



## About Nevada's Five Core Legal Aid Providers

- ✓ Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada
- ✓ Nevada Legal Services
- ✓ Southern Nevada Senior Law Program
- ✓ Volunteer Attorneys for Rural Nevadans
- ✓ Washoe Legal Services

### These core providers together:

- ✓ *Deliver high quality free legal services in civil matters to low-income Nevadans.*
- ✓ *Serve low-income people and seniors, often living on an income of no more than 125 percent of the adjusted federal poverty guidelines for Nevada, or about \$15,000 a year for an individual or \$31,000 for a family of four.*
- ✓ *Operate in Nevada's primary cities and hard-to-reach rural areas. Operate 15 offices with 84 attorneys, 28 paralegals, and a total of 214 staff.*
- ✓ *Employ just 1 lawyer for every 6,000 low-income Nevadans, requiring legal aid programs to turn away thousands of eligible people in need each year.*
- ✓ *Set priorities to focus scarce resources on the most critical needs: family safety and stability, health care, income protection, and housing.*
- ✓ *Oversee an \$18 million annual budget.*
- ✓ *Produce \$128 million in total income and savings annually for Nevada's residents and communities to achieve a 7:1 return on investment.*

## Nevada's Legal Aid Providers Deliver High Quality Free Civil Legal Services and Secure Millions of Dollars in Economic Benefits for Local Communities Each Year

Nevada legal aid programs help low-income Nevadans escape an abusive partner, stop a wrongful foreclosure, defend against a fraudulent debt collector, and more.

But too often, Nevada's most vulnerable residents who seek to protect their families, their homes and their livelihoods must face court without legal help.

**A legal needs and economic impact study** just completed for the Nevada Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission reveals that:

- **The "Justice Barrier" is high.** Nevada's poorest and most vulnerable residents have 147,000 legal problems per year. Legal aid is currently able to fully address only 24 percent of the total need.

### The Disparity Between Need and Capacity



- **Need: 147,000** problems/yr. among Nevada households at < 125% of poverty
- **Capacity: 35,000** problems/yr. addressed with help from legal aid lawyers or paralegals
- **Gap: 112,000** problems/yr. for which people do NOT get help

**76%** of the total legal needs go **unmet**

- **Legal aid is underfunded.** Because of limited funding, Nevada has just 84 lawyers to serve 500,000 low-income Nevadans – **1 lawyer for every 6,000 people below the poverty line.** In contrast, the ratio of lawyers to Nevadans **above that income level is 15 for every 6,000.**
- **Legal aid produces solutions.** Legal aid is about preventing homelessness, ending domestic violence, and stopping consumer fraud. Even with its limited funding, legal aid prevents cascading problems and keeps clients in their homes, on the job, and their kids in school. It opens doors to other support services that multiply its impact.
- **Legal aid lifts the economy. For every \$1 spent, legal aid returns \$7.** The economic boost comes through cost savings for law enforcement, government, and healthcare; direct-dollar income that supports children, veterans, and people with disabilities; and increased revenue for businesses from the spending of those dollars by legal aid clients out in the community. That revenue in turn supports 376 jobs for working Nevadans.

