

2019 COMMUNITY ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY



LEGAL AID STRENGTHENS OHIO

WORKFORCE

Legal aid strengthens Ohio's workforce, generating **\$25.4 million** in increased earnings, household spending, and sales and income tax revenue.



COMMUNITIES

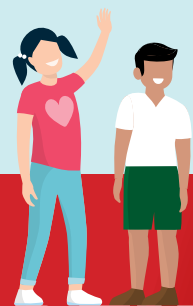
Legal aid preserves stable housing, saving **\$21.4 million** in costs and property values.



LEGAL AID SERVES:



VETERANS



CHILDREN

290% ROI

EVERY DOLLAR SPENT ON LEGAL AID RETURNS \$2.90 TO OHIOANS AND OUR COMMUNITIES.

CHILDREN

Legal aid keeps children in school, avoiding **\$53.7 million** in lost lifetime earnings.



HEALTH

Legal aid stabilizes domestic violence survivors and children in need of care saving **\$10.5 million** in costs.



SENIORS



FAMILIES

WORKFORCE

Legal aid strengthens Ohio's workforce, generating:

- **\$23.4 million** in increased earnings, household spending, and sales and income tax revenue by removing barriers to employment through sealing or expunging criminal records or securing Certificates of Qualification (CQE) for Employment
- **\$1.7 million** in increased workplace and home productivity through stabilizing domestic violence survivors
- **\$336,000** in increased earnings, household spending, and sales and income tax revenue in helping to secure job training

Legal aid removes barriers to employment by helping Ohioans:

- Reinstate driver's licenses to remain stably employed*
- Restore or obtain occupational licenses to further job prospects*

*Monetary impact of legal aid's work not quantified in these categories.

\$25.4 MILLION



HELPING JACKSON GET BACK TO WORK



After losing a long-time job, Jackson,* a devoted husband and father, desperately wanted to go back to work in a job that would provide for his family. Jackson, however, struggled to find a new job because of a mistake he made, as a teenager, more than two decades ago that left him with a criminal record.

Jackson tried to seal his record on his own, but was unsuccessful and so, remained unemployed. Legal aid identified why Jackson's previous attempt to seal his record was unsuccessful and then filed a new application. Thanks to legal aid, Jackson's record was sealed, and he was launched on the path to financial stability and security for him and his family.

*Name and photo have been changed to protect client privacy.

CHILDREN

Legal aid helps Ohio's children reach high school graduation, avoiding:

- **\$50.2 million** in lost lifetime earnings by improving housing stability
- **\$3.5 million** in lost lifetime earnings by improving job prospects through adoption services

Legal aid increases success in school by helping Ohio's children:

- Reduce or avoid suspensions or expulsions*
- Obtain special education services (IEPs)*

*Monetary impact of legal aid's work not quantified in these categories

\$53.7 MILLION



SUPPORTING MAX TO SUCCEED IN SCHOOL

Max,* an eight-year-old boy, suffered numerous hardships in his short life. Born prematurely to a drug-addicted mother, Max was often homeless and missed a significant amount of school each year. After kindergarten, Max was placed in the custody of his grandmother and moved to a new school district.

In first grade at his new school, Max continued to struggle. He acted out as a result of the past trauma he suffered and was expelled following an incident on the school bus. Legal aid worked with the school to provide Max special education and related services. Max is now thriving and was recently awarded the Student of the Month recognition.

*Name and photo have been changed to protect client privacy.

COMMUNITIES

Legal aid prevents foreclosure, preserving Ohio communities and saving:

- **\$10.3 million** in property values of nearby homes
- **\$1.4 million** in homeless shelter costs
- **\$458,000** in police, fire, code enforcement and other municipal costs
- **\$181,000** in lost property tax revenue of the saved and nearby homes

Legal aid prevents foreclosure, saving:

- **\$2.9 million** for homeowners facing foreclosure
- **\$6.2 million** in lost value for mortgage loan servicers and lenders

\$21.4 MILLION



KEEPING SARAH AND HER CHILDREN IN THEIR HOME

Sarah,* a hardworking employee and a proud homeowner, faced a setback when she fell behind on her mortgage payments after experiencing unexpected health problems that caused her to lose her job.

Facing foreclosure and worried her family would need to move to a homeless shelter, Sarah reached out to legal aid for help. Legal aid acted quickly to help Sarah obtain a loan modification. The loan modification enabled Sarah to resume making manageable mortgage payments; saved her home from foreclosure; and ensured that Sarah and her family could remain in their home and neighborhood.

*Name and photo have been changed to protect client privacy.

HEALTH

Legal aid stabilizes domestic violence survivors, saving:

- **\$8.6 million** in medical and mental healthcare costs
- **\$202,000** in domestic violence shelter costs
- **\$130,000** in foster care costs

Legal aid stabilizes children in need of care, avoiding:

- **\$735,000** in foster care costs as a result of adoption
- **\$713,000** in future criminal justice costs as a result of custody or adoption
- **\$160,000** in future healthcare costs as a result of custody or adoption

\$10.5 MILLION



HELPING LYNETTE AND HER CHILDREN ACHIEVE SAFETY AND SECURITY

Lynette* is a veteran and loving mother. She and her three children moved to Ohio from Georgia to escape her abusive husband. Wanting to ensure her family's safety, but confused about the ramifications of the abuse in Georgia, Lynette turned to legal aid for help.

Legal aid helped Lynette and her children obtain a Civil Protection Order (CPO) in Ohio and register the CPO in Georgia. Legal aid found Lynette a Georgia legal aid attorney to help Lynette get divorced from her abuser. Lynette and her children are now safe and secure in their Ohio home.

*Name and photo have been changed to protect client privacy.

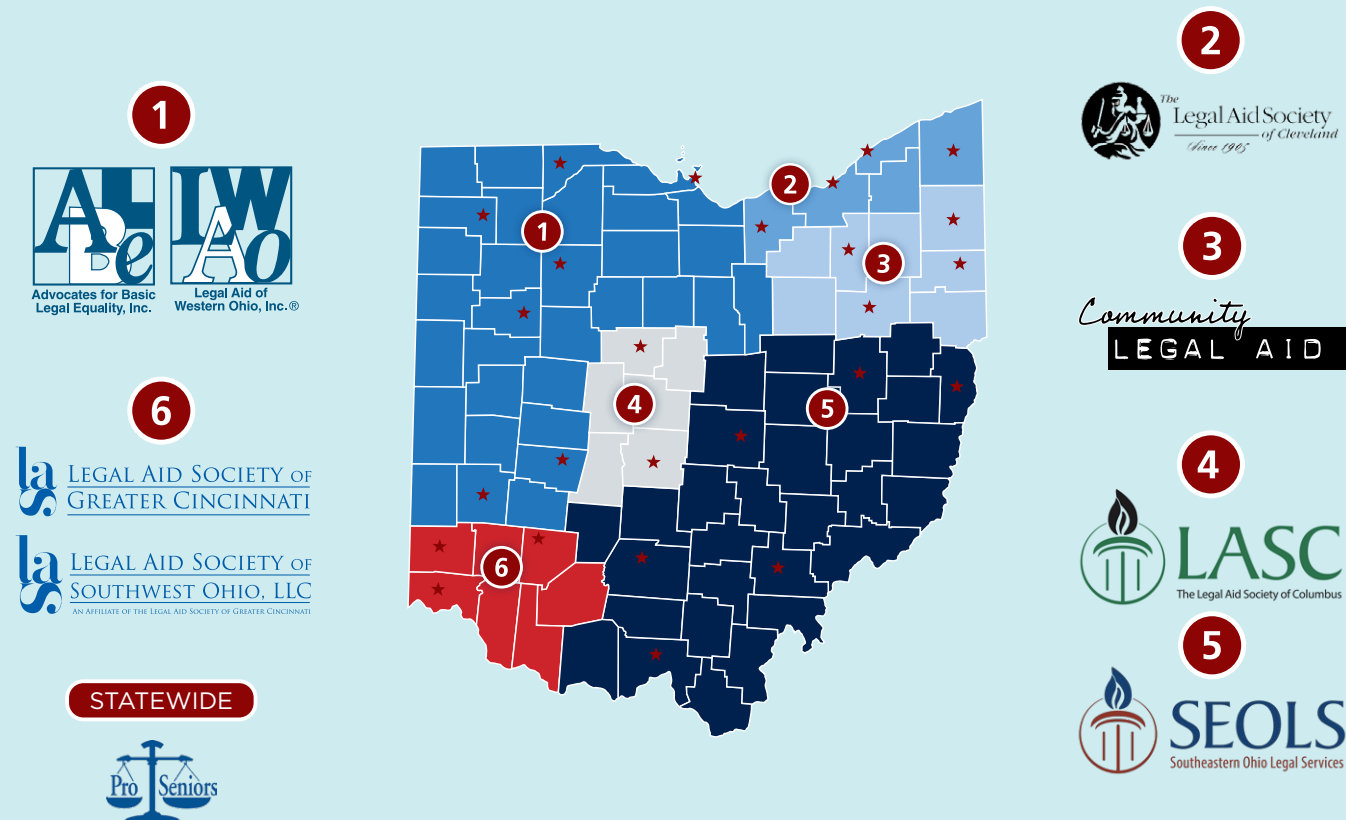


ABOUT THE REPORT

The Ohio Access to Justice Foundation is committed to improving access to justice and ensuring that legal aid societies and other resources, programs and services address the unmet civil legal needs of low-income and underserved Ohioans.



The work of the Economics Center provides tools to help our clients make better financial, policy, and economic and workforce development decisions. The critical data analyses empower business and civic leaders to respond to changing economic conditions, strengthen local economies, and improve the quality of life for their communities.



The Economics Center quantified and monetized the outcomes that result from legal aid helping Ohioans address legal challenges in housing and foreclosure; domestic violence; barriers to employment; custody and adoption; access to healthcare; and, achieving financial stability. For this report, the Economics Center conducted an extensive literature review and analyzed 2017 legal aid data provided by the Ohio Access to Justice Foundation. Some outcomes in the areas of education, consumer and financial legal assistance

provide benefits to Ohio, but were not monetized for the report. Finally, the additional “benefits” derived as a result of Ohio’s legal aids operating as businesses within the state, including, for example, the household spending impact of legal aid employees and the sales and income tax revenue generated from employee earnings, were also included. “Costs” include Ohio Access to Justice Foundation and Ohio legal aid expenditures, as well as Ohio contributions to public assistance programs.