



# Dutchess County

## FACT SHEET

### LEGAL SERVICES OF THE HUDSON VALLEY

#### DUTCHESS OFFICE:

**One Civic Center Plaza, Ste 506 • Poughkeepsie NY 12601 • (845) 471-0058**

Seeking legal advice is out of reach for tens of thousands of people in Dutchess County, but many find themselves confronting challenges that require civil legal services in order to protect their rights.

**Legal Services of the Hudson Valley is the only provider of FREE, comprehensive civil legal services to all seven counties of the lower Hudson Valley. OUR MISSION is to provide free, high quality counsel in civil matters for those who cannot afford an attorney where basic human needs are at stake.**

**The work we do each day provides justice to thousands of our neighbors who have nowhere else to turn, including protecting individuals from domestic violence; defending seniors against abuse; serving veterans on the homefront; supporting the rights of the disabled; ensuring that LGBTQ individuals are free from discrimination; and keeping families in their homes.**

#### Legal Services of the Hudson Valley: Dutchess County

*Legal Services of the Hudson Valley is making a major effort to expand, enhance and build awareness of the high-quality, comprehensive, free civil legal services we are providing in Dutchess County. In 1996, we opened our first office in Poughkeepsie and over two decades later, have grown the office to a staff of 14 full-time attorneys and 5 support staff.*

*We chose the Main Street location because it is centrally located, convenient to public transportation, and co-located with partnering providers and agencies including the Poughkeepsie and Dutchess County courts, the Family Partnership Center, the Dept. of Community & Family Services (DCFS), the Dutchess Office for Veterans Services, the Mediation Center of Dutchess Co., and the Coalition on Elder Abuse in Dutchess. Our practice areas include elder law, children's advocacy, kinship care, family law, domestic violence, benefits, consumer debt, eviction, foreclosure, and other civil matters involving clients who are disabled or vulnerable.*



### STATISTICS

- 293,718** Population;
- 3.7%** Unemployment rate;
- 14,991** Number of veterans;
- 9.1%** Poverty rate in Dutchess County. In Poughkeepsie, 22.4% live in poverty;
- 11.8%** of Dutchess Co. children live in poverty, while child poverty in Poughkeepsie has reached 26%;
- 51,573** persons in Dutchess are over age 65; 6% of them live in poverty county-wide, while the rate is higher in Poughkeepsie at 11%;
- \$42,920** annual income needed to afford a two-bedroom apartment in Dutchess Co.;
- \$13.72** estimated mean renter wage in Dutchess Co. At this wage, renters need to work 75 hours/week to afford a two-bedroom apartment.

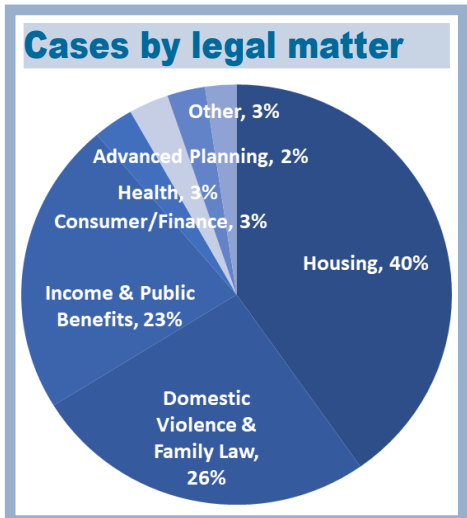
### 2019 Results

**2,172**  
cases  
handled for  
Dutchess  
residents

**4,849**  
household  
members  
impacted

**1,724**  
clients  
served

**14**  
attorneys  
**5**  
paralegals/  
support staff



(2018 American Community Survey; Mid-Hudson Valley Community Profiles; National Low Income Housing Coalition, "Out of Reach 2019".)