

Civil Legal Needs & Economic Impact Reports

Connecticut Bar Foundation has commissioned two reports that assess the state's civil legal aid system and demonstrate the economic value of investing in legal services for low-income residents.



Investing in Legal Aid is Investing in Connecticut

Key metrics



72%

Magnitude of Need: 72% of Low-income households in CT have experienced a civil legal need



\$2.90

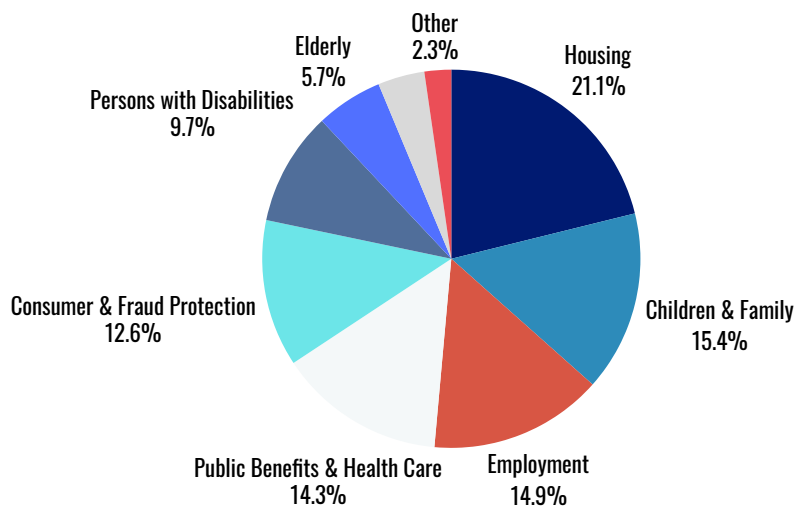
Return on investment: Every dollar of public funding yielded approximately \$2.90 in economic activity.

OVERVIEW

Civil Legal Needs Report: Civil legal problems are widespread in Connecticut, affecting hundreds of thousands of residents. The state's legal aid system delivers high-impact free legal services, but demand far outpaces capacity, leaving many without legal support. This assessment highlights the scale of need and, based on findings, suggests opportunities to increase access to justice in Connecticut.

Economic Impact Report: Legal aid services improve people's lives in many tangible ways—only some of which can be measured directly in dollars and cents. Ultimately, civil legal aid is about stabilizing communities, preventing homelessness, and empowering individuals to live with dignity and security.

MOST COMMON LEGAL ISSUES



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Strengthen hotline capacity and coordination
- Increase resources for service delivery
- Advance salary parity, retention, and mentorship
- Expand service models, including community justice workers and social workers, to tackle the justice gap
- Support systemic reform and policy advocacy
- Modernize technology and information management
- Leverage technology and CTLawHelp.org to expand outreach
- Address geographic gaps through regional innovation
- Build capacity to serve a wider range of civil legal problems
- Expand housing crisis response
- Strengthen pro bono engagement



**FUNDING ACCESS
TO JUSTICE**



ctbarfdn.org/ctlegalneeds



Hartford, Connecticut