



# WIN PROGRAM

HELPING WOMEN IN  
SUDDEN ECONOMIC DISTRESS

NEIGHBORHOOD LEGAL SERVICES

*Because Justice is for All*

A photograph of a woman with dark, curly hair, wearing a light-colored top, looking out a window. The image is partially obscured by a blue banner at the bottom.

**A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO  
HELPING WOMEN GET BACK ON  
THEIR FEET AGAIN AND GAINING  
FINANCIAL STABILITY**

# How NLS Can Help

NLS can provide assistance with:

- Evictions
- Unemployment Benefits
- Unlawful loss of employment
- SSI/SSDI Overpayments
- Expungements
- Debt Collection
- Utility Shut-offs
- Loss or potential loss of custody
- Child Support Assistance
- Mortgage Foreclosure
- Denial of SSI/SSDI Benefits
- Public Benefit Denials



**NEIGHBORHOOD**  
**LEGAL SERVICES**

Since the inception of the Women's Impact Network (WIN) Program, NLS has provided civil legal aid to women experiencing sudden economic distress. These women have overcome these challenges by having their criminal records expunged, avoided eviction or debt collection or received the child support they deserve. By addressing the underlying legal issues through the assistance of attorneys at NLS, these women have a more solid foundation upon which to conduct a job search, attend school, find better housing, and raise happy and healthy families in a stable environment.



*48 year old Sofia\* contacted NLS when she realized that there were minor charges on her criminal record that were preventing her from getting employment. As a result, she was having trouble keeping up with the bills while trying to raise 14 year old twins. An attorney from NLS filed a petition on her behalf and her charges were quickly expunged, enabling Sofia to find a job and support her family.*

If you have a client who is recently separated, widowed or divorced, is a victim of domestic abuse, has recently become unemployed is facing loss of custody of her children, or who has recently lost child/spousal or alimony support, they may be experiencing sudden economic distress. In many instances, there may be a legal remedy to address some of these issues and the consequences of sudden economic loss.

Through its WIN Program, NLS in partnership with the Center for Women can assist women in Allegheny County by addressing essential legal needs through advice, limited service, full representation and community education.

The approach of this project is to provide comprehensive and holistic support for these women. By partnering with the Center for Women which provides job search training, financial counseling and education, as well as temporary housing or emergency funds to address the immediate crisis, the project facilitates long-term economic stability.

NLS will refer clients for these additional services and they will have access to a direct referral system to NLS so that clients do not have to call our very busy intake system, which can be difficult when facing an emergency situation.



*Kim\* came to NLS after receiving an unexpected eviction notice from her landlord. Kim and her sister lived together in a small rental home and both survived on their SSI benefits. They had both gotten along fine with their landlord and paid their rent on time. However, a new management company took over the property and switched the water into its name. Kim continued to pay the same amount of rent every month. However, the landlord began adding \$150 per month in late fees to her tenant ledger for the water bills. By the time Kim received a large bill for the water and late fees, she could not pay it. She then received an eviction notice for nonpayment. An NLS attorney helped Kim settle the matter and was able to have some money set aside for Kim and her sister to pay a deposit on a new rental.*



**NEIGHBORHOOD  
LEGAL SERVICES**

\*Names have been changed to protect the identity, safety and privacy of our clients.



## NEIGHBORHOOD LEGAL SERVICES

# How to Get Help

Visit our website and apply online at

[www.nlsa.us](http://www.nlsa.us)

and choose “Get Legal Help”

or call **1-866-761-6572**

NLS provides interpreters and translation services.  
All services are confidential.

*This program is made possible by a grant from the  
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Neighborhood Legal Services does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, age, sexual orientation, handicap/disability, national origin, ancestry, creed, and religion or any other characteristics protected by law with regard to employment and/or delivery of legal services.

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500 MARKET STREET | BRIDGEWATER, PA 15009-2998

### BUTLER COUNTY OFFICE

HOLLY POINTE BUILDING  
220 S. MAIN STREET | BUTLER, PA 16001

### LAWRENCE COUNTY OFFICE

TEMPLE BUILDING, SUITE 329  
125 EAST NORTH STREET | NEW CASTLE, PA 16101-3751



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