

# **Listening to Community**

**The Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to  
Justice Community Trust Committee**

**NYS Permanent Commission on Access to Justice**

**June 12, 2023**

# How does the Community Trust Committee listen to communities?



Restructured Membership



Listening Sessions



Community Navigator Collaboration

# The Community Trust Committee

**Established in 2017**



**2020: Broadening membership**



**2018: initial town halls in Markham, IL**



**2022 and beyond: Justice for All listening sessions, Community Navigator collaboration**



# Justice For All Listening Sessions



- Four community partners identified in Chicago and Rock Island, IL
- Each partner organization has executed an MOU and receives funds to host participants from community members associated with the organization for feedback sessions, and to compensate participants for their time and input.
- 2-3 sessions with each partner organization focusing on highlighted areas, including efficacy of statewide court forms and experiences of survivors of intimate partner violence at court
- Findings are summarized in a report and shared with appropriate court stakeholders for future action



# Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice Illinois Access to Justice ("ILA2J")

## Community Navigator Collaboration



### Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice

- Supreme Court committee established in 2012 to enhance access to justice in courts, especially for marginalized communities
- Community Trust Committee
- 2020-2023 Strategic Plan initiative to "foster community trust"

### Illinois Access to Justice

- Statewide program focused on promoting access to legal services in historically marginalized communities and began in 2019
- Community-based organizations supporting these communities across Illinois are invited to apply to ILA2J for to either provide direct legal services or serve as community navigators.

CBA/CBF TASK FORCE ON THE SUSTAINABLE PRACTICE  
OF LAW & INNOVATION  
TASK FORCE REPORT  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2020

Recommendation #7: Recognize a new community justice navigator model to build off the success of Illinois JusticeCorps in the Courts

Community Trust Committee charge and plan:

- No registry or new Navigator program
- Collaborate with existing Community Navigators through ILA2J
- Retain separation between courts and Navigators; only advise and enhance existing programs



# Who are the Navigators?

- 425 Navigators embedded across 37 community-based organizations (social services, community-based programs, libraries) serving people impacted by court involvement.
- Community Navigators are trained to help people navigate complex systems by providing legal information, akin to JusticeCorps and the Commission's Court Navigator Network (“CNN”) and acting as a connector.
- They provide outreach, education, document preparation, and navigation assistance to Illinois’ marginalized communities.

# Technical Assistance and Training: Three Modules

## Going to Court

- How to find local rules/procedures
- Zoom Court basics

## Statewide Forms

- Intro to forms and where to find them
- E-filing
- Guided interviews

## Court-based Resources

- General assistance, like ILCH, JusticeCorps, etc.
- Subject specific resources



# Goals of Collaboration



**Connect court information and resources** to the communities served by ILA2J Navigator network



**Promote community trust** in courts by enhancing transparency, accessibility of information, and knowledge of process across communities



**Empower communities** to address legal issues, especially for those without a lawyer

**Thank You**