



**MEDICAL LEGAL  
PARTNERSHIP**  
*of southern Illinois*

**Land of Lincoln Legal Aid – Carbondale**

**618-457-7800 Ext. 6127**

**[mlpsi@lincolnlegal.org](mailto:mlpsi@lincolnlegal.org)**



**LAND OF  
LINCOLN**  
**-LEGAL AID-**

*Breaking Barriers to Justice*



# **WHO IS LAND OF LINCOLN LEGAL AID**

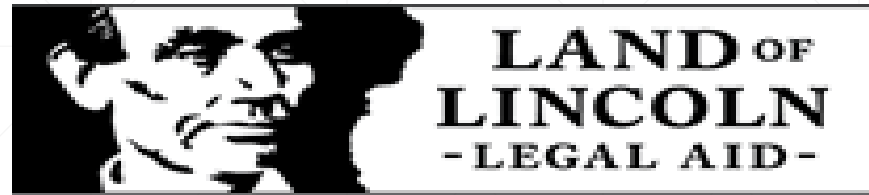


"We believe all people of Central and Southern Illinois should have access to justice, income security, adequate housing, quality education, healthcare, safety from violence and exploitation, and the opportunity to improve their own lives."



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## **WHAT WE DO**

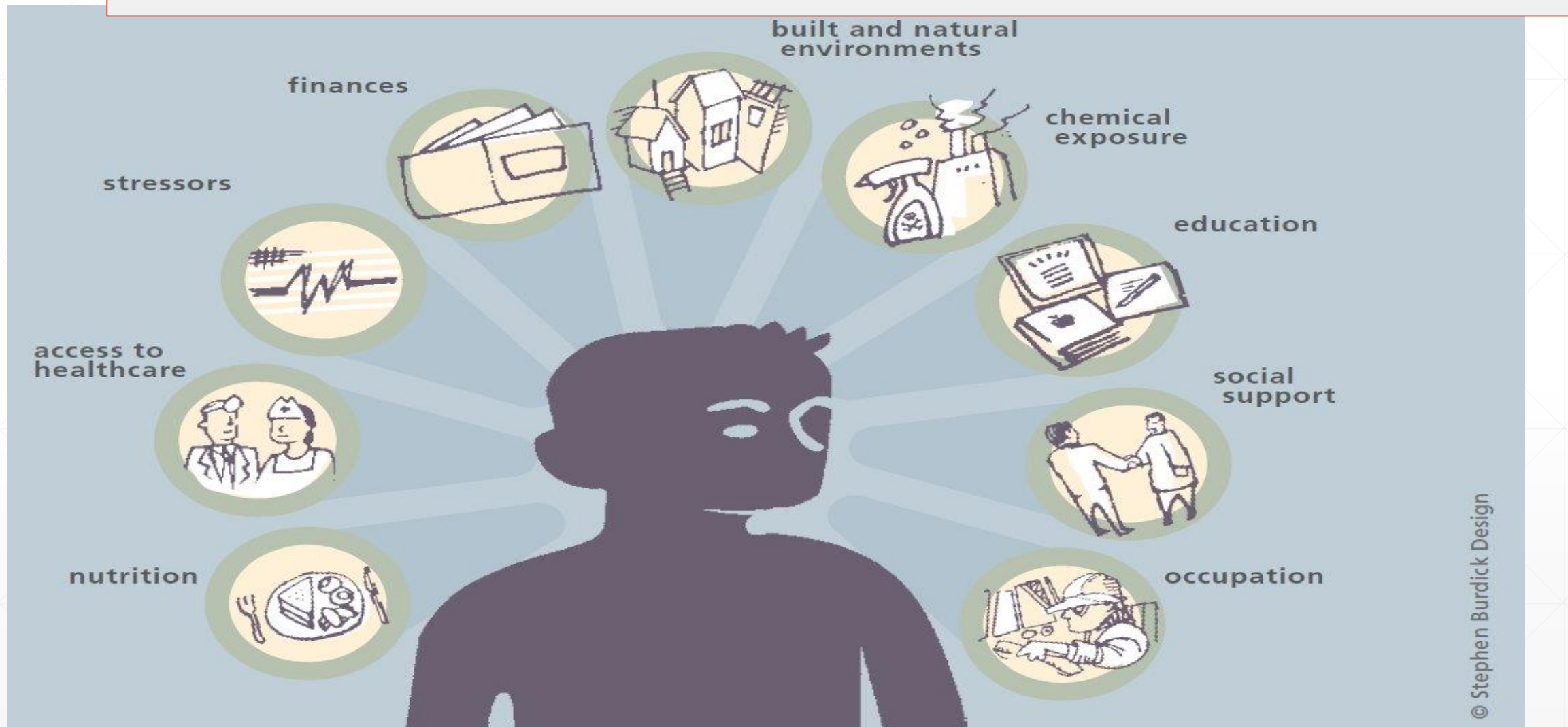
- Land of Lincoln provides free civil legal services to low-income residents and seniors in 65 counties in Illinois.
  - The kind of help we provide ranges from telephone advice or brief service, to representation in court or administrative hearings.
  - We only handle certain kinds of civil cases. We do not handle any criminal cases, including traffic cases. We also do not handle any personal injury, malpractice or worker's compensation cases.
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# WHAT IS MLPSI

- Partnership between Southern Illinois Healthcare and Land of Lincoln Legal Aid
  - Founded in 2002
  - We work closely with providers (doctors, nurses, clinical social workers) at:
    - **SIH Hospitals**
    - **SIH Medical Group**
    - **Shawnee Health Services**
  - Within the past 19 years, more than 2000 people have been referred to the MLPSI
    - More than 1000 positive outcomes
  - 2012 Outstanding MLP of the Year, National Center for Medical Legal Partnerships
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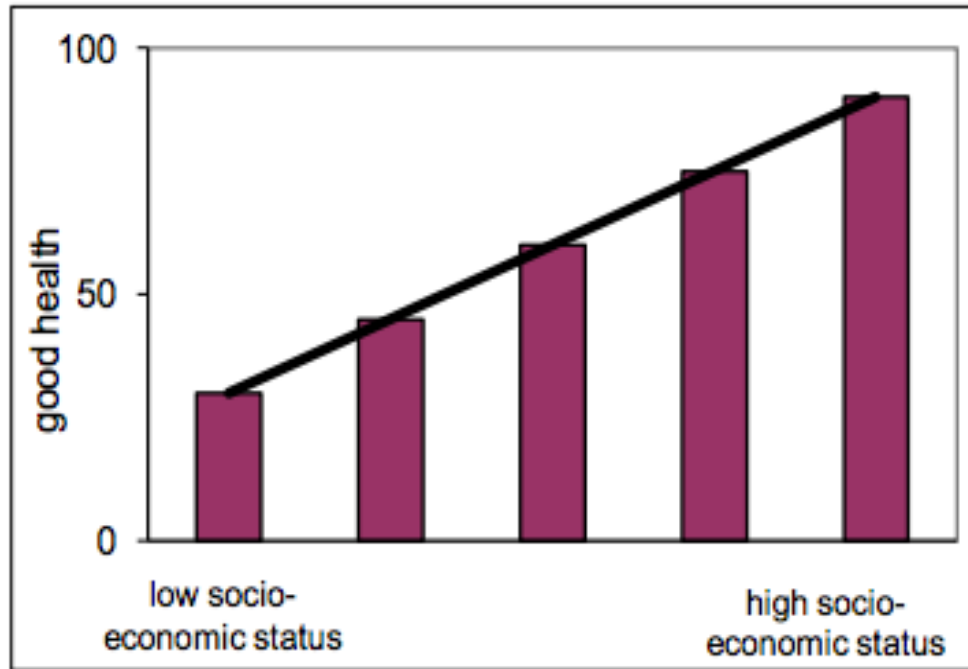
# Social Determinants of Health





# SDOH AND POVERTY

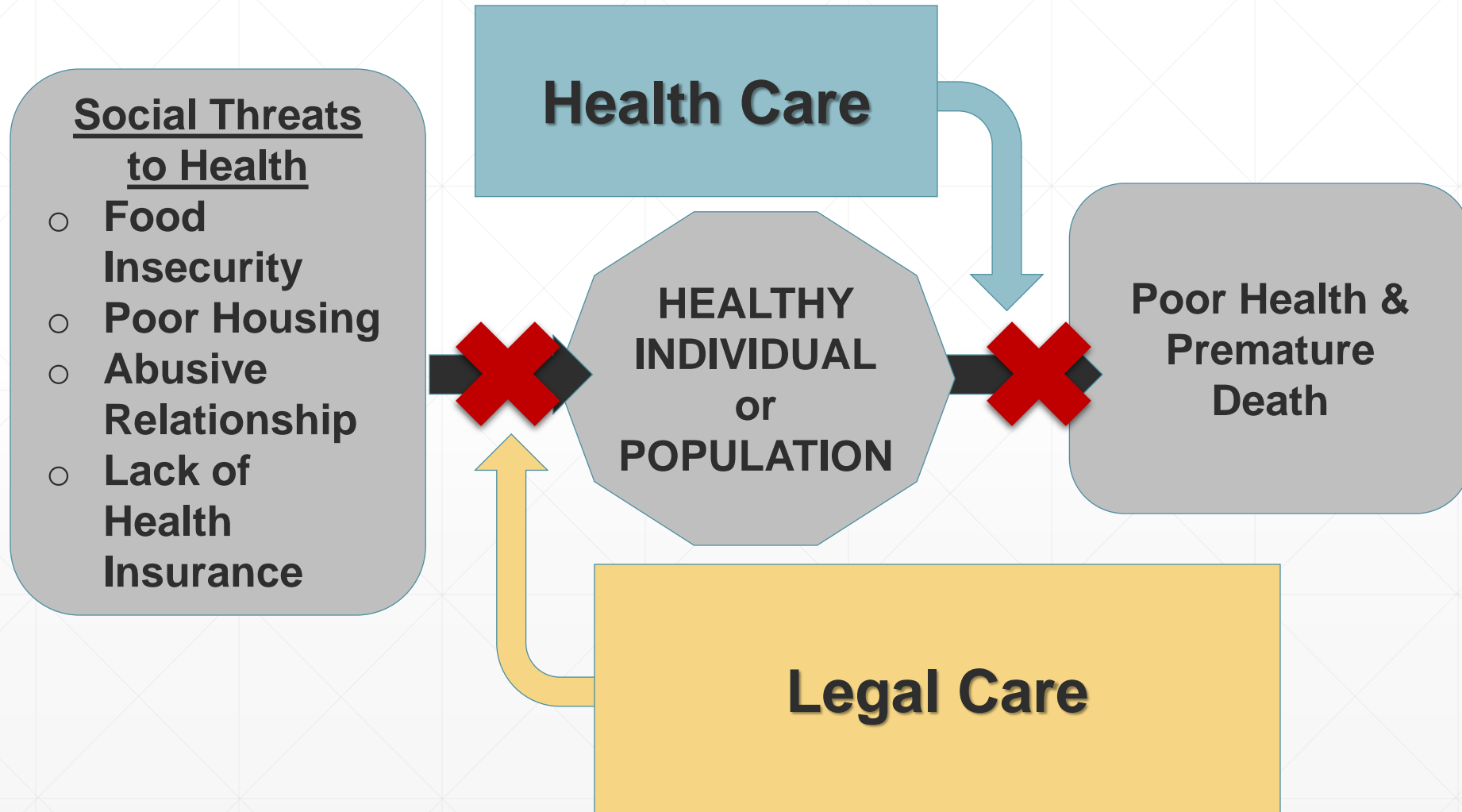
## Social Gradient of Health



Income → Most important SDOH contributing to health inequity

Extreme differences in income have negative health consequences for patients living in poverty

# Social Determinants of Health







# HOW DO I INTEGRATE THIS INTO MY PRACTICE?





# The legal team can treat the following types of issues:

- **bankruptcy**
  - **food stamps/SNAP**
  - **child support**
  - **foreclosure**
  - **debt collection**
  - **guardianship**
  - **disability benefits**
  - **housing conditions**
  - **divorce/custody**
  - **Medicaid/ Medicare**
  - **domestic violence**
  - **Powers of Attorney**
  - **education**
  - **Expungement/Sealing criminal convictions**
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# #1 Pay attention to **RED FLAGS**

## Examples of **RED FLAGS**:

- **Non-compliance**

- Failure to show up for appointments
- Failure to obtain medications
- Failure/refusal to follow through with other treatments such as home health, outpatient therapy, dialysis, etc.

- **High Utilization of Services**

- Multiple re-hospitalizations
- Multiple ER visits
- Multiple psychiatric contacts

- **Socio-economic Risk Factors**

Does your patient belong to an at-risk population?

- Racial minority
  - Elderly
  - Single parent household
  - Low income / uninsured / underinsured
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## #2 Ask a SCREENING QUESTION

Start Small...

If you notice a **RED FLAG**, choose **ONE** default SCREENING QUESTION to ask.

Do you have enough money to make ends meet?

Do you have enough food to feed your family?

Do you have health insurance?

Do you feel safe and secure in your home?

Do you have enough money to pay your rent or utility bills each month?

Are your children succeeding in school?

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## #3 Make a Referral

If your patient answers **NO** to any of the screening questions, they may need legal assistance.

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# REFERRAL TIPS AND GUIDELINES

- You should fill out the referral form **NOT** the patient.
- We **DO NOT** fill out applications for patients.
- If your patient has been denied benefits, find out when the patient was denied before the referral is made. If the patient's appeal deadline has passed, advise the patient to reapply. **DO NOT** refer a patient who does not have a current denial to appeal.
  - \* If the patient's appeal time has **recently passed** or **there was no notice of termination or denial at all** you may contact us to discuss this potential referral.
- **DO NOT** refer a patient who has only applied for benefits and has not received a denial notice.

**Please feel free to contact the legal team if you have a question about a potential referral.**

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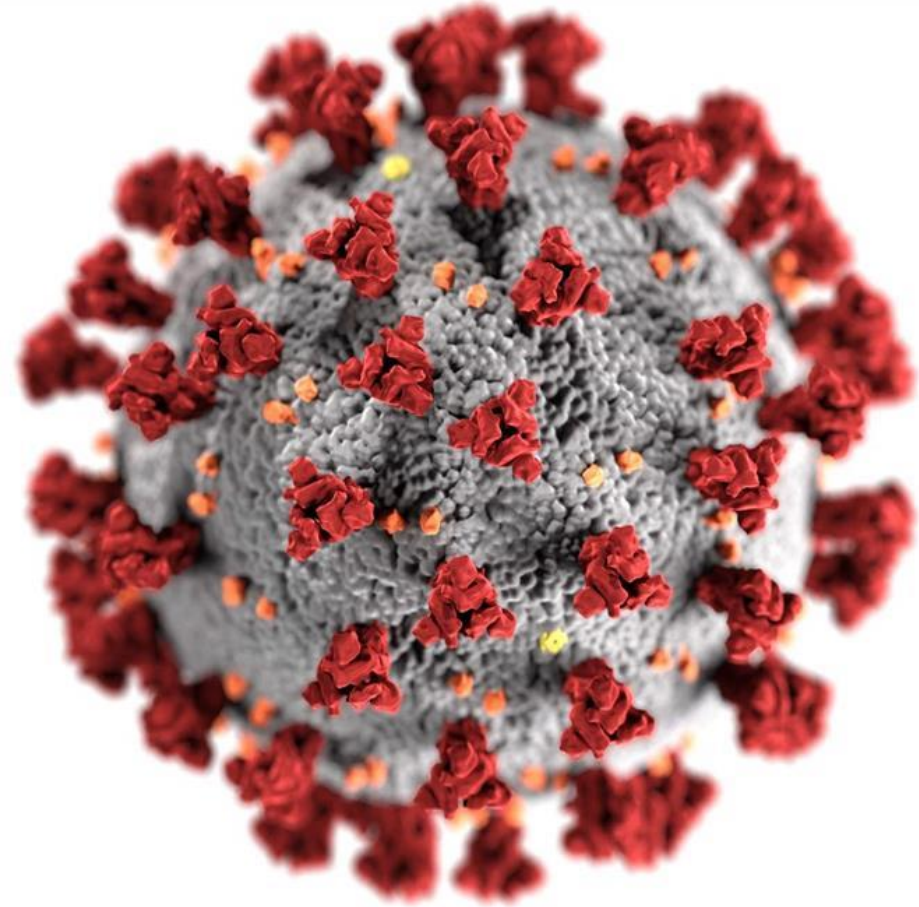


# I SENT A REFERRAL... NOW WHAT?



- MLPSI intake specialist will pre-screen the patient
  - If the patient and their case qualifies for Land of Lincoln, he or she will be scheduled for an appointment with the appropriate legal advocate for an evaluation of their case
  - Referral source will receive an email notification regarding the status of the patient's case
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# The Impact of COVID-19





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## ■ The Office

- Office is closed to public until September 7, 2021
- Most staff work from home part-time
- Meet with client by phone
- Limited in-person client meetings
- Safety protocols in place for in-person meetings including social distancing, barriers, and masks.

## ■ The Courts

- Zoom court for many counties
- Clients may access zoom hearings via smartphone or dialing in by phone
- Several counties require in-person hearings
- Social distancing and masks are no longer required

# Questions?





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