



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND JUSTICE PROGRAMS

Information for Prospective Partners



Interested in Partnering with Street Law?

Street Law's **Community Empowerment and Justice Programs** equip people with the knowledge and skills they need to understand, use, and shape the law.

We are seeking implementing partners who share our vision of empowered communities and accessible justice. Together, we can deliver high-impact programs that meet people where they are—providing practical legal knowledge, building critical thinking skills, and fostering lasting change.

Join us in advancing justice through education. Let's partner to create stronger, more informed communities!

CONTACT



Bianca Rizzio

Director, Community
Empowerment and Justice Programs

brizzio@streetlaw.org
240-821-1324

Contents

Introduction	page 3
Program Goals	page 5
Program Design	page 6
Case Studies	page 10



INTRODUCTION

Street Law's **Community Empowerment and Justice (CEJ) Programs** extend beyond traditional classroom settings to equip youth and adults facing systemic barriers with practical legal knowledge and critical life skills.

Supporting Communities Facing Systemic Challenges

Law and policies shape lives—but too often, those most impacted lack the tools to understand, navigate, and change them. Street Law's CEJ Programs equip people with practical legal knowledge, advocacy skills, and pathways to action.

Street Law partners with community organizations and institutions to:

- Integrate civic and law-related education into existing program services.
- Enhance participants' ability to navigate legal challenges.
- Build participants' civic engagement and advocacy skills.
- Inspire participants to take action to improve their lives and communities.

CEJ Programs support those most impacted by systemic challenges, including individuals facing legal system involvement or detention, educational barriers or exclusion, foster care or family separation, poverty or resource limitations, and/or unfair treatment based on identity.

How We Create Impact

CEJ Programs drive change by:

- Partnering directly with organizations and systems that serve priority populations
- Developing adaptable, demand-driven curricular materials on legal and civic topics
- Equipping facilitators with training to deliver engaging, interactive sessions
- Connecting participants with local experts and resources and creating opportunities to apply their knowledge and skills
- Strengthening the capacity of partner organizations to sustain programs long-term
- Integrating monitoring, evaluation, and technical support to maximize impact

By integrating CEJ programs into your community, you can empower individuals with the knowledge and skills to drive meaningful change.

Let's build a more just and informed society—together.



I learned what skills I have for jobs, how to help my community, and how to communicate with others.”

– CEJ PARTICIPANT



PROGRAM GOALS

The goals of Street Law's CEJ Programs are ambitious because they must be. Addressing systemic challenges and empowering communities requires bold, transformative efforts. By equipping people with the knowledge, skills, and resources they need to navigate challenges and drive positive change, these programs strive to create a more just society.

Each goal reflects Street Law's commitment to fostering resilience, self-advocacy, and systemic reform—because meaningful progress begins with empowerment at every level.

CEJ Programs aim to:

- Strengthen people's legal knowledge to navigate and overcome barriers.
- Develop critical thinking, self-efficacy, and problem-solving skills.
- Foster meaningful dialogue about the intersection of laws, values, and community dynamics.
- Empower communities to advocate for systemic change.
- Address gaps in resources, services, and access to create fairer systems.
- Strengthen efforts in diversion, deflection, and re-entry to improve outcomes for individuals and communities.

PROGRAM DESIGN

Street Law's CEJ Programs build the capacity of community organizations and institutions to integrate civic and law-related education programming into their existing services, with the ultimate goal of improving outcomes for their beneficiaries.

To best serve the unique needs of each community partner, Street Law custom builds each program solution. This is done through a collaborative approach to ensure every program integrates the right blend of components to maximize success and impact.

The program design process includes three key steps:

Step 1: Collaborative Program Planning

Step 2: Instructor Preparation and Support

Step 3: Curricular Resources and Pedagogy

I enjoyed that the youth have a voice to speak up about their own struggles [and] issues rather than just listening [to] presenters speak."

— CEJ PARTICIPANT

Step 1: Collaborative Program Planning

At the start of a CEJ Program partnership, Street Law works closely with prospective partners to understand their unique goals and needs and to design the optimal program. This collaborative process includes:

- **Program Structure Design:** Crafting the most effective approach to embedding civic and law-related education into the organization's existing services.
- **Sustainability Planning:** Establishing a timeline for Street Law's involvement and creating a plan to ensure the program's long-term success and independence.
- **Funding Exploration:** Determining the program's funding model, whether through direct fees or third-party funding.
- **Instructor Selection:** Deciding who will teach the lessons. While the primary model involves preparing the organization's staff to deliver lessons, alternative options may include engaging volunteer instructors from the legal community.
- **Selecting Learning Topics:** Pinpointing the lesson topics that best address the beneficiaries' needs.
- **Success Metrics and Evaluation:** Setting clear goals and designing a plan to measure program impact and outcomes.

This thorough assessment ensures that every CEJ Program is tailored to meet the needs of partner organizations and strategically designed to achieve success.

Step 2: Instructor Preparation and Support

A cornerstone of successful CEJ Programs is the comprehensive preparation and support provided to instructors.

Recognizing that high-quality programs require exceptional instructors, Street Law delivers direct training or training of trainers to ensure that partner staff or instructor volunteers are equipped, confident, and ready to deliver effective CEJ Programs. The instructor preparation process includes:

- **Interactive Pedagogy Techniques:** Training instructors in engaging, research-backed, learner-centered methods that build participants' knowledge, skills, and confidence.
- **Curriculum Selection and Mastery:** Providing an in-depth exploration of curricular materials, hands-on practice sessions, and teach-back activities to refine instructional skills.
- **Implementation Logistics:** Assisting with program planning and coordination to ensure smooth program delivery.
- **Culturally Competent Program Design:** Developing strategies to ensure programs consider and accommodate participants' backgrounds, lived experiences, and needs—including directly involving beneficiaries in the program development process.

Beyond initial training, Street Law offers ongoing coaching, technical assistance, program observations, and evaluation support. This continued collaboration ensures CEJ Programs remain effective, impactful, and sustainable over time.

Step 3: Curricular Resources and Pedagogy

Street Law equips CEJ partners with a robust library of curricular resources, including lesson plans, instructional guides, videos, and facilitation tools.

These resources form the foundation of each program, delivering legal and civic knowledge while building critical skills through interactive, structured learning activities.

Designed for accessibility and impact, CEJ Program materials provide step-by-step instructions, enabling individuals without formal educational or legal training to teach effectively and making them an excellent fit for a broad range of community organizations.

Each lesson plan is built around proven, interactive instructional methods that foster dialogue, encourage active participation, and allow participants to practice civic skills and apply newfound knowledge in a safe, educational environment.

Our expansive lesson library covers a wide range of topics focused on personal rights and responsibilities, including the following:

- **Personal and public safety**
- **Civic engagement**
- **The court system**
- **Public policy**
- **Police interactions**
- **Housing law**
- **Employment law**
- **Financial literacy**

Street Law works closely with partners to select the most relevant topics, ensuring that every program addresses the specific needs and priorities of the community while incorporating local resources to maximize impact and create opportunities for participants to apply their learning.

All CEJ Program curricular resources proudly reflect Street Law's commitment to quality curriculum.

CASE STUDIES

CEJ Programs in Action

Customization is a strength of Street Law's CEJ Programs. By tailoring each program to meet the unique needs of communities and their local contexts, Street Law ensures that its efforts resonate deeply and deliver meaningful results.

From combating unfair treatment in the workplace to empowering youth during reentry, each CEJ program is custom designed alongside stakeholders to ensure lasting impact.

These success stories showcase the transformative power customized civic and law-related education can have in empowering people and strengthening communities.

- **Street Law as a Diversion Program:** In partnership with D.C. Superior Court, Street Law implemented a 12-week diversion program for first-time juvenile offenders. Participants developed critical thinking, conflict resolution, and legal navigation skills. Independent evaluations showed reduced recidivism rates, leading to the program's replication in other jurisdictions.
- **Skills for Navigating the Workforce:** Partnering with Capital One, Street Law delivered workforce readiness training to youth in Richmond, Virginia. Participants learned to recognize unfair treatment in the workplace, understand workplace rights, and advocate for themselves. Post-program surveys showed significant improvements in their knowledge and preparedness to navigate the workforce.

- **Strengthening Communities Through Collaboration:** Collaborating with Subaru, Rutgers Law School, and Center for Family Services, Street Law brought essential law-related education to youth in Camden, New Jersey, through an AmeriCorps workforce development program. This multisector partnership equipped young people in high-need communities with knowledge and skills to succeed, while building employment and leadership skills. Post-program surveys showed 100% of participants analyzing how the topics could be applied in their daily lives.
- **Tools for Combatting Hatred and Fostering Inclusion:** In partnership with Verizon and the MinKwon Center, Street Law provided law-related education to the Korean American community in New York City. Following the program, 85% of participants felt more empowered to combat hate, 95% gained a better understanding of their legal rights, and 100% improved essential skills like communication, problem-solving, and respectful dialogue.
- **Building Legal Life Skills to Uplift Communities:** At Wellspring Living, an Atlanta-based organization supporting survivors of domestic sex trafficking, participants gained critical knowledge on their rights during arrests, landlord-tenant laws, and financial literacy. Graduates left empowered to make informed decisions and positively impact their communities.



Street Law, Inc. is a global, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization. For 50 years, we have developed innovative programs and leveraged education for empowerment and justice in all 50 U.S. states and in 45 countries. By advancing civic and law-related education, we envision a world where everyone has the knowledge and power to shape a more just society.

OUR MISSION

We advance civic and law-related education to empower all people to positively transform their world.

OUR VISION

We envision a world where everyone has the knowledge and power to shape a more just and equitable society.

1010 Wayne Avenue, Suite 860
Silver Spring, MD 20910
USA

www.streetlaw.org
learnmore@streetlaw.org