



Volunteers of Legal Service – Benefits Law Project **Summer 2025 Internship**

Organizational Mission

For 40 years, VOLS has partnered with New York City's leading law firms and companies as well as community-based organizations to help close the access to justice gap for low-income New Yorkers. VOLS provides free, civil legal services to New Yorkers with limited resources, including older adults, veterans, individuals entitled to public benefits, immigrant youth, children and their families, mothers in prison or jail, and small business owners. Last year, VOLS assisted clients on more than 4,000 legal matters, and our services benefited over 6,400 individual New Yorkers. VOLS' staff of 22, including 15 attorneys and law graduates, works with volunteers from over 80 law firms/companies to exponentially increase our impact. We partner with 150 community groups to ensure that our services are accessible and address local needs.

VOLS strives to build and retain a diverse and inclusive team, and we actively seek a diverse candidate pool. We strongly encourage candidates who have had lived experience in the communities we serve.

Project Overview:

Low-wage New Yorkers continue to face continued economic aftershocks related to the pandemic and sky-high housing and other costs; they seek clear guidance and assistance in accessing government benefits, including Unemployment Insurance (UI), rental freeze programs like Senior Citizens Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) and Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE), as well as other needs-based benefits. Our Benefits Project provides assistance to these New Yorkers through our legal hotline and in partnership with volunteer attorneys.

Internship Description:

The intern will allow VOLS to expand our current capacity to help low-income New Yorkers access government benefits. The intern will: 1) conduct intakes for clients who need legal assistance with their benefits applications or legal representation for upcoming hearings; 2) follow-up with client during the intake and review process; 3) provide counsel and advice to clients under attorney supervision; 4) help develop new and refine existing training materials for our volunteer attorneys; 5) provide assistance at legal clinics with community-based partners; and 6) help develop new and refine existing public facing outreach materials.

Location, Vaccination, and In-Person Work Requirements:

VOLS Office located at: 40 Worth, Street, Suite 829, New York, NY 10013.



This is a hybrid internship position. Interns must be available for in-person staff and team meetings, clinics, presentations, client meetings, and other in person events.

All candidates must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 including a Bivalent vaccine dose or latest 2023–2024 COVID vaccine formula, unless provided a reasonable accommodation pursuant to applicable federal, state and local statutes.

Application Contact:

To apply, please email a cover letter and resume to apply@volsprobono.org with the subject line: “Benefits Project Summer Internship.” Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commitment:

VOLS strives to build and maintain a diverse workplace that embraces staff with different backgrounds, identities, and experiences. We seek a diverse applicant pool and particularly welcome and encourage applicants from marginalized communities, including, but not limited to, those who identify as Black, Indigenous, people of color, women, queer, transgender, gender non-conforming, disabled, immigrants, uniformed service, people from low socio-economic backgrounds, and those directly impacted by the legal system. VOLS is an equal opportunity employer, and does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, nationality, creed, age, disability, sexual orientation, biological sex, gender identity/expression, family status, military service or any other status protected under the law.