

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

(fiscal year 2018)



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 2018. The study included data from 42 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.

For every \$1 invested in Louisiana's civil legal aid services, these programs deliver \$9.13 in immediate and long-term financial benefits.

The net economic impact value resulting from Louisiana civil legal activities during the 2018 fiscal year totaled \$95,124,000.

The total net social return on investment for Louisiana's civil legal aid programs during the 2018 fiscal year was 913%.

“This Analysis shows that dollars spent on Louisiana's civil legal aid providers are well spent and deliver unmistakable *economic returns to the state.*

Continued funding of the civil legal aid providers will provide a substantial impact to the state.” - Chief Justice Bernette J. Johnson, Louisiana Supreme Court

Highlights

Total number of cases handled in Louisiana during fiscal year 2018	22,727
Total net economic impact value of services	\$95,124,000
Total tax-based funding for Louisiana civil legal aid operations	\$10,419,000*
SOCIAL IMPACT RETURN on INVESTMENT	913%

* Funding sources include the Louisiana Bar Foundation (LBF) and the Federal Legal Services Corporation (LSC). The LBF is the largest state funder of civil legal aid and has distributed more than \$78 million throughout Louisiana to help address the legal needs of indigent citizens. In 2018, the LBF awarded \$6.7 million to 63 civil legal aid providers and public interest attorneys. LSC is a nonprofit established by Congress to provide financial support for civil legal aid to low-income Americans in every state.

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 BAR
FOUNDATION**

Funding Civil Legal Aid & Promoting Access to Justice

Louisiana's civil legal aid organizations assisted in 22,727 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 & community care
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

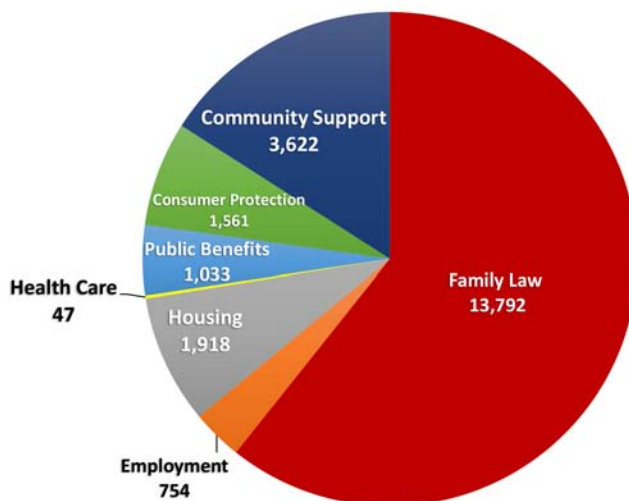
driver's license
reinstatement assistance
education
mental health
disabilities
immigration
wills & estates

About Community Services Analysis LLC

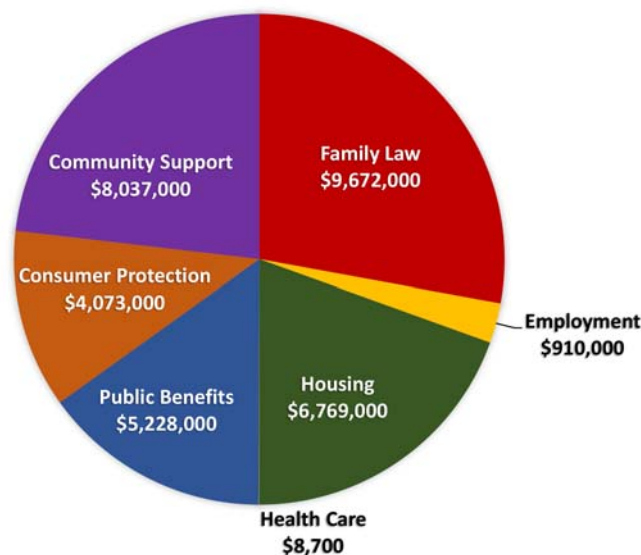
Community Services Analysis LLC (CSACO) is a leading provider of Social Value Return on Investment analysis and reporting and has completed over 220 Economic Impact and Social Return on Investment analysis projects for individual organizations, association groups, and state governments nationwide. CSACO serves as the exclusive provider of SROI services to the National Legal Aid & Defender Association.

2018 Outcomes

22,727 Legal Matters



\$34,697,700 Immediate Direct Financial Benefits



\$60,427,000 Long-term Net Financial Benefits

