

# The Oregon State Bar's Legal Services Program

Oregon Judicial Department POP 118: Funding for Civil Legal Aid and Immigration Legal Services



## Oregon State Bar Mission

- Regulating the legal profession and improving the quality of legal services;
- Supporting the judiciary and improving the administration of justice; and
- Advancing a fair, inclusive and accessible justice system.

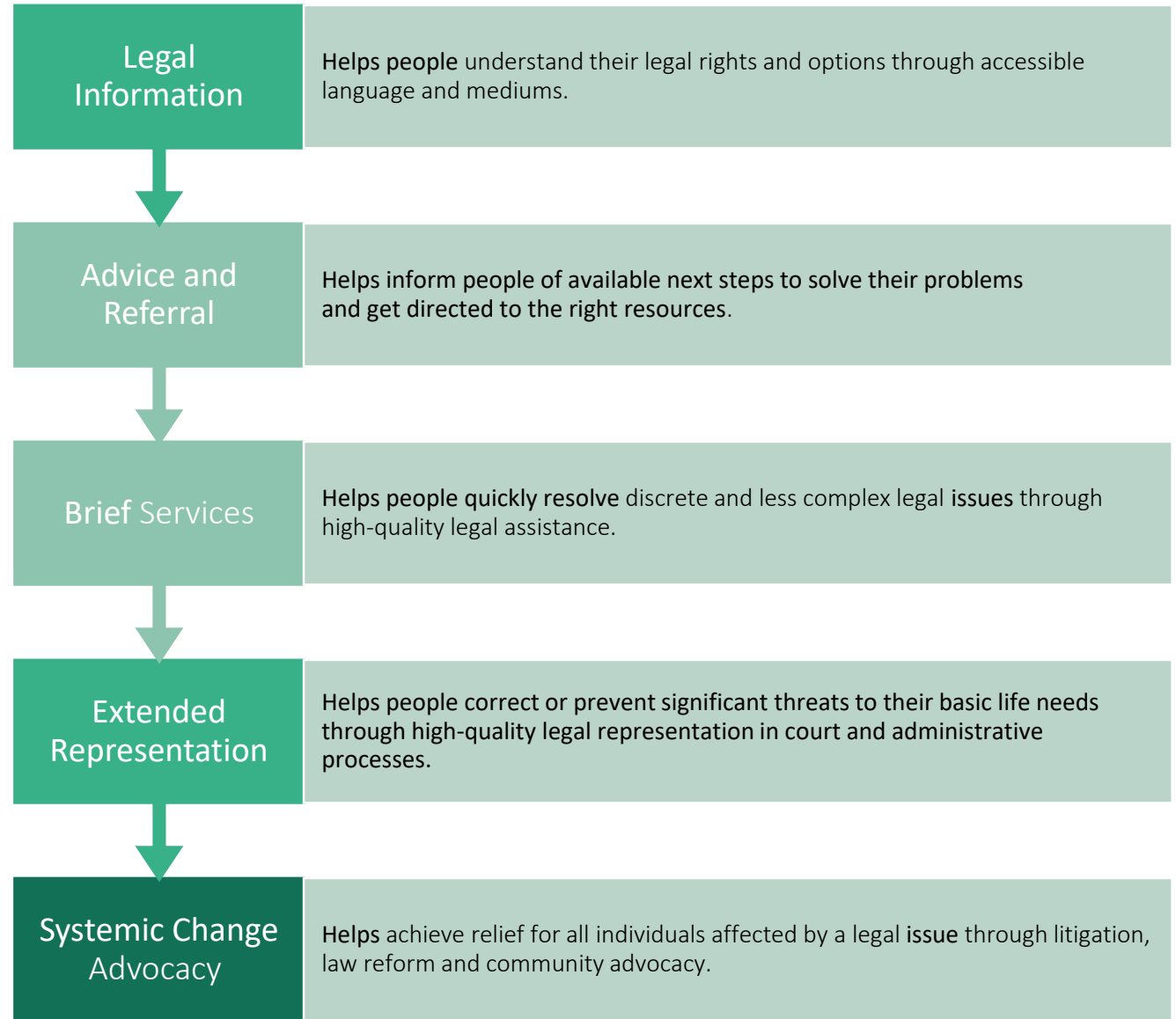
## Relationship to the Oregon Judicial Department

- Functions as an instrumentality of the Oregon Judicial Department.
- Distributes pass-through funds from the state to fund immigration and civil legal aid organizations.

## Fiscal and Regulatory Oversight of Civil Legal Aid

- Providing fiscal and regulatory oversight of state-funded civil legal aid, pursuant to statutory authority (*ORS 9.572, 1997*).
- Expanding fiscal and regulatory oversight to include immigration civil legal aid (*SB 1543, 2022*).
- Applying Civil Legal Aid Standards and Guidelines (*1998*) and Immigration Practice and Performance Standards (*2023*) to monitor and ensure effective and economical delivery of civil legal aid consistent with recognized quality indicators and best practices.

# Civil and Immigration Legal Aid Benefits People and Communities



# Civil and Immigration Legal Aid Benefits the Courts and Public Safety System



## Public Safety System and Social Services

Provides preventive and restorative civil legal advocacy for individuals impacted by the criminal justice and child welfare legal systems.

Returns substantial benefits and cost-savings to state and local communities

- Immigration: For every dollar invested in immigration legal services in Oregon, Oregon receives \$4.94 in immediate and long-term benefits (2020)
- Civil Legal Aid: For every dollar invested in civil legal services in Oregon, Oregon receives \$3.43 in immediate and long-term benefits. (2020)



## Courts

Reduces the number of self-represented litigants in courts and associated expenses.

Increases understanding, trust and confidence in the legal system.

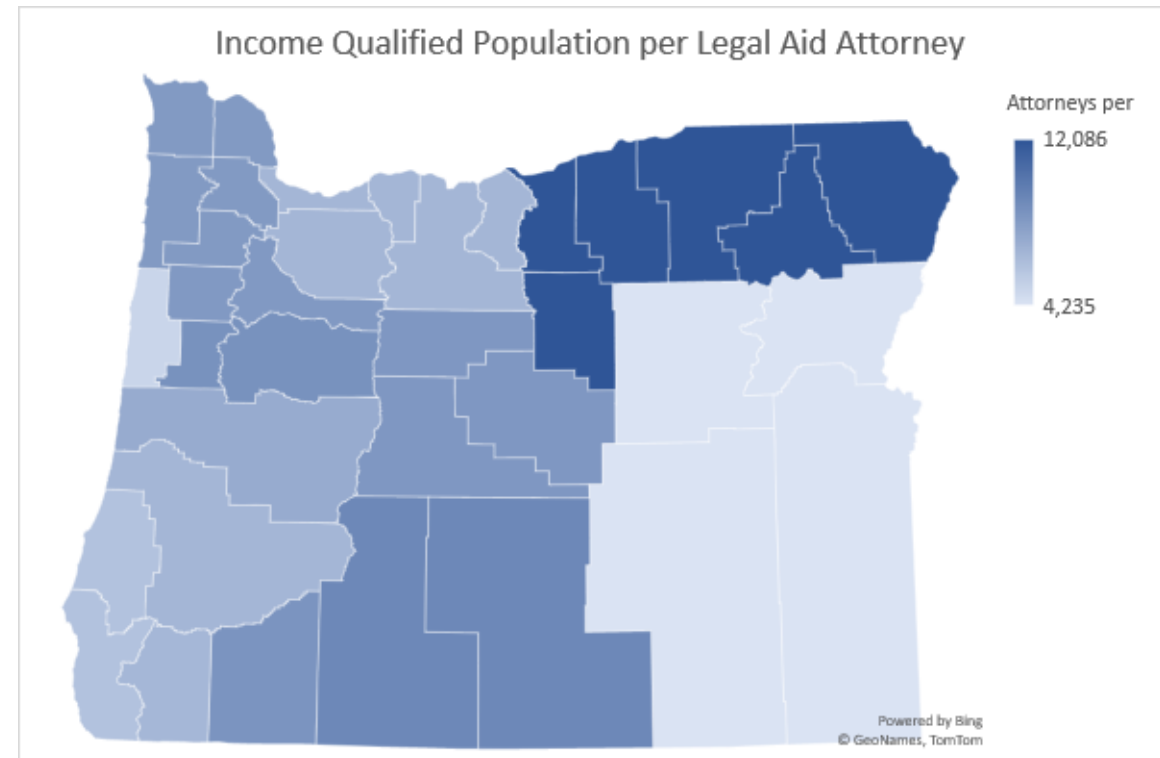
Helps efficiently move cases through court and, where appropriate, resolve matters outside of court.

# 97% of income-qualified Oregonians live in a legal desert.

The Need: 84% of low-income Oregonians facing a legal problem cannot access legal assistance. Due to resource scarcity, nearly all financially eligible Oregonians live in communities operating below minimally acceptable standards of civil legal aid capacity (2 attorneys per 10,000 low-income individuals). Rural counties and urban centers experience the greatest disparity between need and resources.

The Challenge: Without sufficient levels of civil legal help, low-income Oregonians navigate high-stakes legal problems that, left unresolved, can destabilize lives, create barriers to health, safety, employment, education and family stability, and result in greater demand on state resources.

The Benefit: Civil legal aid, through delivery of a statewide and integrated continuum of legal services, efficiently serves the pressing civil legal needs of low-income Oregonians, facilitating access and just outcomes for vulnerable Oregonians, and producing societal and economic benefits.

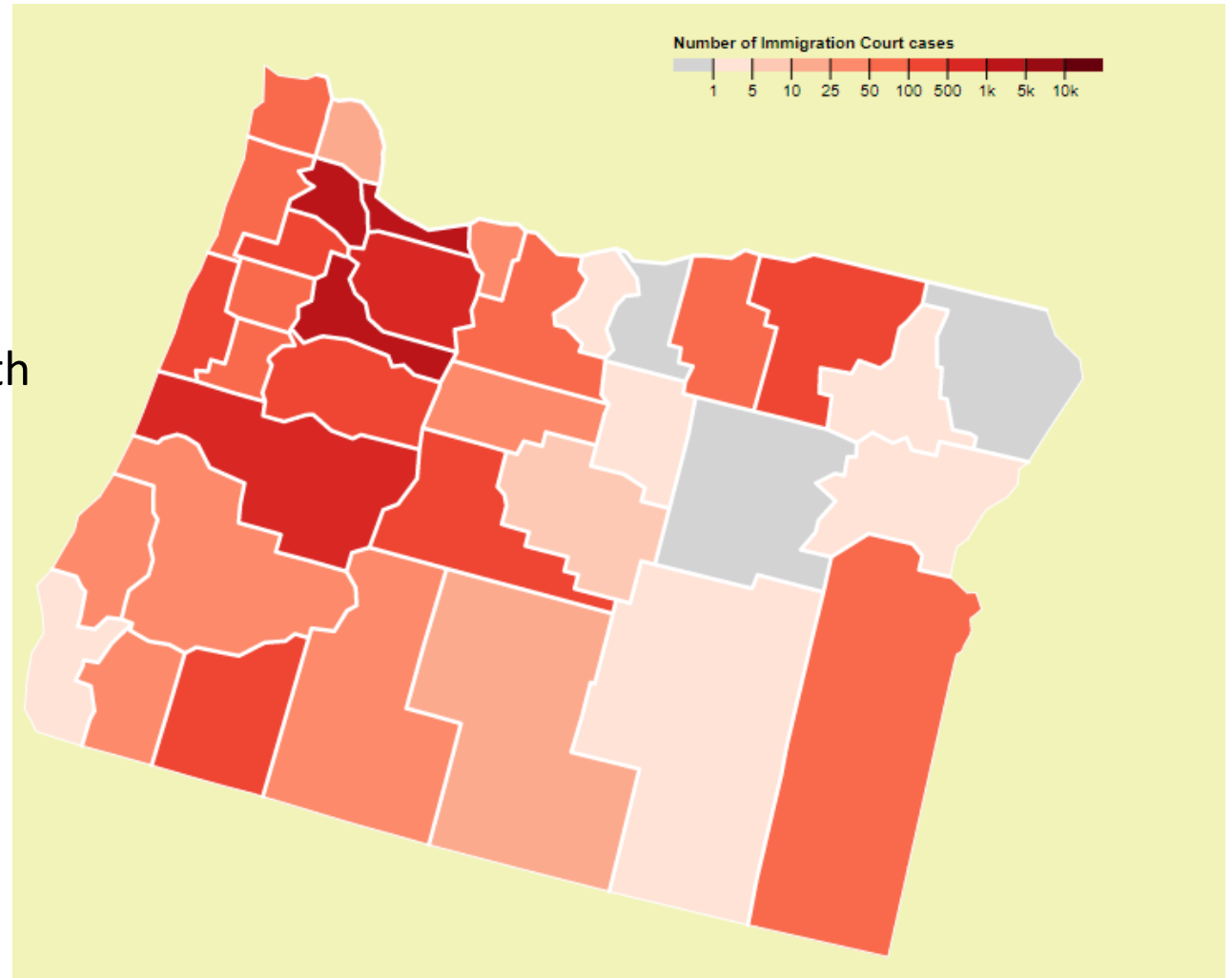


In 2022, Oregonians in immigration court were 5 times more likely to achieve a successful outcome when represented.

The Need: 25.6% of Oregon households with a foreign-born person stated that they had experienced an issue connected with an immigration need. Further, over 4,000 individuals are presently unrepresented in their immigration court matters.

The Challenge: Contract with legal service providers across the state to exponentially expand access to high-quality immigration representation.

The Solution: Build provider expertise, create hiring pipelines, and support expansion of services to rural/underserved zones.



# Pop 118 Part 1: Stabilizing and Expanding Access to Civil Legal Aid

Priority/Area of Focus	Objective	Requested Biennial Investment Above Current Levels
<b>Preserve Current Level of Statewide Client-Serving Capacity</b>	<p>Address known and measurable increases in personnel costs.</p> <p>Offset anticipated funding gaps.</p>	\$4,218,000
<b>Expand equitable access and Innovation</b>  <b>&amp;</b>  <b>Proportionally upgrade statewide infrastructure and support</b>	<p>Move closer to minimum foundation.</p> <p>Improve geographic proportionality and equitable access, focusing on rural communities and urban centers with high-concentration of low-income eligible Oregonians.</p> <p>Expand bandwidth to stimulate new innovations and service delivery models.</p> <p>Proportionally expand central capacity to ensure consistent, high quality substantive law and skills training.</p> <p>Proportionally Expand administrative capacity administrative operations, evaluation and Information Technology.</p>	\$5,280,000
<b>Increased Investment Above Current Levels</b>		<b>\$9,500,000</b>

# Pop 118 Part 2: Immigration Civil Legal Aid

Priority/Area of Focus	Objective	Requested Biennial Investment
<b>Extend Capacity</b>	Extend SB 1543 capacity for Direct Representation and Brief Services through the end of the biennium.	\$818,333
<b>Expand Capacity</b>	Expand capacity for Direct Representation and Brief Services to keep up with demand for immigration legal services, both removal defense and affirmative.  Support strong program evaluation, innovation and coordination amongst service providers.	\$2,677,500
<b>Build Capacity</b>	Construct robust Hiring Pipelines to promote sustainability of Direct Representation and Brief Services.	\$1,200,000
<b>Increased Investment</b>		<b>\$4,500,000</b>

# Thank You!

Please direct any questions to Susan Grabe, Chief  
Communications and Public Affairs Officer,  
[sgrabe@osbar.org](mailto:sgrabe@osbar.org)