

Civil Legal Aid in The Opioid Crisis

Massachusetts
Legal
Assistance
Corporation
Line item 0321-1600

Civil legal aid lawyers help people affected by opioid crisis by:

- Resolving **family law** issues, including child abuse and neglect, child support, child custody, and guardianship
- Ensuring people can receive **health care** services and access to treatment
- Helping families remain in stable **housing**, whether public or private
- Protecting **older adults** from financial risk posed by relatives living with addiction



“Legal aid gave my son a second chance at life.”

- Lisa, whose son received help from Greater Boston Legal Services to obtain insurance benefits to secure treatment.

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.

The opioid epidemic requires a multi-disciplinary response that includes first responders, doctors, mental health professionals, social workers, case managers, and civil legal aid.

Legal aid addresses not only the consequences of opioid addiction (such as child custody issues) but also helps promote stability, recovery, and independence for people struggling with addiction and their families.

Legal aid produced an
economic benefit of

\$60.5 million

for the Commonwealth and its residents in FY18

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