

COMMUNITY JUSTICE WORKER PROGRAM

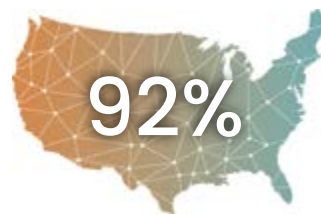
Legal First Aid Training

The Virginia Legal Aid Society's Community Justice Worker Program trains and supports community partners to become justice workers. Using Legal Link's unique Legal First Aid® curriculum, Virginia Legal Aid Society ("VLAS") staff will train client-serving partners at community-based organizations to feel confident identifying their clients' legal issues, connecting clients to helpful legal resources, and delivering critical justice worker support.

Legal First Aid in Action

Jordan had worked as a caseworker for years, but he froze when clients faced legal issues. That changed after receiving training from Legal Link. One of his clients had been unlawfully locked out of his apartment when the landlord changed the locks. With his Legal First Aid training, Jordan recognized the situation as urgent. He knew tenants in this situation could contact the police, file a Tenant's Petition for Relief from Unlawful Exclusion, and reach out to the local legal aid intake line. The client took these steps, and the legal services organization took on the case. Within a week, the client had a hearing, and the judge ordered the landlord to immediately let the client back into the apartment, reimburse him for motel fees, and pay a \$5,000 fine.

Surfacing, identifying, and addressing legal issues like the one above can be incredibly impactful, but for the



of low-income families do not get adequate help for their civil legal problem

majority of people experiencing poverty, legal help is out of reach. The Access to Justice gap is profound: the U.S. has more lawyers per capita than any other country, yet 92% of low-income families do not get adequate help for their civil legal problems.

Virginia Legal Aid Society is partnering with Legal Link to train a new frontline of community justice workers across the state of Virginia to fill this justice gap. Using Legal Link's unique Legal First Aid curriculum, we are scaling across the state to shift where and how people access legal information.

Legal First Aid Training Course Description, Agenda + Learning Objectives

Families experiencing housing insecurity and poverty experience at least 2-3 legal issues each year, but the legal system is severely under-resourced, siloed, and inherently complex. As a result, 92% of people do not receive the legal help they need. Through the Legal First Aid Training Program, participants will learn legal navigation skills in order to better support their

clients in addressing a wide range of legal issues. VLAS staff will provide an overview on basic legal system concepts and legal issues most commonly faced by communities experiencing poverty, provide a methodology and tools for participants to use when confronted with legal issues, and offer practice opportunities through interactive exercises.

Participants learn how to identify legal issues, surface unmet legal needs, and access legal protections for the clients they serve. Following the training, participants become certified in Legal First Aid and receive ongoing support from VLAS staff.

Legal Link's Legal First Aid curriculum is designed to instill confidence in trusted community members who are not legal professionals and includes:

- A high level understanding of how legal issues present in everyday people's lives;
- Information on legal system resource allocation and where to find help;
- A succinct methodology for justice workers to use when confronted with legal issues;
- Orientation to web-based legal tools and referral tools.



Learning Agenda

- I. Legal First Aid:
Understanding the Access to Justice Problem
- II. Learning the Legal First A.I.D. Method:
Learning the steps and approach
- III. Legal Issues Overview + Key Resources:
Understanding the basics on top legal issues areas and locating trusted information, tools, and referrals
- IV. Applying the Legal First A.I.D. Method:
How to apply the method using VLAS's legal resources and VaLegalAid.org's online guide
- V. Integration:
Best practices on workflow integration

Learning Objectives

By the end of the training, participants will be able to meet three key learning objectives

- Effectively surface and identify legal issues that their clients face.
- Sufficiently connect their clients to relevant, timely legal tools and resources.
- Confidently understand the community justice worker support they can provide and how to apply the Legal First A.I.D. method to their clients' legal issues.

The Partners

Virginia Legal Aid Society

Virginia Legal Aid Society is dedicated to providing free legal assistance to individuals in need. Whether you're facing legal challenges or seeking guidance, we are here to support you through every step. Our goal is to ensure equal access to justice for all. With a commitment to empowering individuals with the legal knowledge they need, we strive to make a positive impact in our community. Your rights matter, and we are here to help you navigate the legal system with confidence.



For more information visit: vlas.org

Please contact Gail Trzcinski-gailt@vlas.org or Amber Poron-amberp@vlas.org for more information or scan the QR code to register!



Legal Link

Legal Link is a California-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to remove legal barriers that prolong poverty by adding critically needed capacity to the legal ecosystem. Legal Link uses a legal empowerment approach to train and support partners to act as community justice workers. Legal Link currently offers direct services to over 75 leading nonprofit partners across Northern California that are deeply integrated into the communities they serve. Legal Link also responds to demands to support new community justice worker programs across the country. Founded in 2015, Legal Link has trained over 1,500 frontline community justice workers to date.

For more information visit: legallink.org

