

# Talking to your legislator about civil legal aid funding

## Talking to Your Legislator

- Introduce yourself as a constituent and an attorney.
- State that civil legal aid is important to you and thank your legislator for his or her past support.
- Urge your legislator to request \$29 million in funding for the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation (MLAC) in FY21.
- Ask your legislator to make this funding request one of his or her top three budget priorities.

## Supporting Facts & Information

- There is no right to an attorney in most civil cases in Massachusetts. Legal aid organizations provide help at no cost to low-income people navigating civil legal issues that threaten their health, safety, and well-being.
- Ensuring access to legal advice and representation for all people, not just those who can afford it, is a pillar of Massachusetts' long-standing dedication to justice.
- Civil legal aid is a responsible investment, saving the state money on shelter and emergency costs, and returning money to residents through federal benefits.
- A funding increase is necessary because serious emerging issues like the housing crisis and shifting immigration policy have a large impact on low-income residents and further complicate the work of legal aid organizations.
- Civil legal aid faces persistent funding shortages and increasing demand for services. Additional funding will help legal aid organizations continue to take modest steps toward the goal of delivering on the promise of equal access to justice for all.



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