ILLINOIS Equal Justice FOUNDATION

SUPPORT LEVEL FUNDING FOR IEJF CIVIL LEGAL AID PROGRAMS IN FY 28 BUDGET

JUSTICE SHOULDN'T DEPEND ON YOUR INCOME.

People in Illinois facing legal emergencies such as eviction, family crises, fraud and domestic violence deserve a fighting chance.

Civil legal aid programs funded through the Illinois Equal Justice Foundation (IEJF) deliver results, keeping people housed, safe, and self-sufficient. **We ask the General Assembly to maintain level funding for the four IEJF state appropriations in the FY 28 budget.**

APPROPRIATION	IMPACT
CIVIL LEGAL AID GRANTS *$5 Million in AG Budget*	**Closes the Justice Gap.** Funds free legal help for everyday crises: family law, housing, and consumer fraud.
ILLINOIS ARMED FORCES LEGAL AID NETWORK *$1.4 Million in AG Budget*	**Protects Those Who Served.** Provides free legal help to low-income veterans and military families.
NEW LEAF ILLINOIS *$1.6 Million in AG Budget*	**Gives Second Chances.** Helps people clear old cannabis and other records that block jobs, housing, and education.
Eviction Help Illinois Legal Solutions for Your Housing Issues *$5 Million in Home Illinois Budget*	**Keeps Families Housed.** Connects tenants facing eviction with free legal help and landlord-tenant mediation.

BY THE NUMBERS

146,615
Illinoisans helped last year

$11.9 Million
in financial benefits secured

982
evictions prevented

102
counties served

WHY LEVEL FUNDING MATTERS

- Increasing demand already stretching capacity of legal aid providers
- Approximately 50% of eligible, low-income Illinois residents seeking civil legal assistance are turned away
- Legal aid prevents problems like eviction and loss of benefits from turning into even bigger crises

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