

# Dutchess County 2021 FACT SHEET



### DUTCHESS OFFICE:

ONE CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, STE 506 • POUGHKEEPSIE, NY 12601 • (845) 471-0058

Legal Services of the Hudson Valley (LSHV) opened its first office in 1967 in White Plains, NY. Over time, LSHV has expanded to 10 offices, including Poughkeepsie.

The mission of LSHV is to provide high quality counsel in civil matters for low-income individuals and families and other vulnerable persons who do not have access to legal representation to maintain their basic needs, and to pursue equity through dismantling systemic oppression.

<b>1,605</b> CASES HANDLED	<b>1,247</b> CLIENTS SERVED	<b>3,474</b> PEOPLE IMPACTED
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In 1996, we opened our first office in Poughkeepsie and twenty five years later, have grown to a staff of 13 full-time attorneys and five support staff.

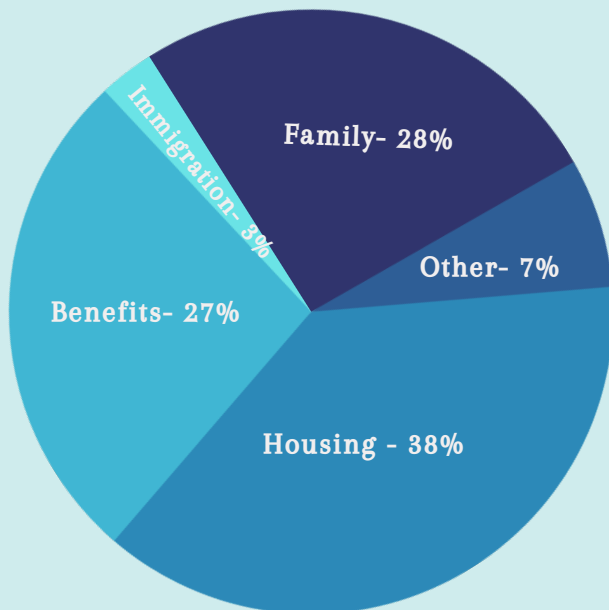
Our location is centrally located, convenient to public transportation, close to the courts and co-located with many of our community partners. Our practice areas include elder law, children’s advocacy, kinship care, family law, domestic violence, benefits, consumer debt, eviction and foreclosure prevention, and other civil matters involving clients who are disabled or vulnerable.

The program is paid for in part by the City of Poughkeepsie.

LSHV works to ensure fairness in the justice system for those who can’t afford an attorney when maintaining the basic necessities of life, such as food, shelter, and safety, are at risk.

- 293,754** Population, of which, **9%** of people live in poverty;
- 27%** of families with female heads of households and children present live in poverty;
- 48,457** persons in Dutchess are over age 65; more than **6.8%** of them live in poverty county wide, while the rate is higher in Poughkeepsie at **10.9%**

### CASES BY LEGAL MATTER



In Dutchess County, the Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a two-bedroom apartment is **\$1,467**. In order to afford this, without paying more than **30%** of income on housing, a household must earn **\$28.21** hourly. The average renter's wage in Dutchess County is **\$13.79**. At this rate a renter must work **2.3** full time jobs to afford a two-bedroom apartment.

(labor.ny.gov; Mid-Hudson Valley Community Profiles; National Low Income Housing Coalition, “Out of Reach 2021”; New York State Community Action Association, 2021 Poverty Report.)