



CARPLS RECEIVES PROJECT INNOVATION GRANT FROM NBCUNIVERSAL FOUNDATION

For Immediate Release

May 15, 2020 - Chicago, Ill. - CARPLS, Chicago's largest provider of free legal aid, received a grant this week from NBCUniversal Foundation's 2020 Project Innovation Program. CARPLS will receive \$50,000 for their general hotline, which will go a long way in serving more clients in need, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Along with a few other Chicago-area organizations, CARPLS was selected out of hundreds of applications.

Before the pandemic, one in five Americans may have been eligible for free legal assistance but only half could access important legal resources. Now the demand for free legal help is even greater.

"In this time of significantly expanded need, CARPLS is uniquely positioned to continue providing our legal services remotely and uninterrupted for our clients and to our legal aid community. We believe that no one should face their legal problem alone and we are here for them," said Allen Schwartz, CARPLS Executive Director.

Whether counseling someone on how to file for unemployment, navigate family custodial agreements, or communicate with their landlord, attorneys at CARPLS provide essential services to our community. We are grateful to receive this grant from NBCUniversal Foundation.

About CARPLS

Serving 1 out of 4 legal aid cases in Cook County, CARPLS provides the greatest number of people with direct access to a free or low-cost attorney consultation. Early legal intervention can prevent the loss of income, home and family stability.

CARPLS delivers more than 63,000 free legal consultations annually via our legal aid hotlines and four court-based advice desks, resolving 85% of cases in-house and referring 15% of cases to 40 legal service partners. CARPLS also operates a statewide hotline providing legal services to thousands of veterans, service members, and their families as part of the Illinois Armed Forces Legal Aid Network (IL-AFLAN).

Before the pandemic, CARPLS was committed to providing free legal help to anyone in need and has always been there to help people in crisis. Now is no different.

Contact: Tanya Pietrkowski, Director of Development, 312.421.4014, tpietrkowski@carpls.org. To make a donation, visit carpls.org/general-donation/.