR

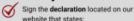


You have received a stimulus



You were not required to pay income taxes in 2019.

What do you need to do?



- - 1. You are unable to afford your rent despite seeking rental assistance.
 - 2. If you are evicted, it would result in homelessness.
 - 3. You promise to make partial payments to the best of your



Deliver the declaration to your

If your landlord ignores the declaration, mediately contact Legal Aid of Nebraska.

DID YOU KNOW...

That an individual will not qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) if they have investment income of more than \$3.650 in 2021?

REGISTER NOW

STOCKS & TAXES **101** W E B I N A R February 23 p.m. OST







Legal Aid of Nebraska

Are you facing legal issues brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic? Legal Aid has opened its Disaster Relief Hotline for those with legal questions or legal issues related to COVID-19/Coronavirus. You can call the COVID-19 Disaster Relief Hotline at 1-844-268-5627.

For self-help COVID-19 legal resources visit our website: https://www.legalaidofnebraska.org/.../covid-19-coronavirus/



Do you have a legal problem related to COVID-19?

¿Tiene usted un problema legal relacionado al COVID-19?

COVID-19 Disaster Relief Hotline

(La Línea Directa de Alivio de Desastre COVID-19)

DID YOU KNOW...

All taxpayers (even if taking the standard deduction) may deduct up to \$300 of charitable giving made in 2020

TAX TIPS in the

Thursday 6 p.m. CST







Technology - Legal Aid Connect



Moving forward

UFW Foundation

- Combination of in-person and virtual services
- Digital media

Legal Services of Northwest Minnesota LegalKiosk.org Law HelpMN.org

Legal Aid of Nebraska

- Flexible Work Agreement
- Social Media
- Legal Aid ConnectLeg

Questions

Questions?

(Use the chat box on the right of your screen to ask questions.)



Join Us!



Join a community of over 9,000 advocates dedicated to protecting and promoting the rights of immigrants in the United States.

To learn more, visit www.immigrationadvocates.org

- <u>twitter.com/immadvocates</u>
- facebook.com/immigrationadvocates

