

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

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Support the Legal Services Corporation

The American Bar Association helped establish the Legal Services Corporation in 1974 and has been among the agency's most stalwart supporters since. LSC is the single largest provider of civil legal aid in the nation, distributing 95% of its federal appropriation to 134 legal aid programs with more than 800 offices nationwide. At least one LSC grantee is present in each of the 50 states.

Those benefiting from LSC-funded programs are among the most vulnerable Americans, including veterans returning from combat, domestic violence survivors, those coping with the after-effects of natural disasters, families involved in child custody disputes, people with disabilities, and individuals undergoing foreclosures or other housing issues. Due to economic conditions, the number of people who qualify for legal services is at an all-time high. Nearly 64 million Americans now are eligible for civil legal assistance. Yet half of those eligible for legal aid are turned away due to lack of resources.

Although the need for LSC continues to rise, funding is in jeopardy. In March 2017, the White House proposed to eliminate LSC funding altogether. While the ABA has consistently advocated for LSC funding, this year's action by the administration spurred the ABA to launch a widespread grassroots campaign, DefendLegalAid.org, on behalf of the Legal Services Corporation.

Links

DefendLegalAid.org Join more than 20,000 individuals and register as a Legal Aid Defender. The ABA will hand-deliver your Legal Aid Defender Card with your personal message to your Senators and member of Congress.

HelpLegalAid.org Learn more about how to advocate for the Legal Services Corporation, how to donate to legal aid programs, and how to volunteer as a pro bono lawyer.

LSC.gov The website of the Legal Services Corporation includes material on how LSC works, a recent report on the "justice gap" in America, a media center, and more.

Legal Services Corporation page The American Bar Association has advocated for the LSC since its founding more than 40 years ago. This ABA website contains background on why legal services are so critical in a society dedicated to equal justice for all.

LSC "one pager" This one-page fact sheet from the ABA about the need for funding the Legal Services Corporation is a useful leave-behind for members of Congress, reporters, and others after meeting with them to advocate for LSC.