



### LEGAL SERVICES OF THE HUDSON VALLEY

#### WESTCHESTER OFFICE (HQ):

90 Maple Avenue • White Plains NY 10601 • (914) 949-1305

Seeking legal advice is out of reach for tens of thousands of people in Westchester 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: Westchester County

Legal Services of the Hudson Valley opened its doors in 1967 as Westchester Legal Services, with one office in White Plains NY. In 2020, we have four offices across the county – White Plains, Yonkers, Mount Vernon and Peekskill. We provide free civil legal services to more than 5,000 Westchester residents each year.

Westchester County is the 10th most expensive metropolitan area in America\* but has 90,000 low-income people living in densely populated urban communities. The areas of greatest need are Yonkers and Mount Vernon, followed by New Rochelle, Peekskill, Port Chester and White Plains. These low-income residents desperately need civil legal services in all practice areas. There are gaps in service in every substantive area of poverty law, with the most urgent needs felt in areas affecting the essentials of life: a roof over one's head, subsistence income, safety from violence, and access to health care and education.

### 2019 Results

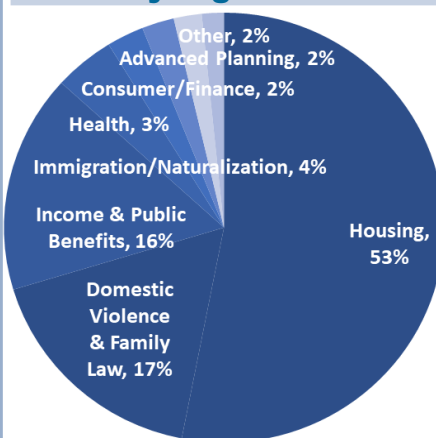
6,615  
cases  
handled for  
Westchester  
residents

15,300  
household  
members  
impacted

5,137  
clients  
served

31  
legal staff  
18  
admin staff

#### Cases by legal matter



### STATISTICS

968,815  
3.8%

Population;  
Unemployment rate;

9.2%

Poverty rate in Westchester County;

11.1%

of Westchester Co. children live in poverty;

45%

of families with female heads of household and children present live in poverty;

158,902

persons in Westchester are over age 65; 8.3% of them live in poverty;

\$71,000

annual income needed to afford a two-bedroom apartment in Westchester;

\$19.01

estimated mean renter wage in Westchester. At this wage, renters need to work 72 hours/week to afford a two-bedroom apartment.

((2018 American Community Survey; Mid-Hudson Valley Community Profiles; National Low Income Housing Coalition, "Out of Reach 2019"; New York State Community Action Association, 2019 Poverty Report.)