



PROTECT ILLINOIS FAMILIES, SENIORS & VETERANS: SUPPORT FUNDING FOR THE IL EQUAL JUSTICE FOUNDATION

ILLINOIS IS FALLING SHORT IN ENSURING JUSTICE FOR ALL

Most Low-Income Illinoisans Receive No Legal Help: There are just over 500 legal aid attorneys to serve more than 2 Million Illinoisans living in poverty. As a result, *only 1 in every 6 people are able to get legal help for a life-changing problem.*

500

LEGAL AID ATTORNEYS



REPRESENTING

2M

ILLINOISANS LIVING IN POVERTY



RESULTING IN



ONLY 1 IN 6 RECEIVING HELP

Decades of Underfunding: For the first 5 years, the State appropriation for civil legal aid hovered around just \$500,000. The appropriation hit its high water mark in 2007 with \$3.5M but then was cut twice between 2010 and 2013 to its current level of \$1.4M.

Please support the civil legal aid appropriation in the Attorney General’s budget. This funding helps IL families, seniors and veterans access legal help to protect their health, families and livelihoods.

CIVIL LEGAL AID PROGRAMS HELP LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD

A Proven Track Record: For 20 years, the IL Equal Justice Foundation (IEJF) has been a reliable partner for the State and now manages 3 appropriations for civil legal aid. Since 1999, IEJF-funded programs have helped more than 580,000 Illinois residents.

- Through the state appropriation and special one-time funding from Attorney General settlement awards, IEJF programs *secured more than \$29M in financial benefits for struggling Illinoisans in FY18 & 19.*

Providing the Help Most Needed For Your Constituents: IEJF funded programs work on the top ‘Bread and Butter’ legal problems threatening residents – *eviction, foreclosure, family law, and consumer fraud.*

Supporting Providers with Maximum Impact: IEJF funds both large organizations that provide a *breadth of legal services* like Legal Aid Chicago, Prairie State Legal Services and Land of Lincoln Legal Aid, as well as community-based groups like the Farmworker & Landscaper Advocacy Project and Uptown People’s Law Center that *bring the law where people live.*

LEGAL AID IS A SMART INVESTMENT FOR ILLINOIS IN FY18 & 19 IEJF-FUNDED PROGRAMS:



Kept People in their Homes

Helped more than 900 people avoid homelessness & prevented more than 200 evictions



Reduced Domestic Violence

Secured more than 300 orders of protection



Safeguarded Children

Obtained and enforced 200 child support orders worth more than \$1.4M



Helped Veterans Access Hard-Earned Benefits

More than 6,800 veterans helped



Protected Seniors from Fraud

Decreased people’s financial obligations by more than \$14M



WHO WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

In Illinois, only one out of every six people gets the legal help they need.

Imagine you're a legal aid provider, and these six people came into your office. You can only afford to help one. Who would you choose?

1 During visitation last week, I was horrified to find that my son had not eaten for a couple days and had been left alone. **I want full custody of him while my drug-addicted ex-wife cleans up her act.**



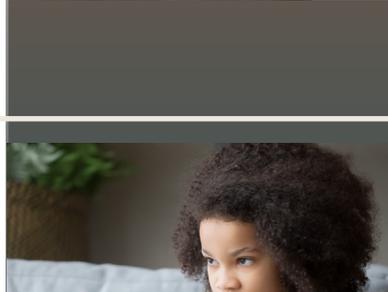
2 A contractor talked me into refinancing my mortgage to pay for some repairs. But he never did any work, and the payments are eating up most of my income. **I'm afraid I'll lose my home.**



3 My husband once beat me so severely I was hospitalized for days. **I desperately want to leave, but I don't want to drag my kids into poverty.**



4 I'm 19 years old, disabled and confined to a wheelchair. My uncle is my guardian, but he abuses me and takes my social security checks. **I am trapped.**



5 My mommy works hard but our landlord is a bad man. When my mommy complained he didn't fix things, he changed our locks and wouldn't let us in. **We now have to live in our car.**



6 I served my country for years in the Marine Corps. Now they cut my VA benefits with no explanation. **I'm sick but I can't see my doctor without my benefits.**

