

The WIDESPREAD BENEFITS *of* LEGAL AID

**HELPING THOSE IN NEED, PROMOTING
EFFICIENCY AND STRENGTHENING
MISSOURI'S LOCAL ECONOMIES**



**PRESERVING *and*
EXPANDING LEGAL
AID WILL REAP
BENEFITS *for*
EVERYONE *in*
MISSOURI.**

By investing in legal aid, Missouri's leaders can make "Equal Justice under Law" a reality. In the process, state leaders will multiply the investment many times in the form of a healthier economy and better lives for all Missourians.

HELPING THOSE IN NEED HELPS EVERYONE.

- By eliminating domestic violence, for example, legal aid reduces crime, produces healthier, happier children who are less likely to become victims or perpetrators of violence and allows survivors to go back to living healthy, productive lives. We also reduce the costs of emergency-room medical treatment and police protection for victims and costs of prosecution and incarceration of abusers.
- By preventing illegal evictions and foreclosures, legal aid keeps families in their homes and avoids the burden on taxpayers of providing emergency shelter and other services to people who otherwise would have joined the growing number of homeless people in our state.

THE MISSOURI LEGAL AID NETWORK IS A WISE INVESTMENT.

- Every \$1 million in new funding enables our programs to provide 1,900 more people with measurable positive outcomes that include families protected from domestic violence; veterans and disabled people provided with access to health care and income support; and families threatened with eviction enabled to stay in their homes.
- In 2016, legal aid programs brought \$7.8 million in federal dollars into the state, producing a \$14.4 million "economic stimulus" effect that created additional revenue for businesses and more jobs for working Missourians.
- Legal aid produces \$1.84 in direct financial benefits for every dollar of funding we receive.

WORKING TO FILL THE JUSTICE GAP.

- Legal Aid is effective, yet our resources are so limited that we have to turn away tens of thousands of applicants each year who have nowhere else to turn.
- Studies show that only one in five people living in poverty who need legal help are able to get it from any source.
- The promise of justice is little more than an empty pledge when our most vulnerable citizens do not have access to the legal help they need to protect them from fraud and deception and allow them access to basic needs including shelter, medical care and family safety.