

**The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland**  
**Interim Report to the Saint Luke's Foundation – Addendum**  
**7/1/13 – 6/30/14**

**Key Program Accomplishments**

**Cases Handled**

Cleveland Legal Aid handled 8,546 cases in the last year. The types of cases were:

- Consumer – 2,653 (31%)
- Family – 1,880 (22%)
- Foreclosure – 525 (6%)
- Education – 248 (3%)
- Employment/Work – 845 (10%)
- Housing – 1,357 (16%)
- Immigration – 247 (3%)
- Public Benefits (health and income) – 492 (6%)
- Other – 299 (3%)

Many of these cases involved Legal Aid providing valuable advice and guidance to clients, so that they could make good choices for themselves and their families, to avoid legal issues or resolve them on their own. Other cases involved extended service, including representation in a negotiation, a court proceeding or an administrative hearing.

**Case outcomes**

Legal Aid tracks the outcomes achieved in those extended service cases. In the last year, the outcomes achieved for clients include:

- Increased safety for 99% of clients, where safety was an issue;
  - o This reflects the work for 260 clients. For all but 2 of these clients Legal Aid's work increased safety. This includes domestic violence cases (e.g. civil protection orders, divorce, and custody) and immigration cases for victims of violence.
- Prevented 72% of foreclosures;
  - o This reflects the work for 185 clients. Legal Aid prevented foreclosure for 133 of these clients.
- Prevented 97% of evictions;
  - o This reflects work for 126 clients. Legal Aid prevented evictions for 123 of these clients.
- Secured subsidized housing for 94% of clients;
  - o This reflects work for 127 clients. Legal Aid secured subsidized housing for 120 of these clients. This includes public housing and other subsidized housing, such as section 8 housing.
- Secured health insurance for 97% of clients;
  - o This reflects work for 105 clients. Legal Aid secured access to health insurance for 102 of these clients. For most of these clients, the health insurance gained was Medicaid.
- Removed education barriers for 88% of clients or their children.

- This reflects work for 115 clients through 129 cases. Legal Aid removed education barriers in 114 of the 129 cases. The barriers removed included gaining language access for children or parents, establishing an individual education plan for a child with special needs, obtaining various types of school supports, and preventing expulsion.
- Increased assets by \$13 million (\$31,000 per case)
  - This reflects work in 413 cases. Clients' average assets in these cases increased from \$2,095 to \$33,494. These cases included foreclosures, domestic relations cases, public benefits cases, unemployment, tax cases and wage cases.
- Decreased debt by \$7 million (\$18,000 per case)
  - This reflects work in 404 cases. Clients' average debt in these cases decreased from \$21,850 to \$3,987. These cases included bankruptcy cases, domestic relations cases, public benefits overpayment cases, housing cases, consumer cases, and foreclosure.
- Increased annual income by \$4.6 million (\$13,000 per case)
  - This reflects work in 355 cases. Clients' average annual income in these cases increased from \$8,172 to \$21,060. These cases include public benefits, unemployment, housing, domestic relations, employment, and tax.

### **Community Engagement**

In addition to the cases handled during this year, Legal Aid also educated low income communities and organizations that work with low income communities about legal issues. For example, Cleveland Legal Aid made 123 presentations to community groups or lay service providers, attended by 1,073 individuals. These events included education of landlords about eviction law, presentations to homeless youth, presentations to service providers, presentations to GED candidates, presentations to children in foster care, presentations to participants in Toward Employment programs, and education of other partners.