

# LEGAL SERVICES OF SOUTH CENTRAL MICHIGAN

2005 LSSCM Office Locations: Ann Arbor, Bangor, Battle Creek, Jackson, Lansing and Monroe

**LSSCM Service Area:** Barry, Branch, Calhoun, Clinton, Eaton, Hillsdale, Ingham, Jackson, Lenawee, Livingston, Monroe, Shiawassee, and Washtenaw Counties  
 Farmworker Legal Services—Statewide  
 Michigan Poverty Law Program—Statewide

**Service Population:** 195,329 individuals living at or below 125% of the poverty level



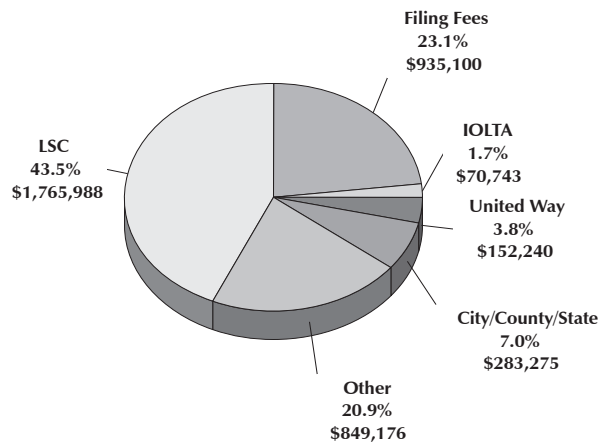
In 2005, LSSCM provided direct services to over 10,000 eligible clients. LSSCM has a long standing goal to engage in advocacy that has a real impact on its client communities and in 2005, LSSCM engaged in over 300 “impact projects,” such as significant cases, appeals and community coalitions. Examples are the community-based tax foreclosure prevention coalitions in Washtenaw and Calhoun counties. These partnerships between the Treasurer’s

A Habitat for Humanity homeowner faced sudden income reductions which caused financial hardship. Not understanding the legal process, he did not seek help until his house was about to be sold at an auction. LSSCM was able to negotiate with the Assistant Attorney General to avoid the imminent tax sale, obtain a one-year extension and get the property taxes reduced. This saved the man’s home and put him on a path to meet future financial obligations within his limited income.

office, services agencies, and LSSCM contact every homeowner on the foreclosure list with the goal of resolving the tax problem while saving the client’s home. LSSCM also worked with the Housing Bureau for Seniors and Michigan State University Extension to review mortgages for possible predatory lending issues and foreclosure defenses. With the assistance of national and state legal service support programs, LSSCM staff quickly assembled outreach materials that could be used to help Hurricane Katrina evacuees statewide and spent many days on-site at Fort Custer in Battle Creek offering education, materials, legal assistance and community agency referrals to evacuees.

The Calhoun County office at LSSCM has begun a separate family law clinic focusing on victims of non-recent domestic violence. The clinic, which collaborates with a local domestic violence shelter, provides legal advice and counsel, safety planning, social services support and intensive follow-up. LSSCM attorneys are available at every clinic to answer questions, review legal forms, and intervene in the case if more extensive representation becomes necessary.

**LSSCM Sources of Funding for 2005: \$ 4,056,522**



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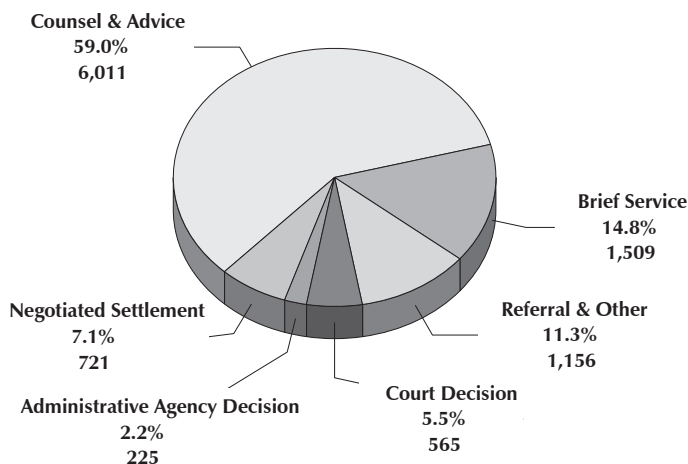
**Community Outreach and Collaboration.** In 2005, LSSCM provided over 200 community legal education presentations, attended by over 5,500 persons. LSSCM also does extensive outreach and community education at community agencies and migrant labor camps throughout the state and worked on two court-based pro se initiatives that provided service to over 8,000 persons. Staff in Monroe County provide weekly legal education sessions at the local Michigan Works-Work First Program, often helping recently unemployed persons prevent later, more serious legal problems. In 2005, LSSCM assisted several statewide initiatives, including the launch of a new client website ([www.michiganlegalaid.org](http://www.michiganlegalaid.org)), domestic violence training and advocacy, coordination of immigration services, and coordinating responses to Hurricane Katrina evacuees across the state. LSSCM staff also participate in local and State Bar committees and other groups working to enhance access to justice.

Client Age	
18 & Under	131
19-59	8,216
60 & Over	1,823
Groups	17
Total	10,187

**Pro Bono Support.** LSSCM supports a very diverse pro bono program, which includes pro bono case panels in thirteen counties; the Family Law Project, a domestic violence program staffed by volunteer law students; active clinic and externship programs with three law schools; part time pro bono staffing at two court-based pro se centers; the administration of two statewide pro bono programs; the use of pro bono lawyers as trainers; and pro bono court reporting services. The range of cases referred out through these programs extends from relatively simple individual cases to complex multi-court impact litigation. LSSCM's pro bono program also includes active Bar-supported donation programs in two communities. In 2005, the overall value of pro bono services provided through the LSSCM program exceeded \$3 million.

Client Ethnicity	
White	6,571
Black	1,862
Hispanic	1,408
Native American	117
Asian	63
Other	166
Total	10,187

LSSCM Types of Service in 2005



LSSCM Cases Closed in 2005: 10,187

