

WHY CIVIL LEGAL AID IS GOOD FOR BUSINESS AND THE ECONOMY

A. From the *Economic Impacts of Civil Legal Aid Organization in Florida*, 2016, conducted by The Resource for Great Programs (<https://thefloridabarfoundation.org/impact/>):

- **Every dollar spent** on civil legal services for the state's low-income residents **yields more than \$7.19 in economic impacts.**
- One of the largest economic impacts of civil legal aid results from assistance in obtaining the federal benefits, child support, wages and unemployment compensation to which Florida residents are entitled, income that is in turn spent within Florida. The federal benefits obtained for legal aid clients include:
 - \$120.6 million in Social Security benefits
 - \$70.7 million in Medicaid and Medicare reimbursements, and
 - \$2.7 million in veterans' benefits.
- With civil legal aid helping capture \$264.3 million in such income and reimbursements for Floridians, Florida businesses are estimated to have experienced \$274.8 million in increased income in 2015.
- Investment in civil legal aid also is estimated to have generated 2,243 new jobs.
- \$2.9 million in costs for emergency shelter were avoided for low-income families who, with the assistance of legal aid advocates, were able to avoid eviction or gain time to seek alternative housing;
- \$50.6 million in foreclosure costs were avoided by low-income homeowners, lenders, neighbors and local governments;
- \$6.9 million in costs associated with domestic violence were avoided
- Legal aid programs funded in part by the Foundation closed 83,355 cases in 2015, resulting in economic impacts estimated at \$600 million

B. From *The Economic Impact of Legal Aid Services in the State of Florida*, Florida TaxWatch, February 2010 (<https://floridataxwatch.org/Research/Full-Library/ArtMID/34407/ArticleID/15766/The-Economic-Impact-of-Legal-Aid-Services-in-the-State-of-Florida>):

The total economic impact of civil legal aid is significant. In 2008, legal aid programs in Florida helped to:

- Create over 3,300 jobs
 - the Florida economy could have had substantially higher output and between 890-1527 additional created jobs if legal aid had been expanded to meet the full demand in 2008.
- Produce over \$250 million of output in the state economy

- Provide \$297 million of disposable income

C. Economic impact in other states:

- ABA/LSC Cost-Benefit Analysis of all states:
<https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/events/aba-day/LegalAidEconomicImpactStudies.pdf>
- Minnesota: https://mylegalaid.org/downloads/Economic_Impact_Report.pdf
 - In 2014, Minnesota's civil legal aid programs generated \$133 million in revenue
- Maine: <https://www.justicemaine.org/wp-content/uploads/Gabe-Report-Submitted-November-14-2016.pdf>
 - The statewide monetary impacts associated with one-to-one civil legal aid services totaled an estimated \$37 million in 2015
 - An estimated 39,750 individuals were impacted in 2015 by several systemic cases, and the statewide monetary impacts associated with these systemic civil legal aid services totaled an estimated \$68.3 million in federal dollars.
- Massachusetts: https://mlac.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/FY18_Economic_Benefits_Report.pdf
 - Civil legal aid programs funded by the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation (MLAC) provided more than \$60 million in economic benefits to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in Fiscal Year 2018.
- Pennsylvania: <https://www.paiolta.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Economic-Impact-of-Legal-Aid.pdf>
 - In 2011, \$53.6 Million Invested in Pennsylvania's Civil Legal Services Yielded \$594 Million in Income and Savings for Residents and Communities and Supported 2,643 Jobs.

D. Helpful OpEd/News stories:

- *Legal aid as important for economy as hospitals and schools:*
<https://www.legalcheek.com/2019/10/legal-aid-as-important-for-economy-as-hospitals-and-schools/>
- *Free legal aid helps clients, employers, the community and the economy:*
<https://msbusiness.com/2020/01/free-legal-aid-helps-clients-employers-the-community-and-the-economy/>
- *Study: Civil Legal aid for Poor has Broad Economic Impact:*
<https://www.mainepublic.org/post/study-civil-legal-aid-poor-has-broad-economic->

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- *Budget Like a Freak: The Economic Benefits of Free Legal Aid in Civil Cases:*
https://www.huffpost.com/entry/budget-like-a-freak-the-e_b_6210992