

Civil Legal Aid in Housing & Foreclosure

Massachusetts
Legal
Assistance
Corporation

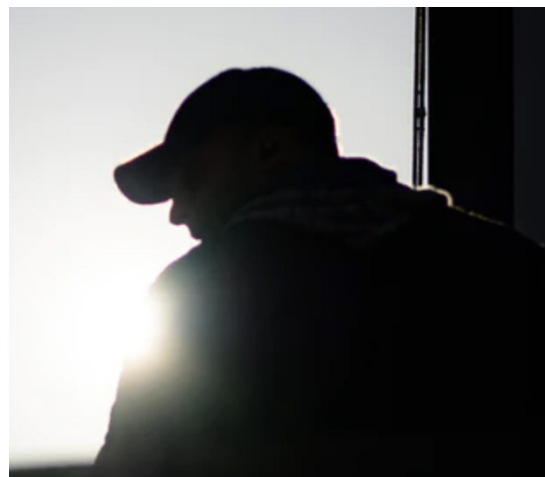
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During the COVID-19 crisis, legal aid is an essential service for people facing housing insecurity. In FY21, legal aid organizations expect to address a 42% increase in housing discrimination cases compared to FY20.

Legal Aid lawyers help protect and secure safe and affordable housing by:

- Enforcing health, safety, and accessibility standards
- Advocating for 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

Low-income people at or below 125% of the federal poverty level (\$33,125 per year for a family of four) qualify for civil legal aid.



Community Legal Aid helped Mr. D, a veteran with disabilities, protect his rights and remain housed after his landlord illegally locked him out of his residence, turned off the hot water, and harrassed him during the COVID crisis.

8,411 Housing Cases closed in FY20, including:

Private Landlord/Tenant	3,355
Federally Subsidized Housing	2,868
Other Housing	739
Public Housing	994
Foreclosures/Predatory Lending Practices	163
Housing Discrimination	204
Homeownership/Real Property	76
Mobile Homes	12

Last year
legal aid provided
\$115 million
in economic benefits to
the Commonwealth and its
residents, including
\$13.8 million
in shelter savings for families
and individuals

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