

Civil Legal Aid for Older Adults

Massachusetts
Legal
Assistance
Corporation
Line item 0321-1600

During the COVID-19 crisis, civil legal aid lawyers play a crucial role protecting the health, safety, and financial stability of older residents of the Commonwealth. From helping older adults keep their homes to ensuring they have access to health care, legal aid is an essential service.

Legal Aid lawyers help older adults facing issues related to:

- Housing and physical safety
- Access to health care, Disability benefits, Medicare, Social Security, Veterans benefits, and other public benefits
- Bankruptcy, financial abuse, and other consumer law challenges
- Guardianship, care of children and grandchildren, and other family law issues
- Durable powers of attorney and health care proxies
- Nursing home issues, including transfer and discharge, conditions and evictions



“It’s so important to have help from someone who knows the law.”

- Florynce, who faced a significant, unexpected rent increase. Legal aid helped her negotiate a lease extension and then attain an affordable apartment

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.



22% of legal aid clients in FY20 were 60 or older

According to a 2019 UMass Boston study, more than **60% of older adults** living alone in Massachusetts **lack the financial resources to cover their basic expenses.**

Last year
legal aid provided
\$115 million
in economic benefits to
the Commonwealth and
its residents

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