

Innovation for Justice (i4J), jointly-housed at the University Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law and the University of Utah David Eccles School of Business, is a cross-jurisdiction social justice innovation lab that designs, builds, and tests disruptive solutions to the justice gap. One of i4J's Impact Areas is Service: leveraging reform of unauthorized practice of law restrictions to create new legal service models for low-income populations. Lawyers have declared a monopoly over a service they are not providing: in a lawyers-only service model, 92% of low-income civil legal needs go unmet. Legal aid and pro bono alone will never close the justice gap. i4J designs and launches new service pathways to legal empowerment for under-represented populations through partnerships with courts and community-based organizations.

In pursuit of this mission, i4J has lead the design and launch of several projects that train and authorize community-based advocates to give legal advice to the low-income community members they serve. The Licensed Legal Advocate pilot is the first in the nation to empower non-lawyer advocates to provide trauma-informed, limited-scope legal advice to domestic violence survivors (report). Our Medical Debt Legal Advocate pilot trains community healthcare workers and other community-based advocates to identify medical debt issues and advise their clients how to resolve them (report). Our Housing Stability Legal Advocates pilot will deliver scalable solutions in Arizona and Utah regarding the potential of new types of legal service providers to legally empower people experiencing housing instability (report). We have also authored reports regarding Embedding Regulatory Reform-Based Civil Justice Problem-Solving in Patient Care and Leveraging Regulatory Reform to Advance Access to Justice.