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State Board of Civil Legal Aid

Annual Legislative Report on Civil Legal Aid Services

Prepared pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 2025, sections 480.243, subdivision 3, and 3.197

Submitted by

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Introduction:

Minnesota Statutes 2025, section 480.243, subd. 3 requires the State Board of Civil Legal Aid (BOCLA) to report annually on the cases, individuals, and families serviced by each grant recipient providing legal services with funds received pursuant to section 480.242. Under this provision, BOCLA must report each year by July 15 to the legislative committees with jurisdiction over judiciary. The data is to be provided for each individual organization and by geographic region. This report was prepared in response to this statutory requirement.

Minnesota Statutes 2025 section 3.197 requires reporting the cost of report preparation. BOCLA staff prepared this report with data from the agency's records and other internal sources. No costs were incurred by any other agency or level of government or paid to an external vendor.

Agency Overview:

BOCLA was established by Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 480.2415 effective July 1, 2025 as an independent judicial branch agency charged with working to ensure high-quality civil legal services in every Minnesota county. For forty-three years prior to the creation of BOCLA, the legislature funded grants to civil legal services through the Minnesota Supreme Court Legal Services Advisory Committee (July 1, 1982 through June 30, 2025).

BOCLA Grantee Statistics:

In fiscal year 2026, BOCLA administered grants to nineteen organizations that provide legal services to Minnesotans otherwise unable to afford an attorney with funds allocated pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 2025, section 480.242. The case numbers below are the total cases closed in calendar year 2025 by organization and then totaled by county across all grantees. Grantee programs often serve multiple counties and may use staff attorneys, approved paraprofessionals, judicare attorneys, and volunteer attorneys to provide legal representation to eligible clients. The definition of what constitutes a case is available in the [data handbook](#) on the BOCLA website.

Organization	Cases Closed	Number of Individuals in Households Served
Anishinabe Legal Services	544	1,406
Cancer Legal Care	744	1,233
Central Minnesota Legal Services	2,895	7,664
Farmers Legal Action Group	21	40
Housing Justice Center	58	93
ICWA Law Center	181	128
Justice North	4,016	9,143
Legal Assistance of Dakota County	1,267	3,420

Organization	Cases Closed	Number of Individuals in Households Served
Legal Assistance of Olmsted County	921	2,594
LegalCORPS	1,801	4,360
Legal Services of Northwest Minnesota	3,384	7,687
Minnesota Disability Law Center	1,019	2,319
Minnesota Elder Justice Center	14	16
Minnesota Legal Advice Online	960	960
Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid	8,885	21,058
Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services	13,007	31,277
The Advocates for Human Rights	485	1,252
Tubman	528	1,557
Volunteer Lawyers Network	8,151	19,840
Total	48,881	116,047

County	Legal Advice Only	Brief Services	Extended Representation
Aitkin	60	24	26
Anoka	1288	320	406
Becker	165	34	73
Beltrami	372	94	110
Benton	214	130	145
Big Stone	13	1	8
Blue Earth	619	48	100
Brown	137	9	18
Carlton	162	41	58
Carver	299	32	45
Cass	186	114	193
Chippewa	28	15	27
Chisago	119	37	26
Clay	687	82	184
Clearwater	62	8	10
Cook	29	6	1
Cottonwood	75	4	11
Crow Wing	374	112	166
Dakota	2594	257	481
Dodge	85	12	29
Douglas	251	34	33
Faribault	99	9	17
Fillmore	61	6	11
Freeborn	198	6	52
Goodhue	194	32	38

County	Legal Advice Only	Brief Services	Extended Representation
Grant	31	4	13
Hennepin	5466	2270	2778
Houston	58	4	8
Hubbard	139	22	39
Isanti	121	28	30
Itasca	312	53	84
Jackson	46	5	10
Kanabec	74	18	36
Kandiyohi	303	74	164
Kittson	12	1	4
Koochiching	45	4	20
Lac qui Parle	9	10	11
Lake	47	3	13
Lake of the Woods	16	3	1
Le Sueur	103	7	17
Lincoln	9	3	3
Lyon	70	22	57
Mahnomen	26	17	52
Marshall	29	9	7
Martin	121	6	29
McLeod	159	10	23
Meeker	54	15	39
Mille Lacs	80	69	56
Morrison	84	70	92
Mower	204	12	61
Murray	25	3	4
Nicollet	204	26	32
Nobles	104	3	14
Norman	39	4	8
Olmsted	972	273	570
Otter Tail	249	19	72
Pennington	85	6	19
Pine	162	36	60
Pipestone	53	7	6
Polk	175	15	32
Pope	56	8	8
Ramsey	5557	1032	1533
Red Lake	18	4	4
Redwood	50	6	12
Renville	22	4	19
Rice	338	38	42

County	Legal Advice Only	Brief Services	Extended Representation
Rock	33	4	4
Roseau	56	4	23
Scott	443	37	51
Sherburne	292	130	247
Sibley	71	6	9
St. Louis	1488	288	777
Stearns	943	836	1290
Steele	224	11	75
Stevens	42	7	12
Swift	26	15	14
Todd	109	49	35
Traverse	23	4	5
Wabasha	103	7	25
Wadena	79	12	30
Waseca	95	7	23
Washington	1113	136	223
Watsonwan	68	2	6
Wilkin	37	1	4
Winona	323	22	101
Wright	298	141	171
Yellow Medicine	19	6	8

In addition to legal representation, the statute also allows for BOCLA funding to alternative dispute resolution programs for low-income Minnesotans. Community Mediation Minnesota (CMM) is the BOCLA grantee that supports qualified alternative dispute resolution services statewide. CMM provides a centralized intake and referral service to the regional Community Dispute Resolution Programs (CDRP). The CDRPs provide both in-person and remote alternative dispute resolution services including mediation, restorative practices, and facilitated dialogues. In calendar year 2025, CMM referred 595 cases with participants in 56 counties to the CDRPs for alternative dispute resolution services.

BOCLA also provides grants to support the civil legal aid system infrastructure, including coordinated phone intake at 1-877-MY-MN-LAW, as well as coordinated online intake and legal education materials through [LawHelpMN.org](https://www.lawhelpmn.org). There were 434,566 unique visitors to the LawHelpMN.org website in calendar year 2025.

Conclusion: BOCLA makes grants to support meaningful access to justice through legal representation, alternative dispute resolution, and self-help resources for people without attorneys. In 2025, legislatively funded BOCLA grantees provided legal representation in 48,881 cases impacting households with 116,047 individuals statewide. BOCLA staff and board members continue their work to meet the statutory responsibility of supporting high quality civil legal services in every Minnesota county.