Legal Services Corporation of Virginia

Report to the Commonwealth and the General Assembly FY 2013-2014



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Legal Information and Program Descriptions on the web at www.valegalaid.org

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This Report was Produced for The Legal Services Corporation of Virginia by the Resource for Great Programs, Inc. www.greatprograms.org

Executive Summary

In FY 2013-2014, LSCV's Legal Aid Programs Produced Results that Touched Everyone in Virginia.

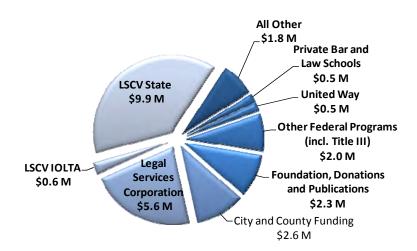
More than 68,800 low-income Virginians were directly benefited.

The civil legal aid programs funded by Legal Services Corporation of Virginia (LSCV) enabled low-income Virginians to address critical legal issues directly affecting their families, homes, income, jobs and access to vital services such as education and health care. The number of people benefited was 11.8 percent lower than the previous year, the delayed impact of layoffs of legal aid advocates over the past three years made necessary by the funding cuts that have occurred during that period.

LSCV distributed \$10.5 million to legal aid programs.

In FY 2013-2014, LSCV provided grants to a statewide network of non-profit organizations, including nine regional legal aid programs and a statewide support center. Collectively these programs served every community in Virginia via 38 offices located strategically throughout the state. This funding came from the Virginia General Assembly in the form of general revenue and special filing fee appropriations, and from the Virginia "IOLTA" (Interest On Lawyers Trust Accounts) program that

FY 2013-2014 Legal Aid Funding (All Sources): \$25.8 Million



LSCV began administering in 1995.

The state and IOLTA dollars distributed by LSCV leveraged additional millions of dollars from other sources.

LSCV-funded legal aid programs received an additional \$15.3 million from a variety of sources, including the federal Legal Services Corporation, local governments, foundation grants, bar associations and community fundraising efforts.

The results achieved by LSCV-funded programs helped everyone in Virginia.

- Producing \$97.0 million in economic benefits. The work of legal aid advocates brought millions of federal dollars into Virginia that would otherwise have been lost to local economies. These dollars provided 683 jobs and, with additional savings from avoidance of such costly social problems as homelessness, yielded a net return of \$3.72 for every dollar invested.
- ♦ Enhancing family stability and safety. Legal aid in domestic violence cases enabled survivors to lead more productive lives, reduced crime and increased the likelihood that affected children would not become victims or perpetrators of violence in the future.
- Preventing homelessness. Through successful advocacy that prevented eviction and home foreclosure, legal aid lawyers kept families in their homes and reduced the social and economic costs of emergency shelter and other services for the homeless.
- ♦ Making other institutions work better. Lawmakers referred constituents to legal aid for legal help. Courts relied on legal aid to help people navigate the legal system and address legal problems before they enter the court system.

Executive Summary (continued)

- ♦ Empowering people to seek fair solutions through legal channels. In addition to representing clients, legal aid advocates reached 567,000 people through telephone-based legal "hotlines," pro se (self-help) programs, distribution of legal education materials, and preventative legal education efforts. These results empowered the people who used these programs to better understand and act upon their legal rights and responsibilities as tenants, parents, employees, spouses, and consumers.
- ♦ Partnering with other organizations to solve community-wide problems. Legal aid programs worked with private law firms, the courts and more than 100 agencies across the state that served low-income Virginians. In FY 2013-2014, private lawyers completed 2,674 cases for legal aid clients and contributed 219,301 hours valued at \$2.9 million through pro bono programs operated by LSCV-funded legal aid organizations.
- ♦ Maximizing bang for the buck. Virginia legal aid programs promoted high productivity and quality through participation in LSCV's statewide evaluation and outcome measurement systems that have been in place for more than a decade. Legal aid programs participated in a statewide student loan repayment program implemented by LSCV in 2008,

fostering quality and efficiency by minimizing the loss of experienced attorneys who may otherwise seek higher-paying jobs to cover debt service on their student loans.

The Justice Gap:

Legal aid is effective. Yet, in FY 2013-2014, legal aid advocates could help only a fraction of those in need.

Demand for services remained high as the recession that began in 2007 continued to be felt by Virginia's lowincome population.

Meanwhile, legal aid's two major sources of funding - IOLTA and federal grants – continued to stagnate. Due to historically low interest rates, annual IOLTA funding was \$4.1 million below its FY 2007-2008 level.

In addition, census-based cuts in federal funding in FY 2012-13 amounted to a loss of almost \$1.2 million for Virginia legal aid programs in FY 2013-14 compared with two years before. Every dollar spent on legal aid in FY 2013-2014 yielded an economic return far exceeding the investment, yet today's legal aid funding level is far less than it was three decades ago. Until the resources have been found to bridge the gap between the need for legal assistance and the capacity to provide it, "Equal Justice Under the Law" will remain an empty promise for our state's most vulnerable citizens.

Funding

In FY 2013-2014, LSCV distributed \$10.5 Million in Funding for Legal Aid Programs.

For more information about LSCV and its programs, please visit our website at: www.valegalaid.org.

IOLTA Funds: \$0.6 million. In 1995, LSCV began administering Virginia's IOLTA program after its conversion from a mandatory to an opt-out program. Virginia banks that choose to offer trust accounts for attorneys and title companies remit the net interest to LSCV on a monthly or quarterly basis.

State Funds: \$9.9 million. LSCV receives funding to provide civil legal services to Virginia's low-income population from the Virginia General Assembly in the form of general revenue [\$3.6 million] and special filing fee appropriations [\$6.3 million] in FY 2013-2014. Collections of state filing fee revenue continued to reflect the recessionary downturn in civil case filings. While the legal aid appropriation is \$7.8 million, LSCV received only \$6.3 million, a loss of \$1.5 million since 2009."

Introduction

In FY 2013-2014, the Work of Legal Aid Advocates Benefitted Every Community in Virginia.

This Report at a Glance

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The statewide network of civil legal aid programs funded by LSCV provided legal assistance that enabled more than 68,800 low-income Virginians to address critical legal issues directly affecting their families, homes, income, jobs and access to vital services such as education and health care.

In FY 2013-2014, LSCV provided \$10.5 million in grants to nine regional legal aid programs and a statewide support center that collectively serve every community in Virginia.

This funding came from the Virginia General Assembly in the form of general revenue and special filing fee appropriations, and from the Virginia "IOLTA" (Interest On Lawyers Trust Accounts) program that LSCV began administering in 1995.

By helping those in need, LSCV grantees helped everyone in Virginia.

Legal protection from domestic violence reduced crime, allowed survivors to go back to living healthy, productive lives, and reduced the likelihood that children will become victims or perpetrators of violence in the future.

Keeping families in their homes saved tax dollars.

Legal aid helped clients avoid eviction or foreclosure, not only preserving their homes but reducing the need for expensive emergency shelter and keeping children in school who without legal aid would have become homeless.

Bringing income into the state strengthened local economies.

By securing Social Security Disability Insurance benefits for disabled people who are unable to work, legal aid enabled those people to live in dignity and also brought millions of dollars into communities that would otherwise be lost to the state and local economies.

By helping their clients, LSCV-funded programs made other institutions work better.

Lawmakers referred their constituents to legal aid for legal help. Courts relied on legal aid to help people navigate the legal system, negotiate solutions that otherwise would require litigation, and screen out non-meritorious cases before they entered the court system.

Legal aid is cost-effective.

In FY 2013-2014, every dollar of revenue for a legal aid program produced \$3.72 of measurable economic impacts and many other benefits that are not quantifiable. (See box, "The Economic Impact of Legal Aid far Exceeds the Funds Invested," on page

4). These dollars were in addition to the intangible benefits that come from providing fair solutions to



critical legal problems faced by Virginians living in poverty.

In FY 2013-2014, Legal Aid Advocates Helped 68,857 Low-Direct Legal Assistance Income Virginians Obtain Fair Solutions to Critical Legal Problems.

> Direct legal assistance is the core service phone systems and database technology. of LSCV grantees. In FY 2013-2014, LSCV-funded legal aid advocates completed 28,688 cases, providing direct measurable benefits to 68,857 people. They provided free legal help to people who live at or near the poverty level. They performed intake and provided advice and brief legal assistance on a centralized, regional basis with the help of sophisticated

Clients needing more in-depth assistance were referred to legal aid attorneys and paralegals working out of program offices located in cities and towns throughout the state, or to private attorneys who serve these clients on a pro bono basis.

Snapshot of LSCV-Funded Legal Assistance Family: 31,632 People

Legal problems include domestic violence, child support, divorce, child custody, parental rights and guardianships.

21%

14%

Housing: 14,159 People

Legal problems include unlawful eviction, denial of access to public or government-subsidized housing, and illegal mortgage foreclosure.

Consumer/Finance: 9,928 People

Legal problems include illegal taking of property, wage garnishment, denial of credit and fraudulent consumer practices.

Income Maintenance: 4,818 People

Legal problems include eligibility for or termination of SSD (disability), SSI (Supplemental Security), unemployment compensation or public benefits.

Other: 8,320 People

Legal problems include education, employment, juvenile, health, individual rights and other miscellaneous matters.

Snapshot: Hanna, a young working mother came home from work and was beaten by her husband who had lost his job in the recession. One night he broke her finger in front of their daughter, resulting in surgery and the loss of her job as a nurses' assistant. A week later, Hanna and her daughter fled the home and contacted legal aid. Central Virginia Legal Aid Society obtained a two-year permanent protective order which ultimately allowed Hanna to remain safely in her home.

Snapshot: Richard is an elderly, illiterate man who had invited his cousin and her son to move into his mobile home and help care for him. The living arrangement did not work out and Richard asked the family members to leave his home. He was then served with an Unlawful Detainer Summons, which alleged that Richard no longer owned his home and that he had signed a notarized Bill of Sale giving the mobile home to his cousin's son. The son had the DMV place the mobile home title in his name. Richard remembered signing a paper, but was not told he was giving away his home. Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society filed a complaint in circuit court seeking revision of the contract. Upon receiving the circuit court complaint, the cousin's son agreed to negotiate and ultimately signed the mobile home title back over to Richard in exchange for a \$300 payment.

Snapshot: Gretchen is an ill, elderly client who took the family car into a local auto repair shop for repairs. She called the mechanic over several weeks asking when their only source of transportation would be ready. Gretchen drove by the shop often and noticed the car gone one day. The mechanic told her the title loan company must have repossessed it. A few days later, after spotting their car parked at a nearby storefront, Gretchen contacted Legal Aid of Southeastern Virginia. The attorney found that the mechanic had fraudulently acquired a mechanic's lien for the car, sued the repair shop, and secured damages totaling \$4,000.

Snapshot: Morgan's grandmother contacted Rappahannock Legal Services (RLS) when her SSI benefits were terminated based on agency determination that Morgan's profound disabilities had ended the previous year. RLS helped gather the child's extensive current medical and school records and forwarded them to the Office of Disability Adjudication and Review. The judge asked Morgan several questions at the hearing, but the majority of the testimony came from the grandmother after Morgan was dismissed from the hearing room. Based on her overall capacity to interact and relate to others, the Judge confirmed her disability status had not ended and Morgan's SSI benefits (\$721 per month, plus Medicaid) were restored and will continue until she reaches age 18 or her condition improves.

Economic Impact

In FY 2013-2014, Virginia Legal Aid Programs Produced \$3.72 in Income, Jobs and Cost Savings for Every Dollar Invested.

Legal aid is cost-effective. During FY 2013-2014, LSCV-funded legal aid programs produced \$97.0 million of measurable economic impacts and many other benefits that are not quantifiable. (See box, "The Economic Impact of Legal Aid in Virginia Far Exceeds the

Funds Invested" on the next page.) These dollars are in addition to the intangible benefits that come from providing fair solutions to critical legal problems faced by Virginians living in poverty.

The Economic Multiplier Effect

Legal Services Secures Federal Benefits

Representation by Virginia legal aid advocates brings federal funds into Virginia each year that otherwise would be lost to local economies.

\$31.9 million

- Social Security Disability and Supplemental Security Income benefits
- Federal share of Medicaid benefits
- Federal support to Legal Aid Providers

Federal Benefits Stimulate Local Economies

Most of the money from federal benefits is spent immediately on necessities. In turn, these federal funds provide income for local businesses and wages for working Virginians.

Necessities for Families:

- Food and Housing
- Health Care
- Prescriptions
- Utilities
- Transportation

Communities Experience a Big Multiplier Effect

Each federal dollar circulates 1.65 times* (\$31.9 million in federal benefits multiplied by 1.65) in local communities.

\$52.7 million*

- Income for local businesses
- 683 jobs for people throughout Virginia

*Total impact was estimated by applying the widely accepted U.S. Department of Commerce "Regional Economic Multiplier" for payments to low-income families in Virginia, indicating that every federal dollar brought into Virginia circulates through local economies 1.65 times and supports 24 jobs.

The Economic Impact of Legal Aid in Virginia Far Exceeds the Funds Invested

In FY 2013-2014, the total economic impact of legal assistance provided by Virginia legal aid programs was **\$97.0 million**, a return of **\$3.72** for every dollar of local, state, or federal funds invested.¹

The Impacts Include:

\$41.3 million in direct benefits for low-income families.

- ♦ \$31.9 million in federal benefits including Social Security Disability, Supplemental Security Income, the federal share of Medicaid, federal support for legal assistance programs and other federal benefits;
- ♦ **\$4.0 million** in child support payments for needy Virginia children and their families;
- ♦ **\$5.4 million** from other revenue-generating legal aid outcomes including unemployment compensation, spousal support and consumer settlements;

\$3.0 million in cost savings for Virginia taxpayers.

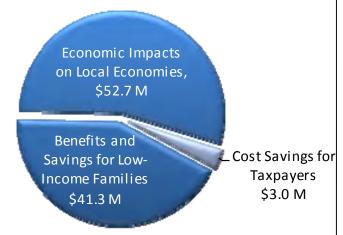
- ♦ \$1.7 million in savings in costs related to domestic abuse. Advocates enabled 469 families to be protected from domestic violence. Studies indicate an average savings of \$3,645 per family in the costs of medical care for injured victims, lost productivity, and targeted education and counseling for affected children.
- ♦ **\$1.3 million** in savings in emergency shelter costs. In FY 2013-2014, LSCV programs' homeless prevention work helped 648 low-income families (1,686 family members) avoided the need for emergency shelter, saving an estimated \$12,977 per family.

\$52.7 million in additional economic activity for local communities through the economic multiplier effect (see graphic on page 3).

Additional Benefits (not quantified):

- ♦ Savings from crime prevention and reduction in law enforcement assistance.
- ♦ Savings from keeping children in school whose attendance would otherwise have been interrupted by homelessness and/or domestic abuse.
- ♦ Efficiencies in Virginia courts made possible by legal aid assistance to clients and self-represented litigants, such as materials and training on how to follow court procedures.

See Appendix D for computations



Empowerment

In FY 2013-2014, Virginia Legal Aid Advocates Helped 553,990 People to Help Themselves.

"I can't express how much I appreciate Legal Services. If they did not take my case my family and I would be out on the street, literally."

~Legal Services of Northern Virginia Client In addition to providing direct legal assistance that benefited more than 68,800 Virginians in FY 2013-2014, legal aid advocates helped 553,990 additional people understand and act upon their legal rights and responsibilities as tenants, parents, employees, spouses, and consumers (see statistics below). For this, LSCV-funded programs used three powerful strategies: telephone legal "hotlines," pro se (self-help) assistance, and community legal education.

Telephone Legal "Hotlines": Providing expert legal advice that can prevent small problems from becoming big ones.

LawLine is the intake and advice hotline for Virginia Legal Aid Society which provides screening, assessment, referrals, information and legal advice to most applicants during their first contact with VLAS regarding a new problem. Callers needing extended service are referred by LawLine to a local VLAS office, their information saved and instantly available via Kemps Case Works on the Internet to the local office. Through LawLine, VLAS also maintains an extensive collection of written information on legal rights, remedies. responsibilities, and procedures for distribution to clients and applicants for services. The materials explain, where appropriate, pro se measures that may be undertaken, including sample forms and suggestions on how to use the court system or to draft documents in furtherance of the client's legal needs.

Self-Help Assistance: Legal Aid Justice Center is able to help dozens of low-income parents and social workers through trainings designed to empower care-givers and service providers to effectively advocate for the educational rights of the children in their care. Trainings stress both rights and responsibilities and helps family members become effective and informed advocates, ensuring that at-risk children receive the supports and services they need to succeed in school.

Community Legal Education: Virginia Poverty Law Center was awarded a federal Navigator Grant to provide outreach, education and enrollment assistance to people seeking health insurance through the ACA Marketplace. The project has reached over 30,000 Virginians with outreach, education, phone contact and provided direct application assistance with enrollment to over 4,000.

People in Virginia who Benefited:

Summary

Brief Legal Assistance Provided by Virginia Advocates in FY 2013-2014

- \$\delta\$ 13,030 received legal advice and counsel from the telephone intake and advice systems that reach every community in Virginia, thereby serving people who otherwise would have no access to legal assistance from any source
- ♦ 39,215 received legal education through presentations to community groups and printed materials
- ♦ 68,715 received assistance through legal clinics, help desks at court and other help to self-represented litigants
- 623,100 unique visits to program websites which resulted in 320,440 legal education and
 125,600 self-representation materials were downloaded
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Partnerships

In FY 2013-2014, LSCV-Funded Programs Collaborated with Others to Solve Community-Wide Problems.

Partnerships Helped to Leverage the Impact of Assistance.

Legal aid programs worked with private law firms, the courts and more than 100 agencies across the state that serve lowincome Virginians -- please see box, "Leveraging Resources: Partnerships Multiply the Impact."

Pro Bono Statistics

In FY 2013-2014, volunteer lawyers participating in LSCV-funded programs achieved the following results.

Number of cases completed: 2,674

Hours Contributed: 19,301

Dollar Value of Services*: \$2.9M

*Estimated conservatively at \$150 per hour

Leveraging Resources

Partnerships Multiply the Impact

♦ Collaboration results in efficiency.

Blue Ridge Legal Services continues to provide intake services for the Legal Aid Society of the Roanoke Valley. There are mutually allocated types of cases between the two programs within the Roanoke area. Once financial eligibility has been determined, BRLS decides whether the case should be (1) assigned to the pro bono hotline operated by BRLS; (2) referred to the Pro Bono Referral Program operated by BRLS; (3) assigned to the BRLS managing attorney for representation; or transferred to LASRV for representation. The transfer is accomplished electronically through case management software via e-mail. Last year we screened and transferred 1,221 eligible clients in this fashion to LASRV.

Dedicated to ending domestic violence.

Legal Aid Society of the Roanoke Valley works with numerous local and regional domestic violence coalitions, shelters, and committees, joining forces with other domestic violence advocates, law enforcement, prosecutors and judges to confront and address issues of domestic violence and sexual assault in our service area. The domestic violence attorney on staff at LASRV serves as a member of the Family Violence Coordinating Council, a Commissioner for TAP's Domestic Violence Services, and is on the advisory board for Sabrina's Place, a secure child visitation facility for victims of domestic violence and their children.



Productivity and Quality "Bang for the Buck."

In FY 2013-2014, Legal Aid Programs Produced More "Bang for the Buck."

Virginia Legal Aid Programs Use Their Funds Wisely.

Because funds are so limited, LSCV-funded programs strive continually to improve their efficiency and effectiveness. They apply state-of-the-art systems and standards that they and their peers across America have developed over decades of legal aid practice. For example, Virginia legal aid programs apply a specialized, statewide case management software system, funded by LSCV, that enables them to share data, track intake patterns and measure the impacts of their work on behalf of their clients.

Examples of Measurable Outcomes

- ♦ In Fiscal Year 2014, Legal Aid Justice Center addressed 1,957 legal problems directly benefiting 5,074 Virginians and resulting in over \$3.59M in economic benefits. One-time awards and settlements for our clients totaled \$688,370 and annualized monthly recoveries were \$924,972. We helped clients avoid \$506,653 in one-time expenses and \$270,412 in annualized monthly expenses. We also saved the Commonwealth \$1.2M over the next decade by reducing/preventing the incarceration of eleven youth in the Virginia Department of Corrections.
- ♦ Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society successfully assisted more than 10,360 individuals during FY 2013-2014; 40% of whom were children. Of the nearly 4,000 cases closed during the year, 558 involved some level of domestic violence, and SVLAS successfully assisted clients in receiving \$22,058 in back awards and \$9,263 monthly awards in family matters; over 30% of its entire dollar recoveries for needy families. SVLAS was also able to help its clientele avoid \$1.6M in lump sum awards and settlements.

LSCV-Funded Programs Maximize Results for Clients.

High performance standards are demonstrated through rigorous evaluation. All grantees are reviewed and audited by LSCV using data from a comprehensive, statewide reporting system implemented in 1997.

LSCV Grantees Track Measurable Outcomes.

LSCV has been a national leader in the field of helping the legal aid organizations it funds to apply outcomes measurement systems to provide critical tools for ensuring the highest standards of quality, accessibility, and effectiveness for the legal work performed on behalf of low-income people across Virginia. Within programs, outcomes measurement provides invaluable feedback on performance. Externally, it allows individual programs and the statewide legal aid community as a whole to assess the impact legal aid has on low-income individuals and families and their critical needs.

Legal Aid Programs Deploy a High-Quality Legal Staff.

They work to attract and keep the most highly qualified lawyers and paralegals. For example, LSCV implemented a statewide program in 2008 that provides legal aid attorneys with student loan repayment assistance meant to encourage promising young advocates to continue in legal aid rather than seeking higher-paying jobs elsewhere to support the burden of their student loans. LSCV grantees provide their advocates with training and mentoring that fosters use of best-practices in their work for clients.

The Justice Gap Legal Aid is Effective, yet in FY 2013-2014, Our Advocates Could Help Only a Fraction of Those Who Needed it.

Previous sections of this report have documented the economic and societal benefits that result from legal assistance for low-income Virginia residents. Legal assistance strengthens families and communities, and secures millions of dollars in federal benefits for which Virginia residents are eligible, but much more could be accomplished if legal aid programs had the resources to address a bigger fraction of the need that exists.

Studies indicate that, on average, more than eight out of ten of Virginia's poorest residents experiencing a legal problem do not receive

individualized legal assistance because of a lack of resources available to service providers. The majority of those in need do not even seek help because it is well known in the low-income community that legal aid providers have enough resources to handle only emergency cases such as evictions and family matters where domestic violence is involved. If one has a legal problem outside those high-priority matters and cannot find the resources to hire a private lawyer, then self-representation or a long wait for legal aid is the only choice.

Fact Sheet

The Need for Legal Aid

♦ More than one million residents of Virginia are living in poverty.

More than 800,000 people in our state are living below the poverty level, and another 200,000 have incomes that are less than 125 percent of the federal poverty guideline. As a result, roughly one in eight Virginians is eligible for free civil legal services from LSCV grantees.

♦ The need for legal services for the poor is overwhelming.

According to the 2006 Virginia Legal Needs Survey issued by LSCV, 48 percent of low- and moderate-income households experience a legal problem each year. In Virginia, this translates to 400,000 legal problems annually.

♦ People feel disenfranchised.

The LSCV Legal Needs Survey showed that most low- and moderate-income people feel shut out from the legal system. They do not turn to the courts for solutions because they believe the system will not help them.

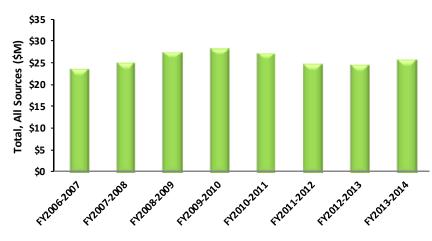
♦ Legal aid gets results, yet LSCV-funded programs cannot help all who need it.

For example, studies show that legal aid is the most effective public service for reducing domestic violence. Legal representation is essential; most victims who go to Protective Order hearings without legal representation fail to obtain their orders and remain at risk from their abusers.



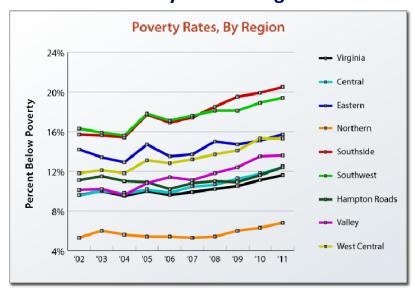
Funding More Dollars are Needed to Fulfill the Promise of Equal Justice Under the Law.

Virginia Legal Aid Funding FY 2006-2014



Adjusted for Inflation (2013 Dollars)

Poverty Rate in Virginia



Source: Virginia State Government web site: http://vaperforms.virginia.gov/indicators/economy/poverty.php Legal Services Corporation of Virginia and its grantees have been working hard to close the "Justice Gap." Legal aid advocates have joined with the courts, state legislators and community leaders, and with local businesses, banks and foundations to expand funding for legal aid.

These efforts have borne fruit, yet the tough economic times of 2007-2014 have stalled progress at the very time additional legal assistance is needed by people threatened with joblessness, foreclosure and other critical legal problems.

As indicated in the graph at the upper left, funding for legal aid ticked up slightly in FY 2013-14 after three years of decline that began in FY 2010-11. IOLTA funding for legal aid in Virginia remains at a level that is \$4.1 million below the revenue from that source in FY 2007-2008. Moreover, federal appropriations for legal aid are \$1.2 million less than they were in FY 2011-2012.

Collections of state filing fee revenue continued to reflect the recessionary downturn in civil case filings. While the legal aid appropriation is \$7.8 million, LSCV received only \$6.3 million, a loss of \$1.5 million since 2009.

At the same time, the poverty population in Virginia grew by over 30 percent in the decade between 2000 and 2010, according to the U.S. Census. And since 2007, the struggling economy has flooded legal aid programs with applicants needing help.

The net impact of legal aid staff layoffs following the loss of funding over recent years has been dramatic. In FY 2013-14 with 37 fewer attorneys and 42 fewer support staff than in 2009, Virginia legal aid programs were able to serve only 81 percent as many clients as two years ago.

This represents a severe blow to already-stressed local economies and a lost opportunity for communities everywhere across Virginia. The promise of justice is little more than an empty pledge when our most vulnerable citizens do not have access to the legal help they need to protect them from fraud and deception and provide access to such basic needs as shelter, medical care and family safety.

Conclusion

Legal Aid is a Sound Investment. With More Resources, Much More Could be Accomplished.

Every dollar spent on legal aid for low-income Virginians yields a return to society far exceeding the investment. Funding for legal aid promotes fairness and equality, helps families in crisis secure access to safety net programs, saves dollars for taxpayers and generates economic activity in local communities, providing income and jobs for working Virginians. This commitment deserves the support of every citizen. A study by the American Bar Association has found that more than 80 percent of the civil

legal needs of the poor are unmet. This is an unacceptable shortfall in our civil justice system. Until the resources have been found to bridge the gap between the need for legal assistance and the capacity to provide it, "Equal Justice Under the Law" will remain an empty promise for our state's most vulnerable citizens.

The Impact of Additional Funding

Every \$1 million in new funding enables our programs to provide 2,709 more people in Virginia with direct measurable outcomes including:

- Children and women escaping the ongoing nightmare of domestic violence;
- Veterans and people with disabilities receiving health care or SSI benefits;
- ♦ Families faced with foreclosure and eviction remaining in their homes; and
- People who have nowhere else to turn being empowered to resolve other critical legal problems affecting their families, homes, and basic income.

"My attorney helped my kids and myself get out of an abusive relationship. She also insured that I got the most child support and have been able to keep it."

~Blue Ridge Legal Services Client

Appendix A:

Case Statistics and Client Demographics

Case Statistics: Number of Closed Cases by Major Reason Closed

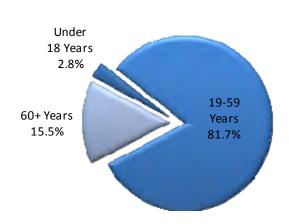
Organization	Counsel & Advice	Limited Action	Negotiated without Litigation	Negotiated with Litigation	Admin. Agency Decision	Court Decision- Uncontested	Court Decision- Contested	Court Decision- Appeals	Other	Extensive Service	Grand Total
Blue Ridge Legal Services	998	514	42	87	21	391	86	1	-	49	2,189
Central Virginia Legal Aid Society	2,444	138	13	26	49	146	68	2	82	3	2,971
Legal Aid Justice Center	1,173	203	91	69	163	42	138	1	43	34	1,957
Legal Aid Society of Eastern Virginia	4,196	723	35	235	218	511	219	8	1	141	6,287
Legal Aid Society of Roanoke Valley	884	84	13	25	22	29	26	-	3	6	1,092
Legal Services of Northern Virginia	3,821	703	38	187	73	340	225	3	1	169	5,560
Rappahannock Legal Services	572	179	22	27	27	137	229	-	2	13	1,208
Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society	2,887	143	13	96	37	554	169	9	-	91	3,999
Virginia Legal Aid Society	2,503	311	72	52	135	239	59	5	1	48	3,425
Virginia Poverty Law Center	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	19,478	2,998	339	804	745	2,389	1,219	29	133	554	28,688

Client Demographics

Ethnic Group

Other 4.5% Asian 1.9% Native American 0.4% Hispanic 6.4% Black 39.1%

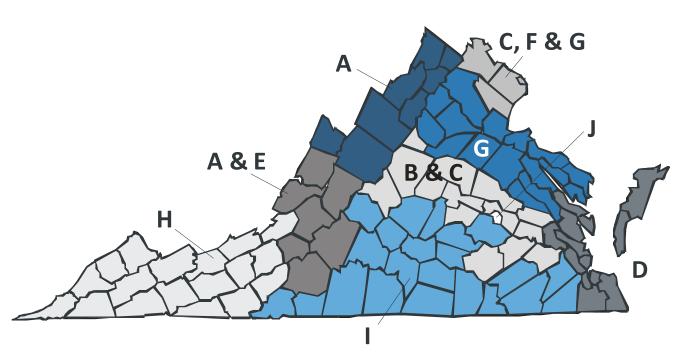
Age



Appendix B:

Local Legal Aid Programs Funded by Legal Services Corporation of Virginia

LSCV FY 2013-14 grant allocations shown in parentheses



- A Blue Ridge Legal Services (BRLS); Harrisonburg, Winchester, Roanoke, Lexington (\$571,060)
- Central Virginia Legal Aid Society (CVLAS); Richmond, Petersburg, Charlottesville (\$1,069,054)
- Legal Aid Justice Center (LAJC); Charlottesville, Falls Church, Petersburg, Richmond (\$582,938)
- Legal Aid Society of Eastern Virginia (LSEV); Hampton, Norfolk, Virginia Beach, Williamsburg, Belle Haven (\$1,906,297)
- Legal Aid Society of Roanoke Valley (LASRV); Roanoke (\$533,782)

- Legal Services of Northern Virginia (LSNV); Falls Church, Alexandria, Fairfax, Leesburg, Manassas (\$1,284,971)
- Rappahannock Legal Services (RLS); Fredricksburg, Culpeper, Tappahannock (\$451,920)
- Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society (SWVLAS); Marion, Castlewood, Christiansburg (\$1,146,494)
 - Virginia Legal Aid Society (VLAS); Lynchburg, Danville, Farmville, Suffolk (\$1,264,891)
 - Virginia Poverty Law Center (VPLC); Richmond (Statewide Program) (\$725,895)

Appendix C:

Outcomes Produced for Clients by LSCV-Funded Programs in FY 2013-2014

1. Dollar Benefits Achieved for Clients*

a. Back awards - total:	\$4,188,530
b. Monthly payments going forward - total per month:	\$510,255
c. One-year total, back awards plus assumed total of benefit stream:*	\$25,439,421

^{*}See breakdown by type of benefit, next page

2. Major Non-Dollar Benefits Achieved for Clients

Benefits are listed below in decreasing order by number of people directly affected.

Category	Major Benefit Achieved	# of Cases	# People Directly
		cases	Affected
A. Major Benefit Was	Achievement of a Legal Objective		
Family	Obtained a divorce or annulment	1,605	3,902
Family	Obtained or maintained custody of children	510	1,480
Family	Obtained protection from domestic violence	441	1,144
Family	Obtained representation in a Family matter	422	1,108
Miscellaneous	Obtained a living will and/or health proxy or power of attorney	835	910
Miscellaneous	Obtained a will	556	698
Consumer	Obtained federal bankruptcy protection	227	662
Housing	Prevented eviction from private housing	217	573
Family	Obtained, preserved, or increased child support	197	557
Income Maintenance	Obtained, preserved or increased SSI benefit/right	259	522
Consumer	Stopped or reduced debt collection activity	216	515
Housing	Obtained representation on a Housing matter	196	436
Income Maintenance	Obtained representation on an Income Maintenance matter	185	427
Housing	Prevented eviction from subsidized housing	172	413
Family	Obtained assistance with safety planning	174	350
Consumer	Avoided or ended garnishment or levy	139	333
Housing	Delayed eviction providing time to seek alternative housing	114	305
Income Maintenance	Obtained, preserved or increased unemployment insurance benefits/rights	152	294
Income Maintenance	Obtained, preserved or increased SSD benefit/right	149	286
All Problem Areas	Other, none of the above	2,814	5,709
B. Major Benefit Was	Access to Legal Information, Advice and/or Assistance From a Lawyer or Parale	egal	
All Problem Areas	Received legal advice & counsel	19,851	46,992
All Problem Areas	Received non-litigation advocacy services	516	1,047
All Problem Areas	Received referral to another agency	88	194
	Total, All Cases:	30,035	68,857

Appendix D:

Economic Impacts Breakdown

	Back Awards	Monthly Awards	Duration in Years	Subtotals	Total (\$ Millions
. Federal benefits for low-income families					\$31.9
Social Security/SSI	\$1,586,490	\$117,852	9.7	\$15,304,481	
Other Federal Awards	\$57,844	\$35,434	3	\$1,333,464	
Federal operating grants for legal aid programs (LSC, Title III, Other Federal Funds)				\$7,603,417	
Federal share of Medicaid benefits received (61.58% total average annual benefits)				\$7,608,653	
Cases in which Medicaid benefits were obtained	or preserved			96	
Average annual benefit*				\$8,701]
Years Duration			4]
Calculation (Cases x Average Annual Benefi	t x Years Duratio	n)		\$3,341,265]
Cases in which SSI eligibility was obtained or pro-	eserved			259]
Average annual benefit*				\$8,701	
Years Duration			4		
Calculation (Cases x Average Annual Benefi	t x Years Duratio	n)		\$9,014,456	
Income from child support payments					\$4.0
Family Law: Child Support	\$369,740	\$100,086	3	\$3,972,824	
Income from other legal aid outcomes					\$5.4
A. Unemployment Compensation	\$533,317	\$71,400	0.5	\$961,719	
B. Family Law - Alimony	\$129,233	\$25,165	3	\$1,035,184	1
C. Affirmative Landlord	\$364,995	\$34,593	1	\$780,111	1
D. Affirmative Employment	\$290,816	\$4,625	1	\$346,316]
E. Affirmative Consumer	\$328,832	\$62,404	1	\$1,077,680	1
F. Affirmative Education	\$190,873	\$31,868	1	\$573,291	1
G. Other Benefits	\$336,391	\$26,827	1	\$658,319	1
otal Direct Impact on Low-Income Familie	S				\$41.3

Continued on next page

Appendix D (continued):

Economic Impacts Breakdown

B. Cost Savings for Taxpayers		
1. Savings in costs related to domestic violence		\$1.7
Cases for which families obtained protection from Domestic Violence	469	
Average cost per victim**	\$3,699	
Calculation (Cases x Average cost per victim)	\$1,734,777.39	
2. Savings in emergency shelter costs		\$1.3
Cases for Which Eviction was Avoided or Delayed or Foreclosure was Averted	648	
Percentage for which homelessness was avoided***	15%	
Average cost to taxpayers per homeless family****	\$12,977	
Calculation (Cases x Percent homelessness avoided x Average cost to taxpayers)	\$1,261,353	
Total Savings for Taxpayers		\$3.0
C. Economic Impacts on Local Economies		
1. Economic stimulus from Federal dollars circulating in local economies		\$52.7
Federal benefits for low-income families (A1 Above)	\$31.9	
Multiplier (per U.S. Dept. of Commerce "RIMS II" Data)	1.65	
Total Estimated Economic Impacts		\$97.0

^{*} Estimates based on data from the Virginia Department of Social Services Annual Statistical Report (2013), pp. 12-13. Dollar amounts have been adjusted for inflation.

**** Based on available research, our conservative estimate of the average cost of emergency housing for a homeless family in 2007 was \$11,550. A Massachusetts study found the average cost of a stay in emergency housing ranged between \$11,550 (for a transitional stay) and \$48,440 (for a long-term stay) -- see Dennis P. Culhane, "Emerging Research on the Cost of Homelessness," 2007 -- copy available from the authors. We found no comparable studies for Virginia, so we used the low end of this range as an assumption for estimating the cost savings of preventing homelessness in Virginia. Note that this amount, adjusted for inflation, was \$12,977 in 2013.

^{**} Source: "Increasing Access to Restraining Orders for Low-Income Victims of Domestic Violence: A Cost-Benefit Analysis of the Proposed Domestic Abuse Grant Program," L. Elwart, et al. (December 2006), page 13. Note that the amounts listed here have been adjusted for inflation.

^{***} We estimate that 15 percent of the people who were saved from eviction (or from having their mortgages foreclosed) would have had to go into emergency housing as a result. The reason this percentage is less than 100 is that some portion of the families who are evicted or foreclosed avoid homelessness by moving in with friends or family or by finding a rental in a different location. We found no studies on which to base a more definitive estimate of this percentage for Virginia. However, we believe 15 percent is a conservative estimate. A study in New York State ("The Homelessness Prevention Program: Outcomes and Effectiveness," New York State Dept. of Social Services, 1990; Table 3.2.) provided a figure of 22 percent for an estimate of cost savings we produced for the IOLA Fund of New York in 2010.