



## Nevada's Five Core Legal Aid Providers

1. Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada
2. Nevada Legal Services
3. Southern Nevada Senior Law Program
4. Volunteer Attorneys for Rural Nevadans
5. 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 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 4,800 Nevadans living below the poverty line, 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 cost 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; **76 percent of need goes unmet, and low-income Nevadans fighting to protect their families, homes, and jobs must face the consequences in court without legal help.**

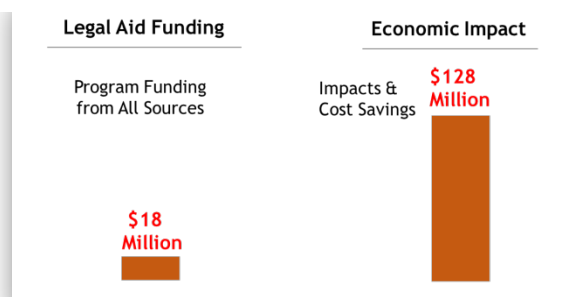
### The Disparity Between Need and Capacity



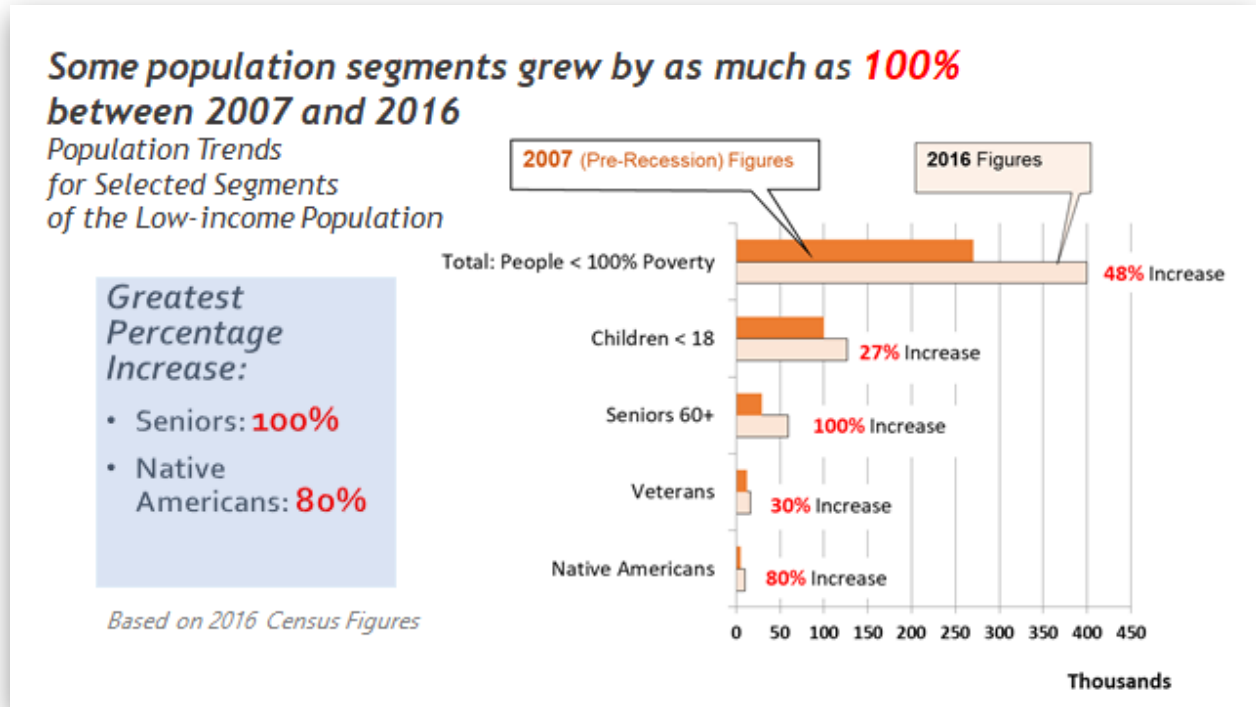
- **Need: 147,000** problems/yr. among Nevada households at < 125% of poverty
- **Capacity: 35,000** problems/yr. addressed with help from legal aid lawyers or paralegals
- **Disparity: 112,000** problems/yr. for which people do NOT get help

**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, equivalent to **1 lawyer for every 4,800 people below the poverty line.** In contrast, the ratio of lawyers to Nevadans above that income level is **12 lawyers for every 4,800.**
- **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.



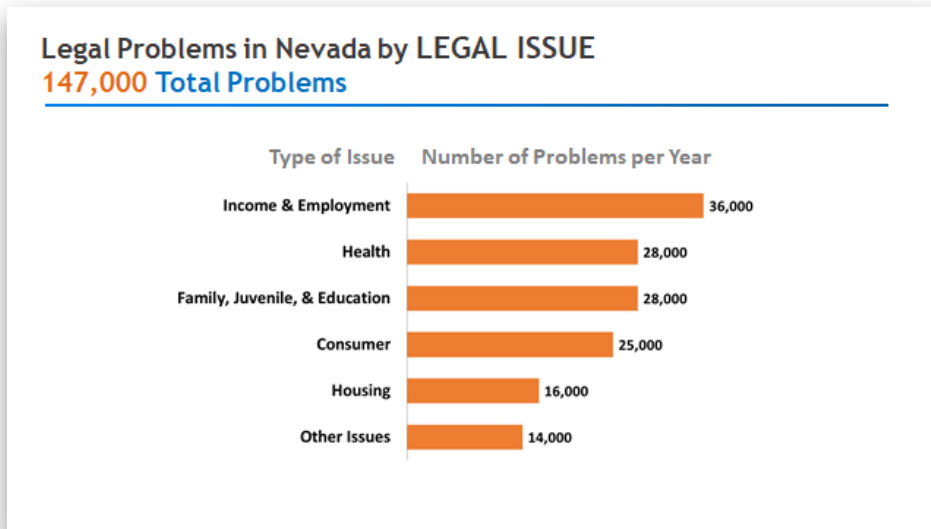
# Poverty Grips Nevadans Statewide



Whether young or old, urban or rural, Nevadans feel the grip of poverty and its threat to their ability to provide food, clothing, and shelter to their families. Most Nevadans live in and around Las Vegas, so that is where most of the poverty is found, but rural Nevadans statewide also suffer the consequences of living on a low income. In 2016, 400,000 Nevadans lived in poverty, nearly 50 percent higher than a decade earlier, after surging three times faster than the state’s fast-growing overall population during that time. Seniors in poverty doubled between 2007 and 2016 and poverty among Native Americans soared by 80 percent.

## How Great is the Disparity between Need and Capacity for Different Types of Legal Problems Experienced by Low-Income People?

The chart below provides a breakdown of the disparity between need and capacity for each of six broad categories of legal problems.



The problem area showing the greatest disparity between legal need and legal aid capacity was Income and Employment. The lowest disparity was seen for the Housing area, for which legal aid programs have raised and deployed significant resources to address legal problems such as eviction and foreclosure that left unaddressed can impose especially dire consequences on the families that are affected.