

Economic Impact and Social Return on Investment of Civil Legal Aid Services for Louisiana

(fiscal year 2020)



For every \$1 invested in Louisiana's civil legal aid services, these programs deliver \$9.18 in immediate and long-term financial benefits.

The net economic impact value resulting from Louisiana civil legal activities during the 2020 fiscal year totaled \$64,823,000.

The total net social return on investment for Louisiana's civil legal aid programs during the 2020 fiscal year was 918%.

Civil legal aid is free legal advice, representation or other legal assistance provided to low-income and vulnerable people who cannot otherwise afford legal help. The responsibility for meeting the civil legal needs of Louisiana's poor falls primarily on a network of nonprofit, civil legal aid providers who serve our poorest citizens with free civil legal assistance. Declines in federal and state funding combined with Louisiana's high poverty, place our already challenged civil legal aid system in crisis.

The Louisiana Bar Foundation conducted an Economic Impact and Social Return on Investment Analysis for fiscal year 2020. The study included data from 45 civil legal aid providers. Social return on investment (SROI) is an internationally standardized and accepted process for measuring and understanding the financial impact of social services organizations.

"Through this report, we can see that civil legal aid is not only a good economic investment for Louisiana, but it's also a vital part of helping our communities thrive. The COVID-19 pandemic has drastically increased the demand for civil legal services as well as the number of residents who cannot afford them. Civil legal aid is crucial to Louisiana's recovery from the ongoing economic crisis as it ensures that no Louisianan is left behind by our legal system to weather the pandemic alone." - Chief Justice John Weimer, Louisiana Supreme Court

Highlights

• Total services provided in Louisiana during fiscal year 2020	23,143
• Total net economic impact value of services	\$64,823,000
• Total tax-based funding for Louisiana civil legal aid operations	\$7,065,000
SOCIAL IMPACT RETURN on INVESTMENT	918%

Louisiana Bar Foundation is the state's largest funder of civil legal aid.

We partner with a trusted network organizations that lead community driven efforts to help families facing non-criminal, civil legal challenges. Our goal is to make sure that all Louisianans, regardless of their background or income level, have access to civil legal services that they need.

Investing in civil legal aid is a powerful way to help people solve critical problems and prevent events that are personally harmful and expensive for society. Schools, businesses, government agencies and the state as a whole benefit from resolving civil legal problems.

Louisiana's civil legal aid organizations assisted in 23,143 legal matters. Services were provided in over 100 types of civil legal problems.

Major Areas of Services and Types of Legal Matters

Family Law

adoption
domestic violence
divorce & separation
custody and visitation
guardianship

Housing

eviction
foreclosure
public housing
landlord/tenant
sub-standard housing

Health Care

Medicaid
Medicare
private insurance
home & communitycare
long term care

Consumer Protection

bankruptcy
debt/wage garnishments
tax issues
debt collections
repossessions

Public Benefits

social security
Medicare
Medicaid
food stamps
unemployment

Employment

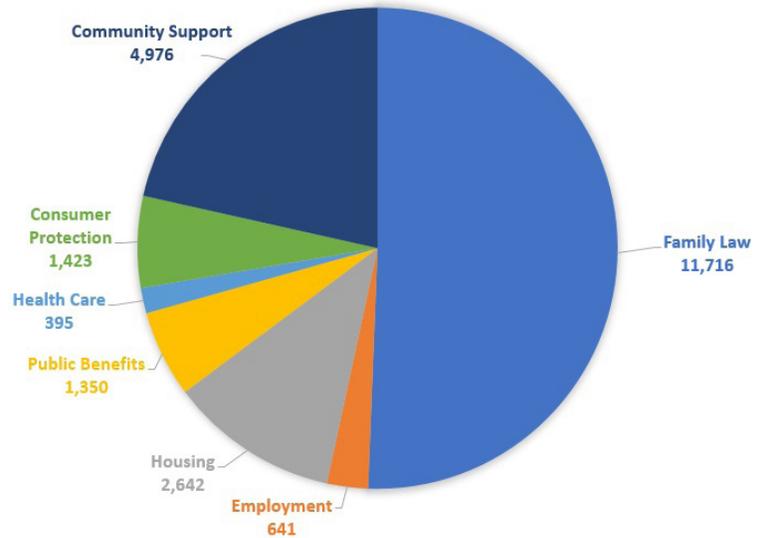
discrimination
wage claims
fair labor standards
employment rights

Community Support

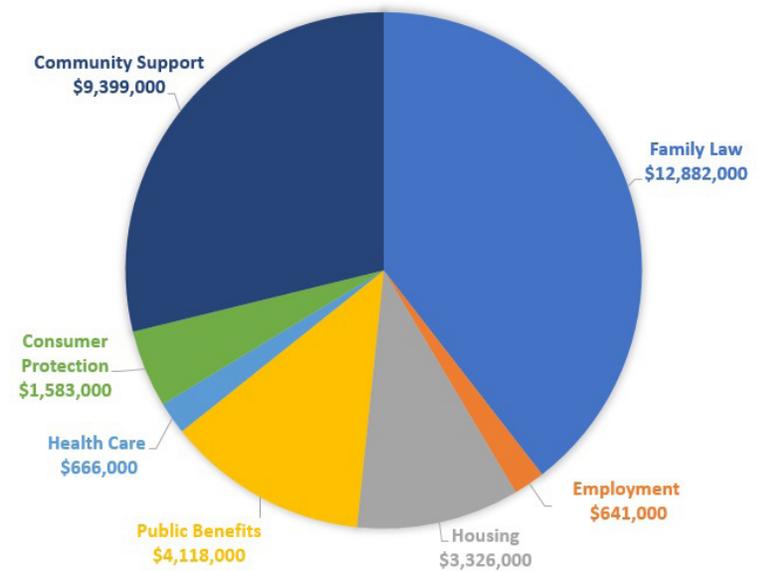
driver's license
reinstatement assistance
education
mental health
disabilities
immigration
wills & estates

2020 Outcomes

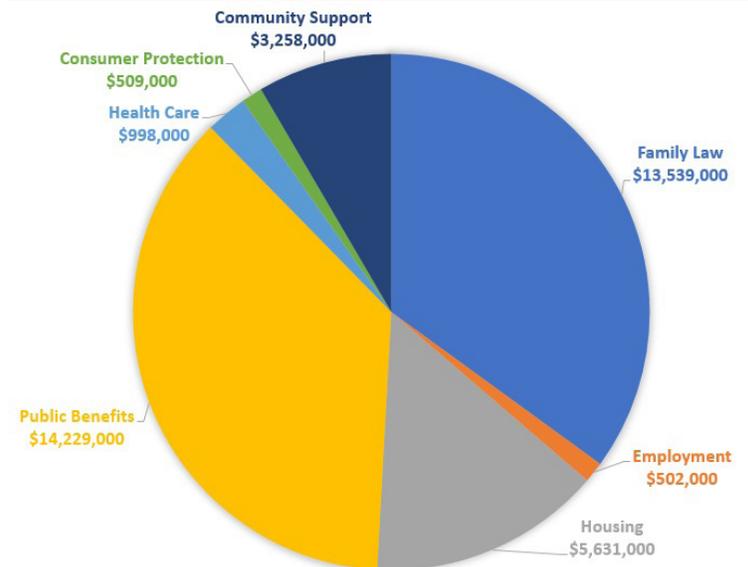
23,143 Legal Matters



\$30,311,000 Immediate Direct Financial Benefits



\$34,512,000 Long-Term Net Financial Benefits



About Community Services Analysis LLC

Community Services Analysis LLC (CSACO) is a leading provider of Social Value Return on Investment analysis and reporting and has completed over 270 Economic Impact and Social Return on Investment analysis projects for individual organizations, association groups, and state governments nationwide. CSACO serves as the exclusive provider of SROI services to the National Legal Aid & Defender Association.



**LOUISIANA BAR
FOUNDATION**
FUNDING CIVIL LEGAL AID