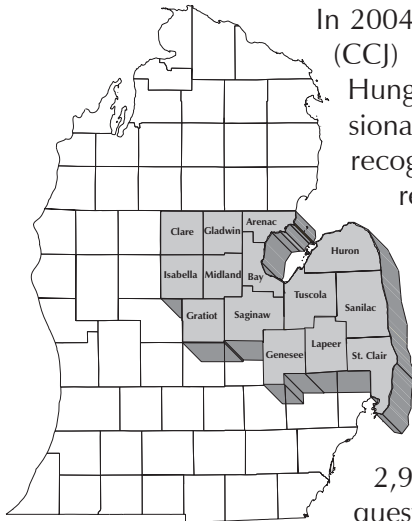


# CENTER FOR CIVIL JUSTICE

2004 CCJ Office Locations: Saginaw and Flint

**CCJ Service Area:** Arenac, Bay, Clare, Genesee, Gladwin, Gratiot, Huron, Isabella, Lapeer, Midland, Saginaw, Sanilac, St. Clair and Tuscola Counties; Statewide on anti-hunger advocacy

**Service Population:** 213,110 individuals living at or below 125% of the poverty level



In 2004, the Center for Civil Justice (CCJ) received a Victory Against Hunger Award from the Congressional Hunger Center. The award recognized CCJ for its efforts to reach out to underserved persons, expand participation in food and nutrition programs, and combat legal barriers to obtaining food necessary for survival. CCJ's successful Food and Nutrition Program Helpline advised over

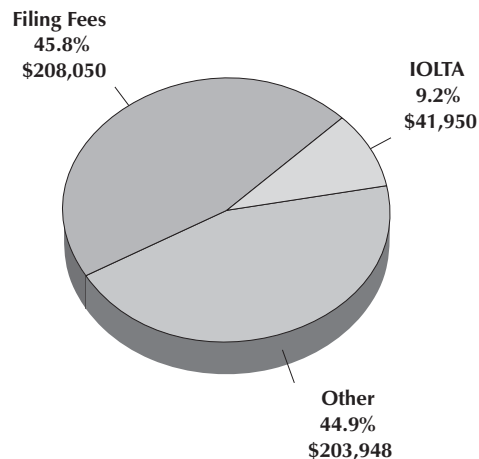
A woman was defrauded by a supposed "mortgage foreclosure mediator," who took her money and did nothing to save her house. Despite the unscrupulous company's bankruptcy, CCJ got the woman's money back in a cash settlement. She was then able to buy a used car to allow her to complete a paralegal degree and pursue employment.

2,950 callers in 2004 as to their eligibility for food assistance and answered questions concerning food aid. Additionally, CCJ's Healthcare Eligibility Law Project in Genesee County continued to identify and address barriers to health

insurance. This project generated changes benefiting low-income persons throughout Michigan, correcting practices that had led to improper denial of Medicaid assistance to persons with disabilities, and to improper termination of health care coverage to new mothers following the birth of their babies. CCJ gives technical assistance and training to local human services agency staff so they are better equipped to assist clients so that simple problems are identified and resolved by lay advocates before they become larger legal problems, and legal services resources can be reserved for more complicated issues.

CCJ offers training to community agencies such as the Saginaw Diocese so that volunteers have the tools needed to help low-income clients navigate the Medicaid Health System. The trained volunteers work to reduce delays and address other problems that would otherwise prevent their Medicaid eligible clients from receiving much-needed health care services.

**CCJ Sources of Funding for 2004: \$ 453,948**



# CENTER FOR CIVIL JUSTICE

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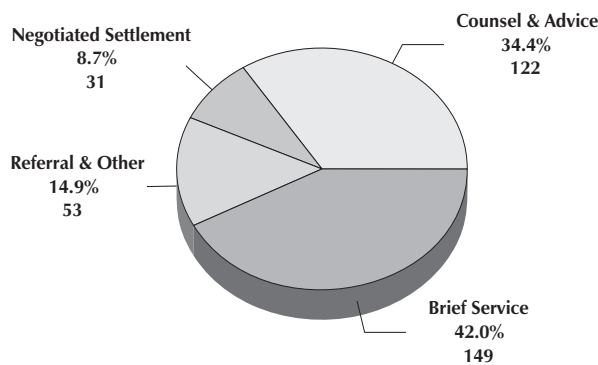
**Community Outreach and Collaboration.** In 2004, CCJ’s advocates provided information or training for non-profit entities and associations at over 42 events or meetings at the state and local level. As part of its new Healthcare Eligibility Law Project, CCJ provided training on Medicaid law affecting young mothers and their infants to over 40 human services and health care staff members in Genesee County. In addition, CCJ sponsors quarterly health care information forums in partnership with the local Red Cross. CCJ also worked with Cooley Law School’s 60+ Law Clinic and AARP to draft and publish 2000 “Temporary Authorization for Kinship Care” kits to provide information and help relatives who are caring for family members know their legal rights and responsibilities. These kits were distributed statewide and are available on the internet at [www.michiganlegalaid.org](http://www.michiganlegalaid.org). CCJ also worked with the Michigan Poverty Law Program (MPLP) to develop pro se materials to help parents who cannot be physically present at court proceedings involving their children to participate by telephone in accordance with a new court rule.

| Client Age |     |
|------------|-----|
| 18 & Under | 1   |
| 19-59      | 335 |
| 60 & Over  | 19  |
| Groups     | 0   |
| Total      | 355 |

**Pro Bono Support.** CCJ refers clients to and works cooperatively with Legal Services of Eastern Michigan which operates a pro bono program in the region. CCJ has also continued to work with the Michigan Poverty Law Program to help train a group of law students at the University of Michigan Law School to undertake Food Stamp eligibility screening and referrals at local emergency food providers located in Washtenaw County. CCJ staff participate in the Saginaw County pro bono committee which produces clinics and legal educational materials. Because of the complex nature of CCJ’s work, CCJ also seeks volunteer lawyer assistance on a case by case basis from the Michigan Litigation Assistance Partnership Program or the University of Michigan Clinical Law Program.

| Client Ethnicity |     |
|------------------|-----|
| White            | 195 |
| Black            | 113 |
| Hispanic         | 27  |
| Native American  | 2   |
| Asian            | 0   |
| Other            | 18  |
| Total            | 355 |

CCJ Types of Service in 2004



CCJ Cases Closed in 2004: 355

