

COMMUNITY NAVIGATOR PROGRAM

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY NAVIGATOR?

A Community Navigator is a trusted community member who is trained to help individuals recognize possible civil legal problems and connect them to free civil legal services through Prairie State Legal Services (PSLS).

Community Navigators do not provide legal advice. Instead, they help you take the first step toward getting the right help.

HOW CAN A COMMUNITY NAVIGATOR HELP ME?

Many problems have legal solutions – even if they don't seem like legal issues at first. A Community Navigator can help if you are experiencing concerns related to:

- **Housing** (eviction, unsafe living conditions, foreclosure)
- **Safety** (orders of protection, domestic violence concerns)
- **Financial Stability** (public benefits, debt issues, criminal record sealing and expungement)
- **Access to services or rights**

If they believe you may qualify for assistance, they will submit a referral to PSLS on your behalf.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER A REFERRAL?

Once a referral is submitted:

- PSLS will review your information.
- Someone from PSLS will contact you directly, usually within 24 hours.
- If eligible, you may receive free legal assistance.

There is no cost to speak with a Community Navigator or to be referred.

WHY THIS PROGRAM MATTERS

Legal problems can affect your home, your safety, your job and your family's stability. Many people don't know where to turn or may feel overwhelmed by the legal system.

The Community Navigator Program makes access to legal help easier, faster and more approachable.



PRAIRIE STATE
LEGAL SERVICES

WHO ARE COMMUNITY NAVIGATORS?

Community Navigators are often:

- Social service providers
- Healthcare workers
- Advocates
- Educators
- Faith-based leaders
- Other trusted community partners

They have completed specialized training to better support individuals in their communities.

NEED HELP?

If you are working with a Community Navigator, ask them about a referral to Prairie State Legal Services.



FUNDING

Funding provided in whole or in part by the Westside Justice Center.



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