# Legal Services National Technology Assistance Project

Helping nonprofit legal aid programs improve client services through innovative use of technology.

www.lsntap.org

---

# Webinar: The Drake Equation for Access to Justice

The Drake equation is a probabilistic argument used to estimate the number of active, communicative extraterrestrial civilizations in the Milky Way galaxy. ... The equation summarizes the main concepts which scientists must contemplate when considering the question of other radio-communicative life.

# WHAT IS THE (ORIGINAL) DRAKE EQUATION?

The number of civilizations we can communicate with (N) equals ...

$$N = R * f_p * n_e * f_l * f_i * f_c * L$$

# SOME OF THESE ARE PRETTY KNOWABLE

$$N= R \ * \ f_p \ * \ n_e \ * \ f_l \ *f_i \ *f_c \ * \ L$$

**How many stars are created per year**

**The fraction of those stars that have planets**

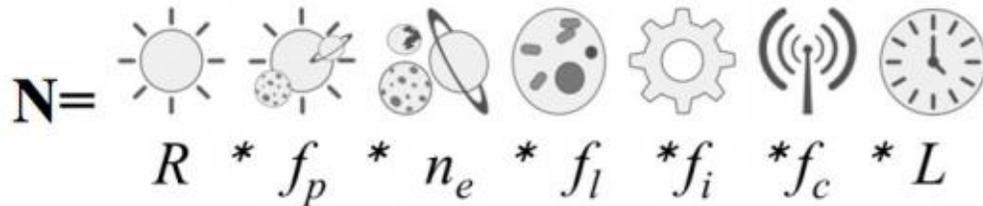# OTHERS ARE PRETTY METAPHYSICAL

$$N= R \ * \ f_p \ * \ n_e \ * \ f_l \ *f_i \ *f_c \ * \ L$$

**The fraction of planets where life develops**

**The average number of years an alien civilization sends signals into space**

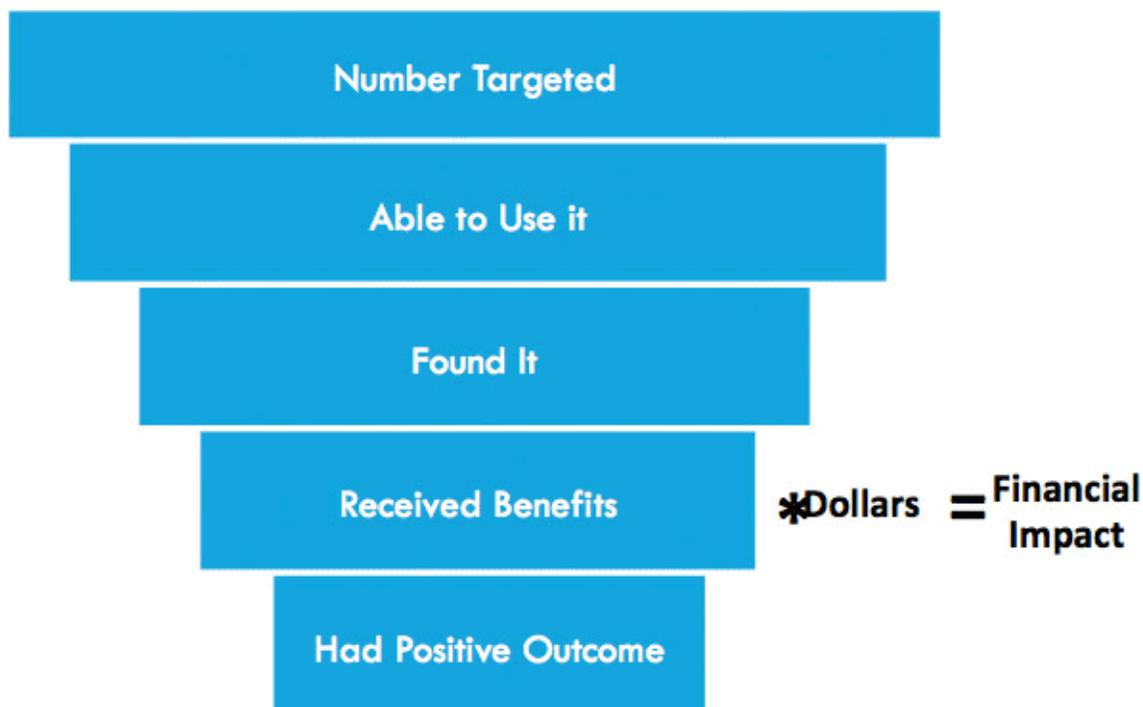# THIS EQUATION HAS BEEN USED FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS

It has guided conversations, focused research and more.

$$N = R * f_p * n_e * f_l * f_i * f_c * L$$

What does measuring the effectiveness of A2J technology have to do with the search for extraterrestrial civilizations? They're both topics that are difficult to quantify, but benefit by a framework that a whole community can use to inform research and make educated guesses. In this session, we'll look at the recent work to apply the Drake Equation (originally created by Frank Drake to calculate the likelihood of extraterrestrial intelligence) to the A2J community-- which was funded by LSC, FJTC, and IALS with support from Pew, RAND, the Harvard A2J Lab, and others. We'll walk through a summary, examples of how to apply it, and a worksheet that you can use to adapt the Framework to your own project.

# WHAT IS THE DRAKE EQUATION?

A model designed to benchmark and evaluate online access-to-justice projects...
even when we don't have all the data we'd like.

Number Targeted

Able to Use it

Found It

Received Benefits      *Dollars = **Financial Impact**

Had Positive Outcome

We need to get this out in the field to see how it works. The way this works is you start with the number of people or households in your area.You then find out what percentage are transgender. What percentage are living in poverty, etc. You add your data as you get it and the form will actually calculate the summary tab for you.

Are we targeting only english speakers? Or are we targeting EVERYONE in a specific area or all transgendered people in a certain area. We need to let people know they need to know english, and the intent isn't to support spanish speakers.

We can use the form to tell us what percent of transgendered individuals use the service, specific stats etc. ¼ of all people the site is targeting have visited, which an impressive statistic.

**Find recording, overview, and worksheet online**

https://floridajusticetechnologycenter.org/drake

---