

# **ALASKA LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION**

Providing FREE high-quality civil legal services to Alaskans since 1967

## FACT SHEET: ALSC OVERVIEW

### **ABOUT ALSC**

Established in 1967, Alaska Legal Services Corporation (ALSC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit law firm providing free civil legal aid to low-income Alaskans, promoting stability, safety, and health.

With 12 offices and a strong volunteer network, ALSC serves individuals and families in every Alaska community.



**6,203**Cases handled in EV24



**17,145**Alaskans helped in FY24



### **CIVIL LEGAL AID**

Civil legal aid organizations like ALSC provide free legal help to ensure all Americans can access and navigate the civil justice system. Unlike in criminal cases, there's no constitutional right to an attorney in civil matters.

This leaves many low-income individuals facing life-altering challenges—like domestic abuse, eviction, or denied benefits—without legal representation. Civil legal aid protects their livelihoods, safety, homes, and families. It upholds a core American value: justice for all, not just those who can afford it.

When confronted with these oftentimes life-altering civil legal issues, low-income Americans receive no or inadequate assistance for a stunning 92% of their significant civil legal needs. -Legal Services Corporation (LSC) 2022 Justice Gap Report

### **ALSC SERVICES**

ALSC provides free civil legal aid to Alaskans navigating life's toughest challenges, protecting livelihoods, health, housing, and families. Our services address legal issues ranging from preventing unlawful foreclosures and securing veterans' benefits to helping survivors of domestic violence find safety.



Legal Representation From advice to full court representation for eligible clients.



Legal Assistance

Clinics, helplines, online resources, and forms for all Alaskans, regardless of income.



Pro Bono Program

An award-winning network of volunteer attorneys and justice workers handling pre-screened cases.





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### **ALSC FUNDING**

ALSC receives funding from multiple sources including federal, state, and local governments, tribal organizations, foundations, and private donations. For more than 55 years, ALSC has consistently received a state appropriation under every administration. This appropriation is managed through the Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development, specifically in the Community and Regional Affairs division.

In addition, the Civil Legal Services Fund (AS 37.05.590), passed by the 30th Alaska State Legislature with near-unanimous bipartisan support, supplements ALSC's appropriation.

"As a former Attorney General for the State of Alaska, and now as a U.S. Senator, I have worked closely with Alaska Legal Services and have seen firsthand the invaluable representation it offers Alaskans." - U.S. Senator Dan Sullivan

## **ECONOMIC BENEFIT OF ALSC**

Generating a 5:1 return on investment annually for Alaskan governments, businesses and communities. Communities save money from ALSC's success in reducing homelessness; helping children, veterans, seniors, people with disabilities and other vulnerable populations secure federal benefits, and decreasing the incidence of domestic violence.\*

ALSC focuses on essential legal issues: housing, health care, safety, etc.

- Prevents unfair outcomes due to lack of legal representation.
- Ensures equal access to justice for low-income and vulnerable populations.
- Promotes community stability by addressing legal issues impacting well-being.
- Reduces public costs by helping people maintain housing and access benefits.

"Alaska Legal Services provides a great service for Native people and should be better funded." — Employee, Copper River Native Association; Law Enforcement Officer Source: Report of the Alaska Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Fairness and Access (1997)

### **HELPING THE ALASKA COURT SYSTEM**

ALSC is the most referred-to legal provider in Alaska, followed by the Alaska Court System and its Family Law Self-Help Center. ALSC helps streamline the court system by reducing unnecessary lawsuits and court costs. Its legal representation improves the efficiency of civil legal proceedings in courts, while self-help resources help parties navigate the system more effectively.

### SUPPORTING CIVIL LEGAL AID

ALSC's work ensures that the fundamental American value of "equal justice under law," engraved on the U.S. Supreme Court building, is a reality for Alaskans regardless of their income. Funding for ALSC is critical to protect America's founding principles of liberty and justice for all.

'The Resource for Great Programs, Inc., An Analysis of the Economic Impacts and Social Benefits of Assistance Provided by Alaska Legal Services Corporation, 2012. Available at: <a href="https://www.alsc-law.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Economic-Impacts-and-Social-Benefits-of-Legal-Assistance-Provided-by-ALSC.pdf">https://www.alsc-law.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Economic-Impacts-and-Social-Benefits-of-Legal-Assistance-Provided-by-ALSC.pdf</a>

