**Civil Legal Programming: Libraries Bridging the Justice Gap**

**Learner Guide**

<https://www.webjunction.org/events/webjunction/civil-legal-programming.html>

“Justice for all” is a core American value, and yet access to legal assistance is not guaranteed by our civil legal system. Barriers to civil legal justice disproportionately affect low-income people in the U.S., creating the justice gap—the divide between the civil legal needs and the resources to meet those needs. Many people cannot afford a lawyer and may not even realize they need one. Public libraries are well positioned to be an access point in bridging the justice gap, particularly programming that connects patrons to the civil legal resources and information they need. Presenters will share their experiences with effective and creative civil legal programming that meets their community’s needs. Participants will gain knowledge on how to collaborate with local organizations and explore ways library programming can align with advancing access to justice.

Presented by: **Gemma Rose**, Librarian II, Volusia County Public Library (FL); **Rebecca (Becky) Hass**, Programming and Outreach Manager, Anne Arundel County Public Library (MD); and **Brooke Doyle**, Project Coordinator, WebJunction

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| **What are your goals for viewing this webinar?** |
| **Personal Goals** |  |
| **Team Goals** |  |
| **Assessing Your Community’s Legal Information Needs** |
| How do you learn about your community’s legal needs?* What resources help to inform your assessment?
* Who might be helpful partners to help give a broader perspective and increase access?
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| **Programming Partnerships** |
| Begin by assessing past and current relationships with civil legal partners.* What has worked well? What challenges have you experienced?
* How has the community changed? Are there new individuals or organizations to connect with?
* Start small. What are some initial ways to support community education goals in the civil legal area?
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| **Building Your Program Partner Network** |
| Reach out to potential partners (Participation, Promotion, Presenter) to expand relationships. Consider non-profits, government agencies and other educators you might connect with for potential programs and identity who on your team could make those connections. For an extended list of options, review potential partners for collaboration in WebJunction’s [Community Partnership and Collaboration Guide](http://www.webjunction.org/documents/webjunction/Community_Partner_Collaboration_Guide.html).  |
| **Community Goals & Intersectionality** |
| How does other library programming connect with legal information needs? Consider programs and community collaborations on topics like COVID recovery, diversity, equity, inclusion, education, civic engagement, and environmental justice. How do these community facets intersect with your library’s mission and vision?  |
| **Action Plan: (include next steps, who, when, etc.)** |
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