

## Increased funding gives more Texans an opportunity for justice under the law.

- **The American Bar Association calls on Congress to fund Legal Services Corporation (LSC) robustly.** Without access to the legal services funded by LSC, low-income Texans would not be able to resolve serious, often life-threatening, legal issues that affect their lives and economic stability.
- There is *widespread, bipartisan* support for LSC because civil legal aid is an essential service that ensures fairness for everyone in our justice system, regardless of income.
- The Supreme Court of Texas has been a *consistent* leader in seeking greater access to our justice system for *all* Texans. Its members continue to support increases for statewide and federal funding because they believe all Texans deserve fair and equitable access to our justice system.

## All Texans deserve fair and equitable access to our justice system.

- LSC-funded programs in Texas helped more than **68,700 Texas families** in 2022.<sup>1</sup> These programs resolved legal issues for more than 160,000 Texans.<sup>2</sup> Each of the three legal aid providers in Texas that receive LSC funding serve a geographic area the size of Oregon.
- **Only those who are truly struggling qualify for civil legal aid.** Many Texans found themselves newly in poverty as a direct result of the public health crisis. An individual must earn **\$18,825 per year** or less to qualify. A family of four must earn **\$39,000 per year** or less.<sup>3</sup>
- Many Texans need help with critical civil legal issues, including: **domestic abuse survivors and their children, elderly** Texans wrongly denied life-sustaining prescriptions, **veterans** denied critical benefits, and **families** who have lost their homes.

## Texas legal aid struggles to meet the demand.

- **Texas ranks 44<sup>th</sup> in access to civil legal aid lawyers**, according to the National Center for Access to Justice.<sup>4</sup> There is approximately **one LSC-funded program lawyer for every 10,580 low-income Texans** who qualify for civil legal aid.
- **More than 5 million** people qualify for legal aid in Texas at 125% of the federal poverty guidelines. According to LSC's Justice Gap report, in one year, 74% of low-income households will experience at least one civil legal problem.
- **92%** of the civil legal problems low-income Americans face **are inadequately addressed.**<sup>5</sup>
- **Texas lawyers are doing their part.** They provide over **2.72 million hours in free legal services** to low-income Texans.<sup>6</sup> Additionally, attorneys give millions of dollars in private donations at state and local levels each year.

**Please support justice for all by funding civil legal aid in Texas.**

<sup>1</sup> 2022 LSC-Funded Program Data (LANWT, LSLA, TRLA)

<sup>2</sup> This information comes from the LSC website: <https://www.lsc.gov/grants-grantee-resources/our-grantees/texas-state-profile>

<sup>3</sup> [Dept. of Health and Human Services](#), Federal Register Notice, January 2024

<sup>4</sup> National Center for Access to Justice, Justice Index, <https://ncj.org/state-rankings/justice-index/attorney-access>

<sup>5</sup> Legal Services Corporation

<sup>6</sup> State Bar of Texas Pro Bono Survey, 2021