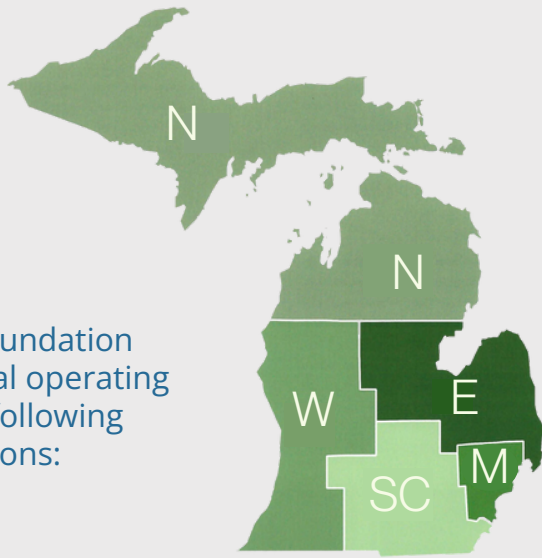


CIVIL LEGAL AID IN MICHIGAN

2022 REPORT OF SERVICES

The Michigan State Bar Foundation provides leadership and grants to improve access for all in the justice system, including support for civil legal aid, law-related education and conflict resolution. This report highlights the work of nonprofit legal aid programs funded by the Foundation.

LEGAL AID SERVICE AREAS



In 2022, the Foundation distributed annual operating grants to the following organizations:

REGIONAL PROGRAMS

Eastern (E)

- Legal Services of Eastern Michigan

Metro Region (M)

- Lakeshore Legal Aid
- Michigan Legal Services

Northern (N)

- Legal Services of Northern Michigan

South Central (SC)

- Michigan Advocacy Program/
Legal Services of South Central Michigan

Western (W)

- Legal Aid of Western Michigan

STATEWIDE PROGRAMS

- Counsel and Advocacy Law Line
- Michigan Immigrant Rights Center
- Michigan Indian Legal Services
- Michigan Poverty Law Program

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES CLOSED

57,351

In 2022, legal aid programs saw a **12% increase** in the total number of cases closed.

LEGAL AID AT WORK



A single mother of three children called legal aid for help when she was notified that her 2020 and 2021 tax refunds were going to be garnished. It had been a difficult year and she planned on a tax refund. The garnishment was based on a utility debt that she thought was waived during the pandemic. Legal aid provided advice to the mother and she was successful in negotiating a manageable payment plan with the utility company. She no longer had to worry about her taxes being garnished.

CIVIL LEGAL AID OVERVIEW

The Michigan State Bar Foundation provides funding to regional and statewide legal aid organizations throughout Michigan to assist low-income residents and vulnerable populations.

THE NEED FOR LEGAL AID IN 2022



Over **1.67 million low-income Michigan residents** are eligible for legal aid



One attorney available for every **4,640 low-income residents** who qualify for legal aid

55%

Of low-income individuals who personally experienced a problem indicated that these problems substantially **impacted their lives**, with consequences affecting their finances, mental health, physical health and safety, and relationships.
~ 2022 LSC Justice Gap Report.

LEGAL AID HELPS TO KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER

A mother of four young children was shot and killed during a tragic incident in her community. The children's uncle stepped in to take care of the minor children, however, he was unable to enroll them in school and schedule medical appointments. Legal Aid was able to file and obtain a guardianship for the uncle so that he could care for his nieces and nephews. He was able to provide the children with stability, not only in schooling and with their medical care, but also at home.

WHO LEGAL AID HELPED

Annual household income in 2022 of a family of four
\$37,500 living below 125% of the federal poverty guidelines



The funding distributed to legal aid programs helped **111,455 people in households, including 45,594 children**

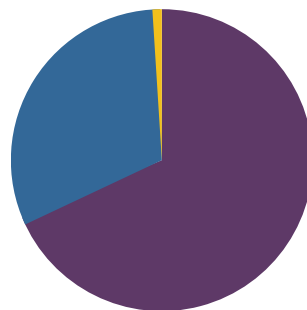


8,044 older adults helped



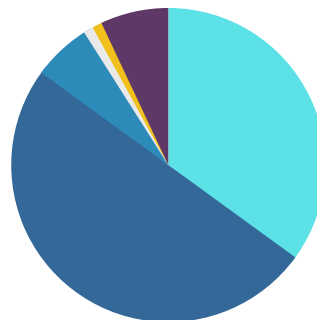
1,546 veterans helped by legal aid

GENDER OF CLIENTS SERVED



- Female - 68.56%
- Male - 30.85%
- Transgender, Unknown, Undisclosed - .59%

ETHNICITY OF CLIENTS HELPED



- White (non Hispanic) - 34.62%
- Black (non Hispanic) - 50.05%
- Hispanic - 5.93%
- Native American - 1.11%
- Asian - .55%
- Other/Unknown - 7.74%

2022 SUCCESSFUL CASE OUTCOMES

Percentages of positive outcomes when clients were represented by a legal aid attorney.



98%

Housing stability cases



92%

Family stability cases



94%

Expungement cases

CIVIL LEGAL AID PROVIDES CRITICAL CONSTITUENT SERVICES

The Foundation's annual grantees coordinate services through a statewide infrastructure to provide a continuum of services to help solve the legal problems clients face.



Michigan Legal Help Program is an online clearinghouse that provides information on legal topics, links to legal forms and other self-help resources. The website also includes a triage and referral function through the *Guide to Legal Help*, a step-by-step tool connecting people to the right resources, including referrals to attorneys or a legal aid organization.

- In 2022, MLH had nearly 3.67 million visits to its website www.michiganlegalhelp.org



Counsel and Advocacy Law Line (CALL) is a statewide attorney staffed hotline for low-income individuals and older adults. CALL attorneys advise on housing, public benefits, consumer law, domestic relations, unemployment benefits and other civil matters. CALL provides tailored advice to individuals who call for help and direct referrals to legal aid organizations.

- In 2022, CALL provided legal advice and referrals for 14,964 closed cases



Nonprofit civil legal aid organizations provide representation when a case is more complex or an attorney is needed. The legal aid programs in Michigan are integrated within their communities and work closely with community partners to identify clients who need help. Legal Aid organizations provide the infrastructure to facilitate pro bono services and in 2022, private attorneys contributed 20,021 hours of pro bono assistance to clients seeking help from legal aid organizations funded by the Foundation.

- In 2022 legal aid programs completed 57,351 cases as described in the chart below.

NUMBER OF CASES COMPLETED BY TYPE OF CASE

PROTECTING HOUSEHOLD INCOME FROM UNSCRUPULOUS CREDITORS THROUGH CASES RELATED TO CONSUMER ISSUES

4,885

REMOVING BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT AND PROTECTING INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS

4,047

ASSURING SAFETY FOR FAMILIES, PRIMARILY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS, IN DOMESTIC RELATION MATTERS

7,590

PROTECTING RIGHTS, INCLUDING ESTATE PLANNING FOR OLDER ADULTS

2,449

ENSURING HOUSING STABILITY AND PREVENTING THE LOSS OF A HOME

31,502

HELPING INDIVIDUALS, PRIMARILY INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES, SECURE FEDERAL BENEFITS AND OTHER INCOME ASSISTANCE

5,955

PROTECTING RIGHTS AND ASSURING FAIRNESS ON OTHER MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

923

NUMBER OF CASES COMPLETED BY LEVEL OF SERVICE

COUNSEL AND ADVICE

31,155

BRIEF ASSISTANCE

7,265

NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT PRE-COURT FILING

4,380

NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT AFTER CASE FILED IN COURT

6,987

ADMINISTRATIVE AND COURT DECISIONS

6,543

OTHER AND EXTENDED SERVICES

1,021

57,351
COMPLETED
CASES

INVESTING IN ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND IMPROVING THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

ANNUAL GRANTS AND DISTRIBUTIONS

The Foundation provides annual funding to civil legal aid organizations through a variety of grants and administers the Access to Justice Campaign to raise money from the legal community.

Civil Legal Aid Grants

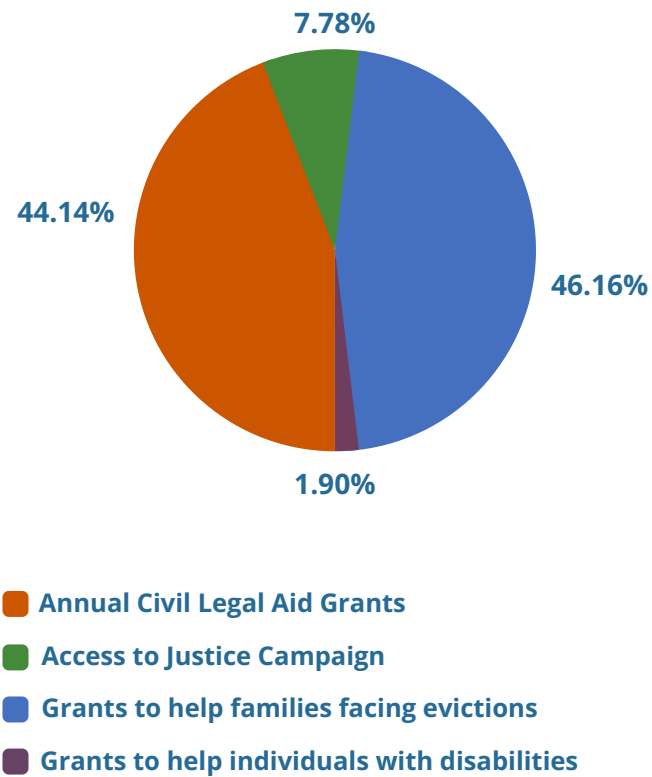
Annual civil legal aid grants totaling **\$7.45 million** are funded through the Interest of Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) Program and a portion of Filing Fees pursuant to MCLA 600.1485.

Access to Justice (ATJ) Campaign

A collaborative centralized campaign, in partnership with the State Bar of Michigan, administered by the Foundation, raised **\$1.32 million**, including cy pres awards, from the legal community. 100% of donations received are distributed to 15 civil legal aid organizations throughout Michigan based on poverty populations and need.

Special Initiative Grants

MSBF receives funding from MSHDA and MDHHS and provides grants to legal aid programs to help families facing eviction (**\$7.8 million**) and individuals with disabilities (**\$322,000**).



PROJECT GRANTS

The Foundation also funds innovative projects to improve the administration of justice. In 2022, the Foundation awarded Administration of Justice Grants totaling **\$34,000** to:

- Michigan Indian Legal Services
- Michigan Poverty Law Program

FOR HELP WITH CIVIL LEGAL MATTERS - CONTACT

Michigan Legal Help www.michiganlegalhelp.org or *in Spanish* michiganlegalhelp.org/es
Counsel and Advocacy Law Line : 888-783-8190

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