

Talking to your Legislator about Civil Legal Aid Funding

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- ▶ 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 \$49 million in funding for the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation (MLAC) in FY24.
- ▶ Ask your legislator to make this funding request one of his or her top three budget priorities.

Supporting Facts & Information

- ▶ Civil legal aid is an essential service that is vital to the Commonwealth's recovery from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which continues to have a disproportionate impact on people with low incomes and people of color.
- ▶ There is no right to an attorney in most civil cases in Massachusetts. Legal aid organizations provide help at no cost to people with low incomes 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.
- ▶ 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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