



***Improving Justice For
Vulnerable Populations in Texas***

Legal aid transforms the lives of Texans every day. Beyond the individual impact, legal aid is a critical building block for improving the communities we live in. Legal aid helps Texans living in poverty build a foundation of stability so they can create a better future for themselves, their families, and our communities.

***Building Block:
an important part that is
grouped together with many
other similar things to form
something larger.***

**TEXAS | ACCESS to JUSTICE
FOUNDATION**

www.teajf.org
P.O. Box 12886
Austin, Texas 78711
(512) 320-0099

**INVESTING
in JUSTICE**

in TEXAS



***Contact the Texas Access to Justice Foundation
to discuss how we can work together***
to provide additional funding to help impact justice
and fairness in Texas.

***A building block for improving
economic and community changes for
Texans and their communities***

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Civil Legal Aid Helps Solve Problems

Civil legal aid impacts Texas by:

- Stabilizing families affected by poverty and violence
- Rebuilding communities after natural disasters, like hurricanes and floods
- Achieving economic benefits for individuals, veterans, and working families that deserve them
- Empowering low-income workers to achieve fair treatment in the workplace
- Ensuring families are able to remain in their home and in safe living conditions
- Examining discriminatory practices for the marginalized
- Educating underserved populations on legal rights and responsibilities
- Identifying and developing legal solutions for communities
- Guiding struggling youth on paths to become productive adults



The Value of Civil Legal Aid

Civil legal aid assures fairness for all in the justice system, regardless of income.

Legal aid provides access to legal help for people to protect their livelihoods, their health, their homes, and their families.

Unlike in criminal cases, there is no guarantee of a lawyer in a civil case. Low-income victims of abuse, fraud or mistreatment often must navigate a complex legal system on their own or not at all.

The work of civil legal aid groups is instrumental in moving vulnerable Texans out of crisis and assisting those who have nowhere else to turn. Civil legal aid organizations help individuals and families living in or near poverty maintain control and financial stability, saving millions of dollars in social support services and preventing problems from becoming catastrophes.

Those in need of civil legal aid are often on the precipice of succumbing to many of the threats that funders work to address, such as poverty, homelessness, unemployment, or violence. For funders, civil legal aid can be a highly effective tool boosting advocacy efforts with front-line evidence and legal expertise to inform policy decisions.

Civil legal aid helps maintain healthy neighborhoods and communities. According to a study by The Perryman Group, for every \$1 spent on civil legal aid, the overall gains to the Texas economy are more than \$7 in total spending, \$3.59 in gross product, and \$2.22 in personal income.

Funding in Flux

Legal aid organizations are facing a crisis of their own...

as traditional public and private funding sources have sharply eroded during tough economic times. And it is during these times, that the number of those in need of legal services has increased.

Efforts to increase pro bono and the use of online tools and forms have helped stretch services, but without new partners and creative solutions, civil legal aid organizations face a long uphill battle to deliver their unique and valuable expertise to those in need.

An Opportunity For Private Philanthropy

Private philanthropy benefits tremendously from the actions of civil legal aid organizations,

which share their work in alleviating poverty, securing income and family stability, ensuring health care, ending violence, and building stronger communities. Private funding of legal aid projects often complements state and federal funding through public-private partnerships.

When funders invest in civil legal aid, they take a step to more effectively achieve their missions. While all organizations need funding support, investing in legal aid is smart, results-oriented philanthropy.