



THE
**CHICAGO
BAR
ASSOCIATION**



**ILLINOIS STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION®**

**The Legal Services Corporation:
Ensuring Fairness for All in the Justice System**

LSC is an integral part of fulfilling our nation's fundamental promise of equal access to justice for all Americans

- Fairness in the justice system should not depend on how much money a person has.
- LSC provides access to legal help for people to protect their livelihoods, their homes, their health, and their families.
- Legal aid is consistently one of the top referrals for local congressional offices serving constituent needs.

Civil legal aid will be even more important as we come out of the pandemic, and the need for legal help already far outpaced LSC's funding

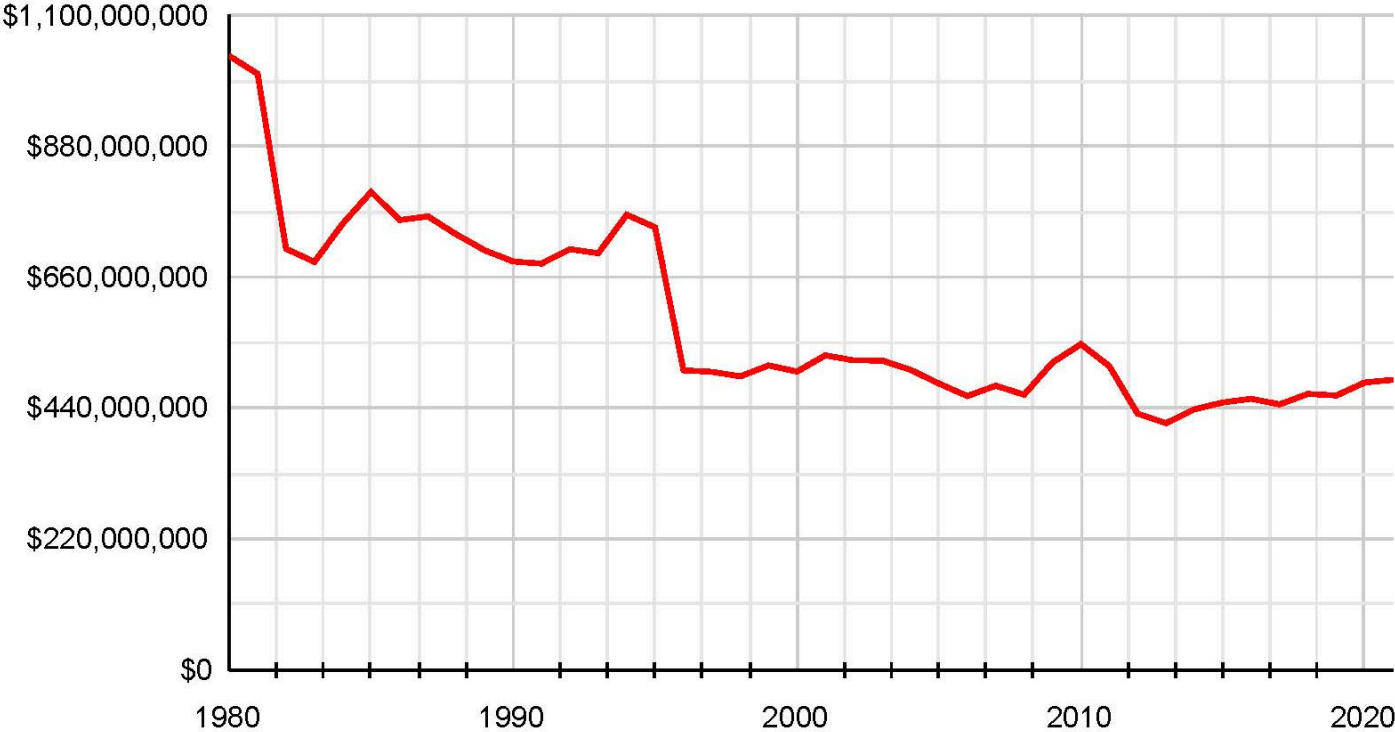
- Since 1981, LSC's appropriation has fallen by more than half in real dollars and is funded today at \$489 million after a \$24 million increase in the final FY 2022 budget package.
- Yet over that same time period, the number of Americans eligible for legal aid has increased by over 50% to more than 53 million people.
- Even before the pandemic, more than half of people in need of legal aid were turned away due to lack of resources. The unmet need remains great for the everyday legal issues that LSC assists with, including evictions, domestic violence, unemployment, access to healthcare, veterans benefits, and scams aimed at the elderly and other vulnerable communities.

A significant increase in LSC's annual funding would be a solid investment in America's families and communities that saves taxpayer money

- The legal community continues to do its part, providing almost 1.8 million hours of pro bono service and donating more than \$17 million each year to support pro bono and legal aid organizations in Illinois alone.
- Access to needed legal help can mean the difference between shelter and homelessness; medical assistance and unnecessary physical suffering; food on the table and hunger; economic stability and bankruptcy; or productive work and unemployment.
- LSC is a solid economic investment as well, saving money on other expensive government services and helping streamline the court system and cut down on court costs.
- An Illinois study found that legal aid produces an almost 2:1 return on investment in economic benefits.

For more information, contact Bob Glaves at The Chicago Bar Foundation at bglaves@chicagobarfoundation.org or (312) 554-1205 or Jim Covington at The Illinois State Bar Association at jcovington@isba.org or 1-800-252

LSC Funding in Real Dollars



Population Below the 125% Poverty Threshold to Qualify for LSC Funding

