# 2024 JUSTICE GAP



### Who We Are

The Legal Services Alabama law firm provides free, client-centered, civil legal advocacy to low-income Alabamians and collaborates with others across the state and nation to find solutions to systemic issues caused by poverty and social justice inequities. LSA is one of the preeminent legal aid organizations in the country in bridging the civil justice gap through its recognized commitment to racial, social, and economic justice and support of a talented, diverse, and innovative staff.

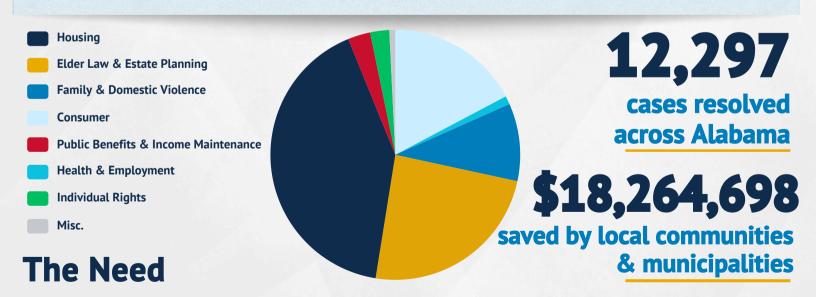
LSA has eight offices located in Anniston, Birmingham, Dothan, Huntsville, Mobile, Montgomery, Selma and Tuscaloosa, as well as a centralized, statewide call center.

#### What We Do

LSA is a refuge for the poor and vulnerable people who have nowhere else to turn. We offer legal help in four core service areas: Domestic Violence, Public Benefits, Housing/Foreclosure Prevention, and Consumer Protection. Additional services include: Veterans, Elder Rights, Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC), Expungements, Disaster Services, and Community Education.

In 2024, LSA completed over 12,250 cases. Many of these cases were resolved out of court easing the burden on Alabama's court system.

LSA partners with Alabama's five Volunteer Lawyer Programs who assist us in serving our mission, but Alabama does not have mandatory pro bono service for attorneys, so even with volunteer lawyers across the state assisting the poor, the private bar does not have the resources to represent the 800,000 poor people needing help in Alabama. In many rural areas where the need is greater, there are sometimes no volunteer lawyers to assist with the myriad of legal issues that plague those living in poverty.



According to the most recent census, 15.5% of Alabama's population, or around 800,000 people, live in poverty. Alabama is the nation's 7th poorest state with the 9th highest poverty population in the United States. Almost 12% of households in Alabama earn less than \$10,000 a year and, few other states have higher percentages living on so little.



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1 in 5 people in Alabama live below the poverty line. Roughly 1 in 3 across the state qualify for LSA services.



LSA's staff capacity breaks down to roughly only **one** free, legal aid attorney **per county** in Alabama.



48 states in the USA allocate funding for legal aid - **Alabama does not.** 



A person without a lawyer stands around a 90% chance of losing their home. If they have a lawyer, that drops to about 4%.



For every **1** case LSA takes, we have to turn **3** away due to funding and staff capacity.



#### **OUR STORY**

Legal Services Alabama (LSA) provides free legal representation in all 67 counties of AL, with eight offices and a centralized Call Center, working together to fulfill its mission statement: To serve low-income people by providing civil legal aid and by promoting collaboration to find solutions to problems of poverty.

How does LSA help low-income Alabama?







PRESENTAION EDUCATION

## **OUR VISION**

An Alabama where all people have equal access to **Justice**, **Fairness**, and **Hope**, regardless of economic status.

#### THE NEED

Every year, thousands of low-income people seek free, legal help from LSA. For every individual that is successful in obtaining help, there are even more who could not receive services due to the demand for legal help among the poor in Alabama far exceeding our current staff's capacity.

The LSA
Call Center
receives
120,000+
calls
annually!

#### YOUR IMPACT

 Develop our new home in downtown Montgomery to provide client access to transportation, local courts, and a state-of-theart technological call center.



 Increase legal representation across all 67 counties to support low-income people struggling through our current housing crisis. OUR CORE SERVICE AREAS

Domestic Violence
Housing Issues
Public Benefits
Consumer Protection