



General Session Music City Community Court, Division VIII (8)
Nashville, Davidson County Tennessee
Judge Rachel L. Bell, Presiding

*Justice does **NOT** stop at the courthouse steps!! ®*



TO: Oversight Committee
FROM: Judge Rachel L. Bell
DATE: December 14, 2022
RE: LEGACY HRDC- Program Facilitators/Case Manager (2 requested)

- In 2019, the LEGACY (Let Every Goal Achieve Continuous Yields) HRDC (Housing Resource Diversionary Court) was developed to work on pay & stay agreements with MDHA. This saved MDHA from having to file detainer warrants which cost upwards of \$100.00 per filing. This also was a win/win for MDHA and the tenant who was able to get a stipulation agreement to cure their rent arrearage by a date certain.
- The program was to launch in 2020.
- In 2020, Covid-19 hit and there were several moratoriums for landlords and tenants that ceased any detainer actions going forward and evictions.
- In 2021, when the civil/detainer actions were docketed in 1A/1B, the LEGACY HRDC team was developed by repurposing staff to meet the immediate need during the Covid-19 crisis by providing 2 staff members to serve as Housing Court Navigators.
- During this time, MAC was able to hire two Housing Court Navigators so the repurposed staff could return back to the work they were hired for with the Music City Community Court (MCCC) that being the RESTORE Re-Entry Court for Returning Citizens and the C.A.R.E. (Creating Avenues for Restoration & Empowerment) Diversionary Court for Ages 18-30.
- Several weeks ago the MAC Hope Program funding for those employees expired and now we are without Housing Court Navigators whose names have now changed nation-wide to Program Navigators to assist landlords and tenants that are attempting to work out the eviction matter with proper connection to resources here in the courthouse.

We are asking for 2 positions, one for 1A's courtroom and another for 1B's courtroom to provide assistance to all the other courtrooms in the Justice A.A. Birch Building as a need arises. One of these positions will be solely resource driven and the other will be a licensed



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social worker so the skillset in this area is met. The two will work together in tandem with case management for each case that seeks our assistance.

WHY IS THIS NEEDED?

As we move to the "Right to Counsel" Phase here in Nashville for tenants facing eviction, it is important that there are Program Navigators to connect the tenants to the lawyers with the Legal Aid Society and to the resources they need to avoid homelessness. Having individuals placed in the courtrooms to assist is extremely important. The Program Navigators will work in collaboration with other internal and external eviction defense projects as well as multi-organizational coalition.

Examples of Duties:

- To avoid or reduce the negative impacts of a potential eviction, such as referrals to other service providers, counselors for housing or financial counseling, and related stabilizing measures;
- Applying for rental assistance through applicable program(s);
- Navigating the transition process in connection with vacating rental property, including paperwork to arrange school transfers or enable students to remain at their current school, arrangements for continuation of healthcare, access to resources to obtain stable housing, finding affordable options for movers, security deposit programs etc.;
- Assist with non-legal aspects of case, such as following up with clients to ensure compliance with stipulations, including home visits when necessary, facilitating transportation to court, collecting documents and signatures;
- Assist with stabilizing housing including connecting clients with wrap-around support services for food insecurity, healthcare, clothing, government benefits, helping clients get a ID card, providing employment linkage to get job resources or opportunities; and
- Holistic assessments and referrals to appropriate substantive mental health or other restorative resources;
- Assist with in person workshops and clinics; and



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- Other duties as assigned.

Salaried positions are below including fringe benefits:

Program Manager 1						Program Manager 2					
Title	Class	Salary	FTE	Desc	Fringe	Total	Title	Class	Salary	FTE	Total
		57,895	1	OASDI	6.200%	3,600			63,609	1	3,900
				SSMed	1.450%	800					900
				Group H	13,500	13,500					13,500
				Dental	600	600					600
				Life	300	300					300
				Pension	12.881%	7,500					8,200
Total		57,895				26,300	Total		63,609		27,400
				Salary and Fringe		84,200					91,000

84,200

EVICTON CASES FILED: stats provided by Circuit Court Clerk, General Sessions Division

2019- 11,505

2020- 6,301

2021-7,298

2022- 10,760

#175,200

CASES TRANSFERRED to HRDC and provided assistance: stats provided by MCCC

2019- 0

2020-0

2021- 5,846 (80%) * court-ordered if MAC app and funding was available

2022- 3,079 (28%) * voluntarily transferred to assist with pay/stay