SUPPORT ROBUST FUNDING FOR THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

Fund LSC to Deliver Equal Justice to All

LSC was created to promote equal access to justice by providing funding assistance to civil legal aid programs that exist in every state and congressional district. Without access to legal services funded by LSC, low-income Americans could not afford to get help resolving serious legal problems that affect their lives and economic stability.

LSC IMPACT

- Equal Access to our legal system is fundamental to equal justice under the law.
- Legal aid attorneys help clients secure rights guaranteed by federal law, such as protection under the Violence Against Women Act, FEMA disaster relief, bankruptcy, and Social Security disability.
- Legal aid attorneys also help clients with cases involving family issues, housing, employment, and legal problems arising from natural disasters.
- LSC funding is cost-effective and a good return on taxpayer investment. The nationwide average of cost-benefit studies shows an average return of over $7 for each dollar invested in LSC.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Civil legal aid need increases during emergencies like natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic.

The pandemic has already caused a significant increase in the need for legal help with evictions and unemployment, lack of access to healthcare, scams aimed at the elderly, and temporary restraining orders needed to protect survivors of domestic violence.

After LSC requested $100 million of additional emergency funding to address the pandemic, Congress included $50 million of emergency LSC funding in the recently enacted CARES Act.

BIPARTISAN SUPPORT

- There has always been widespread support for LSC.
- As stated by the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, “Can there be a just society when some do not have justice?”

THE POINT

- **THE PROBLEM**
  Nearly one million low-income Americans who seek help for civil legal problems are turned away each year for lack of adequate resources.

- **THE SOLUTION**
  The federal government should provide funding assistance for civil legal aid programs. Solving legal problems up front prevents them from multiplying.

- **THE ASK**
  LSC has requested $652.6 million for FY 2021, which would help address 60% more unmet civil legal needs, and it also desperately needs the remaining $50 million of emergency funding not yet provided. Congress must do what is needed now to deliver on America’s pledge of access to equal justice under the law and fulfill 100% of the civil legal needs of low-income Americans.