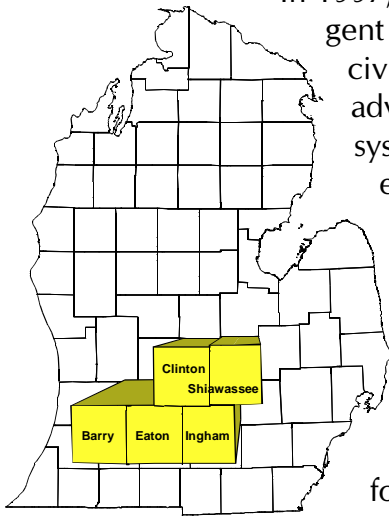


# LEGAL AID OF CENTRAL MICHIGAN

LACM Office Locations: Lansing

**LACM Service Area:** Barry, Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, and Shiawassee Counties

**Service Population:** 83,046 individuals living at or below 125% of the poverty level.



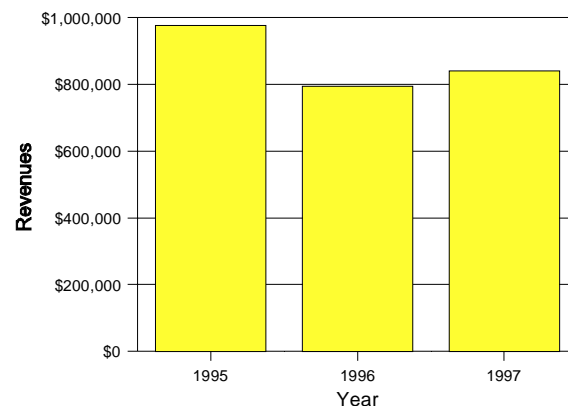
In 1997, LACM assisted 5,049 indigent community residents with civil legal problems, from legal advice on our "hotline" intake system to direct one-on-one client representation. In addition, LACM screened approximately 1,400 callers from the hotline system whose incomes or cases were not within LACM guidelines and referred these callers to other entities for help. LACM participated with an audit bundling project

A woman was forced to vacate her rented home due to its deplorable condition. When the landlord failed to make repairs, the city of Lansing condemned the property. Although Michigan law prohibits collection of rent on condemned properties, the landlord sued for rent for three months after the woman vacated the house. LACM represented the woman and prevented the landlord from collecting rent for the condemned property.

for six legal service providers resulting in significant audit cost reductions to all six providers. Weekly LACM pro se clinics, averaging 25 attendees, informed participants about how to handle their legal matters themselves. These people's legal needs would have gone unmet without LACM clinics. LACM received significant assistance from its internship and work-study programs with the Detroit College of Law at MSU, Cooley Law School, Michigan State University, Lansing Community College, and Wayne State University and from its panel of pro bono attorneys who serve clients at no fee.

A woman who needed her car for work took the car to a repair shop to do only work that was authorized by the warranty company, which gave permission for \$350 worth of repairs. Without authorization from the company or the client, the repair shop did more than \$2,000 of work and refused to return the car until the bill was paid. On the eve of the pretrial conference, LACM obtained agreement from the shop to return the car without charge for the unauthorized repairs.

**LACM Funding**



# LEGAL AID OF CENTRAL MICHIGAN

Contact: Carol L. Munday, Executive Director • (517) 485-5418 ext. 235

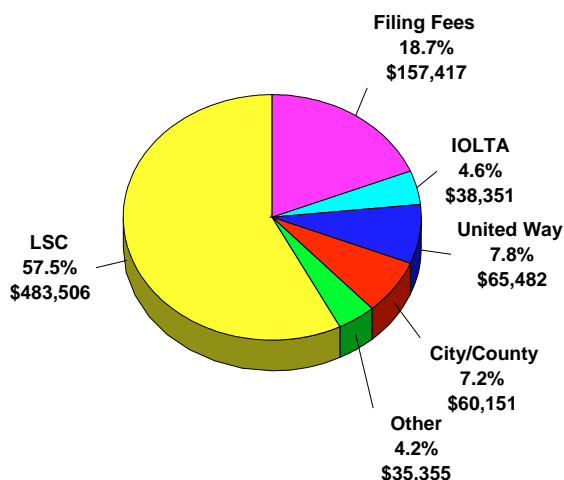
**Community Outreach and Collaboration.** LACM provided educational materials about legal rights and responsibilities through pro se clinics and direct distribution of educational materials. This emphasis on prevention helped resolve issues before a need for more complex legal services developed. In 1997, these clinics and materials reached at least 2,500 additional clients. LACM pro se educational clinics provided self-help programs for people seeking divorce or custody when no violence was involved and also assisted parties in other domestic relations matters, including visitation, child support, and domicile issues. LACM was particularly active in the area of domestic violence and had representatives on the Council Against Domestic Assault (CADA) and the local Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee. LACM worked with the Ingham County prosecutor's office, the Ingham County circuit courts, and CADA in supervising the "STOP Grant" program that streamlined the process of obtaining a personal protection order in Ingham County. LACM also worked with domestic abuse shelters in the four other counties to provide legal services to the victims of domestic abuse.

Client Age	
18 & Under	9
19-59	4,995
60 & Over	41
Groups	4
Total	5,049

**Pro Bono Support.** In 1997, LACM reached its goal of having 300 active pro bono attorneys, ranging from novice attorneys to seasoned practitioners who mentor new lawyers accepting pro bono cases. One of LACM's effective strategies to recruit pro bono attorneys was to offer pro bono training sessions, which covered bankruptcy (two trainings), family law (two trainings), guardianship, and landlord-tenant issues. The training was cosponsored by the Ingham County Bar Association and its family and bankruptcy law sections.

Client Ethnicity	
White	3,689
Black	969
Hispanic	287
Native American	52
Asian	48
Other	4
Total	5,049

LACM Sources of Funding for 1997: \$ 840,262



LACM Cases Closed in 1997: 5,049

