



Host Site: Prairie State Legal Services

Project: Rural Ready to Work Initiative

Location: Bloomington, Illinois

Description of Fellow Project:

The Fellow will implement service models in rural counties to assist low-income persons seeking expungement or other remedies to address past criminal records that impact their ability to access jobs or housing.

The Fellow will learn Illinois law related to expungement and sealing or criminal records, how to properly chart criminal records, work with rural stakeholders to serve low income persons with criminal records, and work with volunteer attorneys to address these cases. By the end of the Fellowship, the Fellow will have reviewed and charted at least 12 criminal records and prepared an assessment of these records. The Fellow will discuss the problems facing rural residents with criminal records with at least 3 stakeholders in rural communities. This may include the States Attorney, workforce development agency staff, hospital human resource professionals, community action agency and local private attorneys. The Fellow will recommend an ongoing methodology for helping rural residents with criminal records posing barriers to employment or housing.

