



## Examining Racial and Economic Disparities in the Medicaid Estate Recovery (MERP)

Summer Associate Project Exchange

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### Single or Multiple Opportunities

Single

### Organization Name

Legal Counsel for the Elderly (LCE)

### Background

Legal Counsel for the Elderly (LCE) is seeking comprehensive research on the Medicaid Estate Recovery Program (MERP) at both the D.C. and national levels.

### Scope of Work

Research MERP practices at D.C. and national levels to assess disproportionate effects on older adults of color.

### Timing

End of summer deadline.

### Jurisdiction

Federal, State, and Local (DC)

### Contact Information

Please contact Paul Lee (plee@step toe.com) and Natallya Velev (natallya.velev@ropesgray.com) if you'd like to be assigned to this project.

Description

Legal Counsel for the Elderly (LCE) is seeking comprehensive research on the Medicaid Estate Recovery Program (MERP) at both the D.C. and national levels. The project investigates how estate recovery practices interact with racial and economic disparities in access to long-term services and supports, affecting older adults' ability to build and pass on modest wealth. The research will examine which states actively pursue estate recovery, the demographic characteristics of impacted families, and state-by-state variation in rules, exemptions, and hardship waivers. The analysis will also assess differential access to Medicaid planning resources and legal assistance across communities of color and low-income households. The desired work product is a memo providing a state-by-state overview of MERP rules, data on exemption usage, and an examination of disparities in estate recovery outcomes.

**Research Question:** How do Medicaid estate recovery practices interact with racial and economic disparities in access to long term services and supports, and what are the impacts on older adults' ability to build and pass on modest wealth?

Subtasks (0)

Reminders(0)