



Alaska Legal Services Corporation

Making our Justice System Work for all Alaskans

LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

Alaska Legal Services Corporation (ALSC) is a private, non-profit law firm that provides free civil legal aid to low-income individuals, to promote safety, economic stability and health. ALSC is dedicated to ensuring that the very principle our founding fathers envisioned remains alive: justice for all, not just the few who can afford it.

STATE APPROPRIATION

ALSC has received an appropriation under every state administration for over 50 years.

The appropriation declined from a high of \$1.2 million in 1984 to \$400,000 in FY2022. During that timeframe, the poverty population potentially eligible for ALSC's services had a 210% increase.

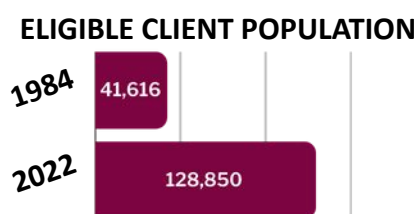
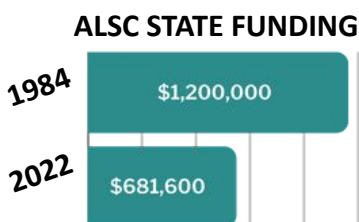
With flat funding since FY2020, inflation has eroded ALSC's appropriation amounting to an effective 15% cut. Additionally, as a nonprofit that must stretch limited resources, ALSC salaries are lower than market rate, typically pegged to 70% of State of Alaska equivalent positions. And even these rates are going up: The State of Alaska recently raised state attorney pay 20%.

THE CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES FUND

The Civil Legal Services Fund (**created by statute AS 37.05.590**) was established as a special account in the general fund with nearly unanimous support after widespread bi-partisan acknowledgement that ALSC was severely underfunded.

At the discretion of the legislature, funds are deposited from Alaska's 50% share of civil punitive damage awards and up to 10% of court filing fees received in the most recent Fiscal Year. These funds are then available to supplement ALSC's appropriation.

Last year, \$281,600 was appropriated from this fund to ALSC. The amount available for appropriation from the fund this year is \$301,200.



128,850 Alaskans – **18.1%** of our state's population – qualify for civil legal aid at or below 125% of the federal poverty level.¹



Low-income Alaskans experience an estimated **2.1** civil legal issues every **18** months, that often coexist with a myriad of other issues.²



Only **3.52** civil legal aid attorneys are available for every 10,000 Alaskans in poverty.³



ALSC receives far more applications for civil legal help than we are able to accept. **50%** of applicants are turned away due to lack of resources.

The legal system is complicated, especially when trying to navigate it alone. When legal aid is available, Americans are empowered with tools and knowledge needed to access the civil court system to protect and exercise their rights.

Getting people the civil legal help they need gives everyone a fair chance to be heard and helps our courts manage their case loads.

Let's fulfill our nation's promise of justice for all.

1. U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2019 American Community Survey 1- year estimates: <https://www.lsc.gov/grants/our-grantees/alaska-state-profile>. 2020 Adjusted Labor Force Data <https://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/labforce/labdataall.cfm?s=2&a=0>
 2. 2017 Justice for All Report, Alaska Court System, Access to Justice Committee, Available at: <https://public.courts.alaska.gov/web/jfa/docs/plan.pdf>
 3. National Center for Access to Justice, Justice Index. Available at: <https://ncj.org/state-rankings/justice-index/attorney-access>