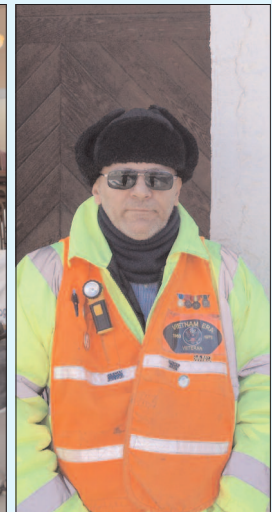


Legal Services Corporation

America's Partner For Equal Justice

FISCAL YEAR 2015 BUDGET REQUEST



40TH
Anniversary
LSC



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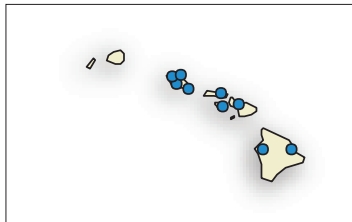
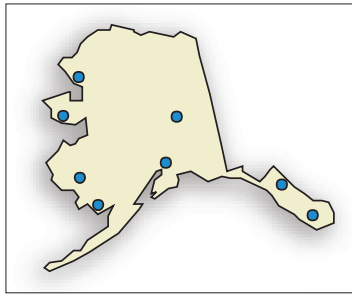
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INSPECTOR GENERAL

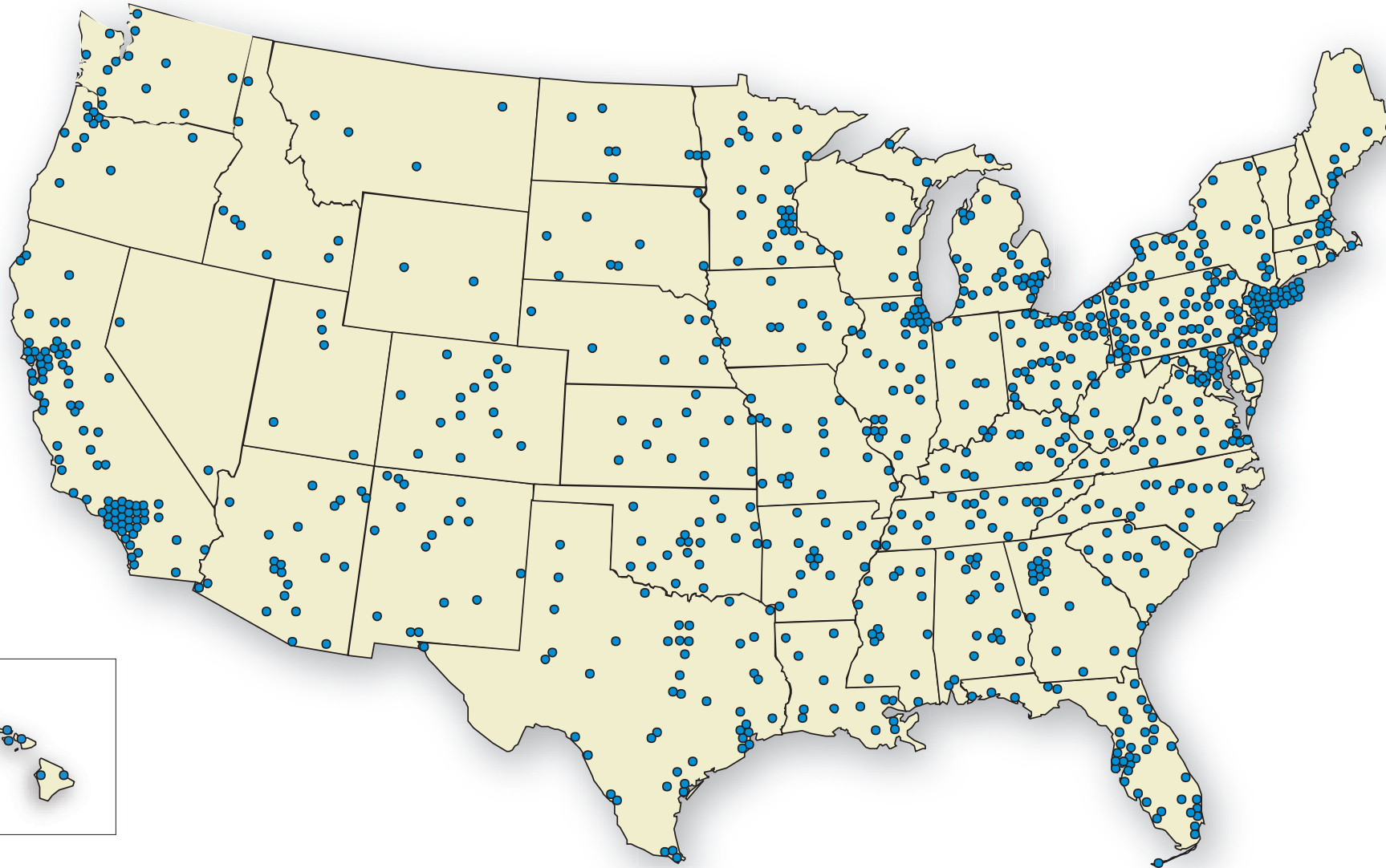
Jeffrey E. Schanz, *Inspector General*



- ALABAMA**
Legal Services Alabama
- ALASKA**
Alaska Legal Services Corporation
- ARIZONA**
Community Legal Services
DNA-Peoples Legal Services
Southern Arizona Legal Aid
- ARKANSAS**
Center for Arkansas Legal Services
Legal Aid of Arkansas
- CALIFORNIA**
Bay Area Legal Aid
California Indian Legal Services
California Rural Legal Assistance
Central California Legal Services
Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance
Inland Counties Legal Services
Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles
Legal Aid Society of Orange County
Legal Aid Society of San Diego
Legal Services of Northern California
Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County
- COLORADO**
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- CONNECTICUT**
Statewide Legal Services of Connecticut
- DELAWARE**
Legal Services Corporation of Delaware
- DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**
Neighborhood Legal Services Program of the District of Columbia
- FLORIDA**
Bay Area Legal Services
Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida
Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida
Florida Rural Legal Services
Legal Services of Greater Miami
Legal Services of North Florida
Three Rivers Legal Services
- GEORGIA**
Atlanta Legal Aid Society
Georgia Legal Services Program
- HAWAII**
Legal Aid Society of Hawaii
- IDAHO**
Idaho Legal Aid Services
- ILLINOIS**
Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation
Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
Prairie State Legal Services
- INDIANA**
Indiana Legal Services
- IOWA**
Iowa Legal Aid
- KANSAS**
Kansas Legal Services
- KENTUCKY**
Appalachian Research and Defense Fund of Kentucky
Kentucky Legal Aid
Legal Aid of the Blue Grass
Legal Aid Society
- LOUISIANA**
Acadiana Legal Service Corporation
Legal Services of North Louisiana
Southeast Louisiana Legal Services Corporation



In 2013, the Legal Services Corporation provided grants to 134 independent, nonprofit organizations that provide free civil legal services to low-income Americans from more than 800 offices located in every state, the District of Columbia and the territories of the United States of America.



- MAINE**
Pine Tree Legal Assistance
- MARYLAND**
Legal Aid Bureau
- MASSACHUSETTS**
Community Legal Aid
Merrimack Valley Legal Services
South Coastal Counties Legal Services
Volunteer Lawyers Project of the Boston Bar Association
- MICHIGAN**
Legal Aid and Defender Association
Legal Aid of Western Michigan
Legal Services of Eastern Michigan
Legal Services of Northern Michigan
Legal Services of South Central Michigan
Michigan Indian Legal Services

- MINNESOTA**
Anishinabe Legal Services
Central Minnesota Legal Services
Legal Aid Service of Northeastern Minnesota
Legal Services of Northwest Minnesota Corporation
Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services
- MISSISSIPPI**
Mississippi Center for Legal Services
North Mississippi Rural Legal Services
- MISSOURI**
Legal Aid of Western Missouri
Legal Services of Eastern Missouri
Legal Services of Southern Missouri
Mid-Missouri Legal Services Corporation
- MONTANA**
Montana Legal Services Association

- NEBRASKA**
Legal Aid of Nebraska
- NEVADA**
Nevada Legal Services
- NEW HAMPSHIRE**
Legal Advice & Referral Center
- NEW JERSEY**
Central Jersey Legal Services
Essex-Newark Legal Services Project
Legal Services of Northwest Jersey
Northeast New Jersey Legal Services Corporation
Ocean-Monmouth Legal Services
South Jersey Legal Services
- NEW MEXICO**
New Mexico Legal Aid

- NEW YORK**
Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York
Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York
Legal Assistance of Western New York
Legal Services NYC
Legal Services of the Hudson Valley
Nassau/Suffolk Law Services Committee
Neighborhood Legal Services
- NORTH CAROLINA**
Legal Aid of North Carolina
- NORTH DAKOTA**
Legal Services of North Dakota
- OHIO**
Community Legal Aid Services
Legal Aid of Western Ohio
Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati

- Ohio State Legal Services
The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland
- OKLAHOMA**
Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma
Oklahoma Indian Legal Services
- OREGON**
Legal Aid Services of Oregon
- PENNSYLVANIA**
Laurel Legal Services
Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania
MidPenn Legal Services
Neighborhood Legal Services Association
Northwestern Legal Services
North Penn Legal Services
Philadelphia Legal Assistance Center
Southwestern Pennsylvania Legal Services
- RHODE ISLAND**
Rhode Island Legal Services
- SOUTH CAROLINA**
South Carolina Legal Services
- SOUTH DAKOTA**
Dakota Plains Legal Services
East River Legal Services
- TENNESSEE**
Legal Aid of East Tennessee
Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland
Memphis Area Legal Services
West Tennessee Legal Services
- TEXAS**
Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas
Lone Star Legal Aid
Texas RioGrande Legal Aid
- UTAH**
Utah Legal Services
- VERMONT**
Legal Services Law Line of Vermont
- VIRGINIA**
Blue Ridge Legal Services
Central Virginia Legal Aid Society
Legal Aid Society of Eastern Virginia
Legal Services of Northern Virginia
Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society
Virginia Legal Aid Society
- WASHINGTON**
Northwest Justice Project
- WEST VIRGINIA**
Legal Aid of West Virginia
- WISCONSIN**
Legal Action of Wisconsin
Wisconsin Judicare
- WYOMING**
Legal Aid of Wyoming

- U.S. Territories**
- GUAM**
Guam Legal Services Corporation
- MICRONESIA**
Micronesian Legal Services
- PUERTO RICO**
Community Law Office
Puerto Rico Legal Services
- VIRGIN ISLANDS**
Legal Services of the Virgin Islands

Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Request

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Ninety-third Congress of the United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Monday, the twenty-first day of January,
one thousand nine hundred and seventy-four*

An Act *

To amend the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 to provide for the transfer of the legal services program from the Office of Economic Opportunity to a Legal Services Corporation, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Legal Services Corporation Act of 1974".

SEC. 2. The Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new title:

"TITLE X—LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION ACT

"STATEMENT OF FINDINGS AND DECLARATION OF PURPOSE

"SEC. 1001. The Congress finds and declares that—

"(1) there is a need to provide equal access to the system of justice in our Nation for individuals who seek redress of grievances;

"(2) there is a need to provide high quality legal assistance to those who would be otherwise unable to afford adequate legal counsel and to continue the present vital legal services program;

"(3) providing legal assistance to those who face an economic barrier to adequate legal counsel will serve best the ends of justice;

"(4) for many of our citizens, the availability of legal services has reaffirmed faith in our government of laws;

"(5) to preserve its strength, the legal services program must be kept free from the influence of or use by it of political pressures; and

"(6) attorneys providing legal assistance must have full freedom to protect the best interests of their clients in keeping with the Code of Professional Responsibility, the Canons of Ethics, and the high standards of the legal profession.

"DEFINITIONS

"SEC. 1002. As used in this title, the term—

"(1) 'Board' means the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation;

"(2) 'Corporation' means the Legal Services Corporation established under this title;

"(3) 'eligible client' means any person financially unable to afford legal assistance;

"(4) 'Governor' means the chief executive officer of a State;

"(5) 'legal assistance' means the provision of any legal services consistent with the purposes and provisions of this title;

"(6) 'recipient' means any grantee, contractee, or recipient of financial assistance described in clause (A) of section 1006(a) (1);

"(7) 'staff attorney' means an attorney who receives more than one-half of his annual professional income from a recipient organized solely for the provision of legal assistance to eligible clients under this title; and

"(8) 'State' means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and any other territory or possession of the United States.

legal services will extend beyond six months after the date of enactment of this Act, he shall include, in any such contract or grant, provisions to assure that the obligation to provide such financial assistance may be assumed by the Legal Services Corporation, subject to such modifications of the terms and conditions of such contract or grant as the Corporation determines to be necessary.

(2) Section 222(a)(3) of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 is repealed, effective ninety days after the first meeting of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation.

(e) There are authorized to be appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1975, such sums as may be necessary for carrying out this section.

(f) Title VI of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 is amended by inserting after section 625 thereof the following new section:

"INDEPENDENCE OF LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

"SEC. 626. Nothing in this Act, except title X, and no reference to this Act unless such reference refers to title X, shall be construed to affect the powers and activities of the Legal Services Corporation."

Carl Albert

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

James O. Eastland

Vice President of the United States and

President of the Senate

pro Tempore

APPROVED

JUL 25 1974

Richard Nixon

Legal Services Corporation

Background

Established by Congress in 1974, the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) promotes equal access to justice by funding high-quality civil legal assistance for low-income Americans. LSC is the single largest funder of civil legal aid for the poor in the country.

LSC is a grant-making organization, distributing nearly 94% of its federal appropriation to eligible nonprofit organizations delivering civil legal aid. LSC awards grants through a competitive process and currently funds 134 independent legal aid organizations. With more than 800 offices nationwide, these organizations serve thousands of low-income individuals, children, families, seniors, and veterans in every congressional district.

LSC grantees handle the basic civil legal needs of the poor, addressing matters involving safety, subsistence, and family stability. Most legal aid practices are focused on family law, including domestic violence and child support and custody, and on housing matters, including evictions and foreclosures.

LSC conducts robust oversight of its grantees. To ensure grantee compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements and with sound financial management practices, LSC conducts regular on-site fiscal and programmatic compliance reviews and investigations. LSC also assesses the quality of legal services its grantees deliver and provides training and technical assistance to them.

LSC Leadership

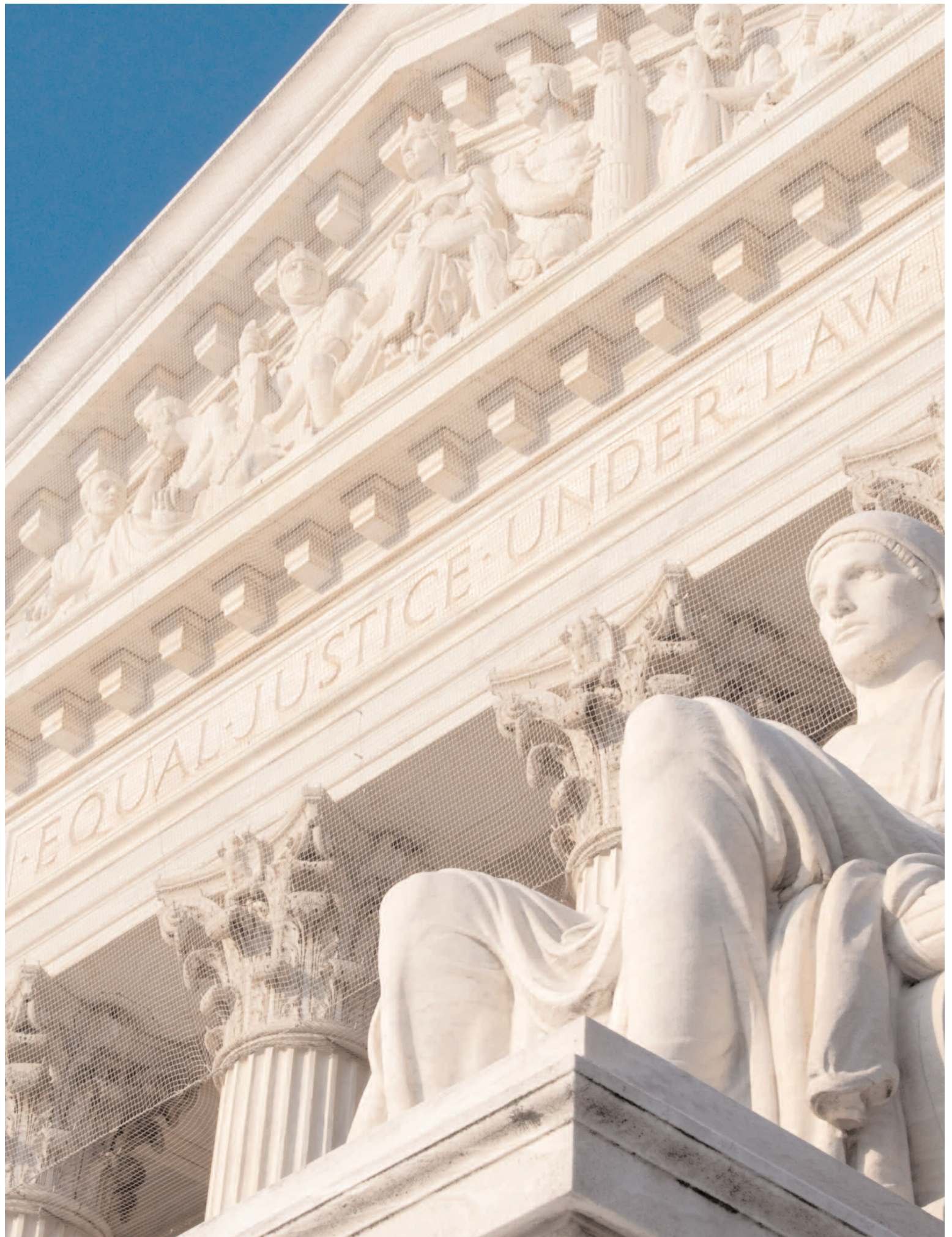
LSC is governed by an eleven-member Board of Directors, each of whom is appointed by the President of the United States and confirmed by the Senate to serve a three-year term. By law, the Board is bipartisan; no more than six members may be of the same political party. The Board is statutorily established as the head of the entity, and thus has the responsibility for guiding and monitoring the operations of the Corporation. The Board is responsible for hiring the President of the Corporation, who has day-to-day leadership responsibility for LSC. The President oversees LSC's staff of 95 employees and is responsible for the final approval of all awards made to the Corporation's grantees.

Recent Initiatives to Improve Performance and Accountability

LSC is committed to strong management of and accountability for federal funds. In 2013, LSC took the following actions to implement our strategic plan that was approved by the Board of Directors in 2012.

- Pursuant to the recommendations of LSC's Fiscal Oversight Task Force, introduced a new fiscal section in LSC's 2014 grant application which is reviewed and scored by fiscal specialists. LSC more than doubled the use of special grant conditions between 2012 and 2014, and established an advisory group of experts to recommend potential revisions to LSC's Performance Criteria for grantee governance, leadership, and administration.
- Improved coordination among LSC oversight offices. The Vice President for Grants Management coordinates regular meetings of all managers involved in grantee oversight to share information about potential problems. LSC's Chief Information Officer is revamping LSC's technology to improve coordination, oversight, and sharing information about grantees.

- Improved coordination with LSC's Office of Inspector General (OIG). LSC management has established a regular schedule of meetings with the OIG to maximize communication, coordination, and collaboration. This has led to improved sharing of information to avoid duplicative work and provide early notice of potential problems with grantees.
- Convened a national Summit on the Use of Technology to Expand Access to Justice and issued a report on the Summit's recommendations.
- LSC is designing a Pro Bono Innovation Fund program, developing a pro bono tool kit for grantees, sharing information about best pro bono practices, and identifying potential rules changes and incentives to make it easier for lawyers across the country to provide pro bono service in support of the work of LSC grantees.
- Hired an Operations Research Analyst, reporting to the Vice President for Grants Management, to increase LSC's ability to analyze our performance and that of the grantees.
- Continued to work on enhancing data collection. With a private grant from the Public Welfare Foundation, in 2012, LSC has retained a consulting firm to assist with a project to improve LSC's data collection and reporting mechanisms and to educate LSC grantees about collection, analysis, and use of data. The consultants have gathered information about the state of the field through extensive document review, in-depth interviews, a large-sample survey of grantees, and ongoing work with an advisory group. We hope to test a new outcomes framework within the next year.
- For the second time, LSC and the White House co-hosted a forum on increasing access to justice. Chief Justices of several states, leaders of the legal profession from across the country, and senior Administration officials participated. The forum included two panels of experts, one addressing the expansion of pro bono legal services and the other addressing the use of technology to increase access to justice.
- Hired a New Vice President and General Counsel with significant pro bono experience. In 2013, Ronald S. Flagg joined LSC as Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel. Mr. Flagg has a distinguished record of pro bono experience. He chaired the Pro Bono Committee of his former law firm, Sidley Austin; served as President of the District of Columbia Bar and Chair of the D.C. Bar's Pro Bono Committee; and chairs the Board of the National Veterans Legal Services Program. He is closely involved in leading LSC's work to increase pro bono legal services for low-income people.



Overview

FY 2015 Budget Request

LSC requests an appropriation of \$486,000,000 for FY 2015—the same amount LSC requested for FY 2014. While the need for civil legal aid would justify a far larger request, LSC recognizes the budget pressures on the federal government and requests an amount that reflects a balancing of the overwhelming need for civil legal services against the federal government's budgetary realities. LSC is funded at \$365 million in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-76). LSC grantees require a substantial increase to address the overwhelming needs for services.

The size of the population eligible for LSC-funded services is at an all-time high. With 63.5 million people, or 21% of the population financially eligible for services in 2012, LSC's funding is, in inflation-adjusted dollars, near an all-time low. If LSC's funding had kept pace with inflation when compared to its 1995 appropriation of \$400 million, our funding today would be more than \$600 million.

The table below reflects LSC's FY 2010, 2013 and 2014 appropriation and LSC's FY 2015 request.

Budget Category	FY 2010 Appropriation	FY 2013 Appropriation	FY 2014 Appropriations	FY 2015 LSC Request
Basic Field Grants	\$394,400,000	\$316,144,749	\$335,700,000	\$451,300,000
Technology Initiative Grants	\$3,400,000	\$3,158,470	\$3,450,000	\$5,000,000
Loan Repayment Assistance Program	\$1,000,000	\$928,962	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Management and Grants Oversight	\$17,000,000	\$15,792,345	\$18,000,000	\$19,500,000
Office of Inspector General	\$4,200,000	\$3,901,639	\$4,350,000	\$4,200,000
Pro Bono Innovation Fund	–	–	\$2,500,000	\$5,000,000
TOTAL	\$420,000,000*	\$340,876,165*	\$365,000,000	\$486,000,000

* Includes an appropriation of \$950,000 (post sequestration) for Hurricane Sandy Supplemental funding.

The Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2013 (P.L. 113-6) mandated that LSC grants align with the most recent Census Bureau data on the location of the poverty population. As a result of reallocation of funding among LSC grantees to comport with that requirement, many states have seen their funding reduced because their **share** of the U.S. poverty population had declined even though the **number** of eligible poor people within their borders had increased.

LSC's FY 2015 request aims to restore the level of service that LSC grantees provided in 2007—the last year before the recession began and the size of the population eligible for LSC-funded services began to increase dramatically. But even before the recession, half of all those who sought legal assistance from LSC grantees were turned away, according to LSC's 2005 report, *Documenting the Justice Gap in America*. Returning funding per poor person to the pre-recession level is still not sufficient to meet the need for legal services of low-income Americans.

Under our request, basic field grants continue to represent the largest component of LSC's overall budget. The overwhelming majority, 93%, of the budget will be allocated to basic field grants for FY 2015. Four percent, or \$19.5 million, would fund administrative costs, including compliance and management oversight

costs, and 1% would fund LSC's Inspector General. Consistent with LSC's appropriation request for FY 2014, the FY 2015 request includes \$5 million to continue funding of LSC's Pro Bono Innovation Fund grant program.

Civil Legal Aid Fulfills a Critical Need at Low Cost

Investing in civil legal aid provides access to justice—a fundamental American value, reflected in the first line of our Constitution and in the closing words of our Pledge of Allegiance.

The need for civil legal assistance has never been greater. Today, low-income Americans continue to struggle to keep their jobs, stay in their homes, and provide basic necessities for their families. LSC-funded

legal aid organizations provide important constituent service by helping families avert improper evictions and foreclosures, assisting veterans in obtaining benefits duly earned, helping women and children escape abusive relationships, and helping seniors defend themselves against consumer scams. Without adequate funding for legal aid, low-income Americans will be unable to access courts effectively to protect their legitimate legal interests.

“When the great majority of the individuals and small businesses of the nation no longer can, or believe they no longer can, get a lawyer, be represented effectively, go to court, settle their disputes in a fair and impartial way, and be treated like every other citizen, we quite simply have lost the guiding principle of our republic—equal justice under law. When that goes, the rule of law goes, and when that goes, the great dreams of those patriots who founded and fought for this republic go with it, never to be reclaimed. Something must be done!”

—Deanell Reece Tacha, *Dean of Pepperdine Law School and former Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit*

Providing access to justice is important not only to millions of low-income Americans who are being shut out of the system, but also to the orderly functioning of the courts. The Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ)—the organization of the chief justices and judges of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the territories—has found that the rapidly increasing numbers of unrepresented parties slow court dockets and hinder the effectiveness of the judicial process. The CCJ has found that litigants without lawyers often experience higher rates of adverse outcomes because of their lack of legal acumen. Civil legal aid reduces the number of unrepresented parties and unrepresented litigants with a variety of self-help resources, enhancing the fairness, effectiveness, and efficiency of the civil justice system.

The modest federal contribution to civil legal aid—only 40% of total funding for LSC-supported legal aid programs, and only 25% of all legal aid funding in the United States—is a good investment, allowing millions of Americans to safeguard their basic legal rights at minimal cost. LSC grantees supplement federal resources by engaging partners and accessing alternative fund-

ing sources, such as Interest on Lawyers' Trust Account (IOLTA) funds, state and local grants, foundations, contributions, and donations from individuals. They also collaborate with a wide network of private practitioners, bar associations, law schools, access to justice commissions, and business and community organizations to expand free legal help for the poor.

Civil Legal Aid Is a Good Investment of Taxpayer Dollars

A growing body of research demonstrates that providing civil legal services to the poor yields significant economic benefits for communities and government alike. Studies conducted in a number of states show that substantial economic and social benefits result from legal aid, such as increasing clients' employment opportunities and incomes, tapping new funding streams for state services, reducing government costs, and creating jobs through direct spending and economic multiplier effects.¹

One of the most important ways that civil legal services for the poor reduces government and social costs is through assisting clients with housing and domestic violence matters. In 2012, LSC grantees closed more than 200,000 cases related to the preservation of clients' housing and nearly 47,000 domestic violence cases.

“Equal access to justice contributes to healthy communities and a vibrant economy. No community thrives when people are homeless, children are out of school, sick people are unable to get health care, or families experience violence. Likewise, when a person's legal problem is addressed in a timely and effective way, the benefit ripples out and helps that person's family, neighbors, employer, and community.”

—Justice Carol W. Hunstein,
Supreme Court of Georgia

Recent studies from Massachusetts and New York highlight these benefits.² The Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation (MLAC) reported that legal services providers' “eviction and foreclosure defense saved the Commonwealth an estimated \$4.5 million in shelter costs in FY 2013.” Further, “legal services representation resulted in savings of at least \$2 million in health care costs for homeless individuals in FY 2013.”³ Similarly, the Task Force to Expand Access to Civil Legal Services in New York (New York Task Force) reported to the Chief Judge of the State of New York that legal services advocacy could produce annual savings of nearly \$1.2 million in state shelter costs.

With respect to domestic violence, MLAC reported that a conservative estimate of the direct medical costs avoided in Massachusetts because of legal services representation in FY 2013 was approximately \$4 million. These savings do not include the costs of law enforcement; this is significant because research indicates that the law enforcement costs associated with domestic violence can be as high as or higher than the medical costs.⁴ The New York Task Force projected that civil legal assistance would generate nearly \$85 million in annual savings that otherwise would be incurred to assist domestic violence survivors. The assistance LSC grantees provide

clients across the country generate similar economic benefits to their states and communities.

Increasing Number of Unrepresented Litigants

Judges across the country report that the economic downturn has not only caused a spike in the number of unrepresented litigants in civil cases (especially with respect to housing foreclosure, domestic relations, and consumer disputes), but has also negatively affected the parties themselves and the courts. In a survey of trial judges from thirty-seven states, Puerto Rico, and one Native American Court, more than 60% of the respondents reported that unrepresented litigants failed to present necessary evidence, committed procedural errors, were ineffective in witness examination, or were unable to proffer enforceable orders to the court.⁵

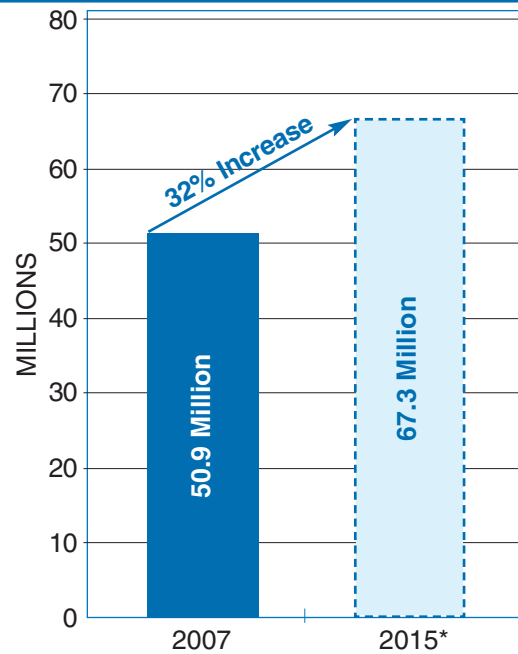
Seventy-eight percent of the judges reported that the increase in unrepresented litigants negatively affected the effectiveness and efficiency of the courts. More court staff time was required to assist unrepresented parties. In the absence of a fair presentation of relevant facts, court processes are slowed, backlogs of other court cases occur, and judges confront the challenge of maintaining impartiality while preventing injustice to unrepresented litigants.

More Americans Eligible for Legal Aid Than Ever in LSC's History

LSC estimates that the number of persons financially eligible for LSC-funded legal aid, *i.e.*, those with incomes at or below 125% of the federal poverty guideline (currently \$14,588 for an individual and \$29,813 for a family of four), will continue to be high in FY 2015. Based on the most recent information from the Bureau of the Census and the Congressional Budget Office, we estimate that 67 million people, or 21.5% of Americans, will be financially eligible for legal services in FY 2015, a 32% increase since 2007.

Eligible Poverty Population

Year	Eligible Population	Percentage of Total Population
2007	50,864,000	17.3%
2008	51,988,000	17.6%
2009	56,430,000	18.9%
2010	60,443,000	19.6%
2011	63,324,000	20.3%
2012	63,569,000	20.8%
2013*	65,654,000	21.3%
2014*	66,710,000	21.5%
2015*	67,250,000	21.5%

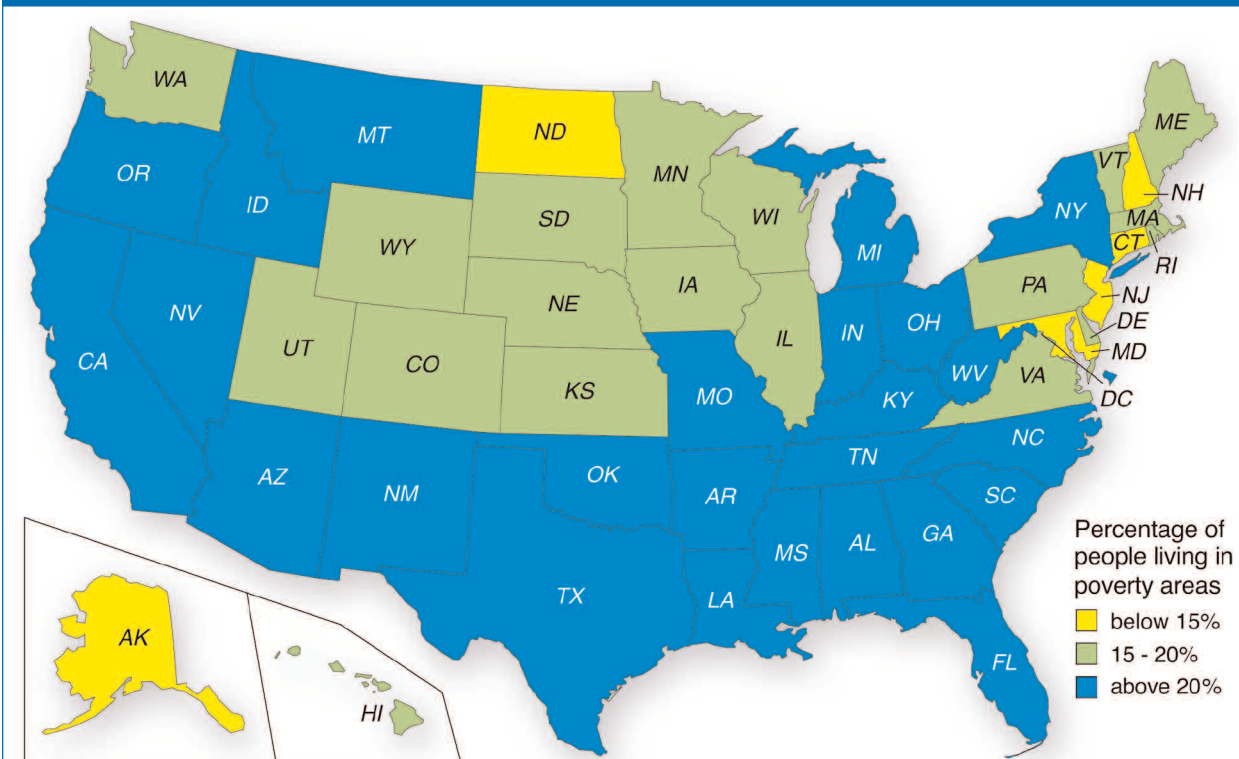


*Estimated.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2012 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table S1701: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months. Emily Monea and Isabel Sawhill, "An Update to 'Simulating the Effect of the "Great Recession" on Poverty,'" The Brookings Institution, September 13, 2011, Figure A.

The map below shows the geographic concentrations of the eligible client population—those living below 125% of the federal poverty line—in 2012. The following states have the highest concentrations of eligible client populations: Mississippi (30.7%), New Mexico (26.7%) Arkansas (25.8%), Louisiana (25.6%), Kentucky (24.8%), Alabama (24.6%), Georgia (24.6%), and Arizona (24.1%).

Geographic Location of Eligible Client Populations

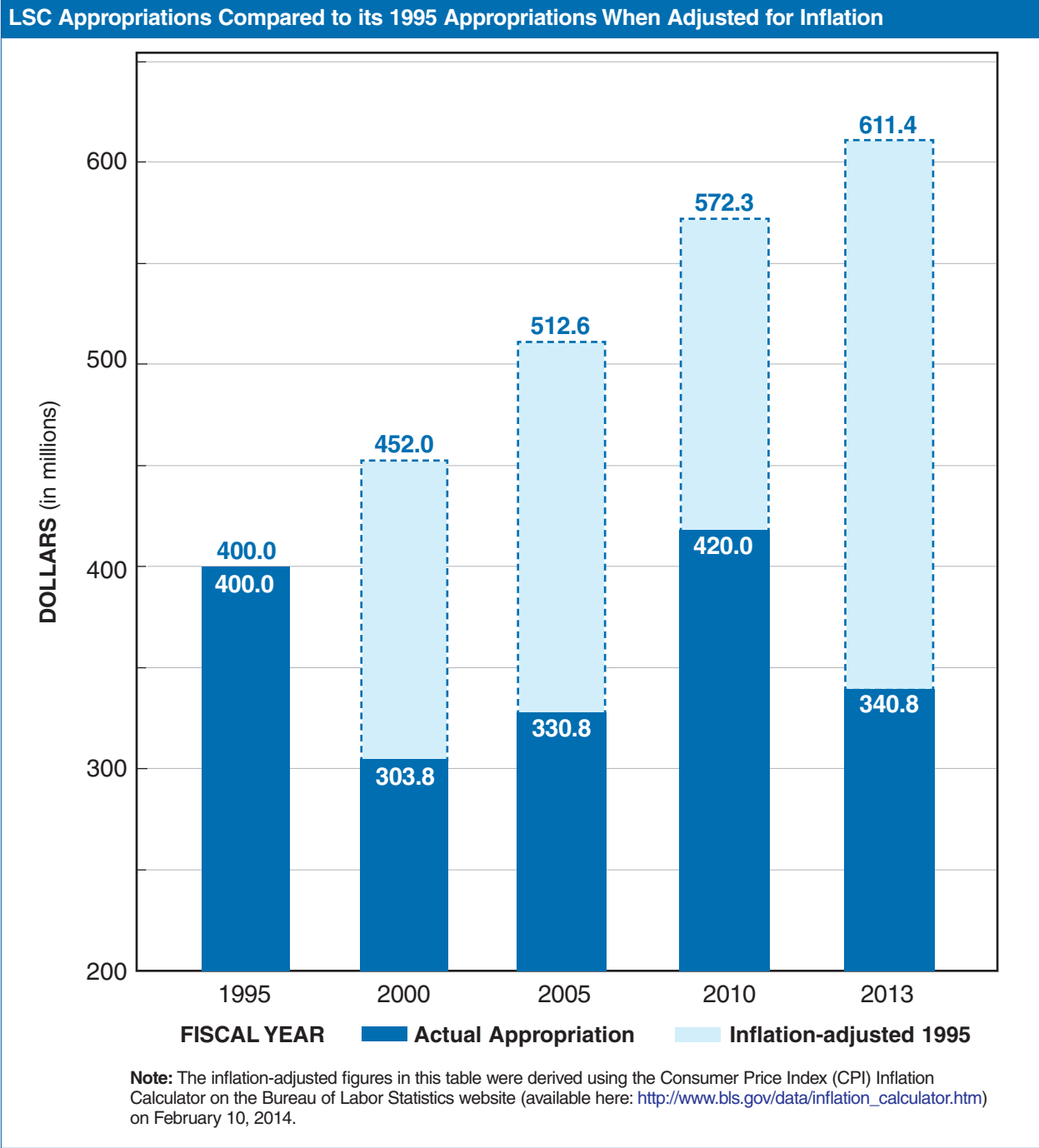


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey 1-year Estimates, Table S1701, Poverty Status in the Past 12 months.

State-by-State Basic Field Grants

State	FY 2013 Appropriation	FY 2014 Appropriation	FY 2015 LSC Request
Alabama	\$5,822,711	\$5,874,949	\$7,898,017
Alaska	1,161,139	1,175,907	1,580,837
American Samoa	268,150	217,325	292,161
Arizona	9,307,467	10,732,341	14,428,077
Arkansas	3,495,297	3,675,912	4,941,731
California	39,831,118	39,647,087	53,299,763
Colorado	3,672,953	4,546,296	6,111,836
Connecticut	2,224,330	2,393,317	3,217,468
Delaware	615,071	699,307	940,117
District of Columbia	860,414	738,114	992,287
Florida	17,399,765	20,291,479	27,278,953
Georgia	9,436,008	11,519,278	15,485,999
Guam	276,382	244,920	329,260
Hawaii	1,443,646	1,412,012	1,898,245
Idaho	1,404,376	1,675,285	2,252,178
Illinois	11,087,258	11,951,618	16,067,219
Indiana	5,191,367	6,527,592	8,775,401
Iowa	2,243,584	2,488,754	3,345,770
Kansas	2,265,044	2,566,813	3,450,707
Kentucky	5,230,679	5,401,002	7,260,865
Louisiana	6,658,535	5,635,891	7,576,639
Maine	1,241,545	1,265,520	1,701,309
Maryland	3,671,015	3,733,679	5,019,390
Massachusetts	4,773,349	4,829,805	6,492,973
Michigan	9,372,801	11,184,462	15,035,888
Micronesia	1,408,739	1,228,281	1,651,246
Minnesota	3,655,430	4,341,866	5,837,010
Mississippi	4,575,789	4,442,974	5,972,935
Missouri	5,509,259	6,022,421	8,096,273
Montana	1,190,473	1,142,170	1,535,482
Nebraska	1,426,440	1,565,657	2,104,799
Nevada	2,098,102	2,761,612	3,712,587
New Hampshire	667,657	726,780	977,050
New Jersey	5,830,195	5,868,732	7,889,659
New Mexico	3,198,081	3,261,404	4,384,485
New York	21,526,549	19,437,662	26,131,120
North Carolina	9,017,629	11,124,222	14,954,904
North Dakota	842,171	815,457	1,096,264
Ohio	10,425,642	12,143,603	16,325,314
Oklahoma	4,867,726	4,986,348	6,703,422
Oregon	3,641,495	4,244,913	5,706,670
Pennsylvania	10,906,684	11,076,450	14,890,682
Puerto Rico	14,038,780	11,386,495	15,307,492
Rhode Island	979,967	929,975	1,250,217
South Carolina	4,848,848	5,578,365	7,499,304
South Dakota	1,647,055	1,670,213	2,245,359
Tennessee	6,579,095	7,498,819	10,081,075
Texas	27,094,709	29,949,929	40,263,339
Utah	1,977,431	2,442,769	3,283,949
Vermont	460,426	476,263	640,267
Virgin Islands	253,108	161,397	216,974
Virginia	5,581,620	5,888,990	7,916,893
Washington	5,612,305	6,270,121	8,429,268
West Virginia	2,503,283	2,204,571	2,963,726
Wisconsin	4,224,927	5,045,634	6,783,124
Wyoming	601,130	577,244	776,021
TOTAL	\$316,144,749	\$335,700,000	\$451,300,000

While the overall poverty population is at an all-time high, LSC funding for legal aid organizations has declined dramatically since 2010—both in absolute terms and in inflation-adjusted dollars. LSC received its largest appropriation of \$420 million in FY 2010. LSC is currently funded at \$365 million for FY 2014, a 15% decrease from FY 2010. And if LSC’s 1995 appropriation were adjusted to keep pace with inflation, it would amount to more than \$600 million today.



Civil Legal Aid Assures Fairness in the Justice System

Civil legal aid assures fairness in the justice system for low-income people. It provides access to legal help for people to protect their livelihoods, their health, and their families. Civil legal aid makes it easier to access information, through easy-to-understand forms, legal assistance, representation, and self-help centers to enable people to know their rights. Funding for legal aid levels the playing field.

“Personal finances shouldn’t affect access to the courts, but they do. If you have an unemployed, single mother not being paid child support, how is she going to hire a lawyer? If you have somebody who is poor and who is being wrongfully evicted, or their automobile is being wrongfully repossessed, who speaks for these people?”

—Jess Hays Dickinson,
Presiding Justice, Supreme Court
of Mississippi

Civil legal aid also helps improve the efficiency of the court system and reduces court costs. The large number of unrepresented litigants creates financial and logistical burdens for courts because unrepresented litigants take significantly more of the court’s time. In New York State’s courts alone, there are more than 2 million unrepresented litigants each year. They include the most vulnerable members of society: the elderly on fixed incomes, single parents, the disabled and mentally ill, abuse victims, and so many more.⁶

When an unrepresented litigant does not understand standard procedures and paperwork, judges must spend time on the bench explaining information commonly understood by lawyers or eliciting facts that should have been presented. When one party in a case is represented by counsel and the other is not, delays and disruptions increase the cost of legal counsel for the represented party. More cases reach the courts as litigation (as opposed to settling) when one or both parties are unrepresented.

Investment in civil legal aid is one of the most effective ways to help Americans navigate the justice system and help stabilize and grow the nation’s economy. Investment in civil legal aid makes fiscal and policy sense.

Funding Cuts Jeopardize Access to Justice

Funding cuts from federal, state, local, and private sources from 2010 to 2013 reduced the ability of LSC grantees to provide critical services to the client community. Civil legal aid organizations across the country report having had to lay off staff, reduce hours, and turn away greater numbers of clients in need. In a December 2013 survey of LSC grantees, the overwhelming majority, 77% of responding programs, reported about the dire circumstances preventing them from providing services to eligible clients. Fifty-two percent noted that services to clients had fallen and observed that this was especially problematic given the significant growth in the size of the client population. Some grantees have been forced to make difficult decisions regarding which clients and cases to decline, for example; some LSC grantees are able to assist domestic violence victims only when children are involved. In short, funding cuts have resulted in more people being denied access to justice.

Inadequate funding from LSC has forced grantees to rely increasingly on special grants from other sources to provide limited-purpose services for narrow populations or particular types of cases. This has limited the ability of grantees to direct their services to the areas of greatest need. As a result, millions of clients are denied access to justice. Specific examples of the impact of funding cuts are discussed in further detail beginning on page 26.

“When large segments of the American population are denied effective access to the justice system and are unable to assert and defend effectively important civil legal rights and prerogatives, public trust and confidence in the justice system itself is placed in jeopardy.”

—Conference of Chief Justices⁷



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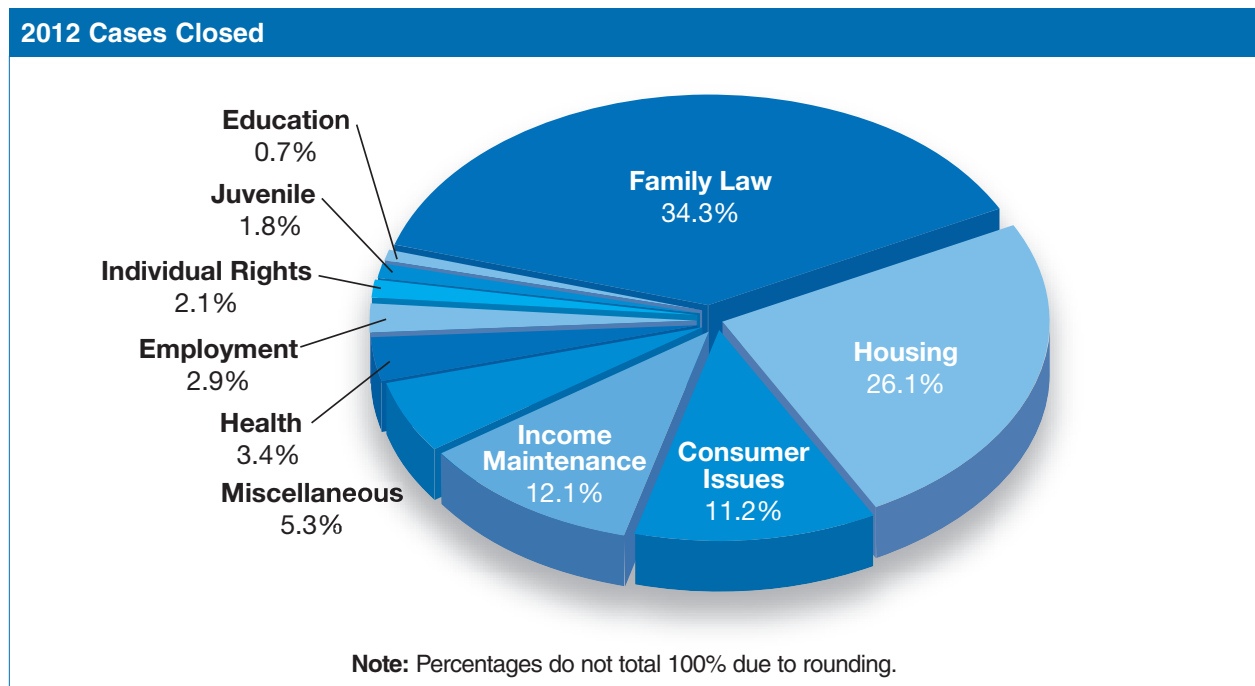
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Civil Legal Aid Provides Critical Constituent Services

LSC grantees help constituents who live in households with annual incomes at or below 125% of the federal poverty guidelines—in 2014, \$14,588 for an individual, and \$29,813 for a family of four. Eligible constituents span every demographic and live in rural, suburban, and urban areas. They include the working poor, veterans and military families, homeowners and renters, families with children, farmers, the disabled, and the elderly.

Unfortunately, millions of Americans cannot access the justice system because they cannot afford to do so. As the number of people living in poverty continues at an all-time high,⁸ many constituents are seeking legal services for the first time. Some face homelessness because of a wrongful eviction or foreclosure. Others are seeking protection from an abusive spouse, or are fighting for custody of an abused or orphaned child. They may be Iraq or Afghanistan war veterans who have returned home to economic strain and legal problems. Or they may be elderly citizens who have fallen victim to fraud and lost their life savings.

LSC-funded legal aid ensures that eligible constituents do not have to navigate the legal system alone. LSC grantees provide quality legal counsel—at no cost—to low-income constituents who could not otherwise afford an attorney. They employ experienced legal professionals who are subject-matter experts in the civil legal matters affecting the poor:



- **Family law:** LSC grantees help parents obtain or keep custody of their children, family members secure guardianship of orphaned and abused children, and victims of domestic violence get protective orders. More than one-third of all cases closed by LSC grantees are family law cases.

- **Housing and Foreclosure Cases:** The second largest category of cases closed includes efforts to resolve landlord-tenant disputes, avoid wrongful foreclosures or renegotiate mortgages, and assist renters whose landlords are being foreclosed upon.
- **Consumer Issues:** Many cases involve protecting the elderly and other vulnerable individuals from being victimized by unscrupulous lenders or merchants and providing legal advice about debt management and mitigation and consumer rights.
- **Income Maintenance:** LSC grantees also help clients obtain veterans, unemployment, disability, and healthcare benefits for which they are eligible and provide representation in cases when benefits are wrongfully denied.

LSC grantees make real, lasting differences in the lives of constituents every day.

Helping Families Stay in Homes

Almost all LSC grantees handle foreclosure cases, and more than 40 LSC grantees have established specialized foreclosure units. LSC grantees closed 18,954 foreclosure cases in 2012.

Client Story **FLORIDA**

Eric is a disabled Iraqi war veteran. After being honorably discharged from the military, Eric struggled to maintain employment and live without the income he received while he was in the service. He fell behind on his mortgage. Shortly after his discharge, he and his wife also discovered their child had developed significant physical disabilities. A foreclosure case was filed against him, and he went to Legal Services of Northern Florida (LSNF) for help. The attorney at LSNF, a certified HUD housing counselor, helped Eric get into the Florida Hardest Hit Mortgage Payment Assistance program and negotiated with the lender to completely dismiss the foreclosure.



Many homeowners facing foreclosure have legitimate legal defenses that require the skills of an experienced attorney. Low-income constituents look to legal aid attorneys to advocate on their behalf in these complex cases. LSC grantees also help homeowners trying to save their homes through loan modifications. LSC grantees have partnered with experienced pro bono attorneys and statewide groups to ensure

that low-income homeowners are treated fairly during the foreclosure process. LSC grantees expect to continue handling labor-intensive and complex foreclosure and predatory lending cases in the coming years.

Legal aid attorneys help clients renegotiate predatory loans, litigate claims to protect homeowners from unscrupulous lenders, and help tenants when a landlord's property is in foreclosure.

Protecting Victims of Domestic Violence

Family law cases represent approximately one-third of the cases closed by LSC-funded grantees each year, and the legal services provided to victims of domestic violence are among the most important. Studies show that domestic violence occurs more frequently in households facing economic stress.⁹ Victims of domestic violence often require assistance with several domestic relations matters simultaneously, including protective orders, child custody and support, and divorce.

Client Story **NEW YORK**



Pat suffered horrendous abuse from her husband for years. After she began divorce proceedings and obtained a protection order, her husband continued to harass, threaten, and stalk her. One night, he violated the protection order and beat and choked her at home until she blacked out. She woke up to the smell of her own flesh burning; he had burned her hand on a hot stove. Pat managed to break free and call for assistance at her neighbor's house. After her husband was arrested and incarcerated, a domestic violence staff attorney at Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York helped her to finalize the divorce. She says she is grateful to be alive: "I felt like an enormous weight has been lifted off my shoulders, I was free to heal."

LSC grantees are on the front lines with law enforcement authorities in protecting those facing family violence and abuse. In 2012, LSC grantees closed nearly 47,000 domestic violence cases.

Assisting Veterans and Military Families

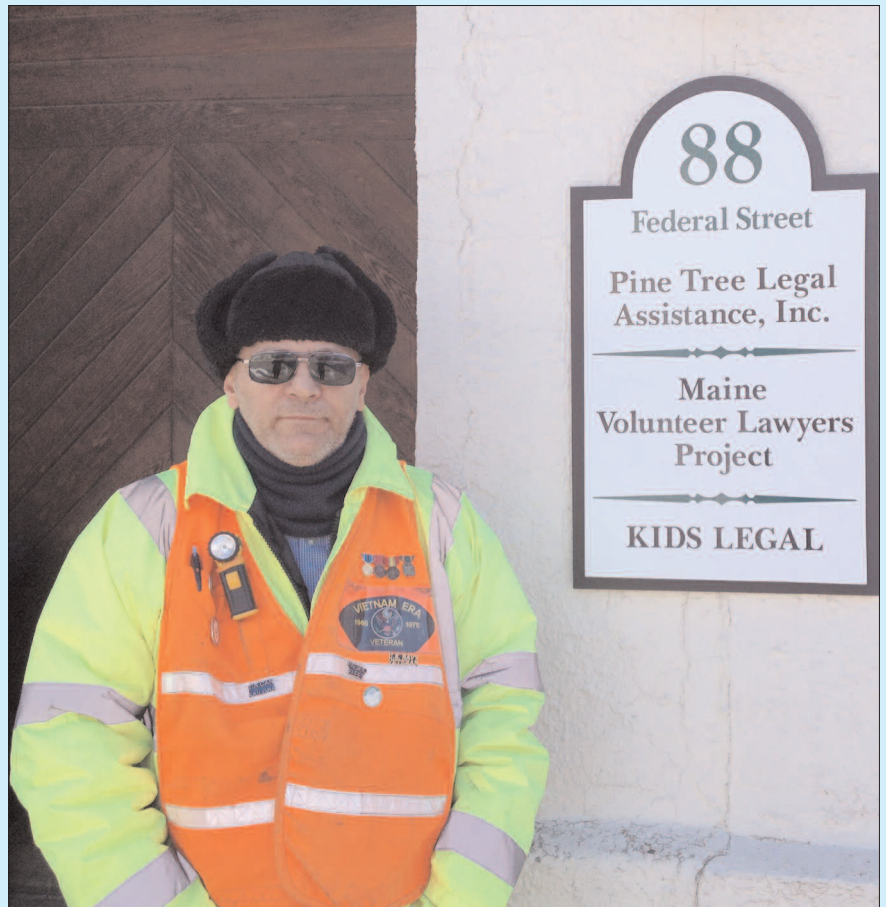
As the number of people in poverty has risen, the percentage of veterans in poverty has increased significantly—from 5.7% in 2007 to 7.2% in 2012, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. More than 1.5 million veterans are living in poverty. Poverty rates are highest for younger veterans: 11.9% of veterans between 18 and 34 years old are in poverty. Nearly one in seven homeless adults (14%) is a veteran, and 9.9% of Gulf War-era veterans were unemployed in 2012, compared to 7.9% of non-veterans.¹⁰

Many veterans who served in combat zones in Iraq and Afghanistan have come home to legal problems—such as child custody disputes, evictions, and denials of earned benefits—that LSC grantees handle regularly. A growing number of grantees are partnering with veterans' organizations, advocates, and other service providers to do outreach and expand legal services to veterans.

Client Story

MAINE

Roger is a 50-year-old Navy veteran who served from 1973 to 1986. He sought help from Pine Tree Legal Assistance regarding a guardianship matter with his children. His partner's sister had filed a legal guardianship petition in Massachusetts seeking permanent custody of both children. He was not served with the guardianship petition and had no idea what it alleged. Through the assistance of a private volunteer lawyer at Pine Tree's Volunteer Lawyers Project, the case was dismissed on jurisdictional grounds. Later in the fall, when it became apparent that the children's mother was no longer able to care for the children, Roger sought help from Pine Tree again. With the assistance of program counsel, he was able to secure primary parental rights of the children, move into a larger apartment with increased Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers, and obtain primary responsibility for the children's Social Security dependent benefits. Roger was very grateful and inspired to "pay it forward." He is now working with a pro bono attorney to form a nonprofit to help homeless veterans obtain basic necessities.



Historically, there was little collaboration between legal aid organizations and military legal assistance providers or non-lawyer veterans' advocacy organizations. But LSC and the VA have worked to change that. Under an initiative begun in 2010, LSC is working to improve access to justice for low-income military veterans and military families. As part of this initiative, LSC supports www.StatesideLegal.org, a national web-based resource developed by Pine Tree Legal Assistance in Maine with a Technology Initiative Grant from LSC. StatesideLegal.org is a free resource for low-income individuals with a military connection, including veterans, current members of the military, and their families. The website provides information on disability benefits, employment matters, and legal protections for service members facing

foreclosure proceedings. In 2013, the website had nearly 227,000 unique visitors. Frequently accessed resources in 2013 included:

- Interactive “Find Help” Map, (38,381 page views)
- How to File a VA Disability Claim (step-by-step guide) (22,843 views)
- Veterans Benefits and Child Support (20,658 views)
- Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Service members (12,342 views)
- Appealing Denials of Veterans Benefits (interactive automated form)

In conjunction with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs’ Readjustment Counseling Service, LSC began an awareness campaign known as the Vet Center Program to share information about legal services and create referral systems to help veterans obtain advice and representation in civil legal matters.

Providing Legal Services to the Elderly and Individuals with Disabilities

LSC grantees provide the elderly and people with disabilities with legal representation, information, counseling, and education in civil legal matters. Nationwide, clients who are 60 years old and over represent 14% of the clients served annually.

Client Story **ARIZONA**



Bertha is an elderly Navajo woman with limited English and a hearing impairment. She sought help from DNA People’s Legal Services in Arizona because a credit union had taken her life savings claiming that she owed more than \$2,000 for a past debt. Her account contained only social security and federal civil service retirement benefits. With the assistance of a DNA attorney, the court held that the seizing of Bertha’s funds violated federal law because those benefits are exempt from garnishment or other legal process. The purpose of these benefits is to ensure that the elderly have the necessary income to meet basic needs after a lifetime of working. Bertha’s life savings were restored; she is grateful for DNA’s assistance.

Helping Survivors of Natural Disasters

In the seven years since Hurricane Katrina, LSC has developed expertise in disaster response and built a network of legal services and other organizations to help its grantees better serve clients when disaster strikes. For the past three years, LSC assisted grantees in 38 states with disaster preparation and response.

Just a few days after Hurricane Sandy struck in 2012, legal aid programs in the hardest-hit areas of New York and New Jersey began providing assistance to survivors via telephone hotlines, FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers, neighborhood-based legal clinics, and community legal education presentations, with both online and printed information. With tens of thousands of homes destroyed by Hurricane Sandy, LSC grantees reported that clients needed legal help with a wide range of storm-related housing issues, including improper evictions, denial of insurance claims or inadequate reimbursement by insurance companies, delays in critical repairs, and home repair scams. In addition to direct service, legal aid lawyers recruited and trained pro bono attorneys and participated in long-term community recovery groups.

Congress appropriated \$1 million to LSC in the disaster relief appropriations Act of 2013 to provide storm-related legal assistance to low-income Hurricane Sandy survivors. (Sequestration reduced the appropriation to \$950,000.) In October 2013, LSC awarded grants to four legal aid organizations in New York and

Client Story **NEW YORK CITY**

Disabled and mobility-impaired residents of a five-story building in Coney Island were effectively stranded in their apartments for months after Sandy when their landlord failed to repair an elevator damaged by the storm. One second-floor tenant, a stroke victim, had to use a wheelchair to get around. His wife, a cancer patient, had to maneuver him up and down the stairs to go to the doctor. With the assistance of a legal aid lawyer, the elevator service was restored to the building in May 2013, benefitting more than 108 residents.



New Jersey to provide mobile resources, technology, pro bono assistance, and other services to help victims of Hurricane Sandy address civil legal issues resulting from the storm.

In addition to responding to specific disasters, LSC maintains regular communication with the American Red Cross and FEMA to ensure a coordinated response when disasters occur and convenes national Legal Aid Disaster Network calls to address disaster-related issues as needed. The National Disaster Legal Aid website - www.disasterlegalaid.org - is sponsored by LSC, the American Bar Association, the National Legal Aid & Defender Association, and Pro Bono Net. The website helps disaster victims recover from hurricanes, fires, floods, and other disasters.

Technology Expands Access To Justice

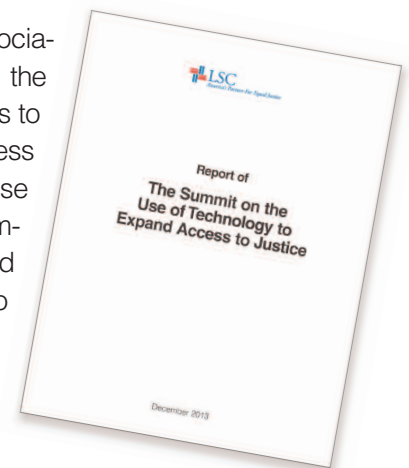
LSC employs a range of strategies to expand access to justice through the use of technology. Since 2000, LSC has awarded Technology Initiative Grants (“TIG”) to grantees with innovative and replicable projects to expand services.

The Problem: Increasing Number of Self-Represented Litigants

Courts across the country are seeing overwhelming numbers of people representing themselves in court proceedings. In some types of cases, the majority of litigants represent themselves (e.g., family law, small claims, landlord-tenant, and domestic violence). New means of assisting self-represented litigants are required to enable them to access the courts to resolve disputes. LSC has been working with legal aid programs to identify how technology can address the challenge of increasing self-representation.

The Solution: Use of Technology to Expand Services

LSC collaborated with the National Center for State Courts, the American Bar Association, the National Legal Aid & Defender Association, the New York State Courts, the Self-Represented Litigation Network, and the U.S. Department of Justice’s Access to Justice Initiative to convene a Summit on the Use of Technology to Expand Access to Justice. In December 2013, LSC released the “Report of The Summit on the Use of Technology to Expand Access to Justice.”¹¹ The report presents concrete recommendations to broaden and improve civil legal assistance through an integrated service-delivery system that brings the knowledge and wisdom of legal experts to the public through computers and mobile devices.



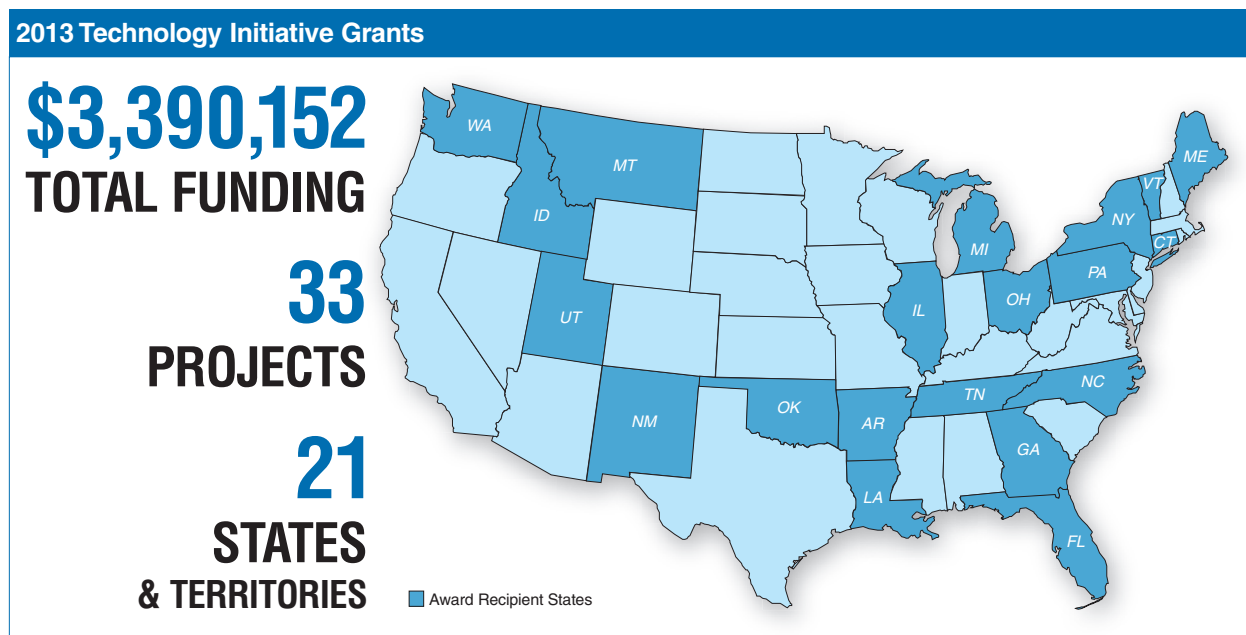
The strategy for achieving this goal includes five components:

1. Create unified “legal portals” in each state that direct persons needing legal assistance to the most appropriate form of assistance and guide self-represented litigants through the entire legal process via an automated “triage” process.
2. Deploy sophisticated but easy-to-use document-assembly applications to support the creation of legal forms and documents by both legal services providers and self-represented litigants.
3. Take advantage of mobile technologies to reach more persons more effectively.
4. Apply business process analyses to all access-to-justice processes to make them as efficient as practicable.
5. Develop “expert systems” and checklists to assist lawyers and other services providers.

Technology Initiative Grants

LSC’s Technology Initiative Grant (TIG) program has played a major role in expanding access to justice for more people. Currently, the program is funded at \$3.45 million. LSC requests \$5,000,000 for FY 2015, the same amount requested last year, to continue to build on the success of the program and to provide essential information and assistance with self-help forms.

Since its start in 2000, TIG has funded more than 525 projects totaling more than \$40 million. With these grants, LSC-funded legal services programs have been able to build a foundation for better service delivery that includes national systems for statewide websites; enhanced capacity for intake and case management systems; and automated forms to support clients, staff, and pro bono efforts. With that foundation in place, LSC is poised to expand access to justice through technology innovations.



In 2013, LSC awarded 33 grants to support a variety of initiatives, including tools to guide self-represented individuals through complex legal procedures, online support for pro bono attorneys, and improved access to legal assistance for people in remote areas. Several of the projects implement the recommendations of the Technology Summit Report.

Some examples of these innovations include:

New York Do-It-Yourself Project

Starting with a technology initiative grant in 2007, LSC's grantee in western New York collaborated with the New York Unified Courts to develop do-it-yourself forms for tenants. Today, the court has 24 different document assembly forms available for housing, consumer, family, civil, wills and estates, and guardianship cases. In 2012, these forms were completed more than 100,000 times.

These are free and easy step-by-step computer programs that ask litigants a series of questions and use the answers to prepare personalized court forms that are ready to be served and filed. Litigants can use the programs on the Internet or on terminals in courthouses. Some programs identify issues and produce information sheets.

The New York State Courts Access to Justice Program oversees the development of these programs to help unrepresented litigants navigate the court system.

Minnesota E-Filing Project

With decreasing state court budgets and increased caseloads, technology has proved a valuable, cost-effective tool to address increased demand. The challenge of the overwhelming number of self-represented litigants is pushing a drive for automated court forms to allow judges and court staff to spend less time

2013 TIG Grants (Total Funding Awarded = \$3,390,152)

State	Award Amount	Project Description
Arkansas	\$63,580	Develop a statewide online intake system that allows users to apply for services quickly and easily. Integrate the intake and case management systems. Develop an online legal assistance system for medical-legal partnerships that includes a needs assessment tool and personalized self-help information.
Connecticut	\$33,702	Create online training videos for pro bono attorneys participating in Call4Law, a statewide program that matches prescreened clients with pro bono attorneys who provide consultations by telephone.
Florida	\$122,017	Develop an online intake system that will be available in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole. In partnership with Florida public libraries, create library-focused legal aid Web portals. Provide a webinar series to keep library staff up to date on free legal information and resources available through FloridaLawHelp.org.
Georgia	\$90,832	In partnership with the National Disability Rights Network, develop a national website that will increase awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities to receive services in their communities, help people with disabilities find legal assistance and other services, and provide training and support for attorneys representing low-income clients with disabilities.
Idaho	\$693,094	Enhance A2J Author, a software program used to develop document assembly forms, and expand law school cyber clinics to increase the number of A2J developers. Enhance WriteClearly Everywhere, a national initiative focused on ensuring that online tools created by legal services organizations utilize plain language to effectively communicate information to users. Upgrade Drupal template. Integrate Idaho's statewide case management system with LawHelp Interactive, a national document assembly service.
Illinois	\$76,300	Develop a secure, enterprise-level information management system using Microsoft SharePoint to improve document management through integration of systems and robust search.
Louisiana	\$78,490	Develop online interactive training resources for new staff, law students, and pro bono attorneys. Develop a statewide online intake system that is integrated with the program's case management system.
Maine	\$121,991	Develop a sophisticated online "triage" assessment and intake system that will use search terms and information submitted by users to identify and quickly connect them to the services and/or self-help tools most likely to help them.
Michigan	\$101,600	Expand the number of automated documents and Web-based interviews available on MichiganLegalHelp.org. Conduct an in-depth evaluation of the effectiveness of the website and its affiliated self-help centers.
Micronesia	\$90,800	Expand internal capacity to communicate among the program's eight offices. Enhance the overall technology infrastructure for serving the remote island communities.
Montana	\$89,514	Develop an online child support calculator to help parents complete the proper documentation and child support calculation in accordance with the Montana Child Support Guidelines. Develop a "triage" tool and accompanying guide to help intake staff more effectively route cases and provide legal information specific to client needs. Develop online guides for users seeking legal information and resources.

(continued)

2013 TIG Grants (Total Funding Awarded = \$3,390,152) continued		
State	Award Amount	Project Description
New Mexico	\$290,180	Build a statewide, online “triage” system that will guide users through a series of questions, and then generate a customized response that includes connecting users with the organization(s) and/or resources most likely to help them. Develop a secure online “pro bono portal” that allows attorneys to assist clients remotely in a virtual law office environment.
New York	\$47,736	Add plain language guides to the program’s website and New York’s statewide legal website, LawHelpNY.org. Materials will be available in both English and Spanish and will be promoted through a webinar series targeting libraries and nonprofits throughout the region.
North Carolina	\$58,570	Expand services to rural areas and pro bono attorneys throughout the state by adopting a cloud-based videoconferencing system to connect the program’s twenty-two offices into one integrated system.
Ohio	\$649,270	Continue to enhance LawHelp Interactive, a national resource that provides high-quality document assembly forms to both legal aid advocates and pro se litigants. In 2012, LawHelp Interactive was used to complete nearly 400,000 documents.
Oklahoma	\$72,609	Develop a technology-facilitated pro bono model to increase the involvement of volunteer lawyers. Clients can utilize online guides and an automated interview to create court forms that are reviewed by pro bono attorneys.
Pennsylvania	\$71,250	Develop an automated “Divorce Tracker” tool that will guide self-represented litigants and pro bono attorneys through simple divorce cases. Develop an online intake system that will be integrated with the case management system. Develop an analytical tool to assist staff in making eligibility determinations.
Tennessee	\$107,867	Create a series of videos in English and Spanish, and captioned for the hearing impaired, that provide on-demand guidance regarding common civil legal matters. Adopt Microsoft Lync Server to facilitate Web meetings, instant messaging, and videoconferencing to improve communications between clients and their attorneys, and program staff.
Utah	\$33,950	Develop a system that enables attorneys to remotely access client case management information, pleadings and other court documents. Create an automated process to obtain electronic signatures so that intake screening is possible at any location.
Vermont	\$36,800	Develop an online intake system that will allow users to apply for services quickly and easily. Integrate the intake and case management systems.
Washington	\$460,000	Continue to enhance the Legal Services National Technology Assistance Project (NTAP), which supports and maintains a core collection of technology services and resources, provides one-on-one support and guidance to LSC-funded programs on a broad range of legal technologies, and helps programs effectively replicate successful TIG initiatives. Create a “Texting for Outcomes” system to gather information on the outcomes of limited-assistance legal hotline cases. Integrate mobile text information into the case management system. Upgrade the program’s call center.
TOTAL	\$3,390,152	

explaining filing requirements. This will allow courts to have all of the necessary and relevant information and will reduce errors by litigants. E-filing is a cost-saving measure because electronic forms take less time to file and store.

With funding from this grant, an e-filing option will create a seamless email route to send documents to the signing judge, so that the entire process can be accomplished without printing or scanning paper documents.

The goal is to develop a system that can serve as a model for other jurisdictions by demonstrating that an e-filing system is a viable tool for low-income, self-represented litigants. The grant also includes publication of *Principles and Best Practices for Access-Friendly Court Electronic Filing*. This document explains principles and best practices that help ensure that electronic court filing systems are deployed in a way that removes barriers to access, particularly for self-represented individuals.

New Mexico Statewide Online Triage Tool

New Mexico Legal Aid is creating a statewide online “triage” tool to identify and recommend the best source of assistance depending on a litigant’s circumstances, such as location, income, and language. The system will direct users to the resources and services provided by New Mexico Legal Aid and five other legal aid programs in the state in addition to court, self-help, and pro bono resources.

Texas Mobilization of DistrictLegalAid.org

Lone Star Legal Aid is revamping DisasterLegalAid.org (DLA) to make it more accessible for mobile devices. Recognizing that disasters can bring system outages, Lone Star Legal Aid is designing a mobile Interactive Legal Information Delivery System (I-LIDS) system for disaster survivors who may find themselves in areas without dependable web access. Using commercially available, off-the-shelf components, the project will assemble, configure, and deploy several I-LIDS systems that combine Bluetooth and Wi-Fi signals to communicate with people in close proximity to the I-LIDS unit. I-LIDS will quickly and conveniently deliver helpful, wireless, paperless information. Lone Star plans to deploy an easily replicable concept tailored for disaster relief that could be used anywhere.

Mobile devices are the fastest-growing portal low-income persons have to the Internet, and LSC intends to work with its grantees to ensure that websites and automated forms are optimized for use on mobile devices. The use of text messaging needs to be integrated into delivery systems to provide legal information on demand and reminders for appointments, deadlines, and court hearings.

TIG Conferences

Since 2000, LSC has hosted an annual technology conference that brings together LSC grantees and members of the technology community to explore effective uses of technology in legal aid and to cultivate project ideas that could lead to successful TIG applications.

The TIG conference is the only national event focused exclusively on the use of technology in the legal aid community.

All LSC recipients of Technology Initiative Grants are required to attend this conference. Session topics cover a range of issues, such as how the use of technology can enhance internal legal services operations, improve client services, address access issues, and effectively provide legal information to low-income people. Sessions also cover management of TIG projects, including reporting and evaluation requirements.

Investing in Pro Bono

Pro Bono Innovation Fund

LSC requests \$5,000,000 for its Pro Bono Innovation Fund—the same amount requested for FY 2014. This represents approximately 1% of the overall budget request. The Innovation Fund supports new and innovative projects that promote and enhance pro bono initiatives throughout the country. It leverages federal dollars to increase free legal aid for low income Americans by engaging private sector legal practitioners.

“The reality is that effective pro bono service by attorneys in private practice is possible only if these attorneys can rely upon the expertise and consistent community presence of LSC programs. Pro bono is not a panacea. All too often, pro bono is not available or appropriate for a wide range of matters and are often endemic in smaller cities and rural areas. Without a strong core of full-time advocates, pro bono simply does not work.”

—**Esther F. Lardent, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Pro Bono Institute**

For FY 2014, Congress appropriated \$2.5 million for the Pro Bono Innovation Fund, and LSC has begun the process of creating a new competitive grant program, modeled on the successful TIG program.

Although pro bono volunteers cannot replace the excellent work of legal aid lawyers, many of whom are subject-matter experts in the issues facing the poor, the private bar has been and continues to be a critical resource in addressing the civil legal needs of the low-income community. Private practitioners, government attorneys, in-house counsel, retired lawyers, law students, and paralegals are eager to assist by donating their time.

Pro Bono Contributions Help Narrow the Justice Gap

LSC grantees have routinely partnered with the private bar. In 2012, pro bono attorneys closed 80,209 cases for LSC-funded organizations—a 38.9% increase from 2008. This significant contribution of volunteer time underscores the success of LSC grantees in building public-private partnerships.

Creating and maintaining robust and effective pro bono initiatives requires the investment of considerable time, infrastructure, relationship-building, training, coordination, oversight, and investment from LSC grantees.

Successful Collaborations

Many LSC grantees across the country have developed innovative ways to increase pro bono activity within their communities. The following are a few examples of successful pro bono partnerships that LSC grantees have forged.

Pittsburgh Pro Bono Partnership

In 2001, Neighborhood Legal Services in Pittsburgh PA established the Pittsburgh Pro Bono Partnership (“Partnership”), the first such project in the community. The Partnership is now made up of 35 corporate and government legal departments and law firms and is recognized as a leader in promoting and enhancing pro bono in Allegheny County and the surrounding area. The Partnership includes training and support clinics for volunteer attorneys in subject areas with which they are unfamiliar.



The Partnership's innovative approach to providing pro bono assistance allowed nearly 600 families to receive legal assistance last year. Projects included:

- Assisting the elderly with simple wills and powers of attorney matters
- Helping parents in child custody cases
- Assisting low-income veterans obtain earned benefits and secure affordable housing
- Providing legal counsel for children in court-appointed guardian cases
- Representing people who have been wrongly denied unemployment compensation benefits

Arkansas Pro Bono Partnership

Established in 2003, the Arkansas Pro Bono Partnership serves as a statewide registration and support system to expand the pool of attorneys volunteering to meet the civil legal needs of low-income Arkansans.



With a commitment to further encourage and expand volunteerism among Arkansas lawyers, the Pro Bono Partnership works with a number of community partners, including the Arkansas Bar Association, local bar associations, the Arkansas Access to Justice Commission, the University of Arkansas School of Law, the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Bowen School of Law, Wal-Mart Legal, Entergy Legal Department, and Arkansas law firms.

Through the statewide Arkansas Legal Services Partnership website, the Partnership provides resources for use in pro bono practice. In 2012, there were 907 registered advocate members. The Partnership provides malpractice insurance coverage, CLE seminars at reduced rates, and a monthly e-newsletter that features available pro bono cases by county.

The Partnership developed and launched the first interactive pro bono mobile application free of charge through iTunes. Licensed Arkansas attorneys can view pro bono cases, sort through those cases based on legal topic and county, and request cases with a push of a button, all through their smart phones.

Virginia Pro Bono Partnership

Former Virginia Supreme Court Chief Justice Leroy Hassell, Sr. convened the first Virginia Pro Bono Summit in 2010. Since then, Virginia has seen three key accomplishments:

- Because of a rule change in 2011, certified in-house corporate attorneys can provide pro bono services, subject to the same conditions that apply to the services they provide their employers. As a result, more than 800 certified in-house attorneys in Virginia can provide assistance to low-income individuals and families.
- Developed in partnership with Capitol One and other organizations, "Justice Server" is a new online case-management system that enables attorneys to assist pro bono clients with matters posted by legal aid organizations. The system is designed to better link thousands of clients in need with pro bono counsel located throughout the state.
- Established the Virginia Bar Association Veterans Initiative.



Pro Bono Innovation Fund: Program Description

Purpose

The purpose of the Pro Bono Innovation Fund is to encourage LSC grantees to develop strong pro bono programs that serve larger numbers of low-income clients. The Fund will support innovations that expand the delivery of pro bono legal services. The grant criteria will require both innovation (new ideas or new applications of existing best practices) and replicability (likelihood that the innovation, if successful, could be implemented by other legal aid programs). To ensure accountability, LSC will require Innovation Fund projects to evaluate their experience and report their results to LSC.

The award of an innovation grant is not meant to substitute for, or be credited against, LSC's long-standing regulatory requirement that LSC recipients spend an amount equivalent to 12.5 percent of their annualized basic field award to involve private attorneys in the delivery of legal assistance to eligible clients. See 45 C.F.R. § 1614.1(a).

Eligible Applicants

The Innovation Fund will provide grants to existing LSC grantee organizations. Other organizations and entities are not eligible to apply directly to LSC for Innovation Fund grants, but are encouraged to collaborate and participate as project partners or sub-grantees with LSC grantees.

Project Design Elements

The Innovation Fund's grant-making design is structured with the findings of the Pro Bono Task Force in mind. The design is focused on addressing persistent challenges in pro bono delivery systems and on expanding the engagement of private lawyers, law students, law graduates, and other professionals in addressing unmet civil legal needs for low-income clients. Successful Innovation Fund applicants will propose projects that address the following elements:

- **Engaging more lawyers in pro bono service:** Projects should effectively engage different or more segments of the bar, such as solo practitioners, in-house corporate counsel, law students, and government attorneys. Projects can target pro bono programs for specialized practitioners or bar associations.
- **Addressing gaps in service:** Gaps in services may be hard-to-reach clients such as rural populations, limited-English proficient individuals, or people with special legal issues such as children, older Americans, veterans, human trafficking victims, or individuals with disabilities.
- **Addressing persistent challenges in pro bono delivery systems:** Projects will also employ innovative strategies or promising practices that address persistent challenges in the pro bono delivery system. These may include efforts to improve screening, coordination and referral of cases within a legal community; improving efficiency and expanding collaboration and resource-sharing with other service providers or stakeholders in a city, state, or region; and providing effective orientation, training, legal resources, and mentors for pro bono volunteers.

Award Period

Applicants may propose project terms between 18 and 24 months, with three additional months added to the grant term for evaluation and final reporting.

Impact of Census Adjustment

Changes in the location of the poverty population from 2000 to 2010 resulted in a significant reallocation of funding to LSC grantees in 2013 and 2014. From 1996 to 2012, LSC's appropriations required LSC to distribute basic field grant funds using the Census Bureau's Decennial Census poverty data. Because the 2010 Decennial Census did not collect poverty data, Congress made the following changes in the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2013:

- Eliminated the decennial census reference
- Authorized the U.S. Census Bureau to determine the data LSC should use in the future
- Directed LSC to recalculate the eligible poverty populations in its service areas every three years (as opposed to every ten years)
- Provided that the change should be phased in over two years

LSC implemented 50% of the change in the second half of 2013 and implemented the entire change in 2014. LSC's reapportionment is based on the change in a grantee's *percentage-share* of the nation's poverty population since the last reapportionment.

Thirty jurisdictions have experienced census-based reductions in LSC funding because of changes in the distribution of the poverty population across the country. Sixteen have experienced cuts of at least 10%, and ten have experienced cuts of more than 20%. Twenty-five of the 30 jurisdictions experiencing census-based funding reductions saw *increases* in the absolute size of their poverty populations between 2000 and 2011; the reductions were only in their *share* of the U.S. poverty population. For example:

- **California** has nearly 1 million more people in poverty, but its LSC funding was cut by 9%.
- **Maryland** has 107,000 more people in poverty, but its LSC funding was cut by 6%.
- **Mississippi** has 90,000 more people in poverty, but its LSC funding was cut by 12%.
- **New Mexico** has nearly 75,000 more people in poverty, but its LSC funding was cut by 6.5%.
- **New York** has 150,000 more people in poverty, but its LSC funding was cut by 20%.

Other states with significant increases in their share of the poverty population since 2000 saw increases to their LSC funding. For example:

- **Florida** has 1 million more people in poverty, and its LSC funding increased by nearly 15%.
- **Ohio** has 600,000 more people in poverty, and its LSC funding increased by 14.6%.
- **Texas** has 1.3 million more people in poverty, and its LSC funding increased by 6%.

Changes in LSC Funding by State Due to Census Adjustments				
State	Poverty Population	Increase/Decrease in Poverty Population since 2000 Census	Percent Change in Poverty Population since 2000 Census	Percent Change in LSC Funding Based on Full Census Adjustment
Alabama	859,895	161,798	23.2%	-7.0%
Alaska	94,485	14,080	17.5%	-11.3%
Arizona	1,104,800	381,935	52.8%	19.4%
Arkansas	538,030	126,253	30.7%	-1.4%
California	5,676,185	970,055	20.6%	-9.0%
Colorado	651,640	262,688	67.5%	26.5%
Connecticut	350,440	90,926	35.0%	1.9%
Delaware	102,355	32,454	46.4%	10.5%
DC	108,035	-1,465	-1.3%	-25.5%
Florida	2,969,990	1,017,361	52.1%	14.8%
Georgia	1,686,035	652,242	63.1%	23.1%
Hawaii	173,791	23,352	15.5%	-12.8%
Idaho	235,880	87,148	58.6%	19.7%
Illinois	1,749,315	457,357	35.4%	2.2%
Indiana	955,420	395,936	70.8%	28.9%
Iowa	364,270	106,262	41.2%	6.6%
Kansas	375,695	117,866	45.7%	10.0%
Kentucky	790,525	169,429	27.3%	-3.9%
Louisiana	824,905	-26,208	-3.1%	-26.8%
Maine	168,370	32,869	24.3%	-6.0%
Maryland	546,485	107,809	24.6%	-6.0%
Massachusetts	709,305	135,884	23.7%	-6.7%
Michigan	1,613,400	591,795	57.9%	19.2%
Minnesota	601,200	220,724	58.0%	19.3%
Mississippi	638,370	90,291	16.5%	-12.1%
Missouri	881,480	243,589	38.2%	4.3%
Montana	144,320	15,965	12.4%	-15.1%
Nebraska	224,415	63,146	39.2%	5.0%
Nevada	385,120	179,435	87.2%	41.3%
New Hampshire	107,800	29,270	37.3%	3.7%
New Jersey	858,985	159,317	22.8%	-7.3%
New Mexico	407,405	102,668	33.7%	-6.5%
New York	2,845,020	152,818	5.7%	-20.2%
North Carolina	1,596,885	638,218	66.6%	25.7%
North Dakota	80,690	7,233	9.8%	-17.1%
Ohio	1,777,415	606,717	51.8%	14.6%
Oklahoma	612,305	121,070	24.6%	-5.9%
Oregon	594,815	206,075	53.0%	15.5%
Pennsylvania	1,621,220	317,103	24.3%	-6.2%
Rhode Island	136,370	15,822	13.1%	-14.6%
South Carolina	816,485	268,616	49.0%	12.5%
South Dakota	110,440	14,540	15.2%	-13.1%
Tennessee	1,097,575	350,786	47.0%	10.9%
Texas	4,379,170	1,261,561	40.5%	6.0%
Utah	345,730	139,402	67.6%	26.5%
Vermont	70,870	15,364	27.7%	-3.7%
Virginia	861,950	205,309	31.3%	-0.9%
Washington	876,845	264,475	43.2%	8.1%
West Virginia	322,675	6,881	2.2%	-22.9%
Wisconsin	716,245	264,707	58.6%	19.7%
Wyoming	59,685	4,908	9.0%	-17.8%
TERRITORIES				
American Samoa	31,809	-2,936	-8.5%	-30.9%
Guam	35,848	1,056	3.0%	-22.2%
Micronesia	179,779	1,462	0.8%	-23.9%
Puerto Rico	1,666,600	-152,087	-8.4%	-30.8%
Virgin Islands	23,623	-11,308	-32.4%	-49.0%

Notes:

(1) **Poverty population data.** "Poverty Population" from U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates, data provided LSC pursuant to PL Sample Data (with statutorily required adjustments for AK and HI); data for territories other than Puerto Rico from U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census, DP-3-Geography [for each territory], Profile of Selected Economic Characteristics: 2010. Poverty population data for Micronesia based on U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census, DP-3-Geography for Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, Profile of Selected Economic Characteristics: 2010, and data from the governments of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. "Percentage Change in Poverty Population Since 2000 Census" calculated using 2011 ACS Data and 2000 Census data from the LSC Office of Information Management.

(2) **Percentage change in LSC Funding** based on difference between FY2013 appropriation level with no census adjustment and the FY2013 appropriation level with full census adjustment. Excludes Native American funding, because these funds are not allocated based on the distribution of the poverty population.

Impact of Sequestration and Funding Cuts in 2013

LSC conducted a survey of its grantees to determine the impact of sequestration and funding cuts on their operations and services in 2013. Each grantee was asked to provide data regarding its staffing, number of offices, intake, case priorities, and staff compensation. The overwhelming majority of the programs, 77%, reported about dire circumstances hampering their efforts to provide services to clients.¹² Nearly all of the respondents noted that services to clients had been reduced and observed that this was especially problematic given the significant growth in the size of the eligible client population. In short, more people are being denied access to justice.

Grantees identified the following issues undermining the quantity and quality of services available.

- 32% reported that they could not recruit and retain high-quality staff because of the combination of low salaries—caused by years of salary freezes or reductions in compensation—and burnout and poor morale.
- 29% emphasized severe problems with staff morale. Staff are disheartened by their inability to serve clients with pressing legal needs, on-going reductions in program capacity, and uncertainty about if and when circumstances might improve.
- 20% described ways that their fundamental effectiveness and efficiency had been significantly undermined due to erosion of core capacities and functions, such as planning, management and oversight, access to clients in rural areas or with special needs, and technology investments.
- 15% reported that their reputation and credibility with the client community, the courts, the private bar, and other community agencies had been compromised.
- 14% stated that funding sources secured to offset LSC funding losses were for restricted or targeted work, which typically did not focus on the most pressing needs of clients.

The funding provided by LSC allows grantees to provide critical legal assistance on a wide range of needs of the client population. The reduction in LSC funds over the past several years forced grantees to rely increasingly on other special grants to provide specific services for limited cases or targeted populations. This has reduced the ability of grantees to address priorities based on the needs of their low-income community.

Staffing Reductions

Nearly half of the survey respondents reported that they reduced staff in 2013. The staffing reductions not only reduced the number of clients that were served, but also eroded the grantee's programmatic capacity to provide the highest quality legal services. The departure of experienced staff undermined program planning, supervision and oversight. For example:

California

- 30% loss of program staff since 2012 at Legal Aid of Orange County
- 20% loss of staff at Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles since 2012

Massachusetts

- 7.5% reduction in staff since 2011

Mississippi

- 15% loss of staff in 2013, including employees with more than 30 years of experience

New Jersey

- More than 50% loss of staff over the past three years at Northeast New Jersey, resulting in 6,000 fewer clients served
- Loss of a third of the staff since 2010 at Essex-Newark Legal Services

New York

- 28% loss of staff since 2011 at Legal Services NYC, for a total of 110 employees

Texas

- 15% loss of staff in 2013 at the Texas Rio Grande program, as well as an across-the-board salary reduction of 6.25%, elimination of pension payments, reduction in insurance benefits, and 4,000 fewer eligible clients served in 2013

Office Closures

Many LSC-funded programs have had to close offices in 2013. This has largely affected rural offices that often are the only means of getting assistance to remote areas. Clients are now forced to drive hundreds of miles to see a lawyer. Highlights include:

- **Alabama** – An office closure serving rural communities affected 50,000 eligible clients.
- **Georgia** – An office in the largest city in the south-central region serving 10 surrounding counties closed. Program staff will now have to drive up to 200 miles to assist clients.
- **Kentucky** – Two offices in rural counties were closed, affecting the poorest population in the state.
- **Virginia** – A rural office that had been serving clients for 35 years in 2013 closed. The area is now served by offices that are 90 minutes away, and there is no public transportation available.

“We had to shut down intake for a month or two in a few offices due to shortage of staff.”

—**Dakota Plains Legal Services**

Intake Changes

Nearly half of LSC grantees responding to the survey reported that in 2013 they were forced to reduce client intake services by cutting days, hours, and locations. Highlights include:

- 38% of LSC grantees reduced the number of intake days and hours.
- 25% eliminated intake locations.
- 17% temporarily suspended intake at one or more offices.

Staff Compensation

Nearly one-third of grantees reduced staff compensation rather than laying off staff. Morale suffers, as salaries for legal aid lawyers continue to be the lowest in the legal profession, even lower than public interest lawyers (see the chart on page 32).

Impact on Program Services

Because of shrinking resources, grantees have had to reduce the type of assistance they provide to clients. Fifty-two percent of grantees reported that in 2013 they changed case-acceptance policies, narrowed program priorities, or implemented similar measures that adversely affected client services. Programs reported that they implemented one or more of the following changes:

- 30% of LSC grantees reduced services by lowering income-eligibility limits, restricting overall case-acceptance standards, eliminating practice areas, or prioritizing cases with a high likelihood of success.
- 24% reduced the number of cases in which they provided extended representation.
- 39% reduced family law cases, such as eliminating specific types of cases (*e.g.*, contested divorces, custody).
- 27% reduced services to victims of domestic violence, *e.g.*, restricting services to cases where the victim had children, eliminating services in particular jurisdictions or not accepting referrals from outside agencies, limiting representation to securing protective orders, or restricting representation to emergency circumstances or the “most egregious fact patterns.”
- 22% reduced representation in housing matters, *e.g.*, evictions and foreclosures.
- 21% reduced services in consumer cases, *e.g.*, bankruptcy, predatory lending, or consumer debt.

Management Focus On Oversight and Accountability

LSC requests \$19,500,000 for Management and Grants Oversight (MGO), the same amount requested for the past five years. Congress appropriated \$18 million for MGO in FY 2014.

The proposed MGO budget would allow LSC to continue to improve oversight, to add staff in the Office of Compliance and Enforcement (OCE) and the Office of Program Performance (OPP), to increase the number of grantee visits, to enhance compliance with good fiscal practice and regulatory and statutory requirements, and to improve service delivery to clients. We plan to continue projects to upgrade our information technology systems. The proposed budget would also permit implementation of improved collection and analysis of data regarding grantee performance.

Recent Oversight Initiatives

- The role of Fiscal Compliance Specialists (FCS) in the grant competition process has been expanded. FCS now make recommendations regarding whether an applicant should receive funding and, if so, for how long and whether special grant conditions should be imposed on that funding. In advance of the 2014 application cycle, all FCS were involved in drafting new fiscal questions to be included in the grant application as well as in developing standard scoring criteria to be used in assessing each application from a fiscal perspective.
- OPP initiated a new tracking system as part of the application evaluation process to gauge grantee implementation of prior program quality visit recommendations. This system allows LSC to better evaluate programmatic strength of grant applicants.
- OCE began including review of Technology Initiative Grants as part of all standard on-site compliance reviews. After spending several months developing a training program and a protocol for reviewing TIGs, this initiative was launched in late February 2013. For all full compliance reviews scheduled since that time, if the program had a TIG grant that was active during the five-year period prior to the review date, the review team interviews staff and reviews documents to determine whether the recipient's use of the funds complied with the LSC Act, regulations, and TIG Grant Assurances, as well as other guidance—such as the Accounting Guide for LSC Recipients.
- OCE made compliance-related presentations at the January 2013 TIG Conference and the November 2013 Conference of the National Legal Aid & Defenders Association.
- OCE increased the number of Executive Director Orientation webinars in 2013 to introduce new executive directors to important compliance, data, and fiscal requirements. Two webinars were conducted in 2012; eight were conducted in 2013.

Enhanced Business-Oriented Management

LSC continues to enhance its internal operations. We revised policies on ethics, conflicts of interest (including issuing an annual survey to LSC staff), and whistleblowing; improved communication and reporting between internal offices; and established staff and management training programs.

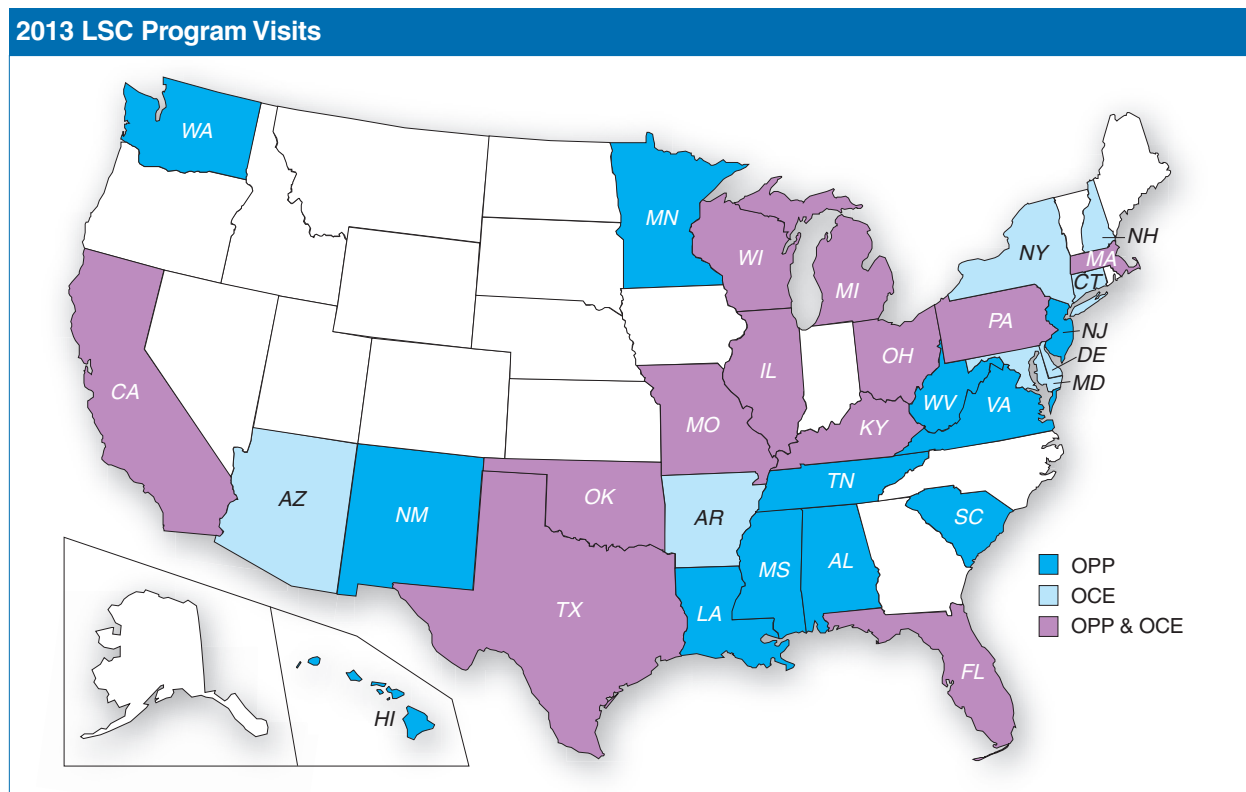
To help leverage the value of LSC's federal appropriations with private sources, LSC hired a Chief Development Officer in 2013 who is responsible for managing the Corporation's fundraising efforts.

Update on GAO Recommendations

LSC has made significant progress in implementing the recommendations of the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) 2010 report on LSC's Grant Awards and Grantee Program Effectiveness. To date, the GAO has closed 14 of its 17 recommendations. LSC continues to make significant progress on the remaining open recommendations. With respect to the two recommendations regarding LSC's performance measures, the GAO has determined that LSC has taken substantial action on these measures and has informed LSC that it is satisfied with the policies and procedures that LSC has developed. LSC will submit quarterly assessments of its progress against its 2014 performance measures to GAO and request a close-out in April 2014. The final recommendation involves LSC's staff performance evaluation system; LSC management has developed a new employee evaluation system. By the end of the first quarter 2014, LSC will conduct trainings for office directors and managers to develop employee performance plans linked to the Corporation's strategic goals. LSC expects to close this recommendation in 2014.

Oversight Visits Completed in 2013

LSC's Office of Program Performance (OPP) continues to invest resources in program quality visits, program engagement visits, capability assessment visits, technical assistance, and other initiatives for grantee support. OPP has the primary responsibility for administering the competitive grants application and awards process, sharing best practices for providing high quality civil legal services, and promoting innovative uses of technology by grantees.



In 2013, OPP conducted 38 onsite visits—20 program quality visits, 18 program engagement visits, and one capability assessment—in Alabama, California, Florida, Guam, Hawaii, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Micronesia, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. OPP anticipates completing 34 onsite visits in 2014.

LSC's Office of Compliance and Enforcement (OCE) has the primary responsibility for monitoring grantee compliance with the LSC Act, regulations, and funding restrictions. OCE also enforces LSC's Accounting Guide; conducts oversight reviews regarding compliance with the LSC Act and other LSC guidance, including fiscal-related regulations; initiates questioned-cost proceedings; identifies required corrective actions and necessary follow-ups; and provides technical assistance and training to grantees.

In 2013, OCE conducted 26 onsite visits—23 compliance oversight visits, one training visit, one capability assessment, and one limited fiscal investigation—in Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Wisconsin.

In addition, OCE conducted web-based trainings for 10 programs—in Connecticut, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, Puerto Rico, Texas and Virginia. OCE anticipates completing between 24-28 onsite visits in 2014.

LSC continues to take appropriate corrective actions against grantees that do not comply with the LSC Act and other laws and regulations. Questioned-cost proceedings were completed against four grantees in 2013.

Going Forward

LSC will continue to work with its grantees to maximize their efficiency, effectiveness, and quality; to promote innovation in the delivery of legal services; and to serve as many constituents as possible. Enhanced oversight and additional training will help ensure that LSC funds are well managed and efficiently spent to provide civil legal assistance to clients and to help grantees improve their effectiveness. Increased funding will help meet the critical needs of grantees and the low-income clients they serve and enable LSC to serve to promote and achieve high standards of fiscal responsibility.

This year marks LSC's 40th anniversary. In 2014 and 2015, LSC will launch a groundbreaking campaign to fund new projects and programs with private funding that will build on congressional support and extend the work of civil legal aid providers around the country. The campaign focuses on expanding access to justice through technology, new service initiatives, fellowships, and leadership development for LSC grantees. The service initiatives will include programs to attract and provide private funding for lawyers and law students to serve clients in need through a summer rural legal summer corps and senior pro bono fellows program. Also, because leadership at LSC-funded programs will likely turn over in the next decade, LSC aims to prepare the next generation of leaders to meet the challenges of a modern legal aid program by convening a biennial conference to highlight best practices, and a leadership conference to provide training in leadership, business management, and collaboration skills.



Loan Repayment Assistance Program

LSC requests \$1,000,000 for the Herbert S. Garten Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) for FY 2015, the same amount appropriated annually (pre-sequestration or rescission adjustments) since FY 2009.

Started as a pilot program in 2005, LRAP has enabled LSC grantees to recruit and retain high-quality attorneys. Past evaluations of the program show that large law school loan debts for legal aid attorneys, coupled with low salaries, constitute major barriers for grantees in hiring and retaining talented lawyers. The evaluations found that LRAP mitigates the economic hardships confronting grantee attorneys and increases their ability and willingness to stay with their legal aid organizations.

To qualify for LSC's Loan Repayment Assistance Program, an attorney must:

- Be a full-time employee of an LSC grantee
- Have tenure of no more than five years with the LSC-funded organization
- Have at least \$50,000 in qualifying law school debt
- Have a total income (from all sources) of no more than \$55,000 (\$61,300 for employees of Alaska Legal Services Corporation)
- Have a net worth of no more than \$35,000

Studies consistently show that civil legal aid lawyers are the lowest paid group in the entire legal profession, earning less than public defenders and other public interest lawyers.¹³ The gap between private sector

and public interest lawyer salaries remains large. According to the National Association for Law Placement, entry-level civil legal aid lawyers earn a median salary of \$42,800, and a legal aid attorney with 11-15 years of experience can expect a salary of about \$65,000. In contrast, the median salary for first-year lawyers at private firms with 50 or fewer attorneys is \$80,000, and higher for larger firms.

Even among attorneys in public service, the median starting salary for civil legal aid lawyers is approximately \$7,000 less than both public defenders (\$50,500) and prosecuting attorneys (\$50,000). NALP's findings are consistent with LSC's own salary surveys, which show that in 2012, first-

year staff attorneys at LSC grantees were paid an average of \$41,528 a year, and attorneys with 10-to-14 years of experience averaged \$59,771.

In 2013, LSC's LRAP received 252 applications (new and renewal) from attorneys at 85 grantee offices in 44 states and Puerto Rico. The average law school debt for first-year applicants was \$120,000. LSC provided loan repayment assistance to 199 of those 252 applicants, including 73 new LRAP participants. The FY 2014 request for \$1 million would permit LSC to assist 75 new attorneys for three years.

Median Starting Salaries for Attorneys	
Category	Salary
Private Lawyers	\$125,000
Local Prosecutors	\$50,000
Public Defenders	\$50,500
Other Public Interest Lawyers	\$45,000
Civil Legal Aid Attorneys	\$42,800

Source: National Association for Law Placement, 2012 Public Sector & Public Interest Attorney Salary Report

Office of Inspector General

(This section was prepared by the OIG and included without change.)

For FY 2015, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) is requesting \$4,200,000. The OIG request is less than 1% of the total LSC budget request and takes into account existing constraints on LSC funding. The OIG appreciates the continuing support of the Congress as it carries out its work. The requested funding will enable the OIG to continue to perform its statutorily mandated functions and to provide objective, relevant and timely reporting to the Congress and LSC on core management and oversight issues; thereby increasing public confidence in the proper expenditure of limited LSC funds.

The OIG is an independent office within LSC whose dual statutory mission is to promote economy and efficiency and to combat fraud and abuse in the programs and operations of LSC and its grantees. The OIG is charged with keeping the Congress and LSC's Board of Directors fully informed about significant issues affecting these programs. Pursuant to LSC's annual appropriation acts, the OIG also assists in monitoring grantee compliance with congressional restrictions through its oversight of the annual financial and compliance audits of LSC grantees. The OIG is further authorized to conduct direct reviews of grantee operations.

FY 2013 Highlights

Highlights from FY 2013 OIG activities include:

- 55 OIG recommendations for improvements to LSC Grantees
- 132 grantee audit reports reviewed
- 8 OIG audit reports issued (reviewing \$29.9 million in LSC grant funds)
- 30 grantee audit quality control reviews
- 23 closed investigations
- 20 fraud prevention briefings and 1 nationwide fraud awareness webinar
- \$301,577 in questioned costs
- \$85,328 in court-ordered investigative recoveries
- Issued summary reports on the fraud vulnerability assessments and regulatory vulnerability assessments programs
- Recommended improvements to LSC's grantee enforcement mechanisms
- Issued advisories and commented on LSC initiatives including: risk management program, conflicts of interest policy, procurement management, and IT planning
- Received the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency Award for Excellence for the OIG's innovative regulatory vulnerability assessment program

The activities of the office are presented in detail in its Semiannual Reports to Congress, available on the OIG website at <http://www.oig.lsc.gov/sar/sar.htm>.

FY 2015 Plan

In FY 2015 the OIG will use its ongoing risk assessments and strategic plan to determine the assignment of OIG resources. Generally, the OIG allocates priority to the following areas of work: governance and accountability, fraud prevention and detection, statutory and regulatory compliance, LSC grants administration, LSC

and grantee operations, and oversight of the grantee audit process. Resources will be used to respond to requests from the Congress, the Board of Directors, LSC management and other interested parties.

A major component of the FY 2015 budget request is funding the OIG's operation of the LSC audit program. The OIG assesses LSC and grantee operations and reviews all LSC grant recipients' annual audits. Each LSC grantee is subject to an audit, performed by an independent public accountant (IPA), of its financial statements, internal controls, and compliance with mandated restrictions and prohibitions. The OIG refers significant audit findings to LSC Management for resolution and tracks corrective actions. The review of grant recipients' fiscal condition and compliance with law are explicit Congressional requirements. To ensure the quality of the IPAs' work, the OIG adopted a comprehensive quality control program, reviewing each grantee audit over a four-year period. Additionally, the OIG continues to oversee the annual audit of LSC's financial statements.

The OIG conducts investigations of criminal and civil fraud committed against LSC and its grant recipients, and operates a national fraud, waste and abuse reporting hotline. The OIG also conducts compliance investigations, administrative inquiries, fraud vulnerability assessments, and fraud prevention briefings. Further, the OIG improves effectiveness and efficiency in the grants management, administration and operation of the LSC and its grantees through its reviews and advisories. These additional OIG products provide objective insights and commentary on significant legislative, regulatory, management and policy initiatives affecting LSC.

The OIG strives to improve and maintain the skills of its professional staff. As required by the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, I, Jeffrey E. Schanz, Inspector General of the Legal Services Corporation, certify that the amount requested satisfies foreseeable OIG training needs for FY 2015 and includes the OIG's pro rata share for support of the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency. Additionally, the request will enable continuing investments in the OIG's information support systems to facilitate the efficient production of OIG audits, investigations and reviews.

The submitted budget request is necessary for the LSC OIG to adequately perform the core missions required by the Inspector General Act, as amended, and to continue to serve as an effective resource for the Corporation and the Congress, for the benefit of the American taxpayer.

Endnotes

¹ Economic impact analyses have been published since 2008 for Alaska, Arizona, Georgia, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Virginia.

² The Task Force to Expand Access to Civil Legal Services in New York, Report to the Chief Judge of the State of New York, State of New York Unified Court System, November 2011; Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation, "Civil Legal Aid Yields Economic Benefits to Clients and to the Commonwealth: Some Benefits from FY13 Advocacy," January 2013.

³ Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation, "Civil Legal Aid Yields Economic Benefits to Clients and to the Commonwealth: Some Benefits from FY13 Advocacy," January 2013.

⁴ Health Policy Institute of Ohio, White Paper on Improving Family Violence Prevention in Ohio, Columbus, OH, 2008, pp.11-12.

⁵ ABA Coalition for Justice, "Report on the Survey of Judges on the Impact of the Economic Downturn on Representation in the Courts," (2010).

⁶ Keynote Article, *New York's Pro Bono Requirement: The Whys and Hows of Building a Culture of Service in Future Lawyers*, The Honorable Jonathan Lippman, Chief Judge of the State of New York and Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals (2013).

⁷ Conference of Chief Justices White Paper on LSC Funding, March 30, 2012.

⁸ See Eligible Poverty Population table on page 4.

⁹ "Explaining the Recent Decline in Domestic Violence," Amy Farmer and Jill Tiefenthaler, Oxford University Press, 2003; "When Violence Hits Home: How Economics and Neighborhoods Play a Role," National Institute of Justice, 2004.

¹⁰ 2007 and 2012 poverty rates: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey; 18-34 year old poverty rates: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey. Homelessness: The 2011 Point-in-Time Estimates of Homelessness, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Community Planning and Development. December 2011. Unemployment rates: Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Situation Of Veterans—2012.

¹¹ <http://tig.lsc.gov/resources/grantee-resources/report-summit-use-technology-expand-access-justice>

¹² 132 of the 134 LSC grantees provided responses to the survey.

¹³ "Public Sector & Public Interest Attorney Salary Report," National Association for Law Placement, October 2012.

Appendix—FY 2015 Budget Request Tables

BUDGET REQUEST — FISCAL YEAR 2015

(dollars in thousands)

	(1)	(2)	(3)
	FY 2014 Request	FY 2014 Funding	FY 2015 Request
I. DELIVERY OF LEGAL ASSISTANCE	461,300	341,650	461,300
A. PROGRAM SERVICES TO CLIENTS	451,300	335,700	451,300
1. Basic Field Programs	451,300	335,700	451,300
B. TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES	5,000	3,450	5,000
C. SANDY DISASTER RELIEF FUND	-	-	-
D. PRO BONO INNOVATION INITIATIVES	5,000	2,500	5,000
II. LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM	1,000	1,000	1,000
III. MANAGEMENT & GRANTS OVERSIGHT	19,500	18,000	19,500
IV. OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL	4,200	4,350	4,200
TOTAL	486,000	365,000	486,000

BUDGET IN BRIEF — FISCAL YEAR 2015

(dollars in thousands)

	2013 Budget		2014 Budget		2015 Estimate		Change from 2014 to 2015	
	Amount	Perm Posn's	Amount	Perm Posn's	Amount	Perm Posn's	Amount	Perm Posn's
I. CLIENT SERVICES	325,343		348,565		461,300		112,735	
Appropriation	320,253		341,650		461,300		119,650	
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	2,015		4,135		-		(4,135)	
US Court of Veterans Appeals Funds	2,520		2,500		-		(2,500)	
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	9		7		-		(7)	
Other Funds Available	546		273		-		(273)	
A. PROGRAM SERVICES TO CLIENTS	320,054		339,113		451,300		112,187	
Appropriation	316,145		335,700		451,300		115,600	
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	834		633		-		(633)	
US Court of Veterans Appeals Funds	2,520		2,500		-		(2,500)	
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	9		7		-		(7)	
Other Funds Available	546		273		-		(273)	
B. TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES	4,339		6,876		5,000		(1,876)	
Appropriation	3,158		3,450		5,000		1,550	
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	1,181		3,426		-		(3,426)	
C. SANDY DISASTER RELIEF FUND	950		76		-		(76)	
Appropriation	950		-		-		-	
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	-		76		-		(76)	
D. PRO BONO INNOVATION INITIATIVES	-		2,500		5,000		2,500	
Appropriation	-		2,500		5,000		2,500	
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	-		-		-		-	
II. LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM	2,535		2,439		2,300		(139)	
Appropriation	929		1,000		1,000		-	
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	1,606		1,439		1,300		(139)	
III. MANAGEMENT & GRANTS OVERSIGHT	21,626	99	23,330	116	22,902	125	(428)	9
Appropriation	17,000	99	18,000	116	19,500	125	1,500	9
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	4,339		5,130		3,382		(1,748)	
Other Funds Available	287		200		20		(180)	
IV. OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL	5,826	30	5,537	30	5,200	30	(337)	-
Appropriation	4,200	30	4,350	30	4,200	30	(150)	-
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	1,626		1,187		1,000		(187)	
TOTAL - REQUIREMENTS	355,330	129	379,871	146	491,702	155	111,831	9
Appropriation	342,382	129	365,000	146	486,000	155	121,000	9
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	9,586		11,891		5,682		(6,209)	
US Court of Veterans Appeals Funds	2,520		2,500		-		(2,500)	
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	9		7		-		(7)	
Other Funds Available	833		473		20		(453)	

APPROPRIATION REQUEST IN RELATION TO FUNDS AVAILABLE

(dollars in thousands)

	Positions	Amount
1. Total Funds Available in Fiscal Year 2014		
Appropriation, FY 2014	146	365,000
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year		11,891
US Court of Veterans Appeals Funds		2,500
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year		7
Other Funds Available, FY 2014		473
Total available in FY 2014	146	379,871
2. Request for Fiscal Year 2015 – Summary of Changes		
Appropriation, FY 2014	146	365,000
Adjustment to Base	9	121,000
Appropriation, FY 2015	155	486,000
3. Total Funds Available in Fiscal Year 2015		
Requested Appropriation	155	486,000
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year		5,682
Other Funds Available		20
Total available in FY 2015	155	491,702

PROGRAM AND FINANCING FOR FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS — FISCAL YEARS 2013, 2014, & 2015

(dollars in thousands)

	2013 Budget	2014 Budget	2015 Estimate
I. CLIENT SERVICES			
A. Program Services to Clients	320,054	339,113	451,300
B. Technology Initiatives	4,339	6,876	5,000
C. Sandy Disaster Relief Fund	950	76	-
D. Pro Bono Innovation Initiatives	-	2,500	5,000
II. LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM	2,535	2,439	2,300
III. MANAGEMENT & GRANTS OVERSIGHT	21,626	23,330	22,902
IV. OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL	5,826	5,537	5,200
Total program costs, funded	355,330	379,871	491,702
Change in Selected Resources:			
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	(9,586)	(11,891)	(5,682)
US Court of Veterans Appeals Funds	(2,520)	(2,500)	-
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	(9)	(7)	-
Other Funds Available	(833)	(473)	(20)
Total obligations (object class 41)	342,382	365,000	486,000
Financing:			
Budget Authority (appropriation)	342,382	365,000	486,000
Relation of obligations to outlays:			
Obligations incurred, net	342,382	365,000	486,000
Obligated balance, start of year	73,575	71,079	72,064
Obligated balance, end of year	(71,079)	(72,064)	(91,397)
Outlays	344,878	364,015	466,667

ACTIVITIES IN BRIEF

(dollars in thousands)

	2014 Budget		2015 Base		2015 Estimate		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) 2015 Base to 2015 Est.	
	Amount	Perm	Amount	Perm	Amount	Perm	Amount	Perm
		Posn's		Posn's		Posn's		Posn's
I. CLIENT SERVICES								
Total	348,565		341,650		461,300		119,650	
Appropriation	341,650		341,650		461,300		119,650	
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	4,408		-		-		-	
US Court of Veterans Appeals Funds	2,500		-		-		-	
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	7		-		-		-	
Other Funds Available	-		-		-		-	
A. PROGRAM SERVICES TO CLIENTS								
Total	339,113		335,700		451,300		115,600	
Appropriation	335,700		335,700		451,300		115,600	
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	906		-		-		-	
US Court of Veterans Appeals Funds	2,500		-		-		-	
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	7		-		-		-	
1. Basic Field Programs								
Total	336,333		335,700		451,300		115,600	
Appropriation	335,700		335,700		451,300		115,600	
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	633		-		-		-	
2. Grants from Other Funds Available								
Total	273		-		-		-	
Appropriation	-		-		-		-	
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	273		-		-		-	
3. US Court of Veterans Appeals Funds								
Total	2,507		-		-		-	
Appropriation	-		-		-		-	
US Court of Veterans Appeals Funds	2,500		-		-		-	
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	7		-		-		-	

ACTIVITIES IN BRIEF

(dollars in thousands)

	2014 Budget		2015 Base		2015 Estimate		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-)	
	Amount	Perm	Amount	Perm	Amount	Perm	Amount	Perm
		Posn's		Posn's		Posn's		Posn's
B. TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES								
Total	6,876		3,450		5,000		1,550	
Appropriation	3,450		3,450		5,000		1,550	
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	3,426		-		-		-	
C. SANDY DISASTER RELIEF FUNDS								
Total	76		-		-		-	
Appropriation	-		-		-		-	
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	76		-		-		-	
D. PRO BONO INNOVATION INITIATIVES								
Total	2,500		2,500		5,000		2,500	
Appropriation	2,500		2,500		5,000		2,500	
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	-		-		-		-	
II. LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM								
Total	2,439		2,300		2,300		-	
Appropriation	1,000		1,000		1,000		-	
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	1,439		1,300		1,300		-	
III. MANAGEMENT & GRANTS OVERSIGHT								
Total	23,330	116	21,402	116	22,902	125	1,500	9
Appropriation	18,000	116	18,000	116	19,500	125	1,500	9
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	5,130		3,382		3,382		-	
Other Funds Available	200		20		20		-	
IV. OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL								
Total	5,537	30	5,350	30	5,200	30	(150)	-
Appropriation	4,350	30	4,350	30	4,200	30	(150)	-
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	1,187		1,000		1,000		-	
TOTAL	379,871	146	370,702	146	491,702	155	121,000	9
Appropriation	365,000	146	365,000	146	486,000	155	121,000	9
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	12,164		5,682		5,682		-	
US Court of Veterans Appeals Funds	2,500		-		-		-	
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	7		-		-		-	
Other Funds Available	200		20		20		-	

APPROPRIATION BUDGET BY ACTIVITY — FISCAL YEARS 2014 & 2015

(dollars in thousands)

	2013 Funds Carried Forward to 2014		2014 Budget		2015 Base		2015 Estimate	
	Amount	Perm Posn's	Amount	Perm Posn's	Amount	Perm Posn's	Amount	Perm Posn's
Management & Grants Oversight	-		18,000	116	18,000	116	19,500	125
Funds Carried Forward	5,130		-		3,382		3,382	
Other Funds Available	200		-		20		20	
Office of Inspector General	-		4,350	30	4,350	30	4,200	30
Funds Carried Forward	1,187		-		1,000		1,000	
SUBTOTAL	6,517		22,350	146	26,752	146	28,102	155
Program Activities	-		341,650		341,650		461,300	
Funds Carried Forward	4,408		-		-		-	
Veterans Appeals Funds	-		2,500		-		-	
Funds Carried Forward	7		-		-		-	
Loan Repayment Asst Program	-		1,000		1,000		1,000	
Funds Carried Forward	1,439		-		1,300		1,300	
TOTAL	12,371		367,500	146	370,702	146	491,702	155

MANAGEMENT & GRANTS OVERSIGHT, & INSPECTOR GENERAL TOTAL SUMMARY — FISCAL YEARS 2014 & 2015

(dollars in thousands)

SUMMARY TOTALS	Mgt. & Grants Oversight, & Inspector General		Program Authorities		Totals		CHANGE
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	
Management & Grants Oversight	23,330	22,902	-	-	23,330	22,902	(428)
Office of Inspector General	5,537	5,200	-	-	5,537	5,200	(337)
Grants and Contracts	-	-	348,565	461,300	348,565	461,300	112,735
Loan Repayment Asst. Prgm.	-	-	2,439	2,300	2,439	2,300	(139)
Total Summary	28,867	28,102	351,004	463,600	379,871	491,702	111,831

Sources of Funds for the Delivery of Legal Assistance

Appropriation	341,650	461,300
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	4,135	-
US Court of Veterans Appeals Funds	2,500	-
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	7	-
Other Funds Available	273	-
Total	348,565	461,300

Sources of Funds for the Loan Repayment Assistance Program

Appropriation	1,000	1,000
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	1,439	1,300
Total	2,439	2,300

Total Sources of Funds

Appropriation	365,000	486,000
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	11,891	5,682
US Court of Veterans Appeals Funds	2,500	-
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	7	-
Other Funds Available	473	20
Total	379,871	491,702

MANAGEMENT & GRANTS OVERSIGHT BUDGET BY OBJECT CLASS — FISCAL YEARS 2014 & 2015

(dollars in thousands)

OBJECT CLASS	Management & Grants Oversight		Program Authorities		Totals		CHANGE
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	
Personnel Compensation	12,247	12,222			12,247	12,222	(25)
Employee Benefits	4,311	4,566			4,311	4,566	255
Other Personnel Services	791	674			791	674	(117)
Consulting	1,111	853			1,111	853	(258)
Travel and Transportation	1,152	1,340			1,152	1,340	188
Communications	123	129			123	129	6
Occupancy Costs	1,800	1,802			1,800	1,802	2
Printing and Reproduction	79	80			79	80	1
Other Operating Expenses	1,361	1,035			1,361	1,035	(326)
Capital Expenditures	355	201			355	201	(154)
Total for Management & Grants Oversight	23,330	22,902	-	-	23,330	22,902	(428)

Sources of Funds for Management & Grants Oversight

Appropriation	18,000	19,500
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	5,130	3,382
Other Funds Available	200	20
Total	23,330	22,902

INSPECTOR GENERAL BUDGET BY OBJECT CLASS — FISCAL YEARS 2014 & 2015

(dollars in thousands)

OBJECT CLASS	Office of Inspector General		Program Authorities		Totals		CHANGE
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	
Personnel Compensation	3,344	3,312			3,344	3,312	(32)
Employee Benefits	921	999			921	999	78
Other Personnel Services	50	25			50	25	(25)
Consulting	500	430			500	430	(70)
Travel and Transportation	265	272			265	272	7
Communications	37	25			37	25	(12)
Occupancy Costs	2	4			2	4	2
Printing and Reproduction	14	10			14	10	(4)
Other Operating Expenses	324	59			324	59	(265)
Capital Expenditures	80	64			80	64	(16)
Total for Inspector General	5,537	5,200	-	-	5,537	5,200	(337)

Sources of Funds for Inspector General

Appropriation	4,350	4,200
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	1,187	1,000
Total	5,537	5,200

STAFF POSITIONS — FISCAL YEARS 2013, 2014, & 2015

	2013 Budget	2014 Budget		2015 Estimate	
	Number of Positions*	Change From 2013	Number of Positions*	Change From 2014	Number of Positions*
OFFICE					
Executive Office	6	1	7	0	7
Legal Affairs	7	0	7	0	7
Government Relations / Public Affairs	7	0	7	0	7
Human Resources	6	0	6	0	6
Financial & Administrative Services	10	1	11	0	11
Information Technology	8	0	8	1	9
Program Performance	24	10	34	4	38
Information Management	5	0	5	0	5
Compliance & Enforcement	26	5	31	4	35
	99	17	116	9	125
Inspector General	30	0	30	0	30
TOTAL	129	17	146	9	155

* Full-time equivalents

STAFF SALARIES — FISCAL YEARS 2013, 2014 AND 2015**MANAGEMENT AND GRANTS OVERSIGHT**

SALARY RANGES	2013 Budget	2014 Budget		2015 Estimate	
	Number of Positions*	Change From 2013	Number of Positions*	Change From 2014	Number of Positions*
LSC BAND I \$31,681 - \$58,540	2	1	3	0	3
LSC BAND II \$52,493 - \$93,642	36	1	37	5	42
LSC BAND III \$83,310 - \$135,715	47	17	64	4	68
LSC BAND IV \$118,445 - \$159,654	8	(1)	7	0	7
LSC BAND V \$138,841 - \$168,348	5	(1)	4	0	4
Unclassified Positions	1	0	1	0	1
TOTAL	99	17	116	9	125

* Full-time equivalents

STAFF SALARIES — FISCAL YEARS 2013, 2014 AND 2015

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

SALARY RANGES	2013 Budget	2014 Budget		2015 Estimate	
	Number of Positions*	Change From 2013	Number of Positions*	Change From 2014	Number of Positions*
LSC BAND I \$31,681 - \$58,540	0	0	0	0	0
LSC BAND II \$52,493 - \$93,642	7	0	7	0	7
LSC BAND III \$83,310 - \$135,715	17	0	17	0	17
LSC BAND IV \$118,445 - \$159,654	5	0	5	0	5
LSC BAND V \$138,841 - \$168,348	0	0	0	0	0
Unclassified Positions	1	0	1	0	1
TOTAL	30	0	30	0	30

* Full-time equivalents

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FISCAL YEAR
2015
BUDGET REQUEST

40TH
Anniversary
LSC