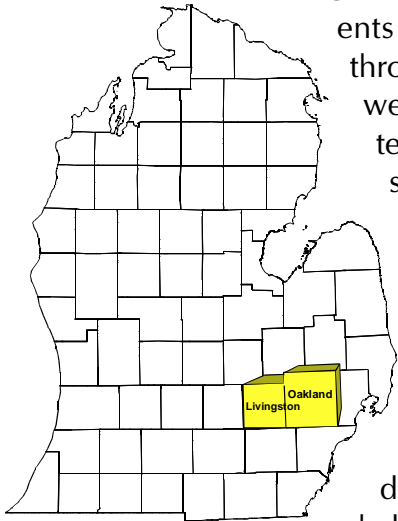


# OAKLAND LIVINGSTON LEGAL AID

OLLA Office Locations: Howell, Oak Park, and Pontiac

**OLLA Service Area:** Livingston and Oakland Counties

**Service Population:** 93,188 individuals living at or below 125% of the poverty level



OLLA is able to serve many clients who need brief services through hotlines and clinics, as well as others who need extended service or court representation. OLLA's impact can be especially seen in the family law arena, including legal education for pregnant and parenting teens and training for shelter workers who can oversee personal protection order assistance, while OLLA helps families who need further

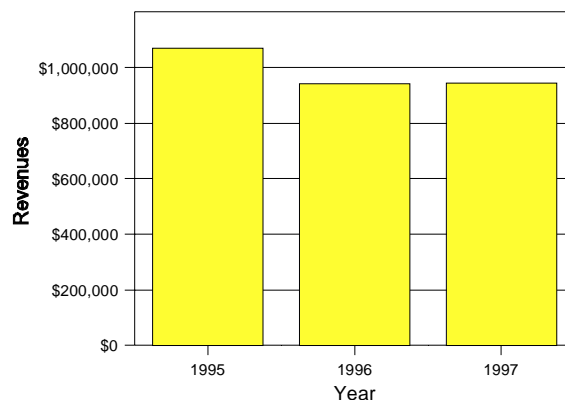
A widow leased her land to a Fowlerville farmer for several years. There was no written lease, and the entire transaction had been based on a handshake. She had not received payment for more than a year. An OLLA staff attorney advised her that she could take legal action and attach crops to ensure payment. She then contacted the farmer to tell him that she would begin legal action if he failed to pay. The next day, she received payment of the rent she was owed.

court intervention. In 1997, OLLA

added an attorney to share in case supervision duties. The Executive Director now directly supervises family law and pro bono; the Associate Director manages the senior program, housing, and consumer law. OLLA opened a new intake site in western Oakland County to serve more people from that region. OLLA purchased more computers in 1997 and upgraded from the DOS operating system to Windows 95. Staff members received training to use the new system.

A couple incurred \$20,000 in uncovered medical bills when the wife was treated for cancer. The hospital contacted the husband for payment and was pressuring him to sign a mortgage on his home to secure payments. OLLA verified the amount owed and met with hospital attorneys. OLLA negotiated a plan in which the hospital would accept small monthly payments and the man would not have to lose his home.

**OLLA Funding**



# OAKLAND LIVINGSTON LEGAL AID

Contact: Paula M. Zimmer, Executive Director • (248) 456-8888

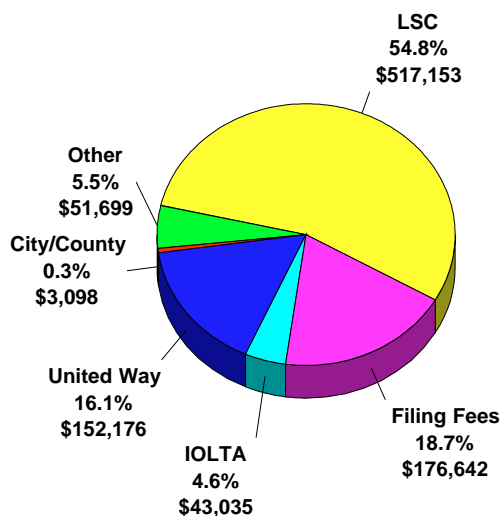
**Community Outreach and Collaboration.** OLLA distributed literature and spoke to thousands of participants at LAWFAIR (an Oakland County Bar Association Law Day program), Senior Power Days, and United Way fairs. OLLA also participated in planning for the Oakland County family court and gave a presentation about the impact of poverty on family law issues. OLLA assisted in training Women Lawyers of Michigan groups in domestic violence issues. Attorneys trained agreed to take pro bono cases. OLLA's family law staff give presentations at Beaumont Hospital to teen mothers. Also, Oakland Schools "bootcamp" students learn how the law can impact their lives in classes assisted by OLLA staff. OLLA joined a domestic violence shelter in a collaborative funding application and works closely in other ways with area shelters.

Client Age	
18 & Under	21
19-59	2,735
60 & Over	856
Groups	0
Total	3,612

**Pro Bono Support.** The Oakland County Bar Association requires each attorney in its extensive lawyer referral service to accept one pro bono case. That policy, coupled with OLLA's recruitment, gives OLLA the largest panel of pro bono attorneys in the state. Volunteer legal assistants screened applicants at three sites six evenings per month. The bar association honored all volunteer attorneys and legal assistants at its annual dinner meeting. Special award winners were singled out for recognition and highlighted by the local newspaper. OLLA assisted with the SSI initiative to recruit and train pro bono lawyers to represent children whose disability benefits ended. OLLA provided training manuals for the pro bono attorneys.

Client Ethnicity	
White	2,380
Black	1,086
Hispanic	126
Native American	7
Asian	13
Other	0
Total	3,612

OLLA Sources of Funding for 1997: \$ 943,803



OLLA Cases Closed in 1997: 3,612

