

Advancing Equity in Legal Services: Lessons Learned from the 2022 Cohort

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Housekeeping

- All on mute. Use Questions function for substantive questions and for technical concerns.
- Problems getting on the webinar? Send an e-mail to NCLER@acl.hhs.gov.
- Written materials and a recording will be available at NCLER.acl.gov. See also the chat box for this web address.

About NCLER

The National Center on Law and Elder Rights (NCLER) provides the legal services and aging and disability communities with the tools and resources they need to serve older adults with the greatest economic and social needs. A centralized, one-stop shop for legal assistance, NCLER provides Legal Training, Case Consultations, and Technical Assistance on Legal Systems Development. Justice in Aging administers the NCLER through a contract with the Administration for Community Living's Administration on Aging.

About Justice in Aging

Justice in Aging is a national organization that uses the power of law to fight senior poverty by securing access to affordable health care, economic security, and the courts for older adults with limited resources.

Since 1972 we've focused our efforts primarily on populations that have traditionally lacked legal protection such as women, people of color, LGBT individuals, and people with limited English proficiency.

About Our Panelists

- Michael Forton, Legal Services of Alabama
- Pam Walz, Community Legal Services
- Laura Orr, Minnesota Elder Justice Center
- Erikson Albrechth, Bet Tzedek Legal Services

Key Lessons

In this webinar, the presenters will:

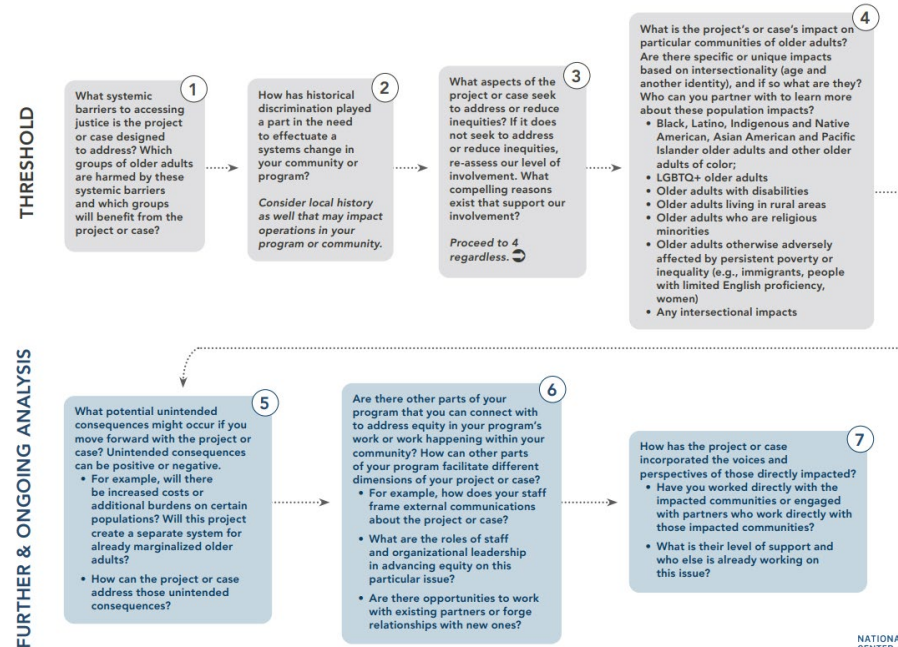
- Share their experiences, challenges, and reflections about implementing an equity-based project as part of the Advancing Equity in Legal Services program;
- Discuss an Equity Tool for legal and aging services to analyze projects for impact on equitable services delivery; and
- Invite attendees to connect with NCLER and Justice in Aging to utilize the Equity Tool in their programs or inquire about future iterations of the Advancing Equity in Legal Services program.

Overview of the Advancing Equity Cohort

- Program for legal services committed to advancing equity in their outreach and services delivery, with a focus on community partnerships
- Individualized technical assistance on an equity-focused project
- Opportunities for group discussions, guest presentations, and resource sharing

Equity Tool for Legal Services

- **Purpose:**
Framework to analyze projects, policies, and cases for equitable impact
- Flexible usage
- Focus on partnerships



Ways to Use the Tool

- Development/Program Design
 - Program management and development staff use the tool in designing projects for grant applications
- Team Meetings
 - Tool is a part of regularly occurring meetings, such as intake or case acceptance meetings, and guides team conversations for new and existing issues
- Individual Work and Program-Wide Information Sharing
 - Attorneys have discretion in how to use the Tool in their individual work, but share their findings and resources with the entire program
- Intra-Team and Cross-Team Collaboration:
 - Staff partners with colleagues with similar expertise and/or collaborate with colleagues in other issue areas and apply the tool

Examples of Items to Analyze

- Intake procedures
- Case acceptance parameters
- Outreach plans
- Advocacy efforts
- Advancing specific cases to litigation

Equity Analysis Tool:

Threshold Questions (1 of 2)

1. What systemic barriers to accessing justice is the project designed to address?
 - Which groups of older adults are harmed by these barriers and which groups benefit from the project?
2. How has historical discrimination played a part in the need to effectuate a systems change?
 - Consider local history as well
3. What aspect of the project seeks to address or reduce inequities?
 - If none, what compelling reasons exist to support your involvement?

Equity Analysis Tool:

Threshold Questions (2 of 2)

4. What is the project's impact on particular communities of older adults?
- Black, Latino, Asian American and Pacific Islander, and other older adults of color
 - LGBTQ+ older adults;
 - Older adults with disabilities;
 - Older adults otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality?
 - What are the impacts based on intersecting marginalized identities?

Equity Analysis Tool:

Ongoing Analysis Questions

5. What potential unintended consequences might occur if you move forward with the project?
 - May be either negative or positive
6. Are there other parts of your program that you can connect with to address inequity in your program's work or work in your community?
7. How have the voices of older adults who are directly impacted by the barrier been incorporated into the project?

Panelist Discussion

Projects from the 2022 cohort:

- Legal Services of Alabama—Improving outreach and service delivery to marginalized communities in Alabama on heir property issues
- Community Legal Services—Conducting outreach to and collaboration with Black and Hispanic older adults in Philadelphia on Medicaid estate recovery
- Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services—Participating in a group to develop an Internet-based legal risk detector to reach Spanish speaking and Indigenous older adults in the region
- Bet Tzedek Legal Services—Organizing volunteer and pro bono resources to reach communities of color in LA on caregiving and kinship care issues

Connect With Us

Reach out to us at ConsultNCLER@acl.hhs.gov or leave a comment in the chat box if you are interested in:

- Technical assistance for the Equity Analysis Tool
- Participating in future Advancing Equity Cohort opportunities

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Case Consultations

Case consultation assistance is available for attorneys and professionals seeking more information to help older adults. Contact NCLER at ConsultNCLER@acl.hhs.gov.