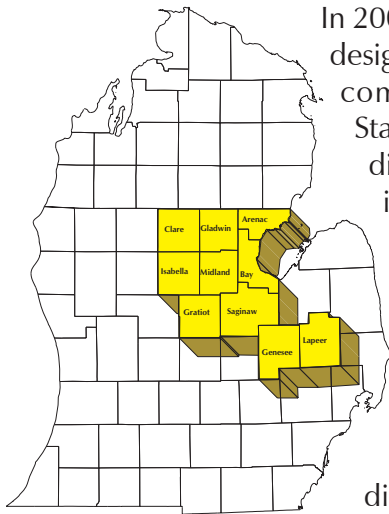


CENTER FOR CIVIL JUSTICE

CCJ Office Locations: Saginaw and Flint

CCJ Service Area: Arenac, Bay, Clare, Genesee, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, Lapeer, Midland, and Saginaw Counties; Statewide on anti-hunger advocacy

Service Population: 209,288 individuals living at or below 125% of the poverty level



In 2001, CCJ worked with MPLP to design a web site to assist low-income families estimate Food Stamp eligibility. Training of individuals and agencies resulted in eligible families receiving this basic help they so desperately need. CCJ trained Head Start, Michigan State University Extension, and emergency food providers who screened, referred and collected data from over 700 individuals regarding food assistance. CCJ won a two-year grant

CCJ often helps low-income persons trying to build self-sufficiency receive the help they need to accept or retain a job or educational opportunity. CCJ advocated for policy clarifications that helped a client obtain a car that was needed in order to participate in an unpaid, but approved, training program. CCJ also helped a parent who had been improperly denied child day care assistance to receive these benefits so she could complete the last year of a two-year program to become a respiratory therapist.

from the U. S. Department of Agriculture to explore additional outreach strategies in the Food Stamp program. CCJ is a recognized expert called upon by government and others regarding poverty law issues. The information CCJ provides to these groups often results in voluntary correction of unlawful or inappropriate practices. For example, thousands of families in Michigan received modest increases in federal benefits after CCJ worked with a private attorney to show that Michigan's increasing utility costs were not being properly reflected in the state's Food Assistance Program policies. CCJ also uses litigation when needed to enforce legal rights. A recent successful federal case provided kinship caregivers (most of whom are grandparents raising minor children whose parents are unable to do so) with access to health care in accordance with federal Medicaid laws.

Thousands of persons have worked their way off welfare but are still low-wage earners who are eligible for other types of assistance. When many of these workers were cut off Medicaid prematurely due to an incorrect computer classification, CCJ worked with the State to correct its computer problems and policies so that hundreds of eligible parents or caregivers were able to maintain uninterrupted access to health care assistance for their families.

CCJ Sources of Funding for 2001: \$ 441,070

