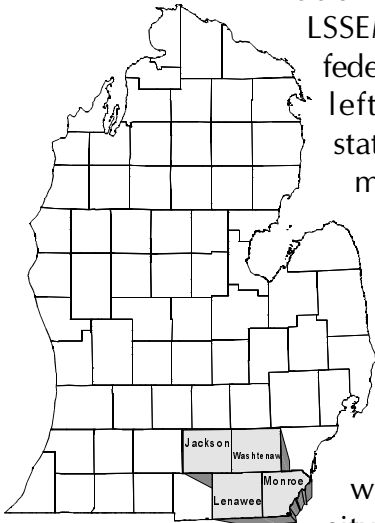


LEGAL SERVICES OF SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN, INC.

LSSEM Office Locations: Ann Arbor, Jackson, and Monroe

LSSEM Service Area: Jackson, Lenawee, Monroe, and Washtenaw Counties

Service Population: 89,632 individuals living at or below 125% of the poverty level

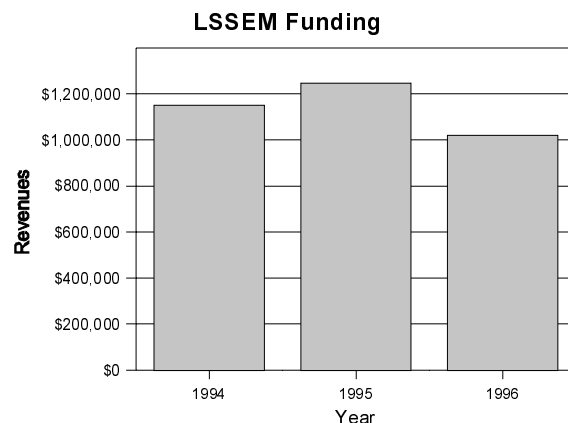


1996 was a transition year for LSSEM. As a result of reduced federal funding, four staff persons left and LSSEM's total case statistics were down approximately 18% from 1995. LSSEM worked with the Michigan Migrant Legal Assistance Project (MMLAP) to take over the state-wide migrant services federal grant. LSSEM also held partnership discussions with MMLAP and the University of Michigan Law School

A family with 6 children had purchased an automobile for \$1,800. The car failed to run after about three weeks and was repossessed. The finance company then sued the buyer for a deficiency of \$2,600. LSSEM represented the family and added the used car dealership as a third party to the lawsuit. On the brink of trial, the case was settled through a mutual release of all parties, relieving this family of an unfair debt.

which led to the creation of the Michigan Poverty Law Program to provide training and litigation support to other legal service programs. The latter part of 1996 was spent in detailed planning for the start up of these two new programs and in transition planning with the previous providers. As federal funding has become more uncertain, the comparative stability of IOLTA and Filing Fees funding has been essential to long-range program planning efforts; this core of program-wide funding has also become critical to LSSEM's ability to attract local grant funding.

A woman who had never missed a rent payment or had any problems with the landlord got married and asked the landlord to add her new husband to the lease. Because the disabled husband had unpaid medical bills, the landlord refused to add him to the lease, citing his bad credit history. The landlord also started eviction proceedings claiming that the woman had permitted an "unauthorized occupant" in her unit. LSSEM showed that the lease treated the husband as an "additional family member" and that a governmentally subsidized landlord could not deny her the right to marry. The district court agreed and dismissed the eviction complaint.



LEGAL SERVICES OF SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN, INC.

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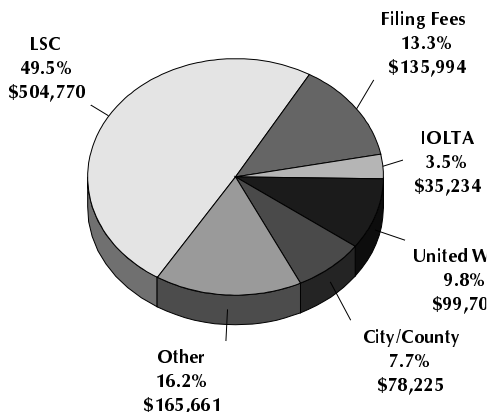
Community Outreach and Collaboration. LSSEM staff are frequently used as trainers and called on as case consultants by other legal services programs. Many persons connected with LSSEM have also been involved in the Michigan state planning process; one attorney has been very active in the state computer pilot projects and the director worked on the State Bar's pro bono committee toward development of a statewide litigation partnership program involving "big firms" and corporate lawyers in pro bono. LSSEM is directly involved with many local human services agencies and client and community organizations. Staff serve either as counsel to or on the boards of directors or participate as members of many multi-agency service provider organizations, community task forces, governmental advisory boards, etc. LSSEM is very visible and well known in all its communities; to increase access in more isolated areas, LSSEM regularly schedules intake there in a number of non-office sites.

Client Age	
18 & Under	15
19-59	2,813
60 & Over	935
Groups	11
Total	3,774

Pro Bono Support. LSSEM enjoys active pro bono support throughout the service area. The Washtenaw program includes the Family Law Project jointly sponsored with the University of Michigan Law School in which private lawyers assist one LSSEM staff attorney in the supervision of over 60 volunteer law students handling domestic assault cases. Friends of Legal Aid (FOLA) is one of the two most successful financial donation programs in the State. The Washtenaw County Bar Association annual dinner acknowledged over 4,000 lawyers or law firms who provided services or donated money. The specialty bar associations also assisted; both the National Lawyers Guild and the Women Lawyers Association staff special pro bono panels and conduct separate fundraisers for LSSEM.

Client Ethnicity	
White	2,715
Black	876
Hispanic	129
Native American	21
Asian	22
Other	11
Total	3,774

LSSEM Sources of Funding for 1996: \$ 1,019,589



LSSEM Cases Closed in 1996: 3,774

