

# The State of Pro Bono Needs in Los Angeles County



## **2022 Legal Services Corporation Justice Gap Report: Prevalence of Civil Legal Issues Throughout the Nation**

**Most low-income households have dealt with at least one civil legal problem in the past year – and many of these problems have had substantial impacts on people's lives.**

**3 out of 4 (74%) low-income households experienced 1+ civil legal problems in the past year.**

**1 in 2 (55%) low-income Americans who personally experienced a problem say these problems substantially impacted their lives – with the consequences affecting their finances, mental health, physical health and safety, and relationships.**

**Most common types of problems: consumer issues, health care, housing, income maintenance.**

# Seeking and receiving legal help

**Most low-income Americans do not get any or enough legal help for their civil legal problems .**



**Only 1 out of every 4 (25%) Americans have a civil legal issue that substantially affects their life.**

**46% of low income individuals did not seek legal help for one or more problems, primarily due to the worry about costs.**

**1 in 2 (53%) of low income individuals do not know if they could find and afford a lawyer if they needed one.**

**Low income individuals do not get any or enough legal help for 92% of the problems. Most of which have a substantial impact on their lives.**

# Comparing Income Groups- Individuals with High Incomes

**People with higher incomes have fewer barriers to getting legal help.**

**People with higher incomes are more likely to seek legal help for problems with substantial impact (32% vs. 25% of problems).**

**They are more likely to believe that they can use the civil legal system to protect and enforce their rights (59% vs. 39%).**



# Statistics from the Field

**1.9 million requests for legal help.**

**1 in 2 requests for legal aid or pro bono assistance is turned away due to limited resources.**

**Even when legal aid organizations can assist, they only have the resources to resolve only 1 out of every 2 (56%) problems.**

**All in all, LSC-funded organizations are unable to provide any or enough legal help for an estimated 1.4 million civil legal problems (or 71% of problems) that are brought to their doors in a year.**



# How Unmet Legal Needs are Impacting Our Community

**On the West Coast**



**11.1 million people below 125% of the federal poverty line (FPL).**

**72% of households had 1+ civil legal problems in the past year.**



# How Unmet Legal Needs are Impacting California

**55 percent of Californians at all income levels experienced at least one civil legal problem in their household within the past year.**

**Californians received no or inadequate legal help for 85 percent of their problems.**

**Most common legal issues involved health, finances, and employment.**



# Californians gave multiple reasons why they did not seek legal help.

**The most commonly cited reasons included:**

- o Lack of awareness that their problem was a legal issue;**
- o Belief that they needed to deal with the problem on their own;**
  - o Fear of the legal system;**
  - o Worries about cost; or**
- o Uncertainty about where to look.**



# Why Pro Bono is Needed Locally

- 40 percent of low-income Californians reached out to legal aid organizations, but only 30 percent had assistance.
- State Bar-funded legal aid organizations employed approx. 1,500 attorneys and leveraged pro bono services from 16,000 others.
- An additional 9,000 full-time legal aid attorneys are needed to fill the service gap.



# Ways to Become Involved in Pro Bono in Los Angeles

**<https://www.calbar.ca.gov/Access-to-Justice/Pro-Bono/Pro-Bono-Directory/Los-Angeles-Area>**



# Where to find reports mentioned in presentation

**<https://justicegap.lsc.gov/the-report/>**



**<https://www.calbar.ca.gov/Access-to-Justice/Initiatives/California-Justice-Gap-Study>**

**Plesae reach out if any quesitons**

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