

Civil Legal Aid in Employment & Unemployment

Massachusetts
Legal
Assistance
Corporation
Line item 0321-1600

Civil legal aid helps low-income people who have experienced:

- Wage theft
- Employment discrimination
- Unsafe working conditions or unfair labor standards
- Improper denial of unemployment compensation

Civil legal aid organizations also conduct policy advocacy on behalf of workers in partnership with unions, workers' groups, and social service providers.

Low-income people at or below 125% of the federal poverty level (\$32,188 per year for a family of four) qualify for civil legal aid.



South Coastal Counties Legal Services helped Daniele get her job back after she was fired for missing work to receive cancer treatment.

1,122 employment-related cases closed in FY18, including:

Unemployment Compensation	642
Wage Claims & Fair Labor Standard Act Issues	171
Taxes (including Earned Income Tax Credit)	141
Employment Discrimination	109
Other Employment	38
Employee Rights	21

Unfortunately, lack of funding forces Massachusetts civil legal aid organizations to turn away:



of eligible residents who seek assistance with employment matters.

Legal aid produced an economic benefit of

\$60.5 million

for the Commonwealth and its residents in FY18

For more information, contact:

Lynne Parker, MLAC
(617) 391-5640
lparker@mlac.org

Elaine O'Reilly, Governmental Strategies
(617) 447-5174
eoreilly@governmentalstrategies.com

Mary Ann Walsh, Governmental Strategies
(617) 447-3711
mawalsh@governmentalstrategies.com