

Massachusetts
Legal
Assistance
Corporation

**Report to the Governor and General Court
Fiscal Year 2021**

Legal Aid Proves Central to Commonwealth's COVID-19 Response

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an extraordinary impact on low-income people, exposing them to greater risk of eviction, unemployment, hunger, domestic violence, and lack of vital social services. Civil legal aid organizations across the Commonwealth have responded with great dedication and innovation to provide essential legal services during these unprecedented times.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts appropriated \$29 million for civil legal aid in the FY21 budget. Through its grant-funding process, the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation distributed that money to 16 statewide and regional legal aid organizations.

MLAC also receives money from Interest on Lawyers Trust Account funds, as well as from government grants and private foundations. In FY21, MLAC received more than \$6.5 million from the IOLTA program and related funds. Government and foundation grants, including funds for assistance to victims of crime and for assistance to indigent immigrants, totaled more than \$5.6 million. That funding enabled MLAC to distribute grants to nine additional organizations.

In total, MLAC distributed \$44,406,740 in FY21.

In addition to those grants to legal aid organizations, MLAC played a pivotal role in managing the COVID Eviction Legal Help Project. CELHP is part of the Baker-Polito Administration's Eviction Diversion Initiative, which was implemented in October 2020 to keep people in their homes during the pandemic. Building on MLAC's well-established funding infrastructure, CELHP operates through a statewide legal services delivery system to provide free legal assistance to income-eligible tenants and to landlords who are owner-occupants of two- and three-family homes.

By the end of FY21, CELHP had handled 3,047 cases statewide and aided at least 7,700 people, of whom at least 2,600 were children.

Civil legal aid has been an important part of the social safety net for people who have become even more vulnerable during the pandemic. Black and brown people have been especially harmed, suffering disproportionate economic and health consequences.

MLAC has helped the legal aid organizations it funds to be as effective as possible, even when courts and many service offices were operating remotely. MLAC provides the critical infrastructure that connects and supports the legal aid network across the Commonwealth. Its well-run technology infrastructure allowed legal aid organizations to operate remotely and to participate fully in virtual court hearings.

Low-income people often face a technology gap – encountering challenges from a lack of access to computers or reliable internet services. Remote proceedings can also be difficult for people with low English proficiency. Legal aid advocates worked effectively to address these barriers, often meeting with clients in public spaces, providing clients with low-cost cell phones, and providing safe spaces within legal aid offices so clients could attend virtual court hearings.

The pandemic has also exacerbated many individuals' mental health challenges and intensified domestic violence. Advocates have helped clients cope with those additional stresses that can complicate their civil legal needs.

The pandemic led to a surge of need in many civil legal areas during FY21, including: employment discrimination; housing discrimination; unemployment compensation; mental health; disability rights;

criminal record expungement, and domestic abuse. And even with the creation of CELHP, housing insecurity remained a pressing issue.

To serve as many people as possible, the legal aid community has expanded the resources available on its public websites to provide self-help documents, educational materials, and forms – many in multiple languages – to help people address unexpected legal needs brought on by the pandemic.

MassLegalHelp.org, Massachusetts Legal Resources Online, and the Legal Resource Finder all provide comprehensive, free self-help materials. These resources proved invaluable not just to low-income people who qualify for civil legal aid (people with incomes at or below 125% of the federal poverty line - or \$33,125/year for a family of four), but also to any residents seeking free and up-to-date legal information.

Over and over again in FY21, civil legal aid in Massachusetts proved itself to be an essential service, constantly evolving to meet the needs of people made more vulnerable by the pandemic. The comprehensive response is a testament to the vital infrastructure that MLAC provides, connecting and strengthening the network of civil legal aid organizations across the Commonwealth.

This report details the extraordinary events in legal aid in FY21.

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Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation

September 2021

MLAC Basics and Background

The Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation is the largest source for civil legal aid funding in the Commonwealth. MLAC was established by the Commonwealth in 1983 to ensure that low-income people with critical non-criminal legal problems would have access to legal information, advice, and representation.

MLAC's mission is to provide "leadership and support to improve civil legal services to low-income people in Massachusetts through collaboration with the legal services community, the public, the bar, and the legislature."

MLAC receives funding from a variety of sources, primarily the state budget and Interest on Lawyers Trust Account (IOLTA) funds, and disperses it to qualified civil legal aid organizations across the Commonwealth.

In FY21, MLAC received revenue from several sources:

- A state appropriation of \$29 million
- IOLTA program and related funds of more than \$6.5 million
- Grants and other revenue totaling more than \$13.7 million

MLAC awarded a total of \$44,406,740 in grants.

In addition to funding, MLAC also provides these organizations with support in: communications; data and research; diversity, equity, and inclusion; information technology; and program monitoring and evaluation. Detailed financial information, descriptions of the organizations funded, and MLAC's support services to legal aid organizations appear in the following pages.

About Civil Legal Aid

Civil legal aid organizations provide free information, advice, and representation to low-income people who otherwise would not receive help with serious legal issues related to housing, healthcare, immigration, employment, education, family law and domestic violence, disability, consumer problems, and elder issues. To be eligible for legal services in FY21, a family of four would have to have an annual income at or below 125 percent of the federal poverty level: \$33,125.

Although the U.S. Constitution and the Massachusetts Constitution guarantee most criminal defendants a right to counsel, most people in civil cases do not have that right. That's true even though the consequences of civil cases can be severe: people can lose their homes, health, safety, family, and financial stability – without ever having spoken to a lawyer.

Civil legal aid seeks to ensure that all residents of Massachusetts have access to a lawyer and equal access to justice.

Cases and Clients – FY21

Total cases handled by MLAC-funded organizations: **41,429**

These cases **benefitted** nearly **92,000** people

Cases handled by the **Disability Benefits Project: 1,379**

These cases secure federal SSI/SSDI benefits for elderly residents and those with long-term disabilities.

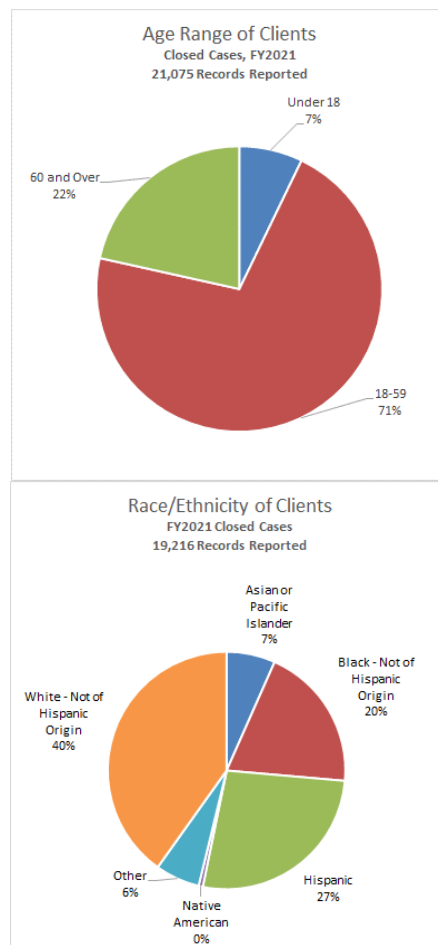
Cases handled by the **Domestic Violence Legal Assistance Project: 1,720**

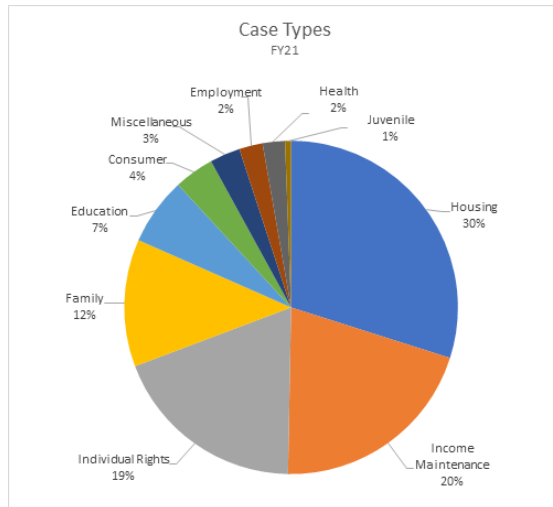
These cases address physical safety, child custody and support, and health care coverage

Cases handled by the **Medicare Advocacy Project: 270**

These cases assist elders and people with disabilities

Client Demographics FY21





Serving all of Massachusetts

94% of Massachusetts cities and towns had at least one person with a case handled by a civil legal aid organization

64% of Massachusetts cities and towns had at least 10 people with a case handled by a civil legal aid organization

The few towns that did not have a single person helped by civil legal aid in FY21 are among the least populous in Massachusetts.

Full-time Legal Aid Staff

393 Attorneys

107 Paralegals

Pro Bono Attorneys

2,395 private attorneys collectively accepted **3,463** cases through legal aid organizations on behalf of low-income residents, providing **53,766** hours of pro bono work worth **\$11 million**.

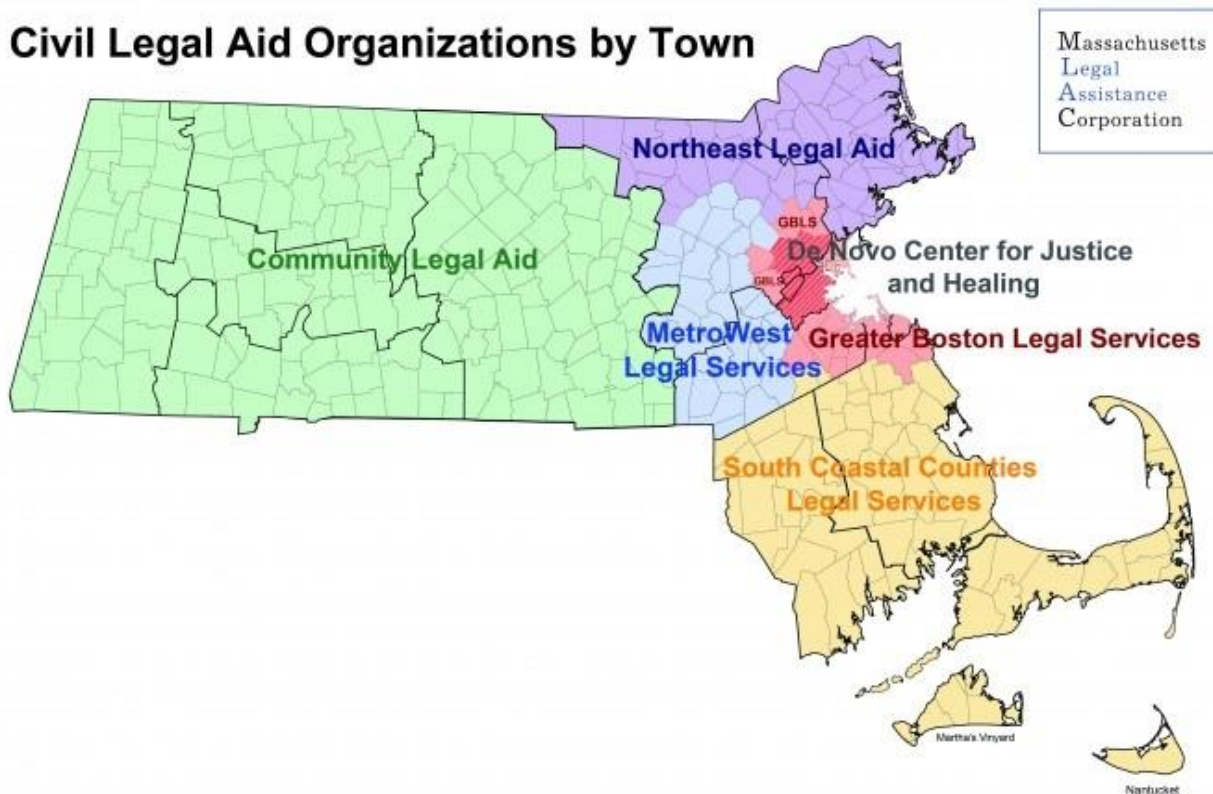
Legal Aid Organizations MLAC Funds

MLAC uses state-appropriated funds to support two different types of civil legal aid organizations: regional and statewide.

Regional Organizations help people from a particular geographic area resolve a variety of civil legal problems related to housing, health care, unemployment insurance, public benefits, immigration, domestic violence, and other serious issues.

- **Community Legal Aid**, with offices in Worcester, Northampton, Pittsfield, Springfield, and Fitchburg, serves Central and Western Massachusetts.
- **De Novo Center for Justice and Healing**, based in Cambridge, serves Boston, Cambridge, and interior suburbs of Boston.
- **Greater Boston Legal Services**, with offices in Boston and Cambridge, serves the Greater Boston area.
- **MetroWest Legal Services**, based in Framingham, serves the MetroWest region.
- **Northeast Legal Aid**, with offices in Lawrence, Lowell, and Lynn, serves Essex and Northern Middlesex Counties.
- **South Coastal Counties Legal Services**, with offices in New Bedford, Fall River, Brockton, and Hyannis, serves Cape Cod, the Islands, and Southeastern Massachusetts.

Civil Legal Aid Organizations by Town



Statewide Organizations specialize in specific subjects or types of law and serve people across the Commonwealth. They also provide support to the regional organizations.

- **Center for Law and Education** provides expertise on education-related cases.
- **Center for Public Representation** is dedicated to enforcing and expanding the rights of people with disabilities and others who are in segregated settings.
- **Children’s Law Center of Massachusetts** advocates for the rights of young people across Massachusetts.
- **Disability Law Center** is the Protection and Advocacy agency for Massachusetts, protecting the rights of people with disabilities.
- **Massachusetts Advocates for Children** represents children, students, and youth who face significant barriers because of their economic status, disability, race, ethnicity/culture, immigration status, language, and/or traumatic life experiences.
- **Massachusetts Law Reform Institute** provides statewide advocacy and leadership in advancing laws, policies, and practices that secure economic, racial, and social justice for low-income people and communities.
- **National Consumer Law Center** advises on a variety of consumer law issues, including student loans, debt collection, disaster protection, mortgages, and consumer protection.
- **Political Asylum/Immigration Representation (PAIR) Project** provides legal services to asylum seekers and promotes the rights of detained immigrants.
- **Prisoners’ Legal Services** protects the health and civil rights of people who are incarcerated in Massachusetts.
- **Veterans Legal Services** promotes the self-sufficiency, stability, and financial security of homeless and low-income veterans.

Specialized Funding for Eviction Prevention, Immigrants' Rights, and Victims of Crime

COVID Eviction Legal Help Project

The COVID Eviction Legal Help Project is part of the Baker-Polito Administration's Eviction Diversion Initiative, supporting tenants and landlords facing financial challenges caused by the pandemic. CELPH expanded the capacity of existing legal aid organizations to provide essential help to income-eligible tenants facing eviction due to COVID-19 and to landlords who are income-eligible owner-occupants of two- and three-family homes.

MLAC oversaw the delivery of services through contracts with the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, the Volunteer Lawyers Project, and six regional legal aid organizations across the state:

Community Legal Aid
De Novo Center for Justice and Healing
Greater Boston Legal Services
MetroWest Legal Services
Northeast Legal Aid
South Coastal Counties Legal Services

These organizations provide referrals, legal information, assistance, and legal representation in all sittings of the Massachusetts Housing Court, including the lawyer for the day program, to preserve or achieve housing stability.

CELHP's impact has preserved housing statewide. As of June 30, 2021, CELHP has handled 3,047 cases statewide and aided at least 7,700 people, of which at least 2,600 were children. The project estimates:

- 41% of cases handled were on behalf of a disabled client.
- 45% of cases handled involved a household with children.
- 68% of cases handled were brought on behalf of female clients.

Although eviction cases during the pandemic have been significantly more complicated and longer than pre-COVID eviction cases, more than one-third of the cases have been closed, and CELHP has had a significant impact on the lives of individuals and households across the Commonwealth facing the trauma of eviction.

The project estimates that positive outcomes were obtained in 90 percent of closed cases receiving extended services. In 70 percent of the cases tenancy was preserved, and 20 percent of the cases received additional time. When the tenancy could not be preserved, agreements in 67 percent of extended service cases obtained reasonable time for tenants to move. When rental assistance was used, tenancies were preserved or additional time was obtained 95 percent of the time. Rental assistance was secured in 49 percent of cases.

Greater Boston Immigrant Defense Fund

MLAC created the Greater Boston Immigrant Defense Fund in 2017 in partnership with the City of Boston Mayor’s Office for Immigrant Advancement, the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, and a group of foundations. The fund supports legal aid and community organizations that represent and provide legal information to immigrants facing deportation who cannot afford a lawyer. The Greater Boston Immigrant Defense Fund leverages national funding support as a member of the Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees’ nationwide Delivering on the Dream Initiative. The fund has awarded more than \$2 million to a network of legal aid and community organizations—which builds the capacity of Eastern Massachusetts to protect vulnerable immigrants, refugees, and temporary status holders and respond to federal policy shifts.

Organizations that receive GBIDF funds:

- Brazilian Worker Center Catholic Social Services of Fall River
- Centro Presente
- Essex County Community Organization
- Greater Boston Legal Services
- Immigrant Family Services Institute
- La Colaborativa
- Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
- MetroWest Legal Services
- Northeast Legal Aid
- PAIR Project
- South Coastal Counties Legal Services

Massachusetts Immigrant Legal Assistance Fund

In 2019, with funding from an anonymous donor, MLAC created the Massachusetts Immigration Legal Assistance Fund to respond to persistent unmet legal needs among vulnerable immigrant and refugee populations in the Commonwealth. MILAF provides funding to organizations that work to fill the gaps within services to immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. MILAF’s aim is to protect the rights of vulnerable immigrants so they can pursue a stable future. The fund awarded more than \$800,000 to twelve organizations, providing direct legal services, community education, and systemic advocacy that benefit large groups of immigrants.

Organizations that receive MILAF funds:

- Community Legal Aid
- Children’s Law Center of Massachusetts
- De Novo Center for Justice and Healing
- Greater Boston Legal Services
- Health Law Advocates
- Justice at Work
- Northeast Legal Aid
- PAIR Project
- Prisoners’ Legal Services
- Rian Immigrant Center
- South Coastal Counties Legal Services

Civil Legal Aid for Victims of Crime

The Civil Legal Aid for Victims of Crime initiative helps victims of crime throughout Massachusetts with their related civil legal problems — including family law, housing, immigration, disability rights, child welfare, education, consumer, identity theft, employment rights and public benefits.

Crime victims often experience difficult legal problems that cannot be addressed in the criminal law system. For example, a victim of an assault may be unable to work, leading to financial distress including an eviction and debt collection problems. Or, a survivor of domestic violence may need legal help to get a divorce and child support. Jane Doe, Inc. and the National Consumer Law Center provide training and support. MLAC and the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute also provide training, support and overall CLAVC project coordination.

Nine civil legal aid organizations provide direct legal services to victims of crime through this initiative:

- Community Legal Aid
- De Novo Center for Justice and Healing
- Greater Boston Legal Services
- MetroWest Legal Services
- Northeast Legal Aid
- South Coastal Counties Legal Services
- Children’s Law Center
- Disability Law Center
- Victim Rights Law Center

Strengthening the Legal Aid Network

The Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation strengthens legal aid in the Commonwealth by providing support in several key areas.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

MLAC's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiative improves services to low-income clients by building cultural competence, addressing diversity-related issues, and promoting equity within MLAC and the civil legal aid organizations it funds. Through education and training, improved hiring practices, statewide events, and collaboration, this initiative spurs legal aid organizations to reflect the diversity of their clients and exemplify our shared values of justice and fairness.

The Statewide Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council is led by MLAC's Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and consists of staff representatives from legal aid organizations across the Commonwealth. It encourages transparency and communication between MLAC and the organizations it funds and promotes shared solutions to persistent inequities.

Fellowships

MLAC funds two fellowships.

The **Racial Justice Fellowship** was created in 2006 to expand the reach of legal aid in communities that have had difficulty obtaining access to the justice system or legal services due to linguistic or cultural barriers. The goal of the fellowship is to use systemic advocacy and other strategies to address pervasive problems of racial injustice, given the disproportionately high rate of poverty in communities of color and the unmet legal needs of these communities. The Racial Justice Fellowship funds a two-year position at legal aid organizations in Massachusetts.

The **Bart Gordon Fellowship** helps legal aid organizations enhance their services by providing funding to hire recent law school graduates equipped to assist underserved communities. The fellowship, which rotates among the Massachusetts legal aid organizations that receive MLAC funding, provides financial support to new attorneys qualified to address these barriers. One new Gordon Fellow is funded each year for a one-year term. (There is an option to renew for a second year.) Bart J. Gordon was a Springfield attorney and a founding member of the MLAC Board of Directors. This fellowship program was renamed in his honor after his passing in 1995.

Central Technology Project

The Central Technology Project seeks to standardize technology for MLAC-funded legal aid organizations in Massachusetts. It provides Help Desk and user support and training to staff within those organizations. The staff of the Central Technology Project oversees computer hardware and software, telephone and internet service, video conferencing, and networks.

Client stories

Legal Aid helps army vet harassed by his landlord



When Raymond found hazardous conditions in his rented duplex, he did what any tenant would do; he told the property owner. But rather than fix the dangerous problems, his landlord tried to evict Raymond and his family from their house.

A U.S. Army veteran who served in the 101st Airborne Division in Iraq and Afghanistan, Raymond reached out to Veterans Legal Services for help. In response, his landlord's actions escalated, eventually becoming intolerable. She shut off his heat and hot water and began playing loud music throughout the day. "Each time my landlord pulled a stunt, I was able to reach out to the attorneys at Veterans Legal Services and they were able to get our hot water

turned back on, get the heat turned back and, and get the music to stop coming through the walls," Raymond said.

In October 2020, eight months after the harassment started, Raymond's landlord sold the home. The new owners offered him a one-year lease and the possibility of purchasing his half of the duplex.

"Thanks to the lawyers at Veterans Legal Services, not only were we able to keep our home and keep from being thrown out on the streets, but now we have the opportunity to purchase the home." Without them, he said, "this would never have been possible."

Access to Unemployment helps mother weather COVID crisis



Malensky had to take time off from work to care for her young daughter when the COVID-19 pandemic forced schools to close. At her employer's urging, Malensky agreed to take three months of unpaid leave from her job under the Family and Medical Leave Act to secure her position, location, and hours when she returned. Three months later—with her daughter safely back at school—Malensky tried to return to work, but her employer terminated her position.

With bills piling up, she applied for retroactive unemployment benefits to cover her unpaid leave, only to be denied. Malensky knew this wasn't just. "I figured there was no way this could be legally right," Malensky explained. "There was no way this was okay."

She mentioned her situation to her doctor, who recommended she contact Greater Boston Legal Services, an MLAC-funded civil legal aid organization. GBLS took Malensky's case, asserted her right to unemployment benefits, helped her appeal the decision, and had her funds released to her in a matter of weeks. This improved Malensky's financial stability and helped her family weather the COVID crisis.

"I do not believe I would have been able to get my family out of that financial burden. I do not believe that we would have been able to be in a position we are in now if it wasn't for the help of GBLS. And for that my family and I are extremely grateful," Malensky said.

Activities & Changes in Net Assets

Revenue:

Commonwealth of Massachusetts contract	\$ 29,000,000
COVID Eviction Legal Help Project (CELHP) grant	8,082,899
Massachusetts Office of Victim Assistance (MOVA) grant	5,614,651
Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts	4,923,869
Opt-out bar registration fee award	918,705
Cy pres award	360,087
Pro hac vice fee award	192,203
Management fees	120,087
Interest and other income	50,162
Net assets released from purpose restrictions	<u>1,189,900</u>
Total revenue	<u>50,452,563</u>

MLAC directs all of its state-appropriated funds for general support, the Disability Benefits Project, the Medicare Advocacy Project, and the Domestic Violence Legal Assistance Project.

Expenses

	<u>Program Services</u>	<u>General and Adminis- trative</u>	<u>Total</u>
Personnel and Related Costs:			
Salaries	\$ 1,114,146	\$ 691,934	\$ 1,806,080
Payroll taxes and fringe benefits	293,036	150,842	443,878
Total personnel and related costs	<u>1,407,182</u>	<u>842,776</u>	<u>2,249,958</u>
Grants and Contracts Awarded:			
General support	24,936,863	-	24,936,863
COVID Eviction Legal Help Project (CELHP) funding	7,495,555	-	7,495,555
Massachusetts Office of Victim Assistance (MOVA) funding	5,500,563	-	5,500,563
Domestic Violence Legal Assistance project	2,437,265	-	2,437,265
Disability Benefits project	1,178,892	-	1,178,892
Immigration grant funding	1,169,900	-	1,169,900
Other Grants (Farmworkers, Website and Technology)	860,722	-	860,722
Medicare Advocacy project	446,980	-	446,980
Total grants and contracts awarded	<u>44,026,740</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>44,026,740</u>
Other:			
Professional services	1,096,846	103,268	1,200,114
Other support services	645,934	31,731	677,665
Occupancy	151,199	340,751	491,950
Fellowships	380,000	-	380,000
Office and other	13,114	21,933	35,047
Depreciation	-	13,857	13,857
Travel	1,928	93	2,021
Total other	<u>2,289,021</u>	<u>511,633</u>	<u>2,800,654</u>
Total expenses	<u>\$ 47,722,943</u>	<u>\$ 1,354,409</u>	<u>\$ 49,077,352</u>

**MLAC Fiscal Year 2021 Grants:
\$44,406,740**

Regional Organizations

Community Legal Aid

General Support	\$5,637,764
COVID Eviction Legal Help Project	\$1,757,005
Special Projects	\$1,038,038
Victims of Crime Act Funding	\$1,160,470
Immigrants' Rights Funding	\$ 67,000
Fellowship	\$ 130,000
Farmworkers	<u>\$ 75,000</u>
Total	\$9,865,277

DeNovo Center for Justice and Healing

General Support	\$ 153,016
COVID Eviction Legal Help Project	\$ 204,455
Special Projects	\$ 25,704
Victims of Crime Act Funding	\$ 266,079
Immigrants' Rights Funding	<u>\$ 57,000</u>
Total	\$ 706,254

Greater Boston Legal Services

General Support	\$6,493,773
COVID Eviction Legal Help Project	\$1,329,983
Special Projects	\$1,334,944
Victims of Crime Act Funding	\$ 849,000
Immigrants' Rights Funding	\$ 117,535
Fellowship	\$ 50,000
Technology	<u>\$ 217,053</u>
Total	\$10,392,288

MetroWest Legal Services

General Support	\$ 896,444
COVID Eviction Legal Help Project	\$ 474,751
Special Projects	\$ 150,580
Victims of Crime Act Funding	\$ 204,120
Immigrants' Rights Funding	\$ 60,535
Technology	<u>\$ 19,698</u>
Total	\$1,806,128

Northeast Legal Aid

General Support	\$3,117,743
COVID Eviction Legal Help Project	\$1,297,454
Special Projects	\$ 563,312
Victims of Crime Act Funding	\$ 754,101
Immigrants' Rights Funding	\$ 117,535
Fellowship	<u>\$ 50,000</u>
Total	\$5,900,145

South Coastal Counties Legal Services

General Support	\$3,414,971
COVID Eviction Legal Help Project	\$1,033,851
Special Projects	\$ 650,148

Victims of Crime Act Funding	\$ 807,058	
Immigrants' Rights Funding	<u>\$ 117,535</u>	
Total	\$6,023,563	

Statewide Organizations

Center for Law and Education

General Support	\$ 238,764	
Other Grant	\$ 20,000	
Technology Grant	<u>\$ 7,886</u>	
Total	\$ 266,650	

Center for Public Representation

General Support	\$ 405,897	
Special Projects	\$ 35,287	
Technology Grant	<u>\$ 13,436</u>	
Total	\$ 454,620	

Children's Law Center of Massachusetts

General Support	\$ 285,927	
Victims of Crime Act Funding	\$ 191,531	
Immigrants' Rights Funding	<u>\$ 50,000</u>	
Total	\$ 527,458	

Disability Law Center

General Support	\$ 477,525	
Special Projects	\$ 182,256	
Victims of Crime Act Funding	\$ 251,720	
Technology Grant	<u>\$ 15,872</u>	
Total	\$ 927,373	

Massachusetts Advocates for Children

General Support	Total	\$ 188,623
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Massachusetts Law Reform Institute

General Support	\$2,865,152	
COVID Legal Eviction Help Project	\$ 534,447	
Special Projects	\$ 82,868	
Websites Project	\$ 410,253	
Language Access Fellowship	\$ 100,000	
Victims of Crime Act Funding	\$ 328,140	
Immigrants' Rights Funding	\$ 55,000	
Technology Grant	<u>\$ 101,512</u>	
Total	\$4,477,372	

National Consumer Law Center

General Support	Total	\$ 238,764
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PAIR Project

General Support	\$ 70,708	
Immigrants' Rights Funding	<u>\$ 112,550</u>	
Total	\$ 183,258	

Prisoners' Legal Services

General Support	\$310,391
Immigrants' Rights Funding	\$ 57,000
Fellowship	<u>\$ 50,000</u>
Total	\$417,391

Veterans Legal Services

General Support	Total	\$ 141,414
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Victims of Crime Act Funding

MLAC provides Victims of Crime Act Funding to the Statewide and Regional Organizations noted above and to

Victim Rights Law Center	\$601,284
Volunteer Lawyers Project	\$ 87,058

COVID Eviction Legal Help Project Funding

MLAC provides COVID Eviction Legal Help Project Funding to the Statewide and Regional Organizations noted above and to Volunteer Lawyers Project **\$863,610**

Immigrants' Rights Funding

MLAC provides Immigrants' Rights Funding to the Statewide and Regional Organizations noted above and to these organizations:

Greater Boston Immigrant Defense Fund

Brazilian Worker Center	\$24,535
Catholic Social Services of Fall River	\$24,535
Centro Presente	\$24,535
Essex County Community Organization	\$24,535
Immigrant Family Services Institute	\$24,535
La Colaborativa	\$24,535

Massachusetts Immigration Legal Assistance Fund

Health Law Advocates	\$57,000
Justice at Work	\$67,000
Rian Immigrant Center	\$67,000

Guide to Terms and Abbreviations

General Support funds are from the state appropriation.

Special Projects:

Disability Benefits Project - **\$1,178,892** to eight organizations

Domestic Violence Legal Assistance Project - **\$2,437,265** to seven organizations

Medicare Advocacy Project - **\$446,980** to three organizations

Victims of Crime Act Funding is from a federal grant through the Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance.

Immigrants' Rights Funding is from private foundations and the City of Boston. MLAC administers two immigrant rights funds: The Greater Boston Immigrant Defense Fund (GBIDF) and the Massachusetts Immigration Legal Assistance Fund (MILAF).

MLAC Board and Staff

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