

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

(fiscal year 2022)



For every \$1 invested in Louisiana’s civil legal aid services, these programs deliver \$17.99 in immediate and long-term financial benefits.

The net economic impact value resulting from Louisiana civil legal activities during the 2022 fiscal year totaled \$148,755,000.



The total net social return on investment for Louisiana’s civil legal aid programs during the 2022 fiscal year was 1,799%.



The effects of COVID-19 resulting in closure of the court systems for an extended period with a resulting delay then increased volumes of high-impact case decisions including Neglected and Abused Dependents, Social Security Disability Insurance decisions, mortgage foreclosures, and private landlord/tenant issues. Also, catastrophic hurricane damage in Louisiana resulting in a surge in demand for real estate successions involving disaster benefits and preserving the client’s equity in their homes all contributed to the 2022 economic impact values being extraordinarily higher than in previous years.

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.

In fiscal year 2022, people faced both personal and professional challenges due to Hurricane Ida and the pandemic. After disasters, civil legal aid needs are dramatically increased as those affected experience a variety of legal issues. Many families need help with successions and title clearing to access federal recovery dollars. Domestic violence centers become overcrowded with individuals seeking asylum. Vulnerable children need protection due to family instability and separation. The economic security of the elderly is in jeopardy.

The Louisiana Bar Foundation conducted an Economic Impact and Social Return on Investment Analysis for fiscal year 2022. The study included data from over 40 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.

Highlights

• Total services provided in Louisiana during fiscal year 2022	27,992
• Total net economic impact value of services	\$148,755,000
• Total tax-based funding for Louisiana civil legal aid operations	\$8,270,000
SOCIAL IMPACT RETURN on INVESTMENT	1,799%

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.

Louisiana's civil legal aid organizations assisted in 27,992 legal matters. Services were provided in over 100 types of civil legal problems.

2022 Outcomes

27,992 Legal Matters

Major Areas of Services and Types of Legal Matters

Family Law

adoption
domestic violence
divorce & separation
custody and visitation
guardianship

Public Benefits

social security
Medicare
Medicaid
food stamps
unemployment

Housing

eviction
foreclosure
public housing
landlord/tenant
sub-standard housing

Employment

discrimination
wage claims
fair labor standards
employment rights

Health Care

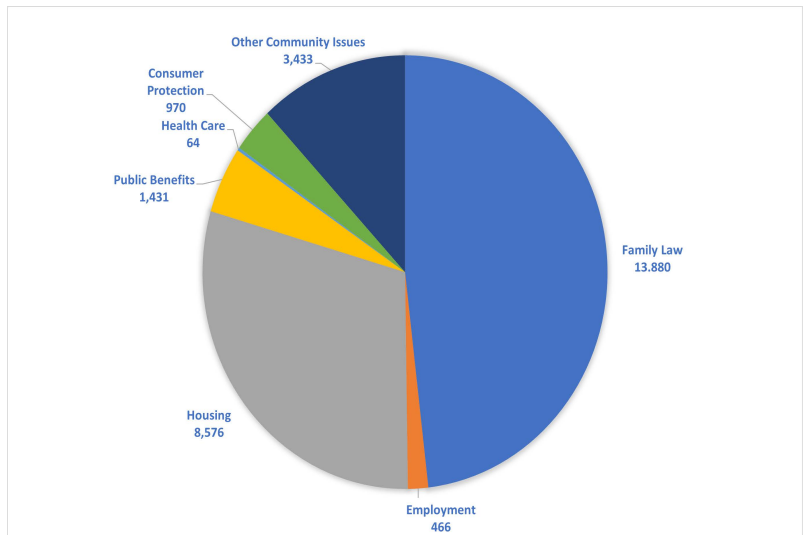
Medicaid
Medicare
private insurance
home & communitycare
long term care

Other Community Issues

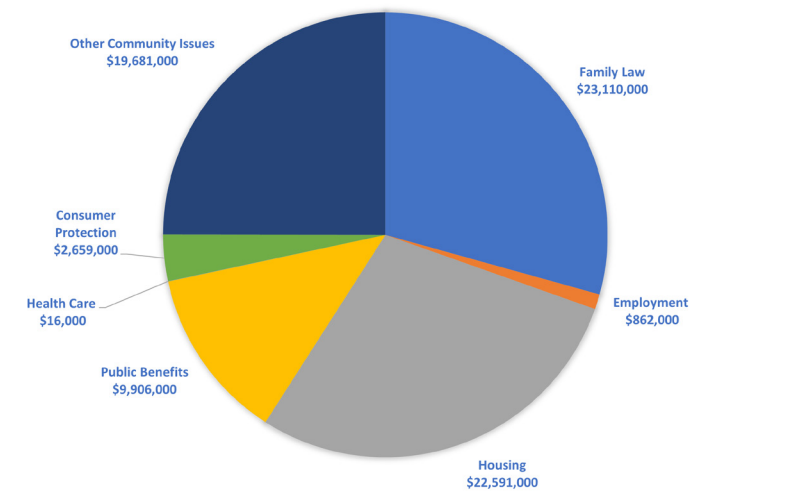
driver's license
reinstatement assistance
education
mental health
disabilities
immigration
wills & estates

Consumer Protection

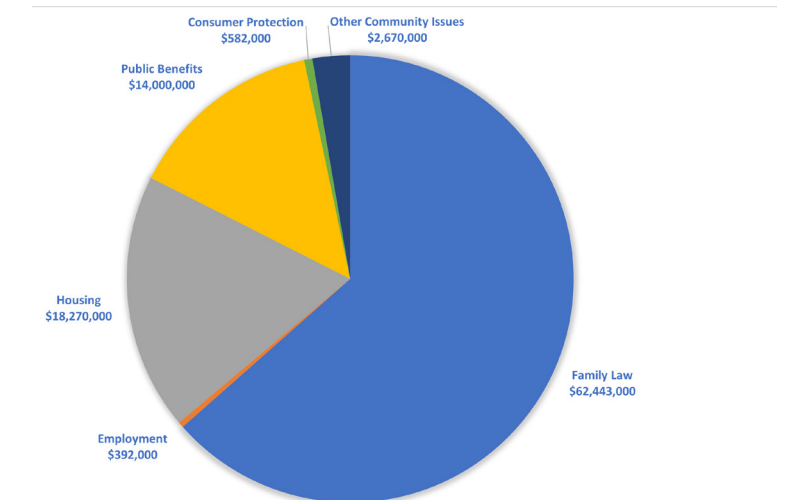
bankruptcy
debt/wage garnishments
tax issues
debt collections
repossessions



\$70,252,000 Immediate Direct Financial Benefits



\$78,503,000 Long-Term Net Financial Benefits



About Community Services Analysis LLC

Community Services Analysis LLC (CSACO) is a leading provider of Social Return on Investment Analysis in the United States. Since 2007, CSACO has completed over 300 Social Economic Impact and SROI studies for individual organizations, social services membership associations, and local and state governmental agencies around the country and over 250 Civil Legal Aid organizations nationwide.



**LOUISIANA BAR
FOUNDATION**
FUNDING CIVIL LEGAL AID