Georgia Appleseed Center for Law & Justice

Theory of Change

Justice at Our Core™
Mission and Vision

Increasing justice in Georgia through law and policy reform and community engagement.

The voices of poor people, marginalized people and children are heard.

Injustices that no one should endure are resolved.

Systemic changes improve the lives of Georgians statewide.
Georgia Appleseed’s Distinct Contributions

Strategic Staff

Research & advocacy for practical changes

Pro bono professional expertise

Successes

Proof, evaluation, replication, scale

GEORGIA APPLESEED™

Center for Law & Justice
Issue Identification: Where We Get Our Projects

New Project

- Other Center projects
- Sentinels
- Board/Staff ideas
- Next step on existing work
Phases of Project Development

Scoping
- Formulate

Phase 1
- Investigate

Phase 2
- Disseminate

Phase 3
- Advocate
Formulate: Project Scoping

- Project idea approved by Project Committee
- Law firm recruited to draft scoping memo
- Project template and scoping memo completed and submitted to Project Committee
- Project advanced by Project Committee for Board Approval
- Board Liaison selected
- Project Approved by Board
Candidate Project Assessment

Let’s Go!

- Is there a clear claim to justice?
- Could GA Appleseed fill a gap?
- What else has been done on this topic by researchers and advocates?
- Could we achieve a victory in the short, medium or long term?
- Is funding available?
- Are sentinels in consultation?
- Does the Board support it?
- Does it build on our expertise?
- Can we staff the project?
- Can pro bono partners contribute?
Pro Bono Engagement

Recruit pro bono partner → Secure Commitment → Memorandum and initial meeting → Regular check-ins Strategizing
Evaluation: Assess Impact

1. Develop an evaluation plan
2. Create Logic Models
3. Develop project and organizational dashboards
4. Collect data
5. Measure progress
6. Assess outcomes
Phase One: Investigate

Draft Report

- Pro Bono Legal/Policy Research
- Expertise
- Interviews
- Surveys
- Convenings
Report Generates Recommendations

Findings + Justice goals + Achievable in short, medium or long term = Recommendations for systemic change
Circulate Draft Report: Concept Checking

Check with Sentinels

Vet conclusions with expert Advisory Committee

Georgia Appleseed Board, staff and Project Committee
Phase Two: Disseminate

- Synthesize and evaluate input
- Fill in remaining holes
- Thank and acknowledge
- Proof and finalize
- Design
- Publish and/or Disseminate
Phase Three: Advocate

Who has the power to make the change we wish to see?

- Get report to decision makers
- Meet with decision makers
- Build allies who can influence decision makers
- Address or avoid obstacles to securing change
- Each recommendation may need its own plan
- May need new pro bono partners
Georgia Appleseed Advocacy Tools

- Meetings with decision makers and a call-to-action
- Legislative advocacy
- Comments on proposed rules; testimony
- Allies/Chealitions
- Case studies/best practice replication
- Media: op-eds, press quotes, blogging
- Public education and outreach
- Local change initiatives
- Pilot projects
Replicate Successes Across Georgia

- Open regional field offices
- Partnerships with pro bono law firms
- Collaboration with statewide organizations
- Sowing the Seeds of Justice Throughout Georgia
- Secure funding
- Effective student discipline webpage
- Publish articles and present at statewide conferences