

# Civil Legal Aid in Housing & Foreclosure

Massachusetts  
Legal  
Assistance  
Corporation  
Line item 0321-1600

## Civil legal aid plays a crucial role in protecting and securing safe and affordable housing by:

- Enforcing health, safety, and accessibility standards
- Advocating for reforms that promote access to affordable housing
- Defending clients from unlawful eviction and combatting housing discrimination
- Protecting tenants at risk of losing housing subsidies
- Helping place vulnerable families in emergency shelters



*“If I didn’t find legal aid, I would have lost the house.”*

- Mike, Onset resident & South Coastal Counties Legal Services client

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.

## 7,623 Housing Cases closed in FY18, including:

Private Landlord/Tenant	3,087
Federally Subsidized Housing	2,259
Unsafe Conditions, Tenant Disputes, Other cases	954
Public Housing	797
Foreclosures/Predatory Lending Practices	277
Housing Discrimination	187
Homeownership/Real Property	51
Mobile Homes	11

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

**64%**

of eligible residents who seek help with a housing case

Legal aid produced an **economic benefit** of **\$60.5 million** for the Commonwealth and its residents in FY18, including:

**\$18.2 million**

in shelter and health care cost savings for the state related to homelessness prevention, and

**\$8.3 million**

in benefits and savings through homelessness prevention advocacy for low-income residents.

**For more information, please 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