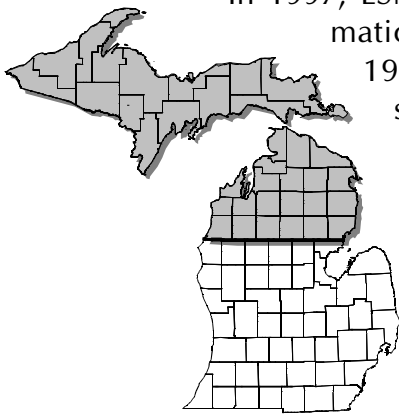


LEGAL SERVICES OF NORTHERN MICHIGAN, INC.

LSNM Office Locations: Alpena, Escanaba, Houghton, Marquette, Petoskey, Sault Ste. Marie, and Traverse City

LSNM Service Area: Alger, Alcona, Alpena, Antrim, Baraga, Benzie, Cheboygan, Charlevoix, Chippewa, Crawford, Delta, Dickinson, Emmet, Gogebic, Grand Traverse, Houghton, Iosco, Iron, Kalkaska, Keweenaw, Leelanau, Luce, Mackinac, Manistee, Marquette, Menominee, Missaukee, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Ontonagon, Oscoda, Ostego, Presque Isle, Roscommon, Schoolcraft, and Wexford Counties

Service Population: 144,736 individuals living at or below 125% of the poverty level



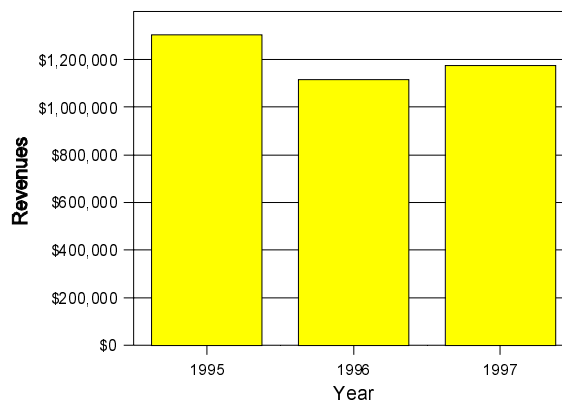
In 1997, LSNM responded to the dramatic federal funding cuts of 1996 by using program reserves, increased Filing Fee funds, and new aging and housing grants to expand staff modestly and to purchase additional computers and long-overdue office furnishings. LSNM continued to provide comprehensive legal assistance

A student with severe emotional and mental health problems resulting from mistreatment at school was not receiving appropriate special education. LSNM assisted the parents in obtaining state and federal special education benefits for their son, including the school's provision of private mental health counseling for the child.

to low-income people in its 36-county service area and closed nearly 4,100 cases in 1997. Each staff attorney received Internet access to enhance communication and research options. LSNM also reviewed program priorities after studying results of a comprehensive survey. Financial eligibility was increased to 125 percent of the federal poverty level, the types of cases accepted were expanded, and toll-free phone numbers were added. LSNM broadcast these changes in its expansive, rural service area using posters, brochures, newspaper and radio announcements, letters, and community presentations.

With LSNM's assistance, a private attorney handled a case in which a 16-year-old girl's Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits were being terminated. The young girl had been bedridden since birth with cerebral palsy. Her benefits were terminated due to her father's receipt of need-based veteran's pension benefits. The family also was ordered to repay \$5,000 of back benefits. LSNM argued that the regulation relied on violated the governing statute and the client's due process rights. The client's SSI benefits were reinstated and the overpayment obligation forgiven.

LSNM Funding



LEGAL SERVICES OF NORTHERN MICHIGAN, INC.

Contact: William R. Brown, Executive Director • (616) 347-8115

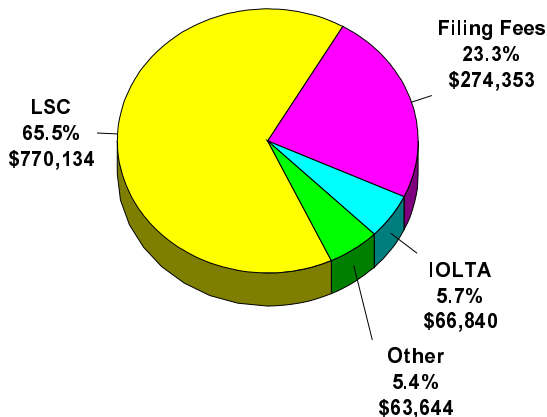
Community Outreach and Collaboration. In 1997, LSNM attorneys continued to offer legal education presentations for low-income people in several subject areas and for social services and court personnel on personal protection order issues. LSNM also assisted a school in fulfilling the legal rights of special education students. Social service agency personnel, previous clients, other attorneys, and the courts were the largest sources of client referrals. Relationships with and referrals from social services agencies and community action agencies continued to be strong throughout LSNM's service area.

Pro Bono Support. This rural service region continued to present some difficulties for developing pro bono volunteers. LSNM has contracted with private attorneys to provide legal services to poor people in some rural counties; intake is handled locally. The Traverse City pro bono program continued to be the largest in the LSNM service area. Leaders recruited and organized local attorneys to operate a pro bono clinic one night a week, and LSNM provided the clerical and reporting services. Members of the Wexford/Missaukee Bar Association accepted referrals from court personnel after income screening by LSNM. Also, LSNM helped form a pro bono referral program for Emmet and Charlevoix Counties with help from the local bar association, domestic violence shelter, and judges. LSNM contacted each bar association in its service area to reintroduce LSNM's services for low-income people and reaffirm LSNM's ability and willingness to aid private attorneys handling pro bono cases.

Client Age	
18 & Under	52
19-59	3,585
60 & Over	456
Groups	0
Total	4,093

Client Ethnicity	
White	3,866
Black	29
Hispanic	34
Native American	161
Asian	3
Other	0
Total	4,093

LSNM Sources of Funding for 1997: \$ 1,174,971



LSNM Cases Closed in 1997: 4,093

