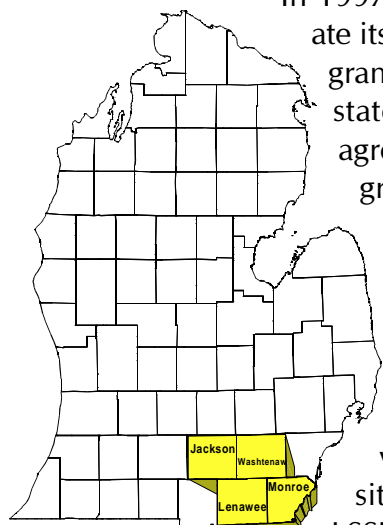


LEGAL SERVICES OF SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN, INC.

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



In 1997, LSSEM continued to operate its four-county basic field program and implemented two new statewide programs. With the agreement of the Michigan Migrant Legal Assistance Project (MMLAP), LSSEM took over the federal Legal Services Corporation funding for assisting migrant and seasonal agricultural workers statewide. Through a partnership with MMLAP and the University of Michigan Law School, LSSEM also opened the Michigan Poverty Law Program East office.

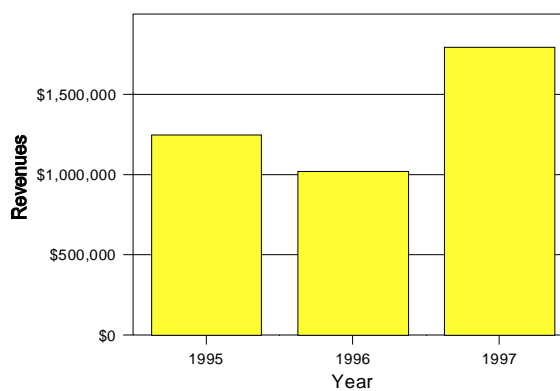
This program provides case support, substantive law and skills training, publications, and technology support to legal services programs throughout the state.

A grandmother cared for her four grandchildren while her daughter worked at a nursing home, which required her to leave the house very early in the morning and return in the early evening. The public housing commission alleged that the grandmother was an unauthorized resident and started eviction proceedings. LSSEM settled the case by having the grandmother added to the lease, having the mother's rental obligation recertified, and working out a payment plan to pay off the rental arrearage accumulated during the litigation.

A man lived in a home originally owned by his grandmother, who had died several years earlier. He had been living in the home with his family since before her death. His uncle served him with eviction papers. LSSEM learned that the grandmother had died with a will and that the client, along with several other relatives, had been willed an interest in the house. The will had never been probated. LSSEM defended the eviction case and referred it and the probate matter to a pro bono lawyer. The court dismissed the eviction because the man had an ownership interest in the house.

LSSEM's priority service areas in the basic field program continued to include the prevention of family violence, prevention of homelessness, preservation of families, access to medical and basic income assistance, and the prevention of consumer abuses.

LSSEM Funding*



*1997 increase due to acquisition of two new programs.

LEGAL SERVICES OF SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN, INC.

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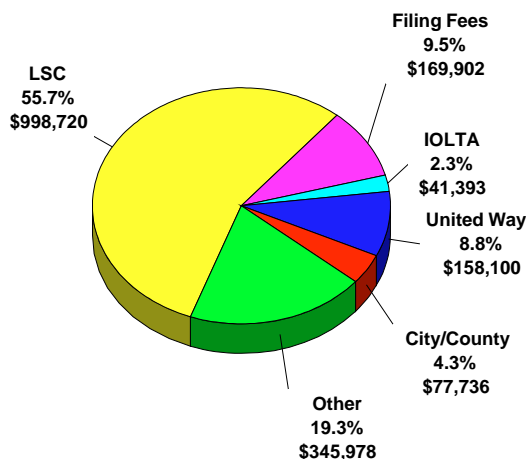
Community Outreach and Collaboration. Throughout its service area, LSSEM works with many partners—the local courts, the private bar, pro bono attorneys, housing providers, homeless shelters, domestic violence shelters, local government, and local human services agencies—to ensure that low-income people have access to the courts and other relevant forums in the areas affecting their most basic needs. These areas include the prevention of domestic violence, the prevention of homelessness, the preservation of families, access to basic income and health care programs, and the prevention of consumer abuses. LSSEM also does extensive outreach and education through the farmworkers program, including presentations at churches and community centers on safety, employment, and other legal issues.

Client Age	
18 & Under	60
19-59	3,118
60 & Over	1,165
Groups	14
Total	4,357

Pro Bono Support. In 1997, LSSEM's pro bono program involved 400 attorneys and 120 law students and opened 500 cases. The value of the pro bono services was more than \$1.2 million. The LSSEM program includes the direct referral of individual cases and several specialty programs: (1) 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 more than 60 volunteer law students handling domestic assault cases; (2) the Friends of Legal Aid donation program; (3) referral programs with the General Clinic and the Poverty Law Clinic at the University of Michigan Law School; (4) the Tenant Advocacy Project; and (5) the Michigan Litigation Assistance Partnership Program, which links the resources of large law firms with complex litigation and organizational representation cases and matters.

Client Ethnicity	
White	2,886
Black	895
Hispanic	514
Native American	14
Asian	34
Other	14
Total	4,357

LSSEM Sources of Funding for 1997: \$ 1,791,829



LSSEM Cases Closed in 1997: 4,357

