

EXPECTATIONS OF PARTNERS

Thank you for your interest in the Legal Skills in Social Context (LSSC) program. If your project proposal is accepted, a contact person designated by your organization will work with a small team of first-year law students closely supervised by an LSSC professor. Using both conventional legal research methods as well as investigative field research, the team will produce high-quality work product for your organization.

We have found that collaboration is key in ensuring a successful partnership and project. While the bulk of the work is on the students assigned to your project, we ask that all of our partner organizations contribute to the team effort that the work involves. This collaboration also helps to contribute to the legal education of future lawyers by introducing them to the spirit and practice of social justice lawyering.

There are a few required touchpoints throughout the life of the project. These include:

- Meeting with the LSSC professor prior to the start of the academic year to work through the scale and scope of the project. You may be asked to provide background materials about your organization's mission and any research or other materials you may have assembled that are relevant to the project.
- Meeting with the student group and LSSC professor at three critical stages of the project (either in person or virtually). The first meeting is typically held in early fall to introduce and discuss the early phases of the project. The second meeting, held either in early December or January, is to provide a deeper discussion of the project's implementation. The final meeting is held at the end of March or early April, when the team delivers an oral presentation of findings and recommendations. Additional meetings may be scheduled as needed.
- Responding to questions from the team and reviewing drafts of the team's work product, as needed. You and the student team will work to establish an agreement about the content and frequency of regular progress reports along with expectations about your feedback.

While your primary role throughout the project is that of a partner, this program is an important part of the learning experience for law students at Northeastern University. Therefore, we hope that you will also consider offering your guidance as a "mentoring practitioner" or "mentor expert" during the course of the academic year.

Your project will be our students' first experience of real lawyering to serve social justice. You and your organization's project are our partners in training future practitioners. Thank you!