

Courthouse Model I

- Legal self-help center located in the county courthouse
- Used in counties with larger populations
- Either one full-time or two part-time navigators
- Separate space in courthouse, typically in the law library, and open during courthouse hours
- Initial funding (two years) provided by Illinois Equal Justice Foundation (IEJF)
- Examples:
 - Madison County
 - Peoria County

Courthouse Model II

- Legal self-help center located in the county courthouse or in both county courthouse and local public library
- Used in moderately populated counties
- One part-time navigator with set hours posted
- Initial funding (two years) provided by Illinois Equal Justice Foundation (IEJF)
- Examples:
 - Kankakee County
 - McHenry County
 - St. Clair County

Public Library Model

- Legal self-help center located at the public library in the county seat
- Used in rural counties
- Public library is more accessible than the courthouse in terms of hours and staff
- Start up funding (one year) provided by Illinois Equal Justice Foundation (IEJF) for the costs of equipment and supplies
- Examples:
 - Alexander County
 - Massac County
 - Wayne County

In all three models ...

- A Legal Self-Help Center is a community-based, collaborative project designed by a local planning committee that is chaired by the Chief or Presiding Judge; the Committee determines the specifics of the Center such as location, hours, staffing, etc.
- A Legal Self-Help Center is internet based and consists of one or two computers, a printer, and signage noting what staff can and cannot provide to Center patrons (e.g., “we cannot provide legal advice”; “we can provide legal information”)
- High-speed internet connections and headphones are required for viewing videos/webcasts
- Each Legal Self-Help Center has its own homepage (<http://countyname.IllinoisLegalAid.org>)
- Circuit Clerk staff is given a one-page handout with legal assistance referral information to distribute to pro se litigants (pro se litigants are encouraged to seek legal counsel, if at all possible)
- Local court staff, library staff and domestic-violence-victim advocates are trained on how to navigate the website and use the online / automated forms