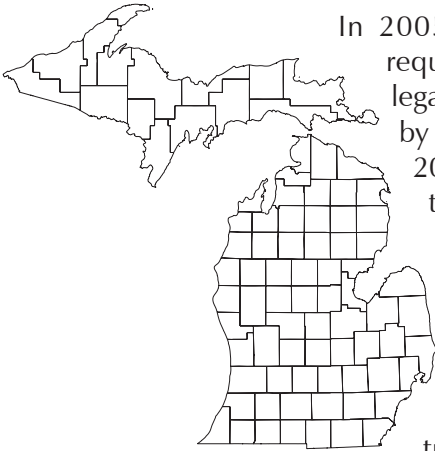


MICHIGAN POVERTY LAW PROGRAM

2005 MPLP Office Locations: Ann Arbor and Lansing

MPLP Service Area: Statewide

Service Population: Legal services programs in Michigan



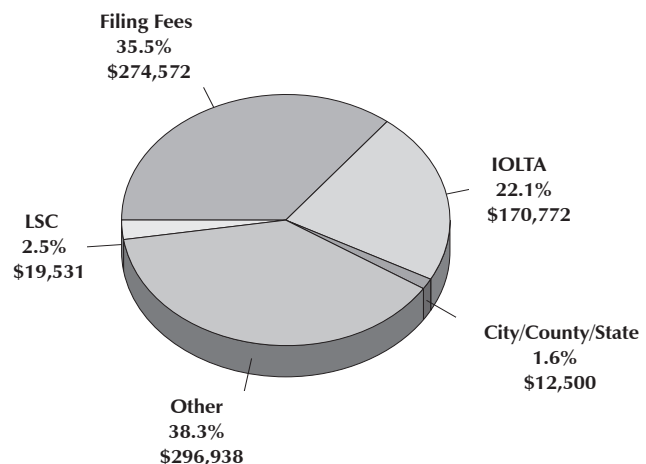
In 2005, MPLP received 1,292 requests for service from field legal aid programs (increasing by more than 100 requests from 2005). MPLP gave support to Michigan legal services providers in a variety of areas including technology, advocacy assistance and coordination, and substantive law and skills training. MPLP provided 23 days of training for 679 attendees; and 203 people attended 20

task force meetings in six legal practice areas. MPLP continues to provide outreach, trainings, and presentations in elder law, consumer law, housing, family law, and public benefits. MPLP also is continuing to work with the Michigan Advocacy Project (MAP). MAP made significant progress on systemic advocacy issues affecting the elderly, payday lending, housing, and family law in 2005. A significant leader and participant in technology initiatives, MPLP also helped improve two statewide websites in 2005 as well as the online intake and case management integration of the Michigan Tenant's Counseling Program.

A disabled woman with advancing Multiple Sclerosis could no longer manage basic daily activities and applied for home health care benefits. After being told that her application was being processed and costs would be covered, she hired a home health care provider. The provider quit working after a year because Medicaid was not making payments. MPLP was able to help negotiate an outcome in which Medicaid paid the provider's outstanding bill and would cover the cost of continuing these important services, helping to keep the woman healthy and independent in her own home.

MPLP assisted over 150 credit unions and Michigan WorkFirst! agencies to use the ICAN!-EIC program, which provides free help to low-income workers filing income taxes and applying for the Earned Income Tax Credit. Participating organizations were shown how to provide computer terminals in their lobby, include a link on their website, and promote the program to their membership. Available in English and Spanish, the ICAN!-EIC program has returned at least \$1.4 million federal dollars to over 704 low-income people entitled to these credits under the law.

MPLP Sources of Funding for 2005: \$ 774,313



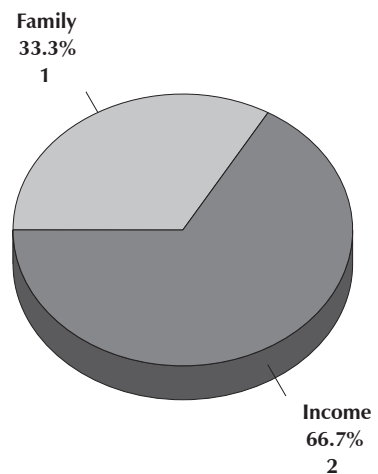
MICHIGAN POVERTY LAW PROGRAM

Contact: Robert F. Gillett, Director • (734) 665-6181

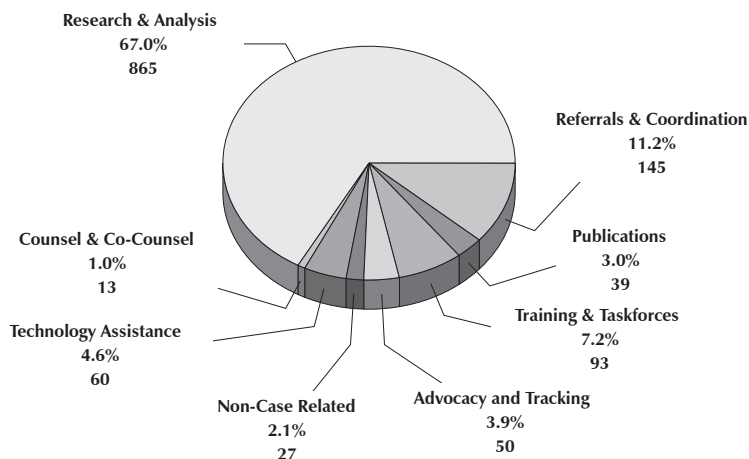
Community Outreach and Collaboration. MPLP continues to work with a number of community based organizations on legal issues regarding the quality of long-term care and support. MPLP also worked with community organizations to help establish a water affordability program for low-income residents with the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department. MPLP is actively involved in partnerships with other local legal service providers to prevent “foreclosure refinancing schemes” and predatory lending which take advantage of low-income home-owners who have suffered financial hardship. By forging new partnerships with the Michigan credit unions and community agencies, MPLP was also able to dramatically increase the amount of earned income tax credits that low-income individuals received through the ICAN-EIC program. MPLP also updates and manages the statewide client website at www.michiganlegalaid.org to share legal educational material on many substantive legal issues with other legal service providers and low-income people. Some posted educational material has been translated into Spanish, Arabic, or other languages.

Pro Bono Support. In 2005, the Michigan Litigation Assistance Partnership Program (MI-LAPP) worked with the State Bar of Michigan to develop the “pro bono menu,” a document which summarizes all pro bono options (Access to Justice Fund donations; statewide and specialized pro bono programs; and local pro bono programs). MPLP continues to work with the State Bar of Michigan to support the MI-LAPP program, which links the resources of large law firms and corporate law departments with complex cases that legal aid programs do not have the resources to take. MPLP also assists in the representation of community organizations through another MPLP/MI-LAPP partner, Community Legal Resources, which recruits law firms to help nonprofit agencies with transactional and corporate needs.

MPLP Cases Closed in 2005: 3



MPLP Types of Activity in 2005



MPLP Completed Activities in 2005: 1,292

