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, two of which are in Orange County.

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.

As part of our effort to provide free civil legal services throughout the Hudson Valley, LSHV opened the Newburgh office in 2004. Due to the increased demand in the county and surrounding areas we added an office in Goshen in 2019.

Our practice areas include eviction prevention, domestic violence, immigration, elder law, kinship care, family law, public benefits, consumer debt, foreclosure, and other civil matters involving clients who are disabled or vulnerable. LSHV is funded through a variety of sources including local, state and federal government contracts, private foundations and corporations and individuals who believe everyone should have an attorney by their side when they are faced with legal proceedings.

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.

In Orange 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 Orange County is $11.99. 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.)