

LSC FY 2027 Budget Request in Brief

The Legal Services Corporation (LSC) requests an appropriation of **\$2.1 billion** for FY 2027.

LSC's request reflects the amount required for LSC-funded legal services providers to serve the eligible Americans who **currently** seek their help for civil legal problems that threaten their families, homes, safety and livelihoods.



129 LSC grantees, local legal services organizations, provide services in every zip code across the U.S., with over 900 offices.



LSC grantees help people with household incomes under 125% of the federal poverty guidelines. In 2025, that was **\$19,563** for an individual and **\$40,188** for a family of four.



52.3 million Americans are eligible for legal assistance through LSC grantees.

America's Justice Gap

92%

of civil legal problems faced by low-income Americans receive **inadequate or no legal help.***

49%

of eligible applicants—**1.8 million people** are turned away each year by LSC grantees due to insufficient resources.*

56%

of Americans **mistakenly believe they have a right to an attorney in a civil case** if they cannot afford one. **

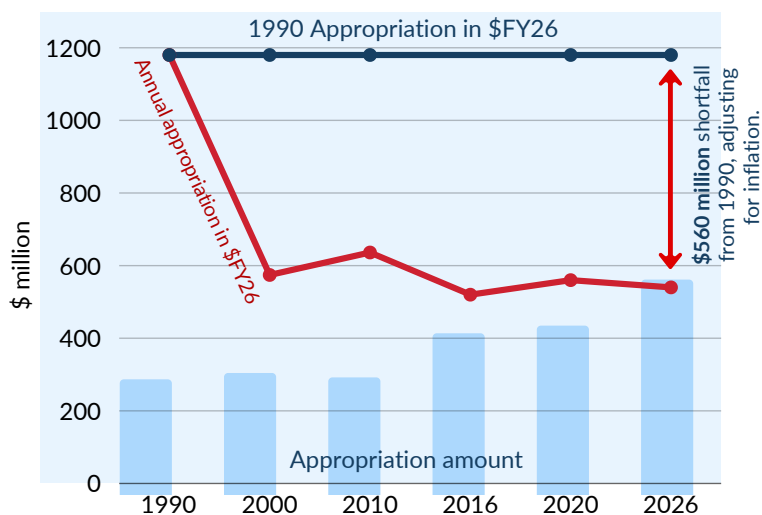
Chronic Underfunding of Civil Legal Aid

LSC's FY 2027 budget request follows decades of chronic underfunding of civil legal assistance.

Legal assistance funding has not kept up with inflation, much less the growing population, which means **the justice gap continues to increase.**

In 1990, Congress appropriated more than \$300 million for LSC. Adjusted for inflation, this would be **over \$1.1 billion** today, meaning LSC's FY 2026 appropriation of \$540 million represents an effective **cut of \$560 million** from 1990 levels.

LSC Congressional Appropriations since 1990



* LSC's 2022 Justice Gap Study

** Harris Poll survey, July 11-15, 2024 (commissioned by LSC).

LSC is the single largest funder of civil legal aid in the country. LSC promotes equal access to justice by funding high-quality civil legal assistance for low-income Americans.

How Legal Assistance Helps

LSC grantees helped **6.4 million** Americans with their legal problems in 2024, including:



205,000

people in cases involving domestic violence.



45,000

veterans and military families.



312,000

older Americans.

Significant Increase in Civil Legal Assistance Funding is Needed

LSC funding is distributed to independent legal services organizations that provide legal help to eligible Americans in **every congressional district in the U.S.**

\$2.1 billion

The level of funding required for LSC grantees to fully meet the legal needs of every eligible low-income applicant.

\$979 million

That amount will sustain the status quo in which 49% of eligible applicants are turned away and only 29% receive full assistance.

LSC is a Responsible Steward of Taxpayer Dollars

- **98%** of LSC's proposed FY 2027 budget would fund nonprofit legal services organizations providing critical legal services in **local communities**.
- LSC conducts vigorous oversight of all grantees to guarantee **every dollar is used appropriately**. Additionally, LSC provides training and technical assistance to grantees to ensure programmatic, regulatory and fiscal **compliance with congressional requirements**.
- LSC has an independent **Office of Inspector General (OIG)**, which monitors LSC's and grantees' adherence to laws and congressional requirements, oversees **annual independent audits** of LSC's financial statements and operates a **nationwide hotline** for allegations of fraud, waste or abuse.

Legal Assistance is Prudent Federal Spending

More than 50 economic impact studies show that **every \$1 invested in civil legal assistance returns an average of \$7**. Resolving problems early saves taxpayer dollars by reducing reliance on government and emergency services.



Scan to learn more
about LSC's FY 2027
Budget Request.



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LSC | America's Partner
for Equal Justice
LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION