



**VERMONT
LEGAL
AID**



**LEGAL
SERVICES
VERMONT**

*Working together to ensure every Vermonter
has **access to justice**.*



OUR MISSION

Access, Advocacy, and Impact

At Vermont Legal Aid (VLA) and Legal Services Vermont (LSV), providing equal access to justice for all Vermonters, regardless of income, identity, or circumstances, is at the heart of everything we do. As the largest providers of free legal services in Vermont, we provide **free legal representation and wrap-around services to underrepresented and marginalized Vermonters**, including the disabled, elderly, housing insecure, low-income, migrant, BIPOC, and LGBTQ+ communities. Beyond providing individual representation, we also work to create **lasting, systemic change through policy advocacy** at the state level.

OUR PROGRAM AREAS



Elder Law and Care Advocacy



Disability Law



Domestic Violence Protection



Immigrant Rights



Homeowner and Tenant Rights



Low-Income Representation



Mental Health Law



Healthcare and Medicare Advocacy



Public Benefits and Consumer Law

WHY LEGAL AID MATTERS

92% of *civil legal needs* among low-income Americans *are unmet*

74% of low-income households in the Northeast experienced *one or more civil legal problems* in the past year

55% of low-income Americans who experienced a legal problem say these problems *substantially impacted their lives*

data from Legal Services Corporation 2022 Justice Gap Study

PROGRAMS IN FOCUS



Housing Stability

Over the past 5 years, evictions in Vermont have increased by 45%. Because of the shortage of rental apartments and high housing costs, these evictions often lead to homelessness – Vermont's homeless population has more than tripled since 2019, and Vermont now has the 4th highest per capita homeless rate in the country. Our housing help requests are up 43% since 2019 and now make up half of all our legal inquiries. In 2024, we provided legal services to over half of all evictions filed

in Vermont. Since last year, we have helped over 800 families avoid eviction and secured lasting housing solutions for hundreds more.



Justice for Migrant Families

In January 2025, we launched our Immigrant Minor Guardianship Project in response to the Federal government's plans to increase detention and deportation of undocumented people. The project helps migrant families create a family preparedness plan in case a parent is detained or deported, designating a guardian who can care for the children and support family reunification. Without a designated guardian, these children would be placed in state custody in the U.S. until age 18. The

Immigrant Minor Guardianship Project has already trained 20 volunteer attorneys, hosted 6 legal clinics, and completed paperwork for over 60 families and more than 110 children. Our staff also successfully advocated in the legislature for a change in Vermont's guardianship statute to clearly authorize these "standby" guardianships.

OUR IMPACT

26,000
requests for legal assistance fielded each year

18,000
Vermonters *directly assisted* in 2025

85%
of those served are *below 125% of the federal poverty level*

2,634
client court cases taken on pro bono in 2024

SUSTAINING OUR WORK

in a Changing Funding Landscape

Vermont Legal Aid and Legal Services Vermont represent and advocate for thousands of Vermonters annually free of charge. Our work is supported by a combination of state, federal, and private grant funds, but recent cuts to public funding are now threatening our ability to meet the current demand for our services. These cuts come at a time when the need for our work is greater than ever, especially in the areas of housing, healthcare, and immigrant rights.

In order to ensure that all Vermonters continue to have access to justice, we are now seeking to broaden our base of funding beyond public dollars – reaching out to individuals to support our work through personal contributions. **We hope you can join us to continue the fight for equal access to justice for all Vermonters!**

To learn more or support our work, please scan the QR code below or visit vtlegalaid.org/donate

Thank you!



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*"When my children and I were displaced due to domestic violence, the caring staff at VLA helped me file for a relief from abuse order that kept me and my children safe. **Through the process, they offered me ongoing support and legal guidance.** Without them, I have no idea how my children and I would have navigated this ordeal."*

—Mary Lavigne,
Vermont Legal Aid Client