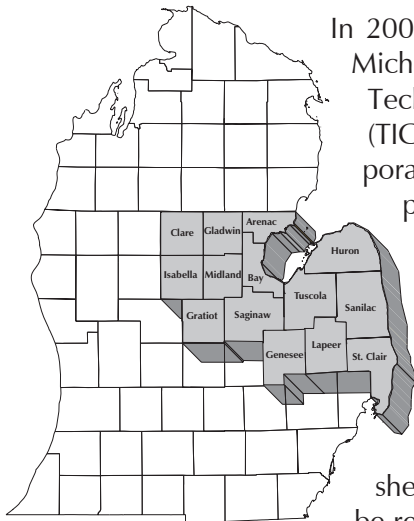


LEGAL SERVICES OF EASTERN MICHIGAN

2005 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 2005, Legal Services of Eastern Michigan (LSEM) was awarded a Technology Improvement Grant (TIG) from the Legal Services Corporation. The grant project will provide a video link between domestic violence shelters, LSEM and two courts. This video link will allow domestic violence victims to appear in contested PPO hearings without having to leave the safety of the shelter and has the potential to

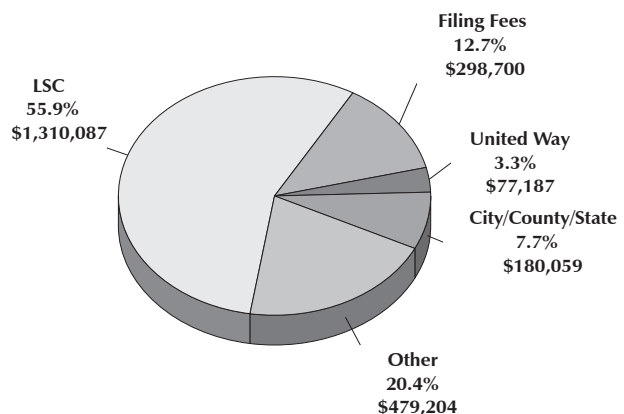
LSEM provides educational sessions to staff of community organizations on changing laws and regulations that affect low-income persons. The legal informational sessions are presented in such areas as public benefits eligibility or domestic violence statutes. The educational sessions help agency staff better serve their clients and enable them to quickly recognize legal problems and refer clients for assistance.

be replicated across the state. Also in 2005, the Fair Housing Center of Eastern Michigan found that over 95% of 124 sites checked violated current law regarding

handicapped parking accessibility in subsidized housing, including public housing in Genesee and Midland counties. Ongoing negotiations are expected to result in most of the sites being compliant under the Americans with Disabilities Act. LSEM also did extensive outreach to Huron, Sanilac, St. Clair, and Tuscola Counties, four counties that were new to LSEM's service area in 2004. The outreach included activities such as membership in Continuums of Care for Homelessness, participation in Multi-Purpose Collaborative Bodies, a tax-reversion project in Sanilac County, and intensified direct distribution of program materials in Sanilac County, resulting in a 37% increase in services in these counties since they became part of LSEM's service area in 2004.

An elderly woman surviving on an extremely limited income was fearful that past due property taxes, penalties and added fees would make her lose her home. LSEM assisted this impoverished woman in successfully applying for a hardship property tax exception, which was granted, preventing her from becoming homeless.

LSEM Sources of Funding for 2005: \$ 2,345,237



LEGAL SERVICES OF EASTERN MICHIGAN

Contact: Edward J. Hoort, Executive Director • (800) 322-4512

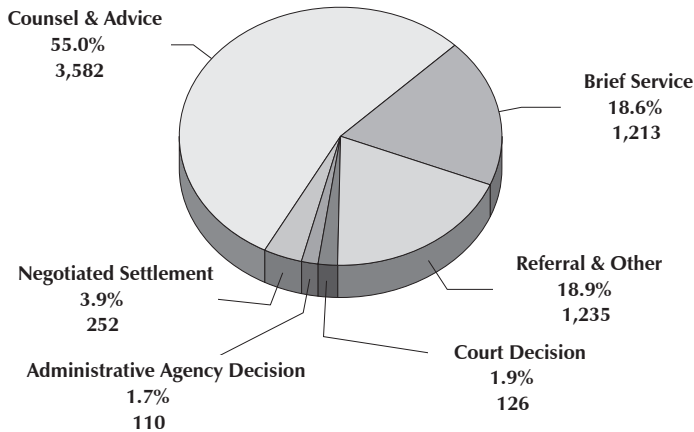
Community Outreach and Collaboration. LSEM is an active partner in providing community services to low-income people participating in many projects which assist this population. LSEM's partnership with Center for Civil Justice (CCJ) Healthcare Eligibility Law Project (HELP) helps connect low-income people with governmental health benefits and assists those being terminated from benefits. CCJ provides the help line to assess need, connect people to care, and provide legal advocacy. LSEM provides representation in cases where people have been denied benefits. The two organizations work together to conduct educational community outreach to agency staff. As a participant in the Genesee County Tax Coalition, LSEM helps improve knowledge and awareness of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) which many low-income clients are eligible to receive from the federal government. LSEM also provides a computer in its Flint office that has "ICAN" tax software, which helps low-income people independently prepare their taxes and receive a credit when eligible, thus resulting in much needed resources to help meet basic daily needs.

Client Age	
18 & Under	105
19-59	6,023
60 & Over	389
Groups	1
Total	6,518

Pro Bono Support. In 2005 in Genesee County the pro bono Hospice Program was fully operational. Attorneys visited low-income patients and assisted them in drafting simple estate planning documents and wills to invoke peace of mind so that patients could spend their final days with family and friends. 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. Videos on how to use small claims courts done by the LSEM pro bono panel and the Saginaw County Bar Association have been shown each week at the Saginaw Court House for sometime, illustrating how a single project can have a large impact over time.

Client Ethnicity	
White	3,920
Black	2,242
Hispanic	246
Native American	18
Asian	10
Other	82
Total	6,518

LSEM Types of Service in 2005



LSEM Cases Closed in 2005: 6,518

