

# Community Interventions in Social Work Practice

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# Newark Community Solutions

**MISSION:** To increase community involvement in the legal system and address the social issues driving crime by:

- Decreasing the court's use of fines and short-term jail sentences
- Increasing the court's use of social services and community service
- Expanding community participation within court operations



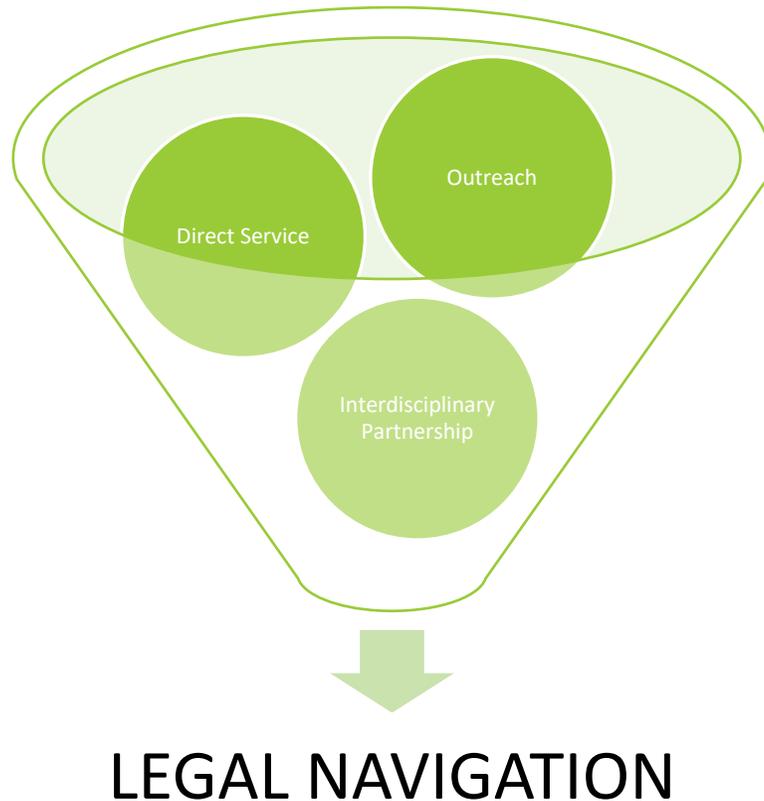
# Objectives

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1. Define *legal navigation* as a *community-level intervention* within forensic social work practice;
2. Identify mechanisms through which legal navigation can *eliminate barriers to equal justice* in a post-pandemic legal system and other major anchor systems;
3. Apply the legal navigation model to your social work practice within the *court* and *community*.

# What is Legal Navigation?

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- **Outreach:** Meet the people where they are. Legal navigators work anywhere but the courthouse, attending community events, block parties, and service fairs. They can “set up shop” at existing institutions frequented by the public: hospitals, schools, libraries, and homeless shelters, and community centers.
- **Direct Service:** Legal navigators work to solve problems in the moment, providing information about outstanding legal matters and recommendations for how to address them.
- **Interdisciplinary Partnership:** Legal navigation connects the court to institutions outside the legal system. Coordinating service delivery and outreach can expand the reach and impact of the work. Include community members and service consumers in the planning and delivery process.

# Legal Navigation in Action

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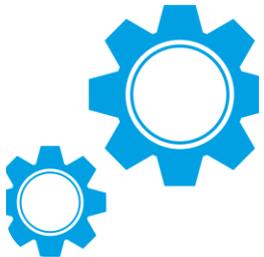
# Why Social Work?



Meeting people where they are



The importance of human relationships



Systems Thinking

Across America, an  
estimated **21 million**  
people live without  
internet access



What does Legal Navigation look like in your community?

# Planning Outreach & Navigation

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1. Who is being left out of the court process?
2. Where does this community live or gather?
3. Who should be doing the outreach?
4. What do you need to engage this community *where they are*?
5. What services could you offer through legal navigation?
6. If you were to conduct a legal navigation outreach effort tomorrow, what might it look like?
7. If you were to build out a legal navigation outreach program in your community, how would you envision it?



# Thank You & Stay in Touch

We are here to brainstorm ideas and  
celebrate your successes!

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@ncsnewark

# References

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