About Maryland Legal Aid

Established in 1911, Maryland Legal Aid (MLA) operates 12 full-service offices, serving communities in all 23 Maryland counties and Baltimore City. With a staff of 300, including 150 attorneys, MLA provides civil legal services to the most vulnerable communities in the state, with special targeted programs for child victims of abuse and neglect, the elderly, nursing home and assisted-living residents, homeowners in danger of losing their homes to foreclosure, seasonal farmworkers, and veterans.

The only statewide, direct provider of civil legal services to low-income-eligible residents, MLA offers a wide range of services ranging from information and referrals and brief legal advice to extended legal representation, litigation in state and federal trial and appellate courts, community education, pro se assistance, pro bono coordination and referrals, policy advocacy, and broad-based impact work. Areas of priority include family/domestic, housing, economic stabilization (public benefits and employment), older adults, health, and consumer law. In 2019, MLA served 106,846 people.

In 2017, MLA established a wholly-owned subsidiary, the Maryland Center for Legal Assistance (MCLA). Through a contract with the Administrative Office of the Courts, MCLA operates six District Court Self-Help Centers located in Baltimore City, Cambridge, Catonsville, Glen Burnie, Salisbury, and Upper Marlboro, and the Maryland Courts Self-Help Centers (live chat and telephone services) in Annapolis and Frederick. The Self-Help Centers deal with a wide range of civil legal matters, including landlord/tenant, consumer issues such as debt collection, family law issues such as child support, and criminal record expungements. In 2019, a record number 108,497 self-represented litigants were assisted through the Self-Help Centers.

MLA receives funding from a variety of sources, including the Maryland Legal Services Corporation, the federal Legal Services Corporation, local governments, state agencies, United Way, law firms, corporations, foundations, and individual donors.