

# Civil Legal Aid for Veterans

During the COVID-19 crisis, veterans have been particularly affected by food insecurity and mental health challenges. The loss of housing, benefits, or health care is especially threatening to their health and financial stability.

## Civil Legal Aid promotes safety and stability for low-income, disabled, and homeless veterans by providing assistance with:

- Financial problems, including bankruptcy and debt
- Family law issues, including child support and custody, divorce, and domestic violence
- Appeals of discharge status
- Housing problems, including eviction and poor conditions
- Access to and denial of benefits, including unemployment insurance, SNAP, MassHealth, Social Security, and state and federal veterans' benefits

Low-income people at or below 125% of the federal poverty level (\$34,688 per year for a family of four) qualify for civil legal aid.



***“Legal aid eased my fears.”***

**Ed, Air Force veteran who had been living in his apartment for 20 years before the pandemic struck, and received help from South Coastal Counties Legal Services to avoid being evicted when he fell behind on rent**

**An estimated 28 out of 10,000 veterans in Massachusetts are homeless, compared with a national rate of 17 out of 10,000 veterans.**

**For FY21, MLAC conservatively estimates closing at least 500 cases on behalf of veterans.**

**Last year, legal aid provided**

**\$103 million**

**in economic benefits to the Commonwealth and its residents**