

Bay Area Legal Services

**Serving Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas,
Manatee and Sarasota counties.**



Bay Area Legal Services responded to 58,404 callers seeking civil legal aid in 2016, assisting more than 17,600 individuals, families, and community groups.

In 2016 Bay Area Legal Services helped:

- 928 domestic violence survivors obtain injunctions, child custody, support, and alimony
- 3,243 people seeking help to obtain or maintain housing
- 3,923 people with family law matters including adoption, guardianship, and divorce
- 10,500 children living in the households served
- 1,188 military veterans (31% housing, 24% consumer law, 24% family law, 9% wills/estates)
- 2,804 seniors in its five-county service area

In 2016, Bay Area Legal Services also:

- responded to 15,040 calls from new applicants through its statewide Senior Legal Helpline
- partnered with 464 volunteer attorneys to help more than 1,850 individuals and community groups
- developed an innovative program called iLawyer that enables pro bono lawyers to help clients remotely via Skype, with in-person assistance from law students
- supported 5,258 people through its Legal Information Center in the George C. Edgecomb Courthouse by providing them information about how to represent themselves in family law cases
- launched an expanded Veterans Legal Initiative, with emphasis on helping veterans with housing/foreclosure and family law issues, as well as providing them legal resources to help themselves

Florida has the nation's third-largest population of U.S. veterans, and the five counties served by Bay Area Legal Services are home to nearly 315,000 of them. Of those, 22,367 live at or below the federal poverty level. Bay Area Legal Services' Veterans Legal Initiative seeks to meet their legal needs.



U.S. Army veteran Timothy Brooks was living in a shelter and facing homelessness until Bay Area Legal Services helped him stabilize his housing situation.



Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida

Serving Broward County

Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida provides legal assistance to low-income residents of Broward County in areas including:

- civil legal problems of senior citizens
- family law
- income maintenance
- representation of veterans

Advocacy on behalf of senior citizens includes mortgage foreclosure defense, landlord-tenant issues such as eviction defense and access to public and subsidized housing, health-related issues including Medicare, Medicaid and managed care, consumer issues including garnishment, and income maintenance including food stamps and benefits for the disabled. These services help ensure that seniors have a roof overhead, food on the table, a source of income, and access to healthcare.

Family law advocacy includes representing victims of domestic violence in proceedings to obtain injunctions (restraining orders) against their abusers and in divorce proceedings, as well as in obtaining child custody, child support, an award of the marital home, and other relief so that a victim does not have a financial incentive to return to his or her abuser.

Veterans' advocacy includes legal assistance to military families and veterans transitioning back to civilian life. This can involve helping them obtain Social Security and veterans' benefits, which provides veterans and their families with economic stability. Much of this work is conducted in partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs through on-site legal assistance to veterans one day per week at a Broward VA Outpatient Clinic.

Clients served in 2016

2,886 cases closed
5,032 household members impacted
1,947 seniors served
308 veterans served
250 victims of domestic violence served

Clients served in 2015

3,350 cases closed
6,418 household members impacted
2,015 seniors served
467 veterans served
359 victims of domestic violence served



Henry Wilson, right, is one of hundreds of veterans served through a medical-legal partnership between Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida and the Veterans' Administration.



Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida

**Serving Brevard, Citrus, Flagler, Hernando,
Lake, Marion, Orange, Osceola, Putnam,
Seminole, Sumter, and Volusia counties**

Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida is a nonprofit law firm serving 12 Central Florida counties, where more than 1 million people qualify for help. It is the primary provider of civil legal aid in the region, offering legal assistance and advocacy to help people obtain the basic necessities of life: food, shelter, health care, safety and education.

Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida provides legal assistance to low-wage workers, struggling families, disabled veterans, children, homeless individuals, and seniors, among many others. That assistance connects disabled veterans with health and housing services, prevents homelessness, secures safe living spaces and protects seniors who are victims of exploitation.

In 2016 Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida served 17,500 people including:

- 6,500 children
- 1,675 seniors
- 1,300 domestic violence survivors
- 800 veterans

Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida closed 7,694 cases, of which 360 were handled by pro bono attorneys recruited and supported by legal aid staff. The organization also served more than 1,000 people through outreach programs and pro bono legal advice clinics.

**The Community Legal Services
of Mid-Florida Helpline received
28,876 calls in 2016, averaging
2,400 calls from people seeking
civil legal help each month.**



Navy veteran Mario Figueroa is one of 800 U.S. veterans who received civil legal help from Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida in 2016.

Florida Rural Legal Services

Serving Charlotte, Desoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Indian River, Lee, Martin, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, Polk and St. Lucie counties



The service area for Florida Rural Legal Services stretches from the Atlantic Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico, spanning 12,000 square miles and encompassing both rural and urban areas. About 589,105 people in the region live at or below poverty level. Florida Rural Legal Services addresses the legal needs of this population from six offices with 31 attorneys.

Florida Rural Legal Services focuses on assisting victims of domestic violence and stabilizing the lives of children. In 2016, the organization assisted 810 families in family law matters.

Florida Rural Legal Services also assists seniors with many legal issues, with the goal of helping them live safely and independently. Florida has more seniors per capita than any other U.S. state, and many seniors are vulnerable to abuse and exploitation.

Clients served in 2016

- 7,337 cases closed for low-income families, vulnerable seniors and others
- 13,621 adults and 7,812 children resided in the households served
- 439 veterans served
- 1,236 seniors served
- 2,842 disabled individuals served
- 337 outreach and legal education events held

Services include

- housing law
- family law
- consumer law
- legal assistance for victims of domestic violence

The Florida Rural Legal Services pro bono project hosts veterans' clinics, where eligible veterans receive free legal advice and assistance.



Florida Rural Legal Services received 21,430 calls from people seeking help in 2016.



Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc.

Serving Miami-Dade and Monroe counties

Legal Services of Greater Miami strengthens our community by creating affordable housing, preventing illegal evictions, saving families from foreclosure, preventing homelessness, and helping families access health care and education.

Special projects address the needs of:

- children
- elders
- veterans
- people with disabilities
- people who are homeless

Clients served in 2016

- 21,000+ people served
- Majority were women, children and low-wage workers
- 500 affordable housing units built by nonprofit developers with legal help from Legal Services of Greater Miami Inc.

Demographics of those served

61% of households were headed by women
31% of households were headed by seniors
35% of households were headed by low-wage workers
35% of those served were children

Without LSC funding for Legal Services of Greater Miami, nearly 13,000 people each year would be denied access to justice in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties.



Working together, a Legal Services of Greater Miami staff attorney and pro bono attorneys saved the family home of U.S. veteran Cleygon Rolle after his father passed away and a reverse mortgage came due. Legal Services of Greater Miami staff help coordinate the work of volunteer attorneys by screening cases, providing training and expertise in substantive areas of the law, and other forms of support. Without Legal Services of Greater Miami, fewer private attorneys would be able to take pro bono cases.

Legal Services of North Florida

Serving Bay, Calhoun, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Wakulla, Walton and Washington counties.



Legal Services of North Florida, Inc. provides free civil legal assistance to low-income individuals and families in 16 counties in Florida's Panhandle with five offices and a staff of 43, including 18 full-time attorneys. The organization's service area has a land area of 11,000 square miles and is larger than the states of Rhode Island and Delaware combined. Within this area, about 239,384 individuals live below the poverty level.

Legal Services of North Florida provides civil legal assistance in areas such as:

- Domestic/Sexual Violence
- Family Law
- Consumer Law
- Housing Law
- Elder law
- Tax Law

Clients served in 2016

- 5,993 clients served
- 391 restraining orders and 66 divorces obtained for victims of domestic violence
- 2,545 families obtained relief allowing them to stay in their homes
- 203 wills and advanced directives prepared

Legal Services of North Florida provides specialized services to veterans like John Price, who found himself on the brink of homelessness after a judgment was entered illegally against his income while he was serving his country in Afghanistan. Thanks to legal aid, that judgment has since been overturned, allowing him to provide for his family.



Three Rivers Legal Services

Serving Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Clay, Columbia, Dixie, Duval, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Nassau, St. Johns, Suwannee, Taylor and Union counties.



Civil Legal Aid Since 1978

Three Rivers Legal Services, Inc. provides free civil legal assistance to low-income families and individuals in 17 counties with three offices and a staff of 35, including 21 full-time attorneys.

The organization's service area covers more than 11,000 square miles, a region larger than the states of New Hampshire or Vermont. Within this area, about 319,000 individuals live below the poverty level.

Three Rivers Legal Services provides civil legal assistance in areas such as:

- Housing Law
- Family Law
- Elder Law
- Domestic Violence Prevention
- Specialized Services for Veterans and Homeowners Facing Foreclosure
- Low-Income Tax Payers' Clinic

Clients served in 2016

- 4,153 cases closed
- 5,769 adult and 3,953 child household members impacted
- 843 elders served
- 570 veterans served
- 38 veterans' outreach events reaching 1,300+ veterans
- 1,000+ other residents provided with free legal information and education
- Nearly 1,200 domestic violence survivors received advice and representation; more than 117 received injunctions for protection.

In 2016, Three Rivers Legal Services handled an average of 1,900 telephone calls per month from people seeking civil legal assistance. So far in 2017, that number is even higher.



Vulnerable seniors made up 20 percent of Three Rivers Legal Services' caseload in 2016.