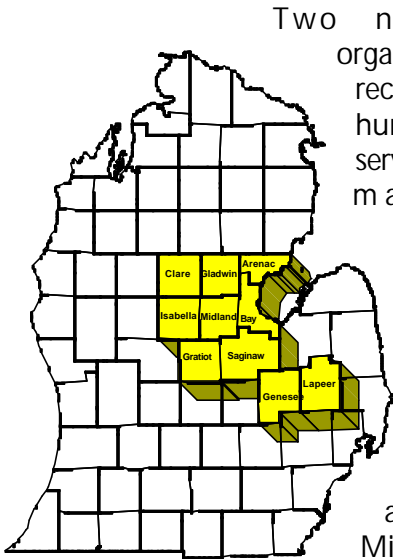


# CENTER FOR CIVIL JUSTICE

CCJ Office Locations: Saginaw

**CCJ Service Area:** Arenac, Bay, Clare, Genesee, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, Lapeer, Midland, and Saginaw. Statewide for anti-hunger advocacy.

**Service Population:** 209,288 individuals are living at or below 125% of the poverty level



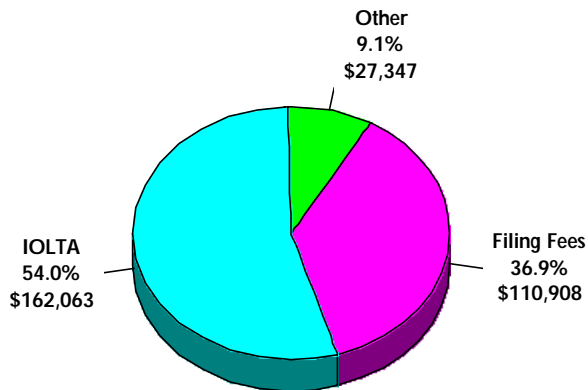
Two national philanthropic organizations selected CCJ to receive grants to expand anti-hunger advocacy efforts. CCJ served on a statewide group that made findings and recommendations adopted in a report on hunger issues issued by the Family Independence Agency. The new resources also helped CCJ obtain a policy change restoring nearly \$2 million of federal nutrition assistance to U.S. citizens in Michigan whose households included both citizens and legal

CCJ learned that low-income parents who were trying to get out of poverty through education were unable to have their participation in full-time internships, such as nursing, counted as a "work-activity." This meant that to retain benefits students had to find and keep a job even if it interfered with an internship preparing them for better future employment. CCJ worked with higher education institutions and state legislators to explain this impact to key state officials. As a result, the rule was changed so that students could complete required educational internships without penalty.

immigrants. CCJ won a case of first impression in which a federal judge found that children had lost food stamps illegally and restored the food assistance to the children. CCJ also won a case in the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals which assures that Medicaid recipients who need transportation assistance in order to access medical care will learn about and have clear procedures for seeking this assistance.

A housing agency planned to demolish public housing affecting over 200 families, requiring them to move. The agency did not comply with federal laws requiring it to provide funds for relocation assistance to displaced tenants. CCJ settled a lawsuit against the housing authority which resulted in the families receiving the proper amount of federal relocation assistance to help them in securing other places to live.

CCJ Sources of Funding for 1998: \$ 300,318



# CENTER FOR CIVIL JUSTICE

Contact: Terri L. Stangl, Executive Director ! (517) 755-3120

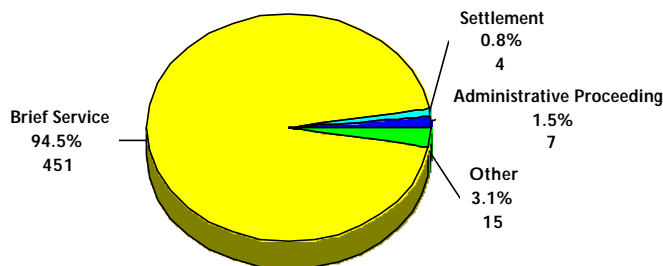
**Community Outreach and Collaboration:** CCJ prepared more than 30 "issue alerts" that described changes in laws and policies and the likely impact on low-income people. These alerts were distributed not only to legal services advocates statewide, but also to local nonprofit associations and private attorneys who work with low income families to help them understand legal issues, make appropriate referrals and better advocate for clients to solve many problems more quickly. CCJ also organized monthly or bi-monthly meetings of three multi-county interagency coalitions for presentations by speakers, meetings with legislators, and general updates on changes in the law. CCJ staff members prepared educational and outreach materials on legal issues related to topics such as food stamps for legal immigrants and employment and training programs for participants in a statewide anti-hunger advocacy network. CCJ's director also served as chair of the State Bar's Legal Aid Committee which reviews proposed rules and laws that may impact low income persons.

18 & Under	258
19-59	211
60 & Over	6
Total	477

**Pro Bono Support:** The pro bono program in CCJ's service area is handled by Legal Services of Eastern Michigan (LSEM). However, CCJ worked with private attorneys and LSEM to develop and test a lay person's manual on consumer and housing law that will be provided to local agencies to help them when advising indigent people. CCJ also helped to identify significant legal issues suitable for referral to the Michigan Litigation Assistance Partnership Project, which refers cases to larger law firms that have offered pro bono services.

White	248
Black	137
Hispanic	70
Native American	1
Asian	0
Other	19
Total	477

CCJ Types of Service in 1998



CCJ Cases Closed in 1998: 477

