



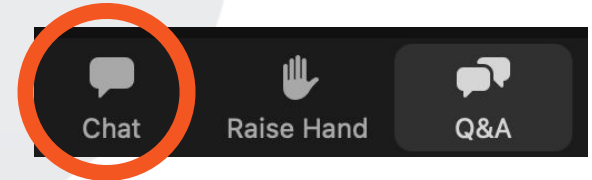
USING LEGAL SERVICES
AS PART OF A
COMMUNITY STRATEGY
TO IMPROVE
MATERNAL HEALTH IN HEALTH CENTERS

2023 LEARNING COLLABORATIVE

• SESSION 4: MARCH 22, 2023

Housekeeping

- This is the final. We'd greatly appreciate it if you turned on your cameras to help us feel more connected as a group.
- Attendees are muted throughout the webinar.
- Type questions into **Chat**.
- To activate captions, select "Captions" and "Show Captions."
- This webinar will be recorded and shared with participants
- Send your questions into the chat for help.





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About this Learning Collaborative

- Using legal services as a community strategy to improve maternal health in health centers
- 4 sessions
 - 90 mn long
 - Didactic portion and guided discussion
- Overview and Discussion of an MLP model



Today's Agenda

1

Introductions

Objectives
Faculty

2

Presentations

Lessons for the
Day

3

Discussion

Guiding Questions

4

Closeout

Next Session



Learning Collaborative Objectives

1. **Understand MLPs** and their role in maternal health
2. **Understand how to detect and address unmet legal** needs that negatively impact maternal health outcomes
3. **Develop strategies to collaborate across health and legal settings** for integrating civil legal services, e.g, such as MLP activities, with your health center's maternal priorities.



Meet the Faculty



Courtney Mendoza, JD
Mental Health Advocacy
Services



Nola Booth, JD
Legal Assistance of Western New
York (LawNY)



Amanda Elkanick Oder
Texas Advocacy Project



Bronwyn Blake, JD
Texas Advocacy Project



Vicki Girard, JD
Georgetown University Health
Justice Alliance



**Loral Patchen, PhD, MSN,
MA, CNM, IBCLC**
Medstar Washington Hospital
Center



Roxana Richardson, JD
Georgetown University
Health Justice Alliance



Session 3 Lead

Nola Booth, JD

Legal Assistance of Western
New York (LawNY)

Final Chance to...

Get to Know your Cohort

What is:

Your Name

Your Title

Your Organization Name &
Location

***One major takeaway from
session 3***

Session 4

Georgetown University Health Justice Alliance MLP

Vicki Girard

*Director, Health Justice Alliance;
Professor of Law, Legal Practice*



Roxana Richardson

MLP Director of the Health Justice Alliance's Perinatal Legal Assistance and Wellbeing (LAW) Project at MedStar Washington Hospital Center



Loral Patchen

Medical Champion, Perinatal LAW Project; Associate Chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology; Medical Director, MedStar OB/GYN Specialty Center; Section Director, Midwifery at MedStar Washington Hospital Center (MWHC)





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Perinatal Legal Assistance & Well-being Project: A Maternal Health & Academic MLP

Service—Education—Research—Funding

March 22, 2023

Perinatal Legal Assistance & Wellbeing (LAW) Project



- HJA partnership with MedStar Washington Hospital Center's Women's & Infants' Services (WIS). Conducted needs assessment in 2020 & Launched services in 2021
- 2 Full-time lawyers work with WIS to:
 - Train healthcare teams to identify & refer patients with unmet legal needs
 - Provide legal services to pregnant & postpartum patients
 - Build provider & patient capacity to advocate
- Evaluating impact on patients, providers, and the health system to contribute to the MLP evidence base

Health Harming Legal Needs

“A social problem that adversely affects a person's health or access to healthcare, and that is better remedied through joint legal care and healthcare than through healthcare services alone.”

- National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership (MLP)



Original work product of Carly Loughran and the Georgetown University Health Justice Alliance. Any reproductions or adaptations of this work product should acknowledge the Georgetown University Health Justice Alliance

Legal Needs of WIS Perinatal Patients Based on Fall 2020 Needs Assessment

Work

Job Accommodations

Parental Leave

Discrimination

Family Medical Leave Act

Short-term/Long-term
Disability Leave

Home

Housing Conditions

Housing Accessibility

Eviction

Family

Public Benefits/Income
Supports

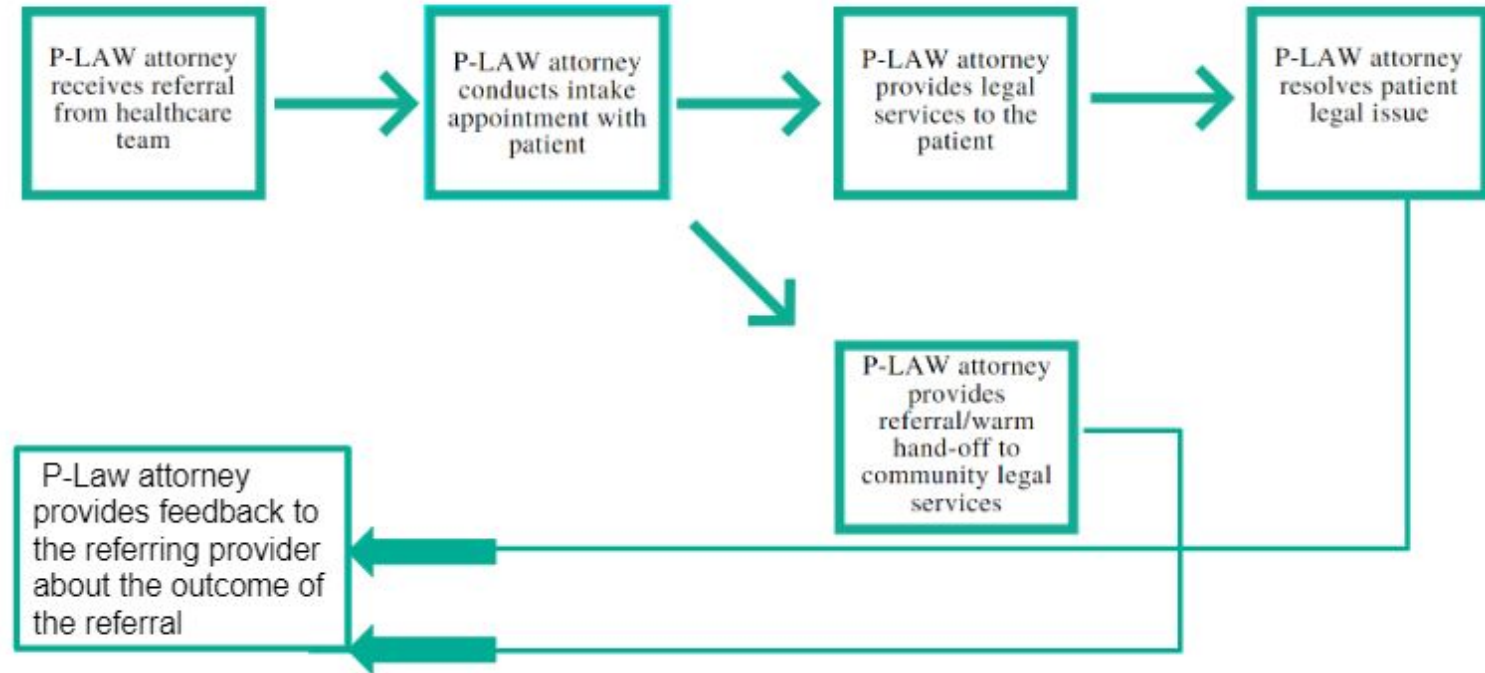
Child Support

Domestic Violence

Paternity

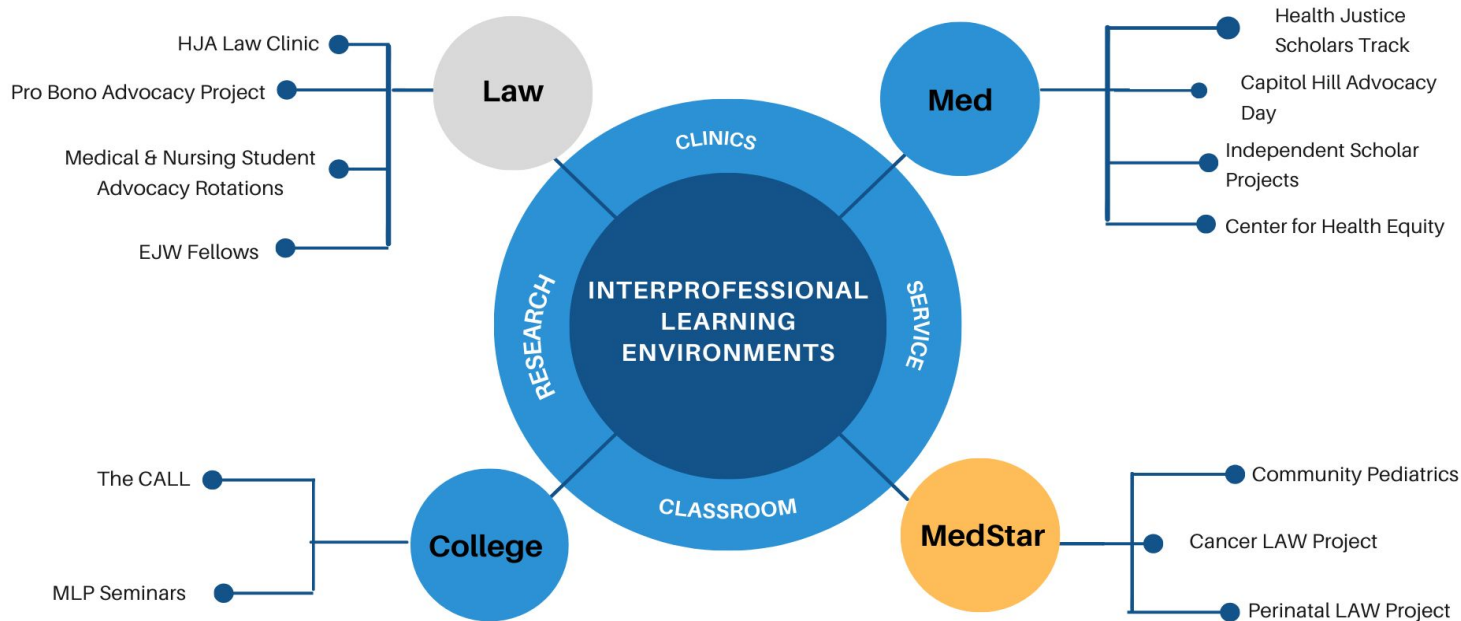
Custody

P-LAW Patient Referral to Legal Services Process



The Health Justice Alliance: An Academic MLP

Academic MLPs can expand institutional & professional boundaries and help students learn new ways to practice law & medicine together. —NEJM May 2021



Perinatal LAW Project Partners/Funding




Resources

Legal Needs Screening Tool for WIS Referrals Specialist -- Health Justice Alliance Perinatal LAW Project

For all referrals to P-LAW, please confirm the following: patient has a legal issue or concern; consents to be contacted by P-LAW; and understands an intake needs to be completed in order to receive legal services.

*Try to include issue-relevant dates for all the referrals.

*If you receive any referrals that do not fall under the requirements in this chart or are unsure if a patient's issue(s) requires legal assistance, please reach out to the P-LAW team (plaw@georgetown.edu) before referring.

WIS SCREENING QUESTION	ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS TO ASK PATIENTS & INCLUDE IN REFERRAL TO LEGAL TEAM	REFER TO HJA IF...
Are you worried or concerned that in the next two months you may not have stable housing in the place that you own, rent, or stay in as a part of a household?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the patient currently behind on rent? Has the patient received a nonpayment of rent notice or an eviction notice? 	<p>Patient is <u>currently</u> behind on rent or has received a nonpayment of rent notice or eviction notice.</p> <p>*If patient is only looking for help finding new housing, a legal referral is not appropriate.</p>
<p>Think about the place you live. Do you have problems with any of the following? (Check all that apply)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Bugs, rats, mice</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Bed Bugs</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Mold</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Lead paint or pipes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not enough heat</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Oven or stove not working</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Smoke alarms not working or do not have them</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Water leaks or other water problems</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> None of the above</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</p>	 <p>GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY HEALTH JUSTICE ALLIANCE Perinatal LAW</p> <p>*P-LAW does not need the maintenance/ service request in writing in order to receive the referral. It would help the case if the patient has a record of these requests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has the patient asked the landlord to fix the issues in their housing unit? Has the patient put the maintenance/ service request in writing? 	<p>Patient still lives in housing with these or other conditions issues.</p>
If patient mentions an accessibility issue with their apartment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has the patient asked the landlord to make the accommodations in their housing unit? Has the patient put the accommodation request in writing? 	<p>Patient still lives in housing without these accommodations in place.</p>
<p>In the past 12 months, has the electric, gas, oil, or water company threatened to shut off services in your home?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Already shut off</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which utilities are currently off or at risk of being turned off? Has the patient received a written shut-off notice? 	<p>Patient is currently living or at risk of living in a housing unit without utility services.</p>

<p>Have you been denied benefits (For example, health insurance, disability, unemployment, SNAP, WIC or other benefits) in the last 3 months? PLAW</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which benefits has the patient been denied? • Has the patient received a written denial notice? • Has the patient stopped receiving any of their benefits? • When was the patient's last contact with the agency at issue? 	<p>Patient has been told verbally or in writing that they have been denied benefits (include the month and year that they received notice of the denial).</p> <p>Patient has stopped receiving benefits or is receiving less than they used to receive (include the month and year the benefits stopped or were reduced).</p>
<p>If the patient answered "yes" to the following employment questions:</p> <p>Do you do work that you get paid for?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p>a. What do you do for work? _____</p> <p>b. Do you think it is too hard or unsafe to do your job while pregnant? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p>c. Are you having trouble getting time off of work for health and/or family reasons (ex: your OB/Doctor appts, you are not feeling well, you are taking care of a sick family member, etc.)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p>d. Do you have concerns about being able to take leave from work after you give birth?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p>e. Is your pregnancy making it difficult or unsafe for you to perform all of your job duties?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p>f. Do you believe you are being treated unfairly at work because you are pregnant? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the patient been fired or treated unfairly because they are pregnant or recently gave birth? • Does the patient have concerns about being able to take leave (medical, sick, or family)? • Does the patient need any accommodations in order to do their job (extra breaks, lifting restrictions, a change in schedule, a place to pump and store breastmilk)? • Has the patient made any leave or accommodations requests to their employer? 	<p>The patient has any concerns about leave, accommodations, or discrimination.</p>

g. Do you anticipate needing any accommodations (pumping, extra breaks, etc.) or additional leave from work/school now that you've had the baby?

☐ Yes

If a patient is experiencing interpersonal violence.

- Does the patient want assistance obtaining a temporary protective order (TPO)?

The patient is ready to pursue legal action against the offending party.

If a patient is having a child support issue.

- Does the patient live in DC?
- Is the patient currently receiving child support?
- Has the patient stopped receiving child support?
- Is the patient looking to open a new child support case?

The patient is ready to pursue legal action.



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Does the patient have any other family law concerns such as: child custody, visitation, guardianships, and/or third party custody, or divorce

- What family law concerns is the patient having?
- Does the patient or the other party live in DC?
- Is there a petition currently pending or do they have an upcoming court/ hearing date?
- Has the patient spoken to or is currently represented by an attorney?

The patient is not currently represented by an attorney and is ready to pursue legal action.

*P-LAW does not handle all family law-related cases; however, the P-LAW team will refer those cases to a community legal partner.

If a patient mentions a consumer debt (bankruptcy, past due bills including car notes, credit cards, student loans,

- What consumer debt concerns does the patient have?

If the patient is receiving assistance from P-LAW for another legal need/issue.

medical, etc. or frequent calls from bill/debt collector) issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has the patient received letters or notices from the court or creditors/collectors? 	*P-LAW does not handle consumer debt; however, the P-LAW team will refer those cases to a community legal partner.
PREVIOUSLY REFERRED PATIENT	ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS TO ASK PATIENTS & INCLUDE IN REFERRAL TO LEGAL TEAM	REFER TO HJA IF...
<p>If a patient mentions being previously referred to P-LAW.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Is this a repeat referral for the same legal issue? Is the patient needing to be referred for a different legal issue? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When was the patient previously referred to P-LAW? Is there a referral feedback form in the patient's chart? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If there is a note in the feedback form that the patient refused to complete the intake, inform the patient that they will need to disclose private information in order for you to send the referral over to P-LAW. 	<p>The returning patient's legal need falls within P-LAW scope.</p> <p>The patient is comfortable disclosing private information in order to receive services.</p>
<p>*During intake, a patient discloses private information including but not limited to: demographic, household, and financial information.</p>		



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NEED HELP PREPARING YOUR TAXES?

TRAINED VOLUNTEERS CAN HELP AT NO COST!



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- **Who is eligible for free assistance?** Individuals and families with income less than \$60,000.
- **Where can I go for help preparing and filing my taxes?** Below is a list of locations where you can go for free assistance. To make an appointment, please call or email the location you would like to visit.

- **Do I have to make an appointment?** Yes. Please call or email to schedule an in person appointment.
- **What documents do I need to take to my appointment?** Below is a list of documents you will probably need to take to your appointment. However, when scheduling your appointment, be sure to ask what specific documents you need to provide.
 - Social Security Card or ITIN letter for yourself, spouse (if applicable) and anyone claimed as a dependent
 - Unexpired government issued photo ID for yourself (and spouse if filing jointly)
 - Income statements such as W-2s, 1099's, bank interest statements, and other income information
 - Record of expenses for tax credits and deductions (child care, education, student loans, medical expenses)
 - Account and routing number for direct deposit of your refund
 - Income statements for all dependents (W2s, 1099-SSAs, etc.)
 - Copy of your 2020 and 2021 tax return, if available
 - Form 1095-A if you purchased health insurance through the Marketplace/Exchange
- **How can trained volunteers help me?** Volunteers can help determine whether you are eligible for important tax credits. For example, you may be eligible for the DC Homeowner and Renter Tax Credit and/or the Earned Income Tax Credit. You may also be eligible for a tax credit if you were eligible for a COVID stimulus payment but did not receive it or received less than the full amount.



Location	Appointment Details
United Planning Organization Petey Green Center (Anacostia)	Call: (202) 231-7903
Howard University <ul style="list-style-type: none">• School of Business (NW)• Edgewood Commons (NE)	Email: howarduniversityvita@gmail.com Call: (202) 838-7798
Community Tax Aid at Centro Nia (assistance in Spanish) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Columbia Heights	Email: appointments@communitytaxaidc.org Call: (202) 869-2999
Community Tax Aid <ul style="list-style-type: none">• East River Family Strengthening Collaborative (Minnesota Ave)• MLK Jr Memorial Library (Downtown)• Jubilee Jobs (Adams Morgan)	Email: appointments@communitytaxaidc.org Call: (202) 830-1480
Catholic Charities at Catholic University Law School	Call: (202) 319-6788
University of the District of Columbia – Van Ness: Accounting Department	Call: (202) 274-7022

Location	Appointment Details
Anacostia Library Tues. and Wed. 11 am – 3 pm	Call: (202) 656-1689 Email: 20051007@aarpfoundation.org States: DC, MD
Bellevue/William O. Lockridge Library Sat. 10am – 2pm	Call: (202) 643-6407 Email: 20051005@aarpfoundation.org States: DC, MD
Capitol View Library Mon. and Wed. 10am – 2pm	Call: (202) 643-4845 Email: 20051025@aarpfoundation.org States: DC, MD
Georgetown Library Wed. and Fri. 10am – 2pm	Call: (202) 677-5057 Email: 20051001@aarpfoundation.org States: DC, MD
Petworth Library Mon. and Fri. 12pm – 4pm	Call: (202) 656-1341 Email: 20051013@aarpfoundation.org States: DC
Shaw/Watha T. Daniel Library Sat. 10:30am-2:30pm	Call: (202) 683-7397 Email: 20051012@aarpfoundation.org States: DC, MD
Southwest Library Mon. and Wed. 1pm – 5pm	Call: (202) 656-0442 Email: 20051018@aarpfoundation.org States: DC, MD
Woodridge Library Mon. and Wed. 10am – 2pm	Call: (202) 643-4279 Email: 20051004@aarpfoundation.org States: DC



DID YOU KNOW?

DC Law Requires a Landlord to Remove Mold After Receiving Notice of the Issue

What you can do if you think you have mold in your home



Step 1: Take photos and/or videos of the problem. This can be evidence that you can use in court if your landlord does not remove the mold. Make sure you save the photos and/or videos and send back up copies of them to your email or to a trusted person in case something happens to your phone.



Step 2: Immediately notify your landlord in writing about the mold and include photos and/or videos of the mold. Make sure you notify the landlord in writing (text message or email) to protect your rights.

DC law requires that a landlord inspect your home for mold within 7 days after receiving notice of the mold



Step 3: If there is more than 10 square feet of visible mold in one area, the landlord must use a professional, licensed mold remediator to do the repairs.



Step 4: DC law requires your landlord to remediate (repair) the mold within 30 days of an inspection.

Painting over mold is NOT a proper way to remediate mold.
If the source of the water causing the mold is not fixed, the mold may return.



Step 5: After the remediation, request another inspection to make sure the mold is removed and the source of the water causing the mold is fixed.



Step 6: If your landlord does not remediate the mold, you can make a complaint to the Department of Energy and Environment and request a home inspection. To make a complaint and request an inspection, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/DOEEComplaint>. You should also tell a member of your WIS healthcare team about the mold and ask for a referral to speak with an attorney at P-LAW.

Why it is important to remove mold



Mold can cause asthma, sinus infections, chronic cough, and other health issues for babies, children and adults with preexisting health conditions.
Health issues may worsen the longer a person is exposed to mold.

All information provided is for informational and educational purposes only, and does not constitute legal advice nor does it establish any kind of attorney-client relationship by your review of this information. An attorney-client relationship is only formed after we have entered into a written agreement with you that you have signed. Although we strive to provide accurate general information, the information presented here is not a substitute for any kind of legal advice, and you should not rely solely on this information.

Please reach out to a provider or staff team member at MWHC for a referral to P-LAW.

SNAP PANDEMIC EMERGENCY BENEFITS ENDING FEBRUARY 2023



WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

- **Why are emergency SNAP benefits ending?** During the pandemic, extra allotments (benefits) were given to SNAP households because of the challenges caused by COVID-19. In December 2022, a new law was passed to end the emergency benefits.
- **Who will be impacted?** All SNAP customers who receive the SNAP Emergency Allotments.
- **When will the emergency allotments end?** February 2023 is the last month to receive the emergency allotment. Starting March 2023, benefits will be reduced to the regular amount.
- **How much will my SNAP benefit amount be beginning in March?** It depends. To find out, log into your District Direct online portal or the mobile app. You can also call DHS at 202-727-5355 or visit your local service center.

- **Can I increase my SNAP benefit amount?** Maybe. SNAP allows you to deduct certain expenses from your income to increase your monthly benefit amount. To calculate your estimated benefit amount based on the deductions you are eligible for, click [here](#). **Please note:** this calculator only provides an *estimate* on your SNAP benefit amount. If the calculator says you are owed more SNAP benefits than you receive in March 2023, you should call DHS at 202-727-5355 or visit your local DHS Service Center and ask that your SNAP benefit be recalculated based on your current deductions. To learn more about SNAP deductions, click [here](#).
- **What if I need more food assistance?** If you would like to learn about other food programs in D.C., check out the DC Federal Nutrition Program Toolkit [here](#).
- **What if I have questions?** Notices with more information will be sent out to SNAP households via prerecorded calls, U.S. mail and through the District Direct portal. To learn more, click [here](#) OR scan the QR code below. You can also contact DHS at 202-727-5355 or visit your local DHS Service Center.

To learn more about the
information above...

Use this link or Scan here

<https://tinyurl.com/snapbenefitchange>



Questions?



Scan the QR code
or visit us online at:

<https://www.law.georgetown.edu/health-justice-alliance/our-work/perinatal-law-project>

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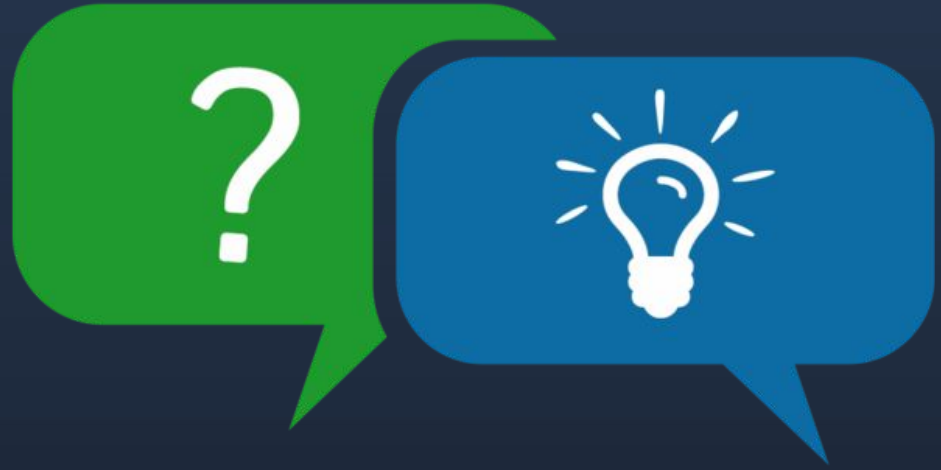
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Guided Discussion



Evaluation Survey



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9NZ3935>



THANK YOU!

Contact the NCMLP Team at ncmlp@gwu.edu for assistance.