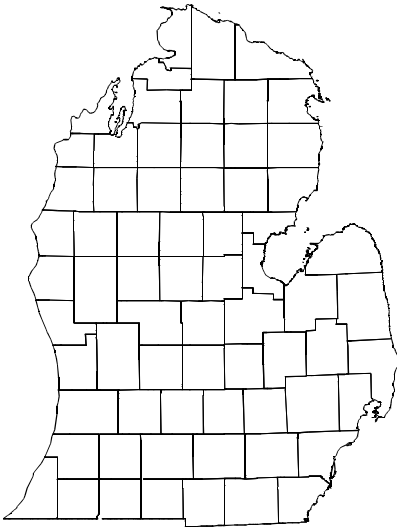


LEGAL AID BUREAU OF SOUTHWESTERN MICHIGAN, INC.

LABSWM Office Locations: Centreville, Cassopolis, Kalamazoo, and Paw Paw

LABSWM Service Area: Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, and Van Buren Counties

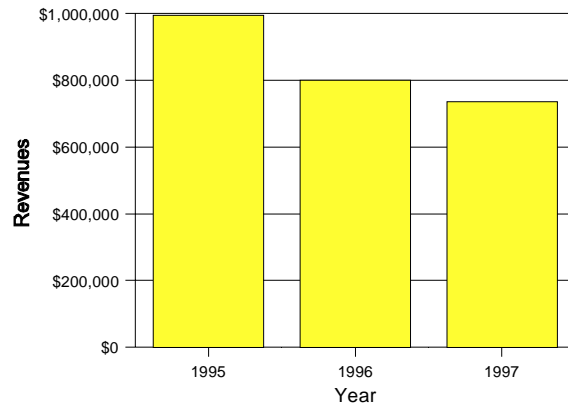
Service Population: 68,230 individuals living at or below 125% of the poverty level



A woman was about to be evicted from her mobile home. LABSWM contacted the opposing attorney and negotiated an agreement allowing the client enough time to find another residence and to sell the mobile home. LABSWM's advocacy allowed the client to save her investment in the mobile home, find new accommodations, and sell her mobile home for a profit. She was able to use proceeds from the mobile home sale to pay for her new home.



LABSWM Funding



LEGAL AID BUREAU OF SOUTHWESTERN MICHIGAN, INC.

Contact: Ward F. McDonough, Executive Director • (616) 344-8113

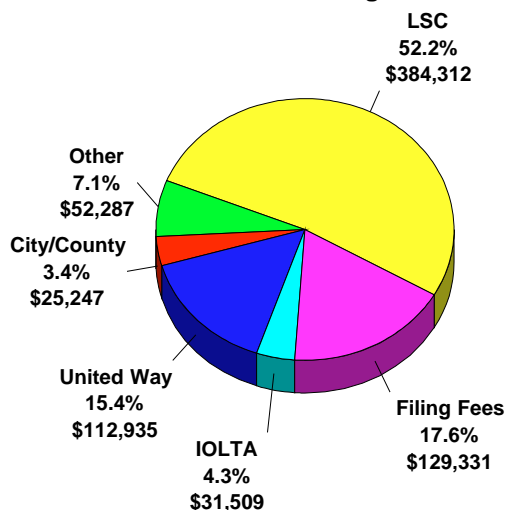
Community Outreach and Collaboration. LABSWM shared information with and referred clients to many agencies in its service area. The LABSWM staff participated in local community and statewide legal services activities. LABSWM conducted intake and outreach events at sites in the high-density poverty population areas of rural counties where transportation for clients to LABSWM offices is limited. Board members from the eligible client population assisted in identifying the organizations and regions in most need. LABSWM continued to work with diverse groups to educate people about legal issues, social and community problems, and ways to prevent legal problems. LABSWM produced a welfare reform informational newsletter, "Getting Welfare to Work," which was distributed every two months to agencies, funders, and legal aid offices. With more focus on alternative services such as advice and counsel, self-help referrals, and legal informational brochures, more people received access to legal services, participated in problem-solving, and resolved their legal problems.

Client Age	
18 & Under	6
19-59	1,334
60 & Over	282
Groups	0
Total	1,622

Pro Bono Support. LABSWM continued to work closely with bar association leaders and the pro bono committee of the local bar. LABSWM's pro bono coordinator recruited volunteer lawyers across the region to provide additional services. Several attorneys also volunteered to assist LABSWM with personnel and organizational structure issues. Pro bono attorneys also staffed volunteer clinics and offered time for Day of Caring activities benefiting nonprofit groups. Attorneys in all four counties accepted pro bono referrals.

Client Ethnicity	
White	1,227
Black	345
Hispanic	32
Native American	12
Asian	6
Other	0
Total	1,622

LABSWM Sources of Funding for 1997: \$ 735,621



LABSWM Cases Closed in 1997: 1,622

