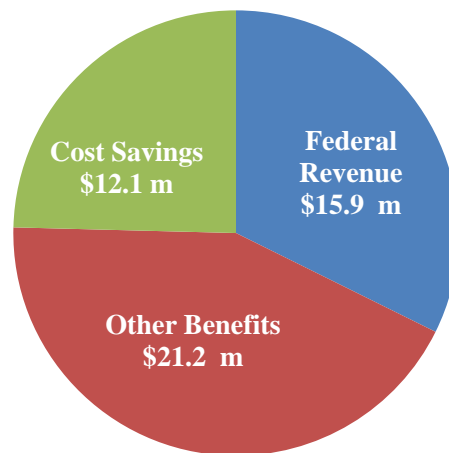


# Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation

## **Economic Benefits of Civil Legal Aid:**

How Legal Aid Boosted the Commonwealth's Economy in FY16



**The work of MLAC-funded civil legal aid programs provides a substantial boost to the Commonwealth's economy.** In FY16, MLAC estimates that this work produced:

► **\$15.9 million in federal revenue**

Includes: federal nutrition assistance benefits preserved (\$10.5 million), increased federal income from successful representation in appeals for federal disability benefits (\$4.7 million), appeals for Medicare coverage (\$184,595) and federal tax appeals (\$503,077).

► **\$21.2 million in additional financial support for low-income residents**

Includes: rent relief and moving expenses for tenants in eviction cases (\$3.2 million), compensation and debt relief for homeowners and former homeowners in foreclosure cases (\$4.4 million), child support orders obtained (\$2.9 million), and Unemployment Insurance benefits won on appeal (\$2 million).

► **\$12.1 million in potential cost savings**

Includes: state shelter and health care savings through preservation of housing for low-income residents facing eviction (\$8.8 million), MassHealth savings for medical and mental health care through domestic violence prevention (\$1.9 million), and state foster care costs through obtaining custody orders for unaccompanied immigrant minors (\$1.5 million).

The full Economic Benefits Report is available at: <http://mlac.org/resources/research/>