



606 WALNUT STREET, 25TH FLOOR
DES MOINES, IOWA 50309

515-243-2151 OR 800-532-1275
SE HABLA ESPAÑOL
FAX: 515-246-6075
WWW.IOWALEGALAID.ORG

Iowa Legal Aid received a generous grant award from Iowa's Civil Reparations Trust Fund to expand our capacity to provide critical civil legal services to vulnerable Veterans and rural Iowans. We are pleased to submit this report detailing our work with these populations. In this report, we have included data for the periods of October 20, 2025 to April 15, 2026 and cumulative data from the beginning of the grant period (January 29, 2024) to April 15, 2026.

Legal Services for Veterans since October 20, 2025

Since October 20, 2025, Iowa Legal Aid has closed cases for 312 Veterans, helping them secure income, housing, and safety from domestic violence. Our work benefitted 558 Veterans and family members, including 140 children. We secured \$18,601 in benefits for our Veteran clients.

Cases

Housing Stability: Fifty percent of our Veterans' cases were for housing issues. Thirteen percent of our Veteran clients reported that they were living in shelters, with friends, in a motel, or were homeless. Our legal team worked with Veterans on 128 eviction cases, helping prevent immediate homelessness for 217 Veterans and family members, including 45 children. Veterans also sought our help with foreclosure or public housing benefits. Our attorneys worked with Iowa Veterans to address legal issues that were contributing to their housing instability.

Income Stability: Protecting or increasing income accounted for 22% of our Veterans' cases. We helped clients avoid garnishment of their income, obtain public benefits, and resolve issues with unemployment, Social Security, Social Security Disability Insurance, taxes, Medicare and Medicaid.

Family Stability: Sixteen percent of our Veterans' cases since October 20, 2025 involved family issues. We prioritize cases involving domestic abuse, and we helped Veterans leave unsafe situations, obtain protective orders, file for divorces, gain custody of children, and obtain possession of their family homes.

Miscellaneous: Twelve percent of our Veterans' cases were for a wide variety of miscellaneous issues, including wills and estates, drivers' licenses, and advance directives/powers of attorney.

Ninety-eight percent of Veterans' cases had favorable outcomes that helped them achieve their goals. They avoided immediate homelessness, they gained freedom from domestic violence through divorce, protection orders, custody of minor children, and possession of the family home, and they protected or increased their incomes. All Veterans learned about their rights and options under Iowa law.

Demographics

- 25% female, 75% male
- 62% people with disabilities
- 75% White; 14% Black; 4% Hispanic; 4% more than one race; 2% other; 1% Native American

Ages

- 0-19 = 0%
- 20-39 = 19%
- 40-59 = 34%
- 60+ = 47%

Area Median Income (AMI)

- 50% = Less than 30% of AMI (10% reported that they had no income at all)
- 22% = 30% to 49% of AMI
- 18% = 50% to 79% of AMI
- 10% = 80% + of AMI

Legal Services for Veterans since beginning of grant period (January 29, 2024)

Since the beginning of the grant period, Iowa Legal Aid provided civil legal assistance for 1,419 Veterans. Our work benefitted 2,583 Veterans and family members, including 564 children. We secured \$358,837 in benefits for these clients. Ninety-eight percent of Veterans' cases had favorable outcomes that helped them achieve their goals.

Cases

- **Housing Stability:** Forty-six percent of our Veterans' cases were for housing issues. Our legal team worked with Veterans on 516 eviction cases, helping prevent immediate homelessness for 971 Veterans and family members, including 153 children. Eviction cases comprised 81% of all housing cases. Nine percent of our Veteran clients reported that they were living in shelters, in motels, with friends, or were homeless.
- **Income Stability:** Protecting or increasing income accounted for 26% of our Veterans' cases.
- **Family Stability:** Fourteen percent of Veterans' cases involved family issues, and these cases primarily involved domestic violence.
- **Miscellaneous:** Fourteen percent of cases were for miscellaneous issues.

Demographics

- 23% female, 77% male
- 62% people with disabilities
- 73% White; 14% Black; 5% Hispanic; 4% more than one race; 2% other; 1% Hawaiian/Pacific Islander; 1% Native American

Ages

- 0-19 = 0%
- 20-39 = 17%
- 40-59 = 32%
- 60+ = 51%

Area Median Income (AMI)

- 50% = Less than 30% of AMI (11% reported that they had no income at all)
- 23% = 30% to 49% of AMI
- 17% = 50% to 79% of AMI
- 10% = 80% + of AMI

Success Story

“John,” an elderly Veteran, contacted Iowa Legal Aid after receiving an eviction notice. John explained that he had recently been ill, and his son, “Joe,” came to take care of him for a few weeks. When John’s landlord warned Joe that John would be evicted if he had another person staying with him, Joe had engaged in a verbal altercation with the landlord. A few days after the argument, John received an eviction notice.

John told the Iowa Legal Aid attorney that he was wheelchair bound and had nowhere else to go. He provided a copy of the eviction notice, and the attorney determined that the notice did not comply with Iowa law. The attorney represented John at the hearing, and the court dismissed the case.

Legal Services for Rural Iowans since October 20, 2025

Since October 20, 2025, Iowa Legal Aid has helped 2,519 low-income rural Iowa residents with their civil legal issues. Our help benefited 5,982 total household members, including 2,605 children. We secured \$2,486,331 in benefits for our rural clients.

Cases

Housing Stability: Thirty-six percent of our rural residents’ cases involved housing, and eviction continues to be a prevalent issue across the state. During this reporting period, Iowa Legal Aid closed 603 eviction cases, helping 1,326 rural residents, including 448 children, avoid immediate homelessness. Other housing-related issues involved mortgage foreclosures, public housing, and federally subsidized housing.

Family Stability: Thirty-five percent of our rural cases since October 20th involved family issues. Iowa Legal Aid prioritizes family law cases involving domestic violence. We helped rural Iowans obtain protective orders, file for divorce, gain custody of their children, and obtain possession of their family homes.

Income Stability: Protecting or increasing income accounted for 22% of our cases. We helped clients with bankruptcy, wage garnishment, creditor harassment, taxes, Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security Disability Insurance, unemployment insurance, and food stamps.

Miscellaneous: In the remaining 7% of cases, we helped families with a wide variety of issues, including wills and estates, long-term health care facilities, drivers' licenses, and advanced directives/powers of attorney.

Ninety-nine percent of rural residents' cases had favorable outcomes that helped them achieve their goals. They avoided immediate homelessness, they gained freedom from domestic violence through divorce, protection orders, custody of minor children, and possession of the family home, and they protected or increased their incomes. All residents learned about their rights under Iowa law.

Demographics

- 75% female, 25% male
- 37% people with disabilities
- 80% White; 8% Hispanic; 6% Black; 3% more than one race; 2% other; 1% Native American

Ages

- 0-19 = 1%
- 20-39 = 42%
- 40-59 = 35%
- 60+ = 22%

Area Median Income (AMI)

- Less than 30% of AMI = 52% (16% reported that they had no income at all)
- 30% to 49% of AMI = 28%
- 50% to 79% of AMI = 14%
- 80% + of AMI = 6%

Legal Services for Rural Iowans since beginning of grant period (January 29, 2024)

Since the beginning of the grant period, Iowa Legal Aid helped 10,995 rural Iowans resolve their civil legal issues. Our work benefitted 26,530 residents and family members, including 11,205 children. We secured \$10,030,110 in financial benefits for these clients. Ninety-nine percent of rural cases had favorable outcomes that helped clients achieve their goals.

Cases

- **Family Stability:** Thirty-six percent of our rural cases involved family issues, and almost all of these cases involved domestic violence.

- **Housing Stability:** Thirty-five percent of rural cases were for housing issues. Our legal team worked with residents on 2,668 eviction cases, helping prevent immediate homelessness for 5,903 residents and family members, including 1,992 children.
- **Income Stability:** Protecting or increasing income accounted for 21% of our cases.
- **Miscellaneous:** Eight percent of our clients' cases were for miscellaneous issues.

Demographics

Our rural clients were:

- 74% female, 26% male
- 37% people with disabilities
- 82% White; 8% Hispanic; 6% Black; 2% more than one race; 1% Asian; 1% Native American

Ages

- 0-19 = 1%
- 20-39 = 43%
- 40-59 = 32%
- 60+ = 24%

Area Median Income (AMI)

- Less than 30% of AMI = 57% (17% reported that they had no income at all)
- 30% to 49% of AMI = 26%
- 50% to 79% of AMI = 13%
- 80% + of AMI = 4%

Success Story:

“Carol,” an older resident living in Southeast Iowa, contacted Iowa Legal Aid asking for help in evicting her son from her house. She explained that her son, “Mark,” had moved in with her several years earlier and had never held a job. She thought he was using drugs, and she said that he was verbally abusive. Carol had recently been diagnosed with a chronic health condition, and she wanted to live the rest of her years in peace.

Iowa Legal Aid first sent a courtesy letter to Mark, asking him to vacate the property. He ignored the letter, so Iowa Legal Aid helped Carol file an eviction against him. Before the hearing, Iowa Legal Aid negotiated with Mark and reached an agreement, setting a date when Mark would move out and return the house keys to Carol.