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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. December 31, 2025

The Honorable J. Louise Lucas

Chair, Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee Virginia General Assembly, Richmond, Virginia

The Honorable Luke E. Torian

Chair, House Appropriations Committee Virginia General Assembly, Richmond, Virginia

Dear Senator Lucas and Delegate Torian:

On behalf of the Legal Services Corporation of Virginia (LSCV) and the Virginia State Bar, please find enclosed our report on the impact of the Commonwealth's investment in legal aid programs for FY 2025. You should take great pride in the thousands of people who were able to overcome problems like domestic violence, housing instability, wage theft, or lack of access to healthcare.

Virginia's state-funded legal aid programs provide essential, high-quality legal assistance to low-income Virginians who need a lawyer's help to assert their rights under the law. Without the protection of the law, Virginians face needless risks to their health, their safety, and their prosperity. This year, Virginia's legal aid programs generated an estimated \$361 million in economic benefits for the low-income populations served and their surrounding communities while helping 9,200 people facing domestic violence and 11,800 facing housing instability.

This report provides data on more than 33,000 cases closed by the nine regional legal aid programs and our statewide resource center, covering every city and county in the Commonwealth. Their work on these cases benefited 76,000 Virginians and helped to strengthen Virginia's safety net from Gate City to Fairfax and from the mountains to the Shore.

Thank you for your partnership and support in providing high-quality access to justice in the Commonwealth.

Yours in service,

Tim Freilich, Esquire
Executive Director

Legal Services Corporation of Virginia

Cameron Rountree, Esquire
Executive Director

Virginia State Bar



- 1 BRLS Blue Ridge Legal Services
 Harrisonburg, Winchester, Roanoke, Lexington (\$1,572,521)
- 2 CVLAS Central Virginia Legal Aid Society
 Richmond, Petersburg, Charlottesville (\$2,273,678)
- 3 LAJC Legal Aid Justice Center Charlottesville, Falls Church, Petersburg, Richmond (\$4,604,190)
- 4 LASEV Legal Aid Society of Eastern Virginia
 Hampton, Norfolk, Virginia Beach, Williamsburg,
 Belle Haven (\$4,135,286)
- 5 LASRV Legal Aid Society of Roanoke Valley Roanoke (\$1,163,407)

- 6 LAW Legal Aid Works (RLS)
 Fredericksburg, Culpeper, Tappahannock (\$1,425,096)
- LSNV Legal Services of Northern Virginia
 Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, Fredericksburg,
 Leesburg, Manassas (\$3,144,006)
- 8 SVLAS Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society
 Marion, Castlewood, Christiansburg (\$2,162,467)
- 9 VLAS Virginia Legal Aid Society
 Lynchburg, Danville, Farmville, Suffolk (\$2,358,940)
- 10 VPLC Virginia Poverty Law Center Richmond (Statewide Program) (\$2,261,790)

LSCV at a Glance

Founded in 1975 by the Virginia State Bar and the Virginia Department of Social Services, Legal Services Corporation of Virginia (LSCV) is the primary funder of civil legal services for low-income individuals in Virginia, supporting nine regional programs and the statewide Virginia Poverty Law Center.

Additionally, LSCV administers the Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) program, the proceeds of which are added to state general revenue and filing fee appropriations to fund civil legal aid in every city and county in Virginia.

ABOUT CIVIL LEGAL AID

Every person deserves safety, stability, and a fair chance to move forward —yet too many people face life-changing civil legal problems all on their own. Civil legal aid exists to close that justice gap by advocating for families, veterans, seniors, and survivors when their housing, health, safety, or livelihoods are at risk.

Highlights

LSCV-Funded Programs Produced Results That Touched Everyone in Virginia.

The Need

EACH YEAR,

75% of low-income households experienced at least one civil legal problem in the past year - and many of these problems have had substantial impacts on people's lives.*

92% of those do not get any or enough legal help for the problems that have had a substantial impact on them.*

53% do not know if they could find and afford a lawyer if they needed one.*

49% of requests for legal assistance must be turned away by legal aid organizations due to limited resources.*

With **more** funding for legal aid, this "Justice Gap" could be substantially reduced.

The Impact

76,400 PEOPLE

directly benefited from legal advice and representation.

\$361 MILLION ECONOMIC IMPACT

for low-income households, cost savings for Virginia taxpayers, revenue for Virginia businesses, and jobs for working Virginians.

\$5.53 to 1 ECONOMIC RETURN

for every dollar invested in Virginia's legal aid programs.

33,300 CASES

were completed, including...

11,800 preserving housing stability

by preventing eviction and foreclosures and reducing the need for emergency shelter.

9,200 enhancing family safety, security, and stability for family law clients and survivors of domestic violence.

3,600 assisting clients with consumer matters

protecting them from creditor harassment, predatory lenders, and abusive debt collection practices.

8,700 representing clients with other legal matters affecting their jobs, education, individual rights, and health care.

^{*}Source: Legal Services Corporation Justice Gap Report.

Economic Impacts

\$361 Million in Economic Benefits and Savings for Clients and Communities.*

\$202 Million direct economic impact

for low-income families, including income to pay for food, rent, and health care; and for relief from debt that otherwise could have dragged them deeper into poverty.

\$43 Million cost savings from reducing impacts of domestic violence, eviction, and other costly problems. \$116 Million economic

impacts on local economies, including a permanent economic multiplier effect resulting from federal dollars coming into the state each year that otherwise would be lost to communities across Virginia.

A legal aid lawyer is a life saver for people ensnared with red tape

"Dianne" was facing eviction from a long-term care facility. She was facing an outstanding \$70,000 bill and a mountain of hurdles to paying it including Medicaid red tape, missing Social Security funds, a clouded title on her home, and a 30-year-old lien.

An Ombudsman told Dianne about legal aid. Her lawyer got the facility to submit a



Medicaid application to cover her bills and stop all discharge activity.

Her lawyer tracked down the missing Social Security funds, got the lien discharged, and handled a myriad of other issues. Dianne was able to sell her home, and the \$53,000 in proceeds went toward her balance. Medicaid then paid the rest, meaning Diane can stay safely housed.

*To protect the confidentiality of legal aid clients, stock photos and pseudonyms have been used throughout this report.

ECONOMIC IMPACT FACTS

Every successful appeal of a denial of Social Security Disability for a disabled veteran or other disabled person produces an average of \$80,900 in basic income for that family over the 9.9-year average duration of those benefits.

SPENDING of that income for food, rent, and other necessities generates an additional \$141,000 in revenue for local businesses and jobs for working Virginians due to the economic multiplier effect.

^{*}Source of all economic impact estimates in this report: The Resource for Great Programs. Details available on request.

Family Safety and Stability

FAMILY Legal Assistance Provided by LSCV-Funded Programs Enhanced the Lives of **9,200 Clients and Their Families.**

KEY FACTS

The Need Is Overwhelming.

Domestic abuse is one of the most common issues facing low-income Virginians, with especially destructive impacts on children.

Legal Services Are Effective.

Legal services are an especially effective means of ending domestic violence because they can provide survivors a means of both physical safety and economic independence.

Prevention Saves Money.

Preventing domestic abuse saves an estimated \$95,600 in lifetime costs including medical care, criminal justice, lost productivity, and property damage for each case that is successful.

IMPLICATIONS of Unmet Need For Legal Help With Domestic Abuse

WITH

Legal Help, People Can...

- Get independence from abuser
 - Order of Protection
 - Custody of children
 - Child support
 - Divorce
- Attend work and school
- Get referrals to housing, employment, education and other support programs.

WITHOUT

Legal Help, People...

- Risk escalating violence and trauma
- Miss work
- Lose jobs and income
- Have children's schooling disrupted

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

of Virginia Programs' FAMILY Legal Aid in FY 2025

\$17.5 Million Cost Savings

by avoiding lost productivity and reducing the need for medical treatment, counseling for victims, and detention and incarceration of abusers.

\$5 Million Income

for Clients in child and spousal support that helped victims achieve financial independence from their abusers.

Legal aid lawyers help families find safety

It took four years for "**Naomi**", a mother of three, to totally escape the violence of a husband who repeatedly violated protective orders.

With the help of her legal aid lawyer, she finally became physically and financially independent as a result of gaining full custody of the children, enforced child support, supervised visitation, and finally, a divorce. After years of fear and uncertainty, Naomi and her children now have safety, stability, and a chance for a new life.



Housing Security

Legal Aid Programs Preserved Housing Stability for **11,800 Clients and Their Families.**

KEY FACTS

The Need is Overwhelming.

71% of landlords in Virginia have representation in court whereas only 2% of tenants have representation.*

Legal Services are Effective.

Legal aid advocates...

- Challenge evictions.
- Prevent foreclosures.
- Enforce laws protecting tenants and homeowners.

Prevention Saves Money and Lives!

- Keeping people in their homes; enhancing safety of all Virginians.
- Preventing eviction saves an estimated \$16,400 in emergency shelter costs for each case that is successful.
- Preventing foreclosure saves an estimated \$80,000 per successful case.

IMPLICATIONS of Unmet Need For Legal Help with Housing Security

WITH

Legal Help, People Can...

- Keep their homes 76% of the time*
- Keep their jobs and income
- Access emergency assistance programs
- Keep children in school
- Avoid homelessness

WITHOUT

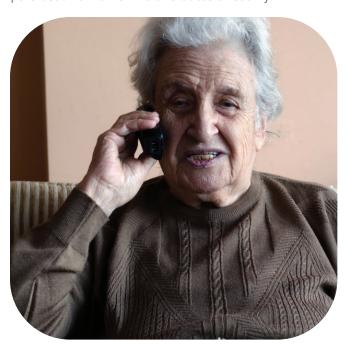
Legal Help, People...

- Miss work and schooling
- Are 77% MORE likely to lose their homes
- Wind up in shelters or doubled up
- Have children's schooling disrupted

*Source: The Resource for Great Programs.

Legal aid lawyers get fair solutions for people facing eviction

"Cheryl" was sued for eviction by the owners of a mobile home park from whom she had purchased her home in rural Gloucester County.



Her legal aid attorney reviewed the leases used by the owners and discovered numerous unlawful terms and clauses in the documents. She filed a counterclaim for Virginia Consumer Protection Act violations and subsequently negotiated a settlement whereby Cheryl was able to not only remain in her home but also to receive a \$8,500 settlement from the park's owners.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

of Virginia Programs' HOUSING Legal Aid

\$13 MILLION

from Preventing Eviction.

Cost savings come from avoiding the cost of providing emergency shelter to individuals and families facing homelessness through eviction.

Addressing Big Problems

Legal Aid Helps Virginians Beat Medical Debt and Hospitals Get Paid

After "Maria's" premature baby spent 4 months in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), a technical communication error between Medicaid's eligibility system and its billing system left her with \$1.5 million in unpaid bills.

Her legal aid attorney helped her unravel what had happened and got Medicaid to fix her record, wiping away her debt while ensuring the hospital and doctors got paid.

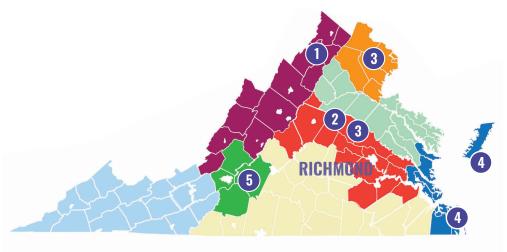
And Maria wasn't alone. As other clients with similar stories applied for legal aid from the same office, attorneys realized that the communications glitch was systemic. To date, legal aid has helped 11 clients like Maria who were facing over \$3 million in unexpected medical bills while working with state agencies to find a fix to the glitch.



Every year legal aid programs help thousands of people access federal health subsidies and benefits, protecting Virginians from the devastating impacts of rationed health care and crippling medical debt. In FY 2025, legal aid helped bring over \$29 million in federal health care dollars into Virginia's hospitals and clinics.

Snapshots Outcomes Achieved

LSCV-Funded Advocates Prevented Evictions, Enforced Rights of People Fighting Fraud and Addiction, and Slashed Red Tape for Low-Income Virginians.



- 1. BRLS Blue Ridge Legal Services
- 2. CVLAS Central Virginia Legal Aid Society
- 3. LAJC Legal Aid Justice Center
- 4. LASEV Legal Aid Society of Eastern Virginia
- **5. LASRV** Legal Aid Society of Roanoke Valley
- 6. LAW Legal Aid Works
- 7. LSNV Legal Services of Northern Virginia
- 8. SVLAS Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society
- 9. VLAS Virginia Legal Aid Society
- **10. VPLC** Virginia Poverty Law Center; (Statewide)

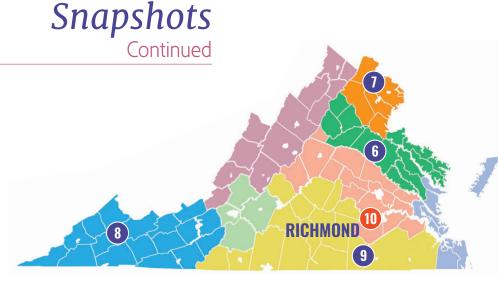
Preventing Evictions in the Shenandoah Valley Blue Ridge Legal Services (BRLS) continued to make eviction defense a major focus of its legal work, preventing 116 evictions in FY 2025 thereby keeping 301 household members, mostly children, in their homes. In addition, BRLS advocates delayed evictions for another 120 household members, again mostly children, gaining desperately needed time to locate alternative housing and avoid homelessness. In the process, the clients were able to recover \$69,900 in rent relief while avoiding \$307,300 in claims brought against them.

Helping Farmworkers Access Relief Central Virginia Legal Aid Society (CVLAS) partnered with the National Center for Farmworker's Health to assist farmworkers in Virginia to apply for COVID-19 relief payments of \$600 each from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Over two years, CVLAS staff helped over 3,500 farmworkers successfully apply for and receive the benefit resulting in \$2.1 million dollars flowing to this vulnerable population.

Protecting Students with Disabilities Legal Aid Justice Center (LAJC) advocates convinced a school division to fix its attendance policy to prevent discrimination against children with disabilities. LAJC represented a medically fragile child who was unjustifiably excluded from her school without notice after she missed several weeks due to a hospital stay. Advocates won her the right to return to school, compensatory services, and the change in policy to protect other students like her in the future.

Making Public Housing Clean Up Its Ledgers Legal Aid Society of Eastern Virginia (LASEV) discovered a disturbing trend where a public housing authority was evicting people based on rent ledgers riddled with errors. LASEV filed so many counter claims that the housing authority stopped all evictions until an independent auditor could help them clean up their books. Post-audit, the housing authority agreed to offer reasonable payment plans to all tenants who needed them.

Demystifying Protective Orders Legal Aid Society of Roanoke Valley (LASRV) recognizes that the protective order process for survivors of domestic violence can be complicated and intimidating, especially for someone who doesn't have an attorney and has never been to court. In addition to providing legal representation directly, staff at LASRV have developed educational programming for survivors and for staff at social services designed to demystify the process. Titled "Should I Go to Court?", the material includes detailed information about how to access protection through the courts without an attorney and how to access other local services.



- 1. BRLS Blue Ridge Legal Services
- 2. CVLAS Central Virginia Legal Aid Society
- 3. LAJC Legal Aid Justice Center
- 4. LASEV Legal Aid Society of Eastern Virginia
- **5. LASRV** Legal Aid Society of Roanoke Valley
- 6. LAW Legal Aid Works
- 7. LSNV Legal Services of Northern Virginia
- 8. SVLAS Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society
- 9. VLAS Virginia Legal Aid Society
- **10. VPLC** Virginia Poverty Law Center; (Statewide)

Preventing Rural Land Loss Legal Aid Works (LAW) affirms one of the devastating but often unseen legal problems facing low-income communities is the problem of heirs property. In Virginia, if a property owner passes away without a will, their property passes in equal portions to all of their children. In larger families or across multiple generations, this can create a legal morass wherein the property is much more likely to be lost such as through a tax sale. This is one of the leading causes of involuntary land loss, especially in rural communities. Legal Aid Works is working with Lancaster County Government to set up an initiative to provide legal assistance to clear clouded titles and protect low-income families' investment in their land.

Assisting 3,357 Self-represented Litigants Legal Services of Northern Virginia (LSNV) operates help desks and other court-based services in Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William. As a direct result of their court-based presence, they were able to assist 3,537 residents that they met at the courthouse with legal issues including housing, domestic violence, consumer debt, and public benefits.

Launched a New Project Helping Substance Abuse Sufferers Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society (SVLAS), with support from the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority, recently created a new program, Project Pathfinder, wherein they provide legal services to any individual in recovery or affected by substance use disorder (SUD). SVLAS has built partnerships with sixteen recovery courts, one behavioral health court, six community service boards, five state probation and parole offices, several state agencies and numerous inpatient and outpatient SUD treatment facilities. Over the last year, they have represented 400 clients in over 500 cases.

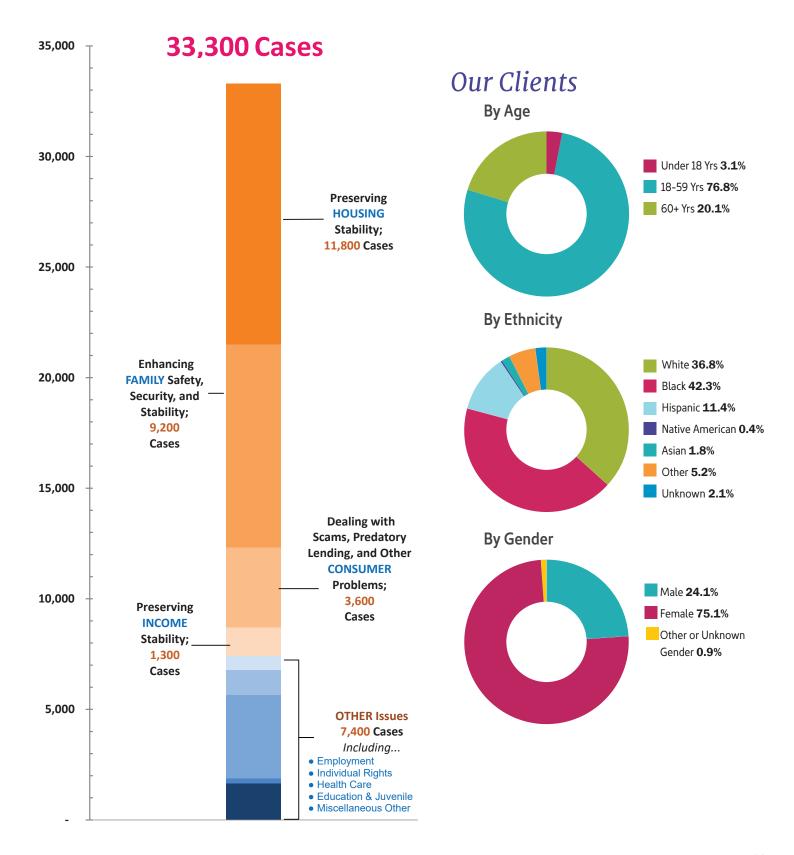
Closing the Awareness Gap Virginia Legal Aid Society (VLAS) is aware that, in many instances, low-income community members suffer needlessly due to a legal problem that they either don't recognize as a legal problem or don't believe that a lawyer is available to help them. To work to close that gap in understanding, VLAS is partnering with Legal Link to train client-supporting staff at partner organizations to identify legal issues, surface unmet legal needs, and connect clients to legal resources. In many instances, clients wait until they have to go to court to engage with legal aid, at which point their options are more limited. This program will help people access legal services earlier, resulting in better outcomes.

Increasing Unemployment Benefits Across the Board Virginia Poverty Law Center (VPLC) spent years lobbying along with their partners and, effective in 2026, resulted in the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) paying \$52 more per week in unemployment benefits to each recipient. For an individual over a typical 12-week period, this means an additional \$624 in support. Based on August 2025 usage of unemployment insurance by over 21,000 people, this will translate to \$47 million more in benefits being paid annually to recently unemployed Virginians.

Cases Completed

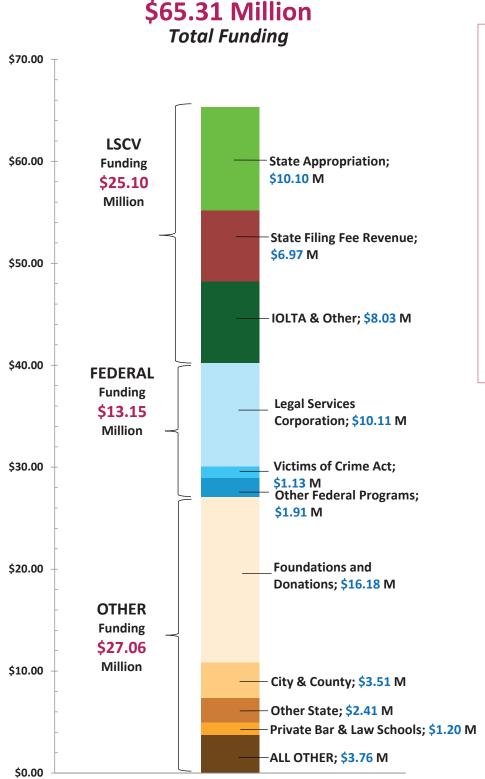
33,300 Cases Enabled 76,400

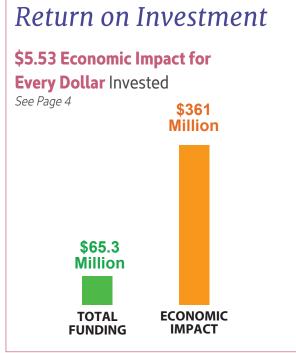
Low-Income Virginians to Obtain Fair Solutions to Critical Legal Problems.



Financial Performance

LSCV-Funded Programs Leveraged the State's **\$17.1 Million Investment** by Attracting Additional Funds and Having a Big Economic Impact.





Accountability

EVALUATION

LSCV evaluates each grantee every 3-5 years.

METRICS

Grantees are evaluated against national and state performance benchmarks.

QUALITY ASSESSMENT

Desk Reviews are performed applying the ABA Standards for Providers of Civil Legal Aid and the LSC Performance Criteria.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL AUDITS

Independent CPA firms evaluate financial compliance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

Appendix A

OUTCOMES: Major Benefits Produced for Clients

Data Source: Grantee Final Reports, FY 2025

Top benefits of extended representation* cases are listed below in decreasing order by number of people directly affected, followed in each legal problem category by benefits of limited representation cases**.

| LEGAL PROBLEM CATEGORY | MAJOR BENEFIT RECEIVED | Number of Cases | Number of People Directly Affected |
|------------------------------|---|--------------------|--|
| Family Security | Obtained a divorce or annulment | 774 | 1,875 |
| | Obtained protection from domestic violence | 598 | 1,579 |
| | Obtained or maintained custody of children | 360 | 1,210 |
| | Obtained assistance with safety planning | 210 | 502 |
| | Obtained name change | 192 | 493 |
| | Obtained, preserved, or increased child support | 107 | 354 |
| | Obtained other extended services* for a Family matter | 809 | 2,258 |
| | Obtained limited representation services** for a Family matter | 6,171 | 16,311 |
| Housing Security | Avoided Eviction or Foreclosure | 1,461 | 3,826 |
| | Obtained expungement of an unlawful detainer | 1,322 | 3,567 |
| | Delayed eviction or foreclosure providing time to seek alternative housing | 333 | 839 |
| | Avoided, or obtained redress for, illegal or unfair charges by landlord | 176 | 465 |
| | Enforced rights to decent, habitable housing | 103 | 275 |
| | Obtained repairs to dwelling/Improved housing conditions | 100 | 262 |
| | Obtained other extended services* for a Housing matter | 926 | 2,259 |
| | Obtained limited representation services** for a Housing matter | 7,420 | 17,246 |
| | Obtained, preserved or increased unemployment insurance benefits/rights | 159 | 260 |
| | Obtained, preserved or increased SSI or SSD benefit/right | 141 | 212 |
| Income Maintenance | Obtained, preserved or increased public assistance, TANF or other welfare benefit/right | 78 | 115 |
| manntenance | Obtained other extended services* for an Income Maintenance matter | 245 | 431 |
| | Obtained limited representation services** for an Income Maintenance matter | 699 | 1,280 |
| | Stopped or reduced debt collection activity | 291 | 546 |
| | Avoided or ended garnishment or levy | 108 | 361 |
| Consumer Protection | Obtained federal bankruptcy protection | 87 | 283 |
| | Obtained other extended services* for a Consumer matter | 241 | 531 |
| | Obtained limited representation services** for a Consumer matter | 2,883 | 6,338 |
| All Other Problem Areas | Obtained other extended services* for all other matters | 5,313 | 8,333 |
| | Obtained limited representation services** for all other matters | 2084 | 4,402 |

 $^{{\}bf *Extended\ representation\ services\ consist\ of\ negotiation\ with\ opposing\ parties\ and\ representation\ in\ court\ or\ administrative\ proceedings.}$

^{**}Limited representation services consist of legal Information, advice, and/or other assistance to an eligible client from a lawyer or paralegal

Appendix B

Economic Impacts Breakdown

| I. Economic Benefits and Savings in FY 2025 | Total Impact, \$Millions | |
|--|-----------------------------|--|
| A. Total Economic Impact | \$361.3 \$172.7 | |
| 3. Direct Economic Benefits to Clients and Their Families | | |
| 1. SSI, SSDI, and Other Social Security Income | \$21.8 | |
| 2. Value of Medicare-Funded Health Care Services Received | \$5.6 | |
| 3. Value of Medicaid-Funded Health Care Services Received | \$48.0 | |
| 4. Child Support Income | \$4.3 | |
| 5. Other Benefits | \$84.8 | |
| 6. Value of In-Kind Services Donated by Pro Bono Attorneys, Law Students, and Other Uncompensated Volunteers | \$8.1 | |
| . Reimbursements to Health Care Providers | \$29.1 | |
| Medicare Reimbursements to Health Care Providers for Services Rendered to Low-income Clients | \$4.5 | |
| 2. Medicaid Reimbursements to Health Care Providers From State Medicaid Program | \$24.6 | |
| . Cost Savings for the Community | \$32.3 | |
| 1. Prevention of Foreclosure | \$1.8 | |
| 2. Prevention of Domestic Violence | \$17.5 | |
| 3. Avoidance of Emergency Shelter | \$13.0 | |
| . Increased Income for Local Businesses from the Multiplier Effect | \$116.3 | |
| . Cost Savings for Clients and Their Families | \$10.9 | |

Note: For details see methodological appendices to this report available upon request from LSCV. Some numbers appearing in this package of tables have been rounded for ease of reading. Calculations based on rounded figures in these tables may not perfectly correspond to unrounded calculations on which the tables are based.



II. Economic Impacts per Dollar of Funding

| 1. State Appropriation for Legal Aid 2. State Filing Fee Revenue 3. IOLTA and Other LSCV Funds 4. Foundations 5. United Way | \$10.1 \$7.0 \$8.0 \$4.7 \$0.3 |
|---|--|
| 3. IOLTA and Other LSCV Funds 4. Foundations | \$8.0 \$4.7 |
| 4. Foundations | \$4.7 |
| | |
| 5. United Way | ćna |
| | \$0.3 |
| 6. Legal Services Corporation (LSC) | \$10.1 |
| 7. City and County Funding | \$3.5 |
| 8. Other State Funding | \$2.4 |
| 9. Title III - Administration on Aging | \$0.4 |
| 10. Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Funding | \$1.1 |
| 11. Other Federal Programs | \$1.5 |
| 12. Law Schools | \$0.7 |
| 13. Attorney Fees | \$0.4 |
| 14. Private Bar | \$0.5 |
| 15. Corporate and Individual Donations OTHER than Private Bar | \$11.5 |
| 16. Other | \$3.1 |
| otal Impacts (\$M) ² | \$361.3 |
| 1. Dollar Benefits to Clients and Their Families | \$172.7 |
| 2. Increased Income for Local Businesses | \$116.3 |
| 3. Reimbursements to Health Care Providers | \$29.1 |
| 4. Cost Savings for the Community | \$32.3 |
| 5. Cost Savings for Clients and Their Families | \$10.9 |
| npact per Dollar of Program Funding from All Sources ³ | \$5.53 |
| npact per Dollar of State Legislated Funding ⁴ | \$21.20 |

Note

- 1. Source: program financial reports for FY 2025. Does not include funds carried over from prior year.
- 2. Total impacts are estimated from cases closed by the programs in FY 2025. For details see methodological appendices to this report available upon request from LSCV.
- 3. This number is the result of dividing line B by line A.
- 4. This number is the result of dividing line B by the total of state legislated funds, which in FY 2025 amounted to \$17.1 million.