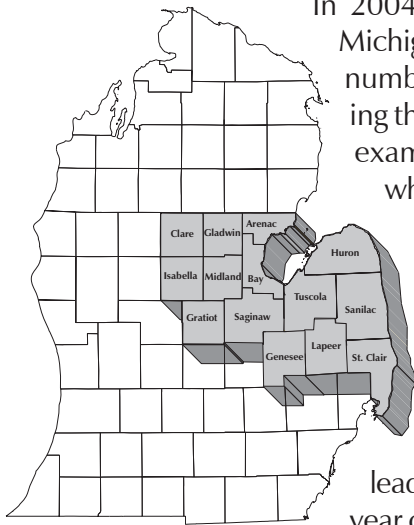


LEGAL SERVICES OF EASTERN MICHIGAN

2004 LSEM Office Locations: Flint, Midland, Port Huron and Saginaw

LSEM Service Area: Arenac, Bay, Clare, Genesee, Gladwin, Gratiot, Huron, Isabella, Lapeer, Midland, Saginaw, Sanilac, St. Clair and Tuscola Counties; also, senior services in Shiawassee County

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



In 2004, Legal Services of Eastern Michigan (LSEM) was involved in a number of new programs impacting the poverty community. One example is the GAIN\$ project, which creates Individual Development Accounts that uses matching money so the poor can build savings for first time home purchases, car purchases or post-secondary education. The project

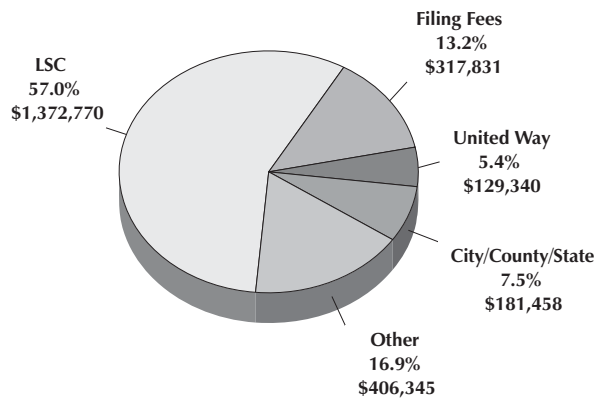
A deaf woman suffered ongoing abuse from her husband. LSEM obtained an interpreter to assist her in using LSEM's pro se divorce kit. With the information provided and a completed set of paperwork, the woman was able to file for and successfully secure a divorce. She is not only safer but better empowered to understand and use the court system.

included direct service agencies, funders and banks, with LSEM providing leadership to assist clients and the community. LSEM is also completing its third year of working with the Genesee County Treasurer's Office assisting clients who are behind in their property tax to keep their homes. Modifications were made to

fit rural needs for a similar program now in use in Sanilac County. In 2004, LSEM also began a health law project for individuals who need medical coverage and a tax program helping low-income families navigate tax controversies with the IRS. LSEM also developed materials and services for a new hospice program being implemented through the Genesee County Bar to provide assistance with wills and estates to those who are terminally ill. This project is being piloted in Genesee County for replication in LSEM's other service areas.

A mentally disabled woman disputed a debt to her landlord. LSEM discovered that she should have been given credit in her rent from a public housing voucher. The low-income housing complex had incorrectly omitted informing the Court about the credit when the Court ordered the debt against the woman. LSEM explained this to the landlord's attorney, and the debt against the woman was dropped and her rent recalculated. The corrected rent figures allowed her to maintain her apartment and prevented her from becoming homeless.

LSEM Sources of Funding for 2004: \$ 2,407,744



LEGAL SERVICES OF EASTERN MICHIGAN

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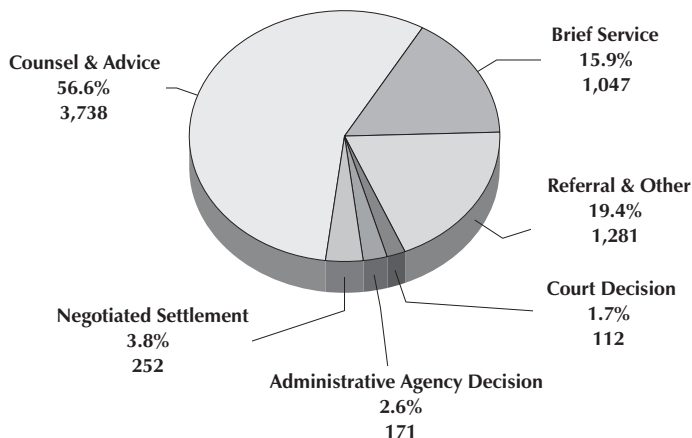
Community Outreach and Collaboration. LSEM is very active in the community, including homeless consortiums across the service area, housing cooperatives, race relations groups, and many other projects which assist low-income clients. LSEM staff serve on the Board of the Michigan Nonprofit Association, the Governor’s Land Use Commission, and the Lead Paint Task Force, as well as boards of local nonprofit agencies serving a like population. LSEM also operates the Fair Housing Center of Eastern Michigan serving Genesee, Saginaw, Bay, and Midland Counties and conducts training to educate people about both state and federal fair housing laws. LSEM is involved in Elder Abuse Task Forces in three counties which has led to the development of a Department of Justice funded Elder Abuse Protocol Manual for local agencies and an Elder Exploitation Training Manual.

Client Age	
18 & Under	152
19-59	6,065
60 & Over	382
Groups	2
Total	6,601

Pro Bono Support. LSEM’s pro bono program recruits and trains volunteer lawyers for individual cases, pro se clinics, and preparation and trainings of community legal education materials. LSEM volunteer attorneys have also developed a variety of pro se kits such as small claims matters and requests for a personnel file. LSEM organized the Saginaw County Senior Circuit Bar, a group of retired attorneys, and supports them in providing pro bono legal assistance at senior centers. LSEM will also be involving volunteers in its expanded Teens and the Law Program funded by an Access to Justice grant from the Michigan State Bar Foundation which will develop new educational materials on legal issues pertaining to teens and young adults.

Client Ethnicity	
White	3,612
Black	2,196
Hispanic	240
Native American	20
Asian	5
Other	528
Total	6,601

LSEM Types of Service in 2004



LSEM Cases Closed in 2004: 6,601

