



IOWA LEGAL AID

Iowa Legal Aid's current state appropriation is \$2,180,562.

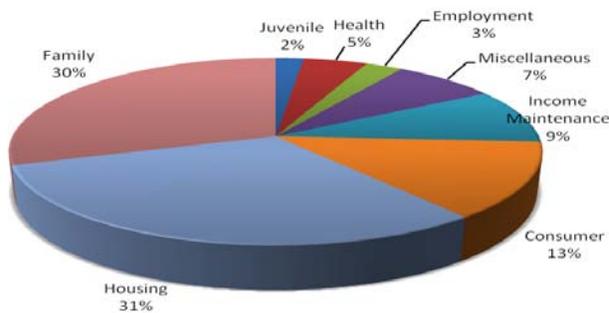
Iowa Legal Aid is requesting a state appropriation of **\$2.4 million** for state fiscal year 2015, which is the amount included in Governor Branstad's proposed budget.

SERVICES FOR VULNERABLE IOWANS

- Iowa Legal Aid is the statewide provider of free civil legal representation to low-income Iowans, working out of 10 regional offices across the state, serving residents of all 99 counties each year.
- Iowa Legal Aid does not provide assistance with criminal law cases which are handled by state public defenders and contract attorneys.
- Iowa Legal Aid closed 18,127 cases in 2013, serving an estimated 43,191 Iowans, 18,643 of whom were children. The number of cases closed in 2013 is 32% less than the number of cases closed by Iowa Legal Aid in 2010 because of reduced staff.
- According to Iowa Legal Aid's most recent unmet needs study, a projected 13,500 families are turned away or underserved annually, due to lack of staff resources.
- Resources on civil law topics are provided to the public at iowalegalaid.org. Information includes how to avoid legal problems or resolve an issue without a lawyer through self-help options. Over 330,000 people visited the website last year.



2013 CLOSURES BY CASE TYPE



CRITICAL NATURE OF SERVICES PROVIDED

Access to our court system is important for everyone, but especially to low-income people. Every day, the courts and state and federal agencies decide crucial issues affecting the safety, security and stability of low-income families. Court decisions involving domestic abuse protection orders, evictions and home foreclosures have a major impact on whether low-income families will be safe or in danger of violence, housed or homeless. Agency decisions about food and medical assistance, disability and unemployment benefits, and cash support for children may be the difference between being fed or going hungry.



RECENT TRENDS

- Census data for 2012 indicates that 493,721 Iowans meet Iowa Legal Aid's income eligibility guidelines. This is up from 359,741 in the 2000 Census.
- As of January 1, 2014, Iowa Legal Aid had 19 fewer attorneys, and 7 fewer support staff than it had at the beginning of 2010.

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ECONOMIC IMPACT

- Based on an analysis of Iowa Legal Aid's services in 2012, Iowa Legal Aid's funding and services provides \$44,000,000 in benefits to Iowa's economy each year by obtaining financial benefits for clients and through indirect benefits to local communities, including savings that results when homelessness and domestic violence are prevented.
- In 2011, every dollar invested in Iowa Legal Aid by funding sources within the state yielded a return of \$6.71 in federal funding, direct benefits to clients and indirect savings to Iowa communities.

FACTS ABOUT IOWA LEGAL AID

- Iowa Legal Aid's mission is to serve low-income Iowans and provide them access to the civil justice system.
- 71.5% of Iowa Legal Aid's cases involve assistance to women, often involving legal problems arising from domestic abuse.
- Elderly Iowans make up 21% of Iowa Legal Aid's clients.
- Iowa Legal Aid is the recognized expert on poverty law in Iowa.
- Iowa Legal Aid works closely with the Iowa Supreme Court to develop *pro se* forms that allow people to help themselves.
- Volunteer attorneys provide \$2.5 million in pro bono services every year.
- All Iowans, including Iowa businesses, benefit from the services Iowa Legal Aid provides.
 - Iowa Legal Aid's website and community legal education presentations help Iowans prevent and resolve legal problems
 - Families and children provided stability enables children to learn and parents to work.

WHAT CLIENTS SAY ABOUT IOWA LEGAL AID

Without the help from Iowa Legal Aid we would have lost our home. We can't thank Iowa Legal Aid enough. (Foreclosure)

Iowa Legal Aid helped me to finally be free from an abusive relationship and keep my daughter safe. (Domestic Abuse)

My very ill daughter received the item she needed. (Medicaid)

FINANCIAL ISSUES

- Iowa Legal Aid's funding from the Supreme Court's IOLTA Commission has been reduced over the past several years as a result of reduced interest rates and falling revenues for the Commission.



Funding from the IOLTA Commission to Iowa Legal Aid and its subgrantee, HELP Legal Assistance, for 2013-2014 is \$192,111, a 79% reduction from the \$935,195 received five years ago.

- Iowa Legal Aid's federal funding from the Legal Services Corporation will be approximately \$250,000 less in 2014 than the amount Iowa Legal Aid received in 2010.

- Access to the court system for low-income Iowans charged with a crime is supported by the state with an appropriation in excess of \$55 million. The state appropriation for civil legal assistance in FY14 is \$2,180,562.
- Iowa Legal Aid staff attorneys make substantially less than attorneys in the private sector or others in the public sector such as Public Defender, County Attorney and Attorney General offices.