



Examining Systemic Barriers to Public Benefits Access for Immigrants

Summer Associate Project Exchange

Single or Multiple Opportunities

Single

Organization Name

Legal Counsel for the Elderly (LCE)

Background

Legal Counsel for the Elderly (LCE) is examining systemic barriers to public benefits access faced by lawful permanent residents, TPS holders, and other non-citizens.

Scope of Work

Examine barriers faced by LPRs, TPS holders, and other non-citizens and identify reforms to improve equitable benefits access.

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 examining systemic barriers to public benefits access faced by lawful permanent residents, TPS holders, and other non-citizens. Immigrants often encounter discrimination, misinformation, and bureaucratic obstacles when seeking benefits, and many fear that interacting with governmental agencies may jeopardize their immigration status due to data-sharing concerns and the public charge doctrine. Complex eligibility rules at the federal, state, and local levels further compound these challenges, deepening racial inequalities. The project will research policies, agency practices, and documented experiences to assess how these barriers affect benefit access across D.C. and nationally. The goal is to identify and evaluate legal, policy, and administrative reforms—such as clearer guidance, confidentiality safeguards, and advocacy strategies—to improve equitable access while protecting immigrants’ rights and dignity.

Subtasks (0)

Reminders(0)

