

# OGDEN-WEBER COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP

**Supporting OWCAP Housing Navigation to strengthen tenant advocacy.**



## INVOLVEMENT

Ogden-Weber Community Action Partnership strengthens the communities they serve by providing services such as mental health support, employment assistance, GED support, and housing support. For the past four years, they have facilitated a tenant-landlord mediation program, managed by Cody Egan, Housing Services Supervisor. Because it was the only program of its kind in the county, OWCAP became established as a go-to for housing education and help.

Cody participated in Innovation for Justice's first Utah Housing Stability Legal Advocate program cohort. He knew that many tenants coming to OWCAP for support needed legal assistance in order to truly understand their rights and options and most effectively advocate for themselves. While he would refer clients to *pro bono* and low-cost legal services when possible, he knew that none of those providers had the capacity to help every client, and many were located in Salt Lake County. By obtaining certification as a Housing Stability Community Justice Advocate, he would be able to provide this help, strengthening the services OWCAP could offer within their community.

"This certification allows me to do my job and offer services the client is actually looking for," Cody explained. "It has been super helpful because there is a vacuum of knowledge."

## AT A GLANCE

### Mission

To elevate individuals, families, and communities of Weber County by improving self-sufficiency through services and collaboration.



Weber County



1 Housing Stability Community Justice Advocate



Partner Since 2025

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### IMPLEMENTATION

OWCAP has worked to build connections with other service providers in Weber County, making and receiving referrals across organizations to leverage the expertise of each organization. Many of OWCAP's clients are referred by partners, but they also assist clients who contact them directly needing help.

OWCAP's housing case managers conduct intake on new cases. If the client has received a notice from their landlord or if the landlord has involved an attorney, the case is assigned to Cody. He also handles cases involving disputes between the tenant and landlord that are not related to rent owed.

Cody is able to offer the full scope of services in which he is certified, but foresees focusing his time on the court-involved process, acknowledging a particular lack of knowledge and resources available to tenants navigating that process.

As more Housing Stability CJAs become trained, Cody hopes to find opportunities to develop a legal-specific referral process both within and outside of Weber County.



There isn't another course like this that teaches about legal housing issues. You can read all the statutes you want, but unless you know how it will apply in court, then it is not very useful.

When tenants have a housing problem, many providers may not feel comfortable giving guidance on the legal process. When tenants are not fully educated about the eviction or court process, they get blindsided by the process.

Being able to explain that to them is nice; even though it can be bad news, they feel good knowing what's happening. Not knowing is worse. Even when it may be depressing news, from my perspective, they always leave feeling better that they at least know what is going on. They have me as a resource to help make decisions and prepare themselves.

### IMPACT

#### **Strengthening Individuals Through Education**

OWCAP provides ongoing housing education to the community alongside their mediation program. With Cody's ability to provide targeted legal help, their community will now have access to legal information and legal advice from a trusted community organization. OWCAP believes this will help them further their mission to improve self-sufficiency.

#### **Cody Egan**

*Housing Stability Community Justice Advocate*