



Community Lawyering

Introduction, Syllabus & General Information

Community Lawyering is a process through which advocates contribute their legal knowledge and skills to support initiatives identified by directly impacted people and community groups that enhance their power. The Shriver Center’s Community Lawyering training brings a new mindset to legal aid and public interest law advocacy and provides concrete steps to build and sustain strong relationships with and among community members. In this course, you will learn how to activate issues identified by the community, support a successful advocacy campaign and facilitate community leadership.

Course Structure (all activities are online):

- In the Prep Week, participants attend one webinar (45’) and complete a number of self-paced activities (1.5 hours) via the course site.
- In Weeks 1 - 5, participants attend interactive live sessions and small group discussions where they have opportunities to apply new knowledge to prepared scenarios, share challenges with other participants and faculty, and practice specific community lawyering skills.
- Participants complete weekly between-session assignments. They also participate in weekly peer support meetings to share experiences applying new content and skills in their work with communities.
- **Time Commitments:** This training involves a significant time commitment. Since the training takes place over 5 weeks (see table below for details), it is essential that you clear your schedule for the scheduled sessions so you can participate in all activities. This is particularly important since many of the activities involve small groups and paired exercises that require involvement of all participants. **All times Eastern (ET); All activities online.**

SCHEDULE

Prep Week	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
March 3	Wed, March 10	Wed, March 17	Wed, March 24	Wed, March 31	Wed, April 7
2.25 hours	5 hours	5 hours	5 hours	5 hours	5 hours
Intro Webinar Wed, March 3	11:30-4:30 ET	11:30-4:30 ET	11:30-4:30 ET	11:30-4:30 ET	11:30-4:30 ET

Prep Week March 3	Week 1 Wed, March 10	Week 2 Wed, March 17	Week 3 Wed, March 24	Week 4 Wed, March 31	Week 5 Wed, April 7
(1:00-1:45 ET) Self-paced	Large & Small Group Sessions	Large & Small Group Sessions	Large & Small Group Sessions	Large & Small Group Sessions	Large & Small Group Sessions

- **Overview of Activities:** Following is an overview of course activities. You will find detailed information about each activity on the course site. *Please read the detailed information on the course site before beginning an activity.*
- If you have any questions with the assignments or course site, please email: coursehelp@povertylaw.org

PREP WEEK: March 1 - 5, 2021

Schedule	Session Overview	Total Time
On your own	Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prep computer for live sessions (5') • Attend Intro Webinar on Wednesday, March 3 (45') • Intro survey (10') • Post introduction to discussion form (15') • Complete Pre-Week 1 assignments (60') 	2h 15m

Week 1 – March 10, 2021

Schedule	Session Overview	Total Time
11:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (ET)	Start-up & Welcome	5 hr. live sessions
	Introduction: Introduces community lawyering – what it is, why an essential approach for legal aid and public interest law advocates to use, how it relates to mission, and potential impacts we can have as a result of these approaches.	
	Break	
	Community Understanding & Relationship Building:	

Schedule	Session Overview	Total Time
	Participants meet in small groups to introduce themselves to each other, reflect on opening themes and review the range of methods for learning about and building relationships within communities.	
	Break	
	Relationship Building – One to Ones: Introduces practice of one to ones and framework for conducting a one to one.	
	Week 1 Evaluation & Preparation for Week 2	
On your own	Application of Week 1 Content & Skills	1 hr.

Week 2 – March 17, 2021

Schedule	Session Overview	Total time
	Week 2 Start-up	
11:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (ET)	Action Learning Partners: Participants meet in small groups with their assigned “action learning partners” to review experiences applying new concepts and skills introduced during Week 1.	5 hr. live sessions
	Community Lawyering Tools: Introduces the case scenario that participants will work with throughout the remainder of the course and specific tools that advocates use to turn large “problems” into discrete actionable “issues”.	
	Break	
	Community Lawyering Tools, Part 2: Intro to Stakeholder, Power & Leverage Analysis tools.	
	Community Lawyering Tools, Part 3: Application to Case Scenario in Small Groups	
	Week 2 Evaluation & Preparation for Week 3	

Schedule	Session Overview	Total time
On your own	Application of Week 2 Content and Skills	1 hr.

Week Three – March 24, 2021

Schedule	Session Overview	Total time
11:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (ET)	Week 3 Start-up	5 hr. live sessions
	Action Learning Partners: Participants meet in small groups with their assigned “action learning partners” to review experiences applying new concepts and skills introduced during Week 2.	
	Break	
	Lawyers & Organizers Working Together. Introduces methodology and core practices that organizers use to build power and take action to address issues identified by impacted communities. Also explores opportunities and challenges that legal advocates and organizers face when working together.	
	Break	
	Policy Advocacy: Introduces policy advocacy as a tool for the community lawyer to supplement legal, organizing and media tactics to advance the community’s goals.	
	Break	
	Policy Advocacy: Participants use the policy advocacy action plan to develop a policy campaign to address goals identified in the case scenario.	
	Week 3 Wrap-up & Preparation for Week 4	
On your own	Application of Week 3 Content and Skills	1 hr.

Week Four – March 31, 2021

Schedule	Overview	Total Time
11:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (ET)	Week 4 Start-up	5 hr. live sessions
	Action Learning Partners: Participants meet in small groups with their assigned “action learning partners” to review experiences applying new concepts and skills introduced during Week 3.	
	Break	
	Identity, Culture, Power & Difference: Participants examine issues of difference that arise within the community lawyering context and how to work effectively to respond to and address these.	
	Break	
	Strategic Communications – Part 1: Introduces framework for strategic framing and communication using VPSA model – Values, Problem, Solution, Action.	
	Break	
	Strategic Communications – Part 2: Using VPSA model, participants work in small groups to frame the central message based on the case scenario.	
	Week 4 Wrap-Up & Preparation for Week 5	
On your own	Application of Week 4 Content & Skills	1 hr.

Week Five: April 7, 2021

Schedule	Overview	Total Time
11:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (ET)	Week 5 Start-up	5 hr. live sessions
	Action Learning Partners: Participants meet in small groups with their assigned “action learning partners” to review experiences applying new concepts and skills introduced during Week 4.	
	Panel presentations and discussion addressing community lawyering questions that have arisen during the training.	
	Break	
	Strategy Development: Introduces a suggested approach for developing strategies to achieve community-identified goals.	
	Strategy Development & Working Lunch: Working in small groups, participants develop a strategy plan based on the case scenario.	
	Break	
	Strategy Presentations: Small groups present strategies.	
	Action Planning & Close: Participants identify concrete steps for bringing community lawyering tools and approaches back to their organizations and communities.	