

Legal Services For Maine Elders 2023 Report

LEGAL SERVICES
FOR MAINE ELDERS

Our Mission

To provide free, high quality legal assistance to disadvantaged older Mainers when their basic human needs are at stake.

The Challenges Facing Maine and LSE

30% of Maine's population will be 60 years of age or older by 2030.

45% of older Mainers live below 200% of federal poverty level (live on less than \$30,120).

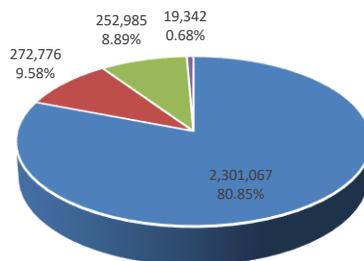


56% of low income older Mainers experience at least one legal problem each year.

LSE is meeting, at best, 5% of the need for free legal help. You can help. Visit www.mainelse.org and donate now!

What is possible with your help and support?

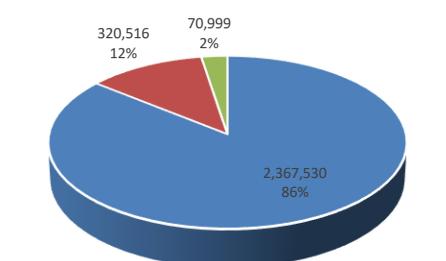
FY 2023 Revenue
(\$2,846,170)*



- Government Contracts
- Private Grants
- Fundraising/Contributions
- Other

* FY 2024 information is not available until March of 2025.

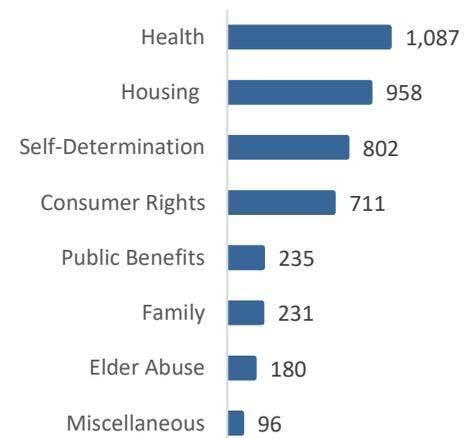
FY 2023 Expenses
(\$2,759,045)



- Program *
- Admin
- Fundraising **

* 84% of the program expenses were personnel and benefit expenses.
** For every \$1.00 spent on fundraising, LSE raised \$6.41.

FY 2023 Cases Handled
(4,300)



What Happens When Older Mainers Don't Get the Help They Need?

Dorothy was 83 years old when her husband died. She and her husband had lived in their home for over 25 years and raised their family there. Following her husband's death, Dorothy's health declined and she ended up in a nursing home for several months. During that time, she could not pay both her mortgage and her nursing home bill. Soon after returning home, she was faced with a foreclosure notice and eventually she lost her home.

If Dorothy had had the help of a lawyer she may have been able to work out a modification on her loan and remain in her home. LSE is successful in keeping older Mainers in their homes in 82% of the foreclosure cases we handle.



Success Stories

Mary was diagnosed with Alzheimer's and Mary's daughter moved in with her to take care of her and manage her finances. Things seemed to be working out for a while but one day Mary received a disconnection notice from the electric company. This was strange. Mary called her son and had him bring her to her bank. At the bank, she learned her account was empty. An LSE Attorney was able help Mary obtain a Protection Order and recover some of her stolen assets.

Ralph suffered from end stage pulmonary disease. He was able to remain at home with the help of home care services. After a state assessment, his home care hours were reduced from 27 hours to 18 hours. An LSE Attorney discovered that Ralph's doctor had temporarily prescribed a medication that had caused Ralph to better perform certain self-care tasks. The assessment was conducted when Ralph was on the medication. The LSE Attorney appealed this determination and Ralph's hours of service were restored.

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Since 1974, Legal Services for Maine Elders has been helping older Mainers protect their rights to live independently and with dignity.