

# Civil Legal Aid for Children

Massachusetts  
Legal  
Assistance  
Corporation

Line item 0321-1600

During the COVID-19 crisis, legal aid is a lifeline for children and their families who need help asserting their right to an equal education and other rights.

## Legal Aid lawyers help children who face civil legal issues related to:

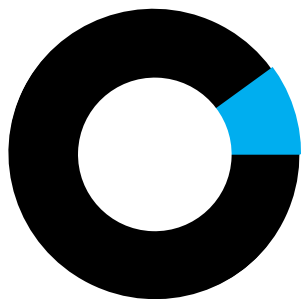
- Access to equal education and equal opportunity during the pandemic, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, language, or disability
- Immigration, family separation, and asylum
- Guardianship, custody, domestic violence, and other family law issues
- Public benefits for families, including: SNAP, disability benefits, emergency assistance, and access to health care
- Trauma that affects children's ability to succeed in school

Low-income people at or below 125% of the federal poverty level (\$33,125 per year for a family of four) qualify for civil legal aid.



*From advocating for children with disabilities in school to ensuring landlords follow health regulations, legal aid lawyers protect young people across the Commonwealth.*

In FY20, legal aid lawyers provided direct representation to **more than 1,900 children**. Thousands more benefitted from services to family members.



**8% of legal aid clients in FY20 were under 18**

Last year  
legal aid provided  
**\$115 million**  
in economic benefits to  
the Commonwealth and its  
residents

**\$5.6 million**  
won in total lifetime child  
support through legal aid  
advocacy last year

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