



# Legal Services Corporation

Fiscal Year 2008  
Budget Request



# LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

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*America's Partner For Equal Justice*

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## FISCAL YEAR 2008 BUDGET REQUEST

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## Overview

The Legal Services Corporation (LSC) is a private, nonprofit corporation established by Congress in 1974 to promote equal access to justice and to provide high-quality civil legal assistance to low-income Americans. LSC distributes more than 95 percent of its total funding to 138 independent, local legal aid programs with more than 900 offices that serve every Congressional district in the nation, and LSC ensures that they operate in the manner prescribed by Congress while adhering to the highest standards of quality. At the same time, LSC encourages programs to leverage limited resources by partnering and collaborating with other supporters of civil legal aid, including state and local government, the private bar, philanthropic foundations, and the business community.

LSC accomplishes this mission by awarding grants to legal services providers through a competitive process; overseeing program quality; monitoring compliance with federal laws, Congressional restrictions, and LSC regulations through routine audits and site visits, and providing training and technical assistance to programs.

LSC-funded programs address the most basic and critical civil legal needs of the poor by providing services such as those that:

- Help maintain the integrity of families.
- Protect victims of domestic violence.
- Keep individuals and families in safe and affordable housing.
- Safeguard poor consumers, especially the elderly, against predatory lenders.
- Assist individuals who qualify to obtain government benefits.

### **Bipartisan Support**

LSC was created with broad, bipartisan support, which continues to this day. Last year, 192 Members of Congress (138 Representatives and 54 Senators) signed letters that expressed support for increased funding for LSC and stressed the current crisis in ensuring access to the legal system for millions of low-income individuals and families.

### **LSC Leadership**

LSC is headed by a bipartisan Board of Directors whose 11 members are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. All ten of the current Board members were appointed by President George W. Bush. The Board has one vacancy.

The President of LSC, Helaine M. Barnett, was appointed on January 20, 2004. She came to LSC after a 37-year career at the Legal Aid Society of New York City, including ten years as head of its Civil Division.

*LSC distributes more than 95 percent of its total funding to 138 independent, local legal aid programs that serve every Congressional district in the nation.*



# Funding Request Highlights

LSC requests an appropriation of \$430,681,000 for FY 2008, an increase of \$18,881,000 over the FY 2007 request. More than 95 percent of the request is for basic field grants to programs that provide civil legal aid to low-income Americans and for grants to programs to improve efficiency and effectiveness through the use of technology. Like LSC's FY 2007 budget request, the FY 2008 request is grounded in LSC's report, *Documenting the Justice Gap in America: The Unmet Civil Legal Needs of Low-Income Americans*. LSC's Justice Gap Report documents that 50 percent of low-income Americans who are eligible to receive civil legal assistance and who come to LSC-funded programs for help are turned away due to lack of adequate resources.

The following chart compares LSC's FY 2006 budget, FY 2007 and FY 2008 requests, and FY 2007 proposed Joint Resolution.

### Funding Request

Budget Line Item	FY 2006 Budget	FY 2007 LSC's Request	FY 2007 Proposed*	FY 2008 LSC's Request
Basic Field	\$308,385,346	\$386,800,000	\$330,760,500	\$407,815,000
Census Adjustment	\$1,785,896	\$0	\$0	\$0
Technology Initiatives	\$1,238,971	\$5,000,000	\$2,104,500	\$5,000,000
Loan Repayment Assistance Program	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$1,000,000
Management & Administration	\$12,661,199	\$14,500,000	\$12,743,000	\$13,825,000
Emergency Relief Fund	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$0
Office of Inspector General	\$2,506,572	\$3,500,000	\$2,970,000	\$3,041,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$326,577,984</b>	<b>\$411,800,000</b>	<b>\$348,578,000</b>	<b>\$430,681,000</b>

\*Total funding as contained in HJ Res. 20. Distribution of sub-accounts as proposed by LSC.

The Justice Gap Report is as compelling today as it was when it was released more than a year ago. In an effort to address its findings, and in recognition that the gap will not be closed in a one-year period, the Board of Directors requests a 20 percent increase (over the amount approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee for FY 2007) in basic field funding for FY 2008, for a total of \$407,815,000. While the final FY 2007 appropriation is yet to be determined, the House of Representatives passed a Joint Resolution to increase LSC's FY 2007 funding by \$22 million over the FY 2006 level, for a total of \$348.5 million. The proposed



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funding increase represents the difference between the House approved increase of \$12 million and the Senate Appropriations Committee recommended increase of \$32 million last summer. Final passage of the Joint Resolution awaits Senate action.

In addition to funding basic field programs, LSC also requests \$5,000,000 for Technology Initiative Grants; \$1,000,000 to expand the pilot Loan Repayment Assistance Program; \$13,825,000 for Management and Administration; and \$3,041,000 for the Office of Inspector General.



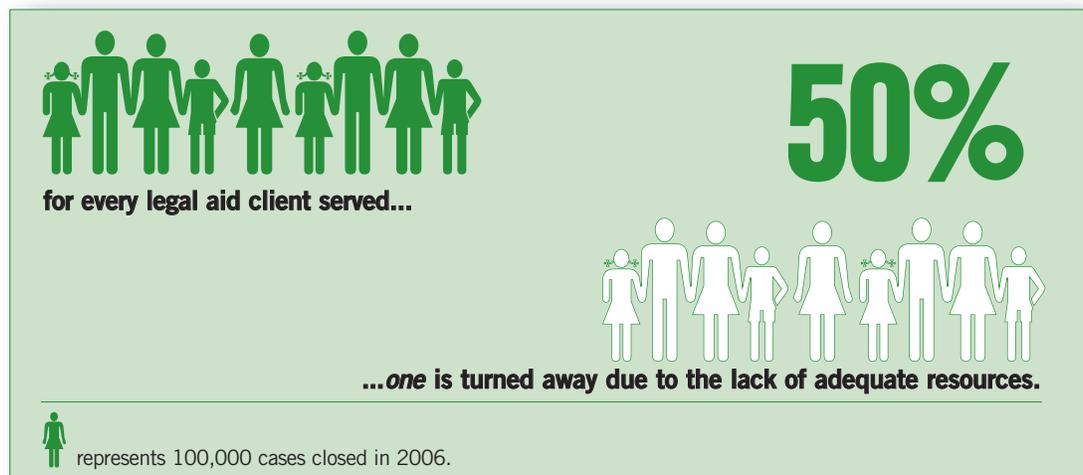
## Basic Field Programs

The LSC Act requires LSC to inform Congress of what is needed to ensure efficient and effective delivery of civil legal assistance to the poor nationwide. According to LSC's Justice Gap Report, resources available to LSC-funded programs would have to double simply to meet the demand from poor Americans currently seeking legal assistance from LSC-funded programs. For FY 2008, LSC requests \$407,815,000 for basic field grants, a 20 percent increase in the amount the Senate Appropriations Committee approved for FY 2007. This increase would only begin to address the critical shortage of civil legal aid for low-income Americans.

*The Justice Gap Report confirms that our nation falls far short of meeting the need for civil legal aid among low-income Americans.*

### Justification for Increase

The unmet need for civil legal assistance has been an issue throughout LSC's history. The Justice Gap Report confirms that our nation falls far short of meeting the need for civil legal aid among low-income Americans. LSC conducted an unable-to-serve study, in which LSC-funded programs recorded the number of eligible people who came to their offices that they were unable to serve. On average, for every person served, one was turned away—only 50 percent of those who actually sought help received it. Other surveys indicate that 80 percent of the need is unmet.



In the year since the release of the Justice Gap Report, even more stark findings have been reported in the District of Columbia and five states: New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Tennessee, and West Virginia. Estimates of the unmet need range from 68 percent in parts of Tennessee to 92 percent in West Virginia. Furthermore, 99 percent of defendants in eviction cases in New Jersey and Washington, DC, go to court without a lawyer.

The analysis for the Justice Gap Report was completed before the catastrophic storms of 2005: Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma. These storms simultaneously swelled the need for civil legal aid and the number of people without access to it. In the Gulf Coast region



that includes the states hit hardest by the hurricanes (Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Alabama, and Florida), LSC is the major source of funding for some of these legal aid programs. Without a significant increase in LSC's appropriations, these states will fall still farther behind in meeting the needs of their low-income citizens.

Based on the Justice Gap Report, the Board of Directors determined that LSC needs significantly more resources to carry out its mission and come closer to fulfilling our nation's promise of equal justice under law. Over the past year, although the Board has focused on the private bar and ways in which LSC grantees can seek additional *pro bono* assistance from private attorneys to help meet the demand, it is clear that such assistance will never be sufficient to meet the needs that have been identified. Therefore, the Board sought a 20 percent increase in basic field funding for FY 2007 and seeks another 20 percent increase for FY 2008.

### **Katrina-Related Caseload Grows**

More than 18 months after Hurricane Katrina, thousands of people in the Gulf Coast region are struggling to rebuild their lives. Families and individuals are now facing multiple legal problems simultaneously as the result of the loss of homes, jobs and health care benefits. The hurricanes of 2005 significantly expanded the needs of many already eligible clients and created a new group of eligible clients. Legal services programs in the Gulf Coast region are confronting an overwhelming demand for legal services. Many of these clients continue to need assistance with disaster-related issues, including:

- Resolution of landlord-tenant issues such as challenges to rent-gouging by unscrupulous landlords and disputes about rental housing repairs.
- Legal issues related to temporary housing in mobile homes.
- Home repair and contractor disputes.
- Consumer fraud issues that run the gamut from problems with individual small appliances to major insurance disputes.
- Health problems arising from the clean-up of homes and other environmental challenges.
- Increased family law issues, including child abuse and domestic violence from disaster-related distress.

The challenges of addressing this increased demand are made more difficult by the fact that programs lost employees and office records. Given the experience of the New York City program after September 11, 2001, even though the scope of the disaster was more limited, hurricane-related legal problems are expected to linger for years to come.

The experience of LSC-funded programs in Louisiana and Texas—the states hit hardest by Hurricane Katrina—illustrate the magnitude of the problem. Southeast Louisiana Legal Services (SLLS), serving the city of New Orleans and the six parishes most severely impacted by Hurricane Katrina, estimates that 80 percent of the residents in the service area or 1.2

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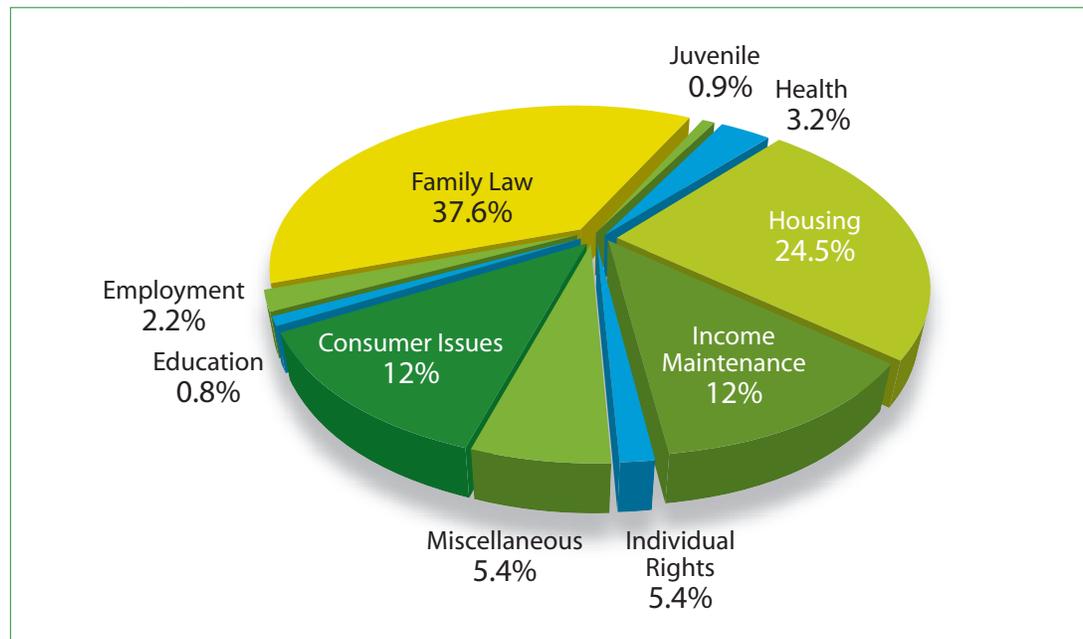
million people were severely affected by Hurricane Katrina. Disaster-related cases now represent nearly three-fourths of all cases handled by SLLS. Despite having to work at reduced capacity, SLLS staff has handled thousands of cases at local offices, state-wide call centers and disaster recovery centers.

Legal services programs in Texas are stretched thin trying to keep pace with the demand for services. Lone Star Legal Aid, headquartered in Houston, for example, has had more than a 15 percent increase in eligible clients as a result of hurricane evacuees and handled more than 6,300 hurricane related cases in the year following the hurricanes. Texas RioGrande Legal Aid has had an 11 percent increase in cases since September 2005 as a result of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Many of those displaced by the hurricanes continue to struggle with basic needs such as permanent housing, unemployment compensation, interstate custody, and government benefits. With limited resources, legal service programs continue to struggle to assist those in need.

### Use of Funds—Program Data

More than 95 percent of LSC's annual budget is for grants to legal aid programs providing high-quality legal services to low-income Americans across the nation and in U.S. territories. Nearly 50 million Americans—17 percent of the total population—are financially eligible for LSC-funded legal services, defined as those individuals and families earning less than 125 percent of the federal poverty level.

### 2005 LSC Legal Issues Addressed



Seventy-four percent of the people served by LSC-funded programs are women, many of whom are mothers struggling to keep their children safe and their families together. Overall, the client population is as diverse as our nation, encompassing all races, ethnic groups, and

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ages, including the working poor, veterans, single parents, farmers, people with disabilities, victims of domestic violence, the elderly, and victims of natural disasters.

In 2005, LSC-funded programs closed 906,338 cases. Most cases were resolved without going to court. Ten percent were closed by private attorneys representing clients of LSC-funded programs. By law, LSC-funded programs are required to devote at least 12.5 percent of their basic field grants to utilizing private attorneys, usually on a *pro bono* basis, to represent clients.

LSC-funded programs are committed to serving the most basic civil legal needs of the poor. The types of cases most frequently encountered by LSC-funded programs involve:

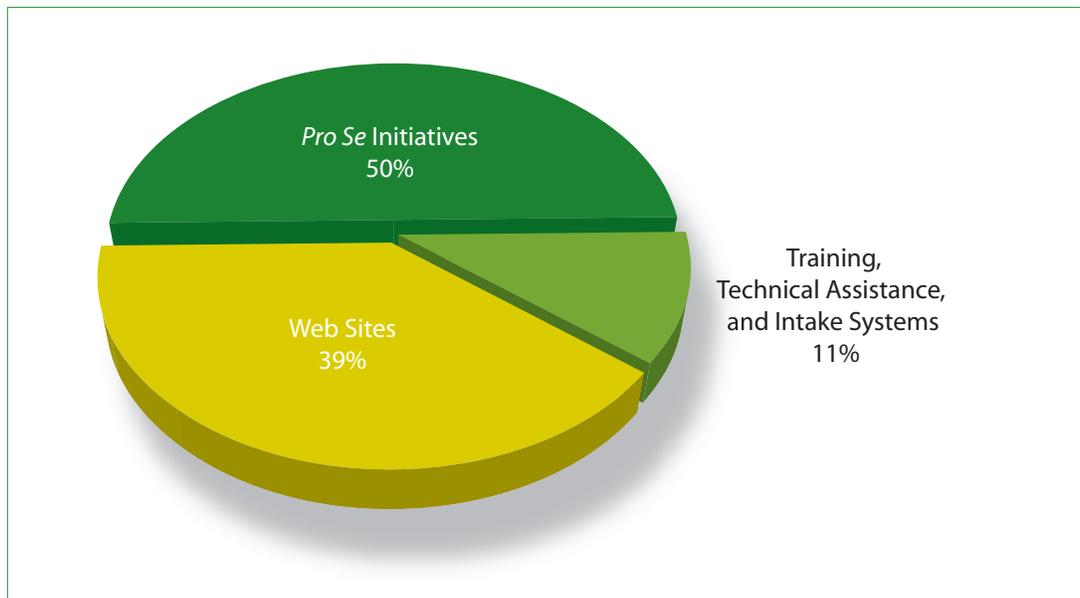
- **Family Law:** helping victims of domestic violence obtain restraining orders, helping parents obtain and keep custody of their children, helping family members obtain guardianship for children without parents, and other family law matters.
- **Housing:** helping to resolve landlord-tenant disputes, helping people maintain federal housing subsidies when appropriate, helping people maintain homeownership, preventing foreclosures, and other housing matters.
- **Income Maintenance:** helping working Americans obtain promised compensation from private employers, helping people obtain and retain government benefits such as disability benefits to which they are entitled.
- **Consumer Issues:** protecting the elderly and other vulnerable groups from being victimized by unscrupulous lenders, helping people file for bankruptcy when appropriate, helping people manage their debts, and other consumer issues.



## Technology Initiative Grants Program

LSC requests \$5,000,000 for FY 2008, the same amount requested in FY 2007 for the Technology Initiative Grants (TIG) program. This program funds innovative technology projects that increase the availability and quality of legal assistance provided to the poor. Last year, LSC awarded 31 Technology Initiative Grants totaling nearly \$1.6 million; an additional amount of approximately \$320,000 in matching funds was provided by the State Justice Institute for 10 joint projects. Many more worthy ideas for technology improvements presented by LSC programs were unable to be funded because of the limited funding available. Fifty percent of the funds are going to *pro se* initiatives and 39 percent to Web sites; the remaining 11 percent will be used for training, technical assistance, and intake systems.

### 2006 TIG Funding—Project Area



The funding requested for FY 2008 will be used to:

- **Secure federal earned income tax credits for low-income Americans.** This will be accomplished by expanding the use of I-CAN!, a tax preparation program created by the Legal Aid Society of Orange County with TIG support. Available on the Web at [www.legal-aid.com](http://www.legal-aid.com), I-CAN! helped low-income Americans in 45 states secure \$6.1 million in federal tax credits in 2006.
- **Help *pro bono* lawyers and *pro se* litigants—people who represent themselves in court—create legal forms and documents on the Internet.** This year, the focus will be on five states: Arkansas, Idaho, Montana, Oklahoma, and Vermont. Using customized templates developed with TIG support, residents of 26 states and U.S. territories have already created 70,000 legal documents required for everything from child support to



eviction notices. "HotDocs," the program that assembles these documents, functions much like "TurboTax," a program widely used to complete and calculate tax returns.

- **Reach out to *pro se* litigants in isolated areas such as rural Alaska.** An interactive CD/DVD will help people who represent themselves prepare for hearings and trials in divorce and custody cases. Developed at the request of the Alaska courts, it will include materials furnished by the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.
- **Provide tools that enable Americans with limited proficiency in English to represent themselves in court.** The LSC-funded program in Indiana is developing a Web portal designed specifically for Spanish-speaking *pro se* litigants. They will be able to answer questions in Spanish and print completed forms in English.



## Loan Repayment Assistance Program

LSC requests \$1,000,000 to increase the size of the pilot Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP), the same amount requested for FY 2007. LRAP funds help LSC-funded programs recruit and retain highly qualified attorneys and recent law school graduates who are burdened with staggering educational debt. The ability of LSC-funded programs to recruit and retain highly qualified staff is a pervasive problem that affects every legal services program in the country, and ultimately hurts low-income Americans who deserve the highest quality services available. In Illinois, for example, a current study found that 42 percent of the state's 280 legal aid attorneys plan to leave their jobs in the next three years. This would further strain the state's legal services for the poor. Furthermore, as the cost of obtaining a law school degree continues to rise, many graduating law students must seek a high-paying job simply to repay their debts.

Legal aid lawyers across the nation continue to be among the very lowest-paid members of the legal profession. The average starting salary for LSC-funded attorneys is \$37,000.\* In contrast, the median entry-level salary for public defenders is \$43,000.\* An attorney with five years of experience at a private law firm earns at least double what an attorney with five years of experience earns at a public sector organization.\* Moreover, law school tuition has more than doubled over the past decade, leaving the average law school graduate with an educational debt of more than \$80,000.\*

Last year, 70 attorneys in 24 LSC-funded programs received loan repayment assistance grants through the LSC pilot program. Each attorney can receive up to \$5,000 per year, which can be renewed for up to three years, for a total of \$15,000, provided the attorney stays with the program. Participants range from new recruits to attorneys with up to three years of service in an LSC-funded legal aid program.

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## Management & Administration

LSC requests \$13,825,000 for Management and Administration in FY 2008. LSC ensures accountability to Congress and the taxpayers through aggressive oversight of LSC grantees and enforcement of federal laws, regulations, and other requirements. To help programs increase efficiency and enhance effectiveness, LSC provides technical assistance and training, identifies and shares innovative practices that can be used more widely, and serves as a clearinghouse for “best practices.” LSC also develops strategies for improving the legal services delivery system as a whole. Under the leadership of its President, Helaine M. Barnett, LSC has promoted a Quality Agenda for LSC-funded programs over the past three years, including the following initiatives:

### Performance Criteria

LSC issued revised Performance Criteria in April 2006, the basis for evaluating programs and grant applications, and the centerpiece of LSC’s Quality Agenda. The major themes of the revised Performance Criteria are:

- LSC-funded programs operate with limited resources, so they must make strategic choices about allocating resources and must continually evaluate the consequences.
- Administering LSC-funded programs is highly complex due to regulatory requirements, Congressional restrictions, and program size.
- LSC-funded programs operate as part of integrated, statewide systems for delivering civil legal aid to low-income Americans.

Recipients of LSC grants are chosen through a competitive process, in accord with LSC’s Performance Criteria. In 2006, LSC evaluated 48 proposals for grants in 22 states and American Samoa, including multiple proposals for selected service areas in South Carolina and Florida, and the entire state of Wyoming. In addition, LSC evaluated 94 grant renewals pursuant to the competitive grants process and LSC’s Performance Criteria.

### Program Oversight

With a focus on quality, LSC’s Office of Program Performance (OPP) examines and provides feedback on a wide range of program activities such as: priority-setting, intake systems, managing and supervising legal work, private attorney involvement, resource development, and strategic planning. Last year, OPP visited 32 programs in 18 states: California, Delaware, Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Mexico, New York, Nevada, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin.

To ensure compliance with the laws, regulations, and Congressional restrictions that govern the operations of LSC-funded programs, LSC’s Office of Compliance and Enforcement (OCE) conducts on-site compliance reviews, requires prior approval for certain expenditures



and activities, performs training and technical assistance, handles complaints, and investigates and responds to audit findings referred by the Office of Inspector General. In FY 2006, OCE conducted on-site compliance reviews of 28 programs in the District of Columbia and the following states: Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, Missouri, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, and Wyoming. Over the same period, OCE resolved 44 complaints and made seven visits to programs to provide technical assistance and training to new Executive Directors and program staff.

### **Leadership Mentoring Pilot Program**

The goal of LSC's Leadership Mentoring Pilot Program, launched in November 2005, is to identify, nurture, and support a well-trained and diverse group of future leaders for the legal services community as a whole—and to create leadership mentoring models LSC-funded programs can replicate. The 18-month pilot program brought mentors and protégés together for training on leadership, team-building, financial management, board governance, resource development, organizational management, diversity, and private attorney involvement.

### **Strategic Directions**

LSC's blueprint for the future, *Strategic Directions 2006-2010*, sets three strategic goals:

- To increase public awareness of—and support for—programs providing civil legal aid to low-income Americans in order that more of their needs can be appropriately addressed.
- To enhance the quality and compliance of legal services programs.
- To ensure that LSC operates efficiently and effectively.

In 2006, LSC implemented strategies for achieving these goals and began establishing performance measures.

### **Lessons Learned from Hurricane Katrina**

On June 1, 2006, LSC convened a “disaster response conversation” in New Orleans to assess lessons learned from the 2005 response to the hurricanes in the Gulf Coast region. Participants included legal services leaders from seven states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Texas. Major themes included planning, coordinating, and partnering at all levels; improving relationships with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the American Red Cross; and evacuation and post-disaster planning for low-income areas. At the participants' request, LSC hosts bi-weekly conference calls, where the conversation continues. The group is creating a disaster support Web site modeled after [www.katrinalegalaid.org](http://www.katrinalegalaid.org). Thus, the lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina will enhance the legal services community's planning for, and response to, future disasters.

### **Enhancing *Pro Bono* Partnerships**

This year, LSC launched a major initiative to enhance *pro bono* partnerships between LSC-funded programs and the private bar. The information-gathering stage included presenta-



tions from three distinct perspectives: large law firms and corporate counsels, small law firms and solo practitioners, and law schools. LSC developed an action plan for private attorney involvement and the Board of Directors adopted the plan in January 2007. This action plan will guide LSC's efforts in this area with a goal of expanding available legal services to low-income persons.

### **Continual Striving for Greater Efficiency**

Although management and administration funds are less than four percent of LSC's total budget—low by any standard—LSC continually strives for greater efficiency. All 11 of the recommendations in the Office of Inspector General's "Report on Certain Fiscal Practices at LSC," issued on September 25, 2006, have been implemented or are in the process of being implemented.

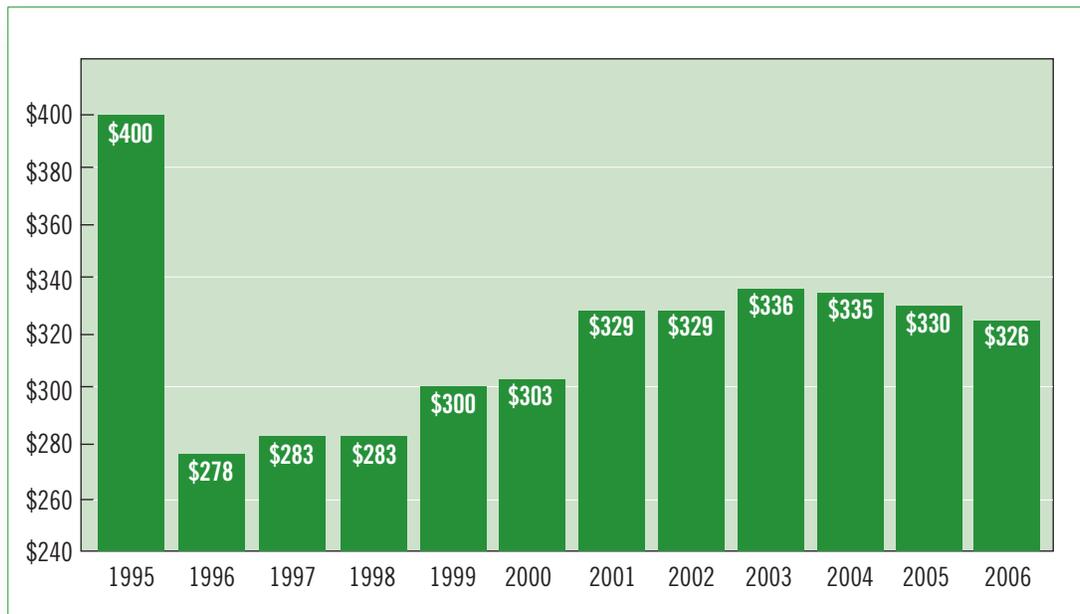


## Impact of Budget Cuts

LSC-funded programs close more than 900,000 cases a year—only half of the demand for civil legal aid from those seeking help from LSC offices. The proposed increase of \$348.5 million to LSC's FY 2007 funding will be the first budget increase since FY 2003, when LSC received \$7 million more than in FY 2002, and would be LSC's largest appropriation since 1995, when LSC received \$400 million. From 2003 to 2006, LSC's funding was cut by \$10 million (from \$336 million in FY 2003 to \$326 million in FY 2006) due to across-the-board cuts not directed specifically at LSC. Another \$37 million has been lost to inflation, which has reduced purchasing power by nearly 11 percent since 2003. Thus, there was a total reduction of \$47 million in effective funding for LSC-funded legal services programs from FY 2003 to FY 2006.

Furthermore, from 2002 to 2005, the number of attorneys in LSC-funded programs has been reduced by 8 percent nationwide. The reduction of staff levels directly impacts the total number of cases handled by these programs; the total number of cases closed during the time period decreased by 7 percent. Without increased funding, the current crisis legal services programs face with regard to retaining qualified attorneys and recruiting new attorneys will continue.

**Total LSC Funding (in millions of dollars)**



As a result of budget cuts from 2003 through 2006, more low-income Americans went without the crucial legal assistance often necessary to maintain homes, protect incomes, ensure family welfare, and protect against domestic and child abuse. In 2005, LSC-funded programs



closed 906,338 cases, nearly 30,000 less than two years ago. An increase in federal funds is crucial for LSC-funded programs to help more eligible low-income individuals with their pressing civil legal problems.

Statistics from individual states mirror the national trend and show that decreases in LSC funding impact the ability of already-overburdened LSC-funded programs to serve a steadily increasing low-income client population. For example, from 2003 to 2005:

- **West Virginia:** LSC-funding decreased by \$172,882, resulting in 6 percent fewer cases closed.
- **Iowa:** LSC-funding decreased by \$174,521, resulting in 17 percent fewer cases closed.
- **Louisiana:** LSC-funding decreased by \$430,542, resulting in 6 percent fewer cases closed.
- **Kansas:** LSC-funding decreased by \$137,922, resulting in 14 percent fewer cases closed.

The increase in FY 2007 will help local programs regain some of the ground lost in the past four years. However, an increase in FY 2008 is necessary to enable local programs to help more eligible low-income Americans with their basic civil legal needs and begin to close the gap between the number who seek civil legal assistance and the number who can be served.

*As a result of budget cuts from 2003 through 2006, more low-income Americans went without the crucial legal assistance often necessary to maintain homes, protect incomes, ensure family welfare, and protect against domestic and child abuse.*



## Office of Inspector General

LSC requests \$3,041,000 for the Office of Inspector General (OIG) for FY 2008. This amount represents less than one percent of LSC's total budget request. The request is an increase of \$534,000 from the FY 2006 appropriation level. LSC believes this increase is necessary for the OIG to perform its mission and important compliance monitoring oversight duties assigned to the Inspector General by the Congress. The OIG will require a modest increase in staffing levels and for travel in order to fully carry out its compliance program. The increase will also fund requisite cost of living salary increases. The requested funding will enable the OIG to perform its audit and investigative missions as well as the program compliance monitoring directed by the Congress.

The OIG contributes to LSC's success in fulfilling its mission by providing objective information to promote good management, decision-making, and accountability. The OIG operates under the Inspector General Act, independent from Management, and the Congress funds the OIG through a separate budget line. The OIG's principal missions are to assist in identifying ways to promote economy, efficiency and effectiveness of the Corporation's programs and operations; to prevent and detect fraud, waste and abuse; and to keep the Board of Directors and the Congress fully and currently informed about problems relating to the activities and operations of LSC and its grantees and the progress of corrective actions. In addition to the missions shared by all OIGs, the LSC OIG has a role in monitoring grantee compliance with legal requirements. The OIG oversees and provides guidance to the Independent Public Accountants (IPAs) who conduct the annual audits of LSC grantees and has the authority to conduct reviews of grantee compliance.

During FY 2006, in response to Congressional requests, the OIG completed a major review of certain fiscal spending practices at LSC and a significant report on the legal practice activities of a large LSC grantee. The OIG also continued its grantee compliance monitoring activities and review of LSC's grantee oversight offices. The results are detailed in the OIG Semiannual Reports to Congress.

### **FY 2008 Plan**

In implementing the OIG Strategic Plan for 2007-2011, the OIG will pursue the following areas of work. In FY 2008, the OIG plans to focus on LSC grantee operations and compliance, LSC grant administration and oversight, and perform internal work as needed. (We note that circumstances may require a reordering of OIG priorities because of unforeseen events or requests from the Board or the Congress.)

The OIG's annual work must include oversight of the annual audit of LSC's financial statements, investigations of potential crimes and referral of evidence for prosecution, and review of existing and proposed legislation and regulations. The OIG reviews the audit reports on all LSC grantees (currently 138) produced by the IPAs; each report reviews the grantee's



financial condition, internal controls, and compliance with mandated restrictions and prohibitions. The OIG must refer significant audit findings to LSC management, and track the progress of corrective actions.

Because the ability of the IPAs to review grantees' compliance with the Congressionally mandated restrictions is critical to the success of LSC, the OIG has begun a more comprehensive program of oversight of the IPAs. If fully funded in FY 2008, the OIG will continue this effort by initiating a review of the IPAs' audit work on a three-year cycle. In addition, the OIG will also have the capability to annually update and revise the Audit Guide and Compliance Supplement, which provide audit guidance to the IPAs, and incorporate best practices and lessons learned. Separately, the OIG will conduct its own reviews of grantee compliance.

Resources permitting, the OIG will look at how LSC grant funds are being used to deliver legal services to low-income persons from an effectiveness and cost-efficiency perspective, and identify processes and practices that would be beneficial to export to all grant recipients.

The OIG has concluded that it does not presently have adequate staff to fulfill the OIG's statutory responsibilities and complete the work identified above. In FY 2007, the OIG budget supports 20 positions. If fully funded, the OIG intends to hire three additional staff.



## Conclusion

Congress entrusts the Legal Services Corporation with a dual mission: to promote equal access to justice and to provide high-quality civil legal assistance to low-income Americans. Our nation promises equal access to justice for all, including the poor. Yet LSC-funded programs—the main source of civil legal aid for low-income individuals and families—are meeting less than half the need a year after the release of LSC's groundbreaking Justice Gap Report.

Fifty million Americans are eligible for civil legal aid, yet most of them do not have access to it. This clearly does not comport with the principles our nation holds dear: fairness, equality, and equal justice under law. It is fundamental to the American way of life that justice be available to all, not just to those who can afford to pay for it. Given the rising number of eligible individuals, the increasing demand for services, and the documented unmet need, an increase in the FY 2008 appropriation for civil legal assistance to the poor is critical. While LSC recognizes the budgetary pressures on federal spending, the ability of LSC-funded programs to provide high quality civil legal services to America's poorest population is diminished without increased federal funding.

Increased federal funding will enable legal services programs to help more low-income individuals and families who have pressing civil legal needs, moving closer to fulfilling our nation's goal of equal access to justice for all.



## Appendix—FY 2008 Budget Request Tables

### BUDGET REQUEST — FISCAL YEAR 2008

(dollars in thousands)

	(1)	(2)	(3)
	FY 2007 Request	FY 2007 Continuing Resolutions Funding Levels	FY 2008 Request
I. DELIVERY OF LEGAL ASSISTANCE	392,800	311,410	<b>412,815</b>
A. PROGRAM SERVICES TO CLIENTS	387,800	310,171	<b>407,815</b>
1. Basic Field Programs	386,800	308,385	<b>407,815</b>
A. Census Adjustment	-	1,786	-
B. Disaster Relief	1,000	-	-
B. TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES	5,000	1,239	<b>5,000</b>
II. MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION	14,500	12,661	<b>13,825</b>
III. LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM	1,000	-	<b>1,000</b>
IV. OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL	3,500	2,507	<b>3,041</b>
TOTAL	411,800	326,578	<b>430,681</b>



# LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

*America's Partner For Equal Justice*

## BUDGET IN BRIEF — FISCAL YEAR 2008

(dollars in thousands)

	2006 Budget		2007 Estimate		2008 Estimate		Change from 2007 to 2008	
	Amount	Perm Posn's	Amount	Perm Posn's	Amount	Perm Posn's	Amount	Perm Posn's
<b>I. CLIENT SERVICES</b>	314,447	-	313,082	-	412,815	-	99,733	-
Appropriation	311,410	-	311,410	-	412,815	-	101,405	-
Funds Carried Forward from								
Previous Year	1,323	-	397	-	-	-	(397)	-
US Court of Veterans Appeals Funds	1,247	-	1,247	-	-	-	(1,247)	-
Funds Carried Forward from								
Previous Year	38	-	28	-	-	-	(28)	-
State Justice Project	319	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Funds Available	140	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>A. PROGRAM SERVICES TO CLIENTS</b>	311,710	-	311,828	-	407,815	-	95,987	-
Appropriation	310,171	-	310,171	-	407,815	-	97,644	-
Funds Carried Forward from								
Previous Year	114	-	382	-	-	-	(382)	-
US Court of Veterans Appeals Funds	1,247	-	1,247	-	-	-	(1,247)	-
Funds Carried Forward from								
Previous Year	38	-	28	-	-	-	(28)	-
Other Funds Available	140	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>B. TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES</b>	2,767	-	1,254	-	5,000	-	3,746	-
Appropriation	1,239	-	1,239	-	5,000	-	3,761	-
State Justice Project	319	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Funds Carried Forward from								
Previous Year	1,209	-	15	-	-	-	(15)	-
<b>II. MANAGEMENT &amp; ADMINISTRATION</b>	14,733	91	14,300	88	15,400	91	1,100	3
Appropriation	12,661	91	12,661	88	13,825	91	1,164	3
Funds Carried Forward from								
Previous Year	1,862	-	1,239	-	1,175	-	(64)	-
Other Funds Available	250	-	400	-	400	-	-	-
<b>III. LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM</b>	1,000	-	997	-	1,550	-	553	-
Appropriation	-	-	-	-	1,000	-	1,000	-
Funds Carried Forward from								
Previous Year	1,000	-	997	-	550	-	(447)	-
<b>IV. OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL</b>	2,834	17	2,891	23	3,091	23	200	-
Appropriation	2,507	17	2,507	23	3,041	23	534	-
Funds Carried Forward from								
Previous Year	327	-	384	-	50	-	(334)	-
<b>TOTAL - REQUIREMENTS</b>	333,084	108	331,270	111	432,856	114	101,586	3
Appropriation	326,578	108	326,578	111	430,681	114	104,103	3
Funds Carried Forward from								
Previous Year	4,512	-	3,017	-	1,775	-	(1,242)	-
US Court of Veterans Appeals Funds	1,247	-	1,247	-	-	-	(1,247)	-
Funds Carried Forward from								
Previous Year	38	-	28	-	-	-	(28)	-
State Justice Project	319	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Funds Available	390	-	400	-	400	-	-	-

Fiscal Year 2008  
Budget Request



# LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

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## BUDGET SUMMARY — FISCAL YEARS 2006, 2007, AND 2008

(dollars in thousands)

	2006 Budget		2007 Estimate		2008 Estimate		Change from 2007 to 2008	
	Amount	Perm Posn's	Amount	Perm Posn's	Amount	Perm Posn's	Amount	Perm Posn's
<b>I. CLIENT SERVICES</b>	314,477		313,082		412,815		99,733	
Appropriation	311,410		311,410		412,815		101,405	
Funds Carried Forward from								
Previous Year	1,323		397				(397)	
US Court of Veterans Appeals Funds	1,247		1,247				(1,247)	
Funds Carried Forward from								
Previous Year	38		28				(28)	
State Justice Project	319							
Other Funds Available	140							
<b>II. MANAGEMENT &amp; ADMINISTRATION</b>	14,733	91	14,300	88	15,400	91	1,100	3
Appropriation	12,661	91	12,661	88	13,825	91	1,164	3
Funds Carried Forward from								
Previous Year	1,862		1,239		1,175		(64)	
Other Funds Available	250		400		400		-	
<b>III. LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM</b>	1,000		997		1,550		553	
Appropriation					1,000		1,000	
Funds Carried Forward from								
Previous Year	1,000		997		550		(447)	
<b>IV. OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL</b>	2,834	17	2,891	23	3,901	23	200	-
Appropriation	2,507	17	2,507	23	3,041	23	534	-
Funds Carried Forward from								
Previous Year	327		384		50		(334)	
<b>TOTAL - REQUIREMENTS</b>	333,084	108	331,270	111	432,856	114	101,586	3
Appropriation	326,578	108	326,578	111	430,681	114	104,103	3
Funds Carried Forward from								
Previous Year	4,512		3,017		1,775		(1,242)	
US Court of Veterans Appeals Funds	1,247		1,247		-		(1,247)	
Funds Carried Forward from								
Previous Year	38		28		-		(28)	
State Justice Project	319		-		-		-	
Other Funds Available	390		400		400		-	



# LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

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## APPROPRIATION REQUEST IN RELATION TO FUNDS AVAILABLE

(dollars in thousands)

	Positions	Amount
1. Total Funds Available in Fiscal Year 2007		
Appropriation, FY 2007	111	326,578
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year		3,017
US Court of Veterans Appeals Funds		1,247
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year		28
Other Funds Available, FY 2007		400
Total available in FY 2007	111	331,270
2. Request for Fiscal Year 2008 – Summary of Changes		
Appropriation, FY 2007	111	326,578
Adjustment to Base	3	104,103
Appropriation, FY 2008	114	430,681
3. Total Funds Available in Fiscal Year 2008		
Requested Appropriation	114	430,681
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year		1,775
Other Funds Available		1,000
Total available in FY 2008	114	432,856



# LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

*America's Partner For Equal Justice*

## PROGRAM AND FINANCING FOR FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS — FISCAL YEARS 2006, 2007, AND 2008

(dollars in thousands)

	2006 Actual	2007 Estimate	2008 Estimate
<b>I. CLIENT SERVICES</b>			
A. Program Services to Clients	311,710	311,828	407,815
B. Technology Initiatives	2,767	1,254	5,000
<b>II. MANAGEMENT &amp; ADMINISTRATION</b>			
<b>III. LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM</b>			
<b>IV. OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL</b>			
Total program costs, funded	333,084	331,270	432,856
Change in Selected Resources:			
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	(4,831)	(3,017)	(1,775)
US Court of Veterans Appeals Funds	(1,247)	(1,247)	-
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	(38)	(28)	-
Other Funds Available	(390)	(400)	(400)
Total obligations (object class 41)	326,578	326,578	430,681
Financing:			
Budget Authority (appropriation)	326,578	326,578	430,681
Relation of obligations to outlays:			
Obligations incurred, net	326,578	326,578	430,681
Obligated balance, start of year	62,264	61,323	55,324
Obligated balance, end of year	(61,323)	(55,324)	(73,519)
Outlays	327,519	332,577	412,486



# LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

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## ACTIVITIES IN BRIEF

(dollars in thousands)

	2007 Estimate		2008 Base		2008 Estimate		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) 2008 Base to 2008 Est.	
	Amount	Perm	Amount	Perm	Amount	Perm	Amount	Perm
		Posn's		Posn's		Posn's		Posn's
<b>I. CLIENT SERVICES</b>								
Total	313,082		311,410		412,815		101,405	
Appropriation	311,410		311,410		412,815		101,405	
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	397		-		-		-	
US Court of Veterans Appeals Funds	1,247		-		-		-	
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	28		-		-		-	
Other Funds Available	-		-		-		-	
<b>A. PROGRAM SERVICES TO CLIENTS</b>								
Total	311,828		310,171		407,815		97,644	
Appropriation	310,171		310,171		407,815		97,664	
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	382		-		-		-	
US Court of Veterans Appeals Funds	1,247		-		-		-	
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	28		-		-		-	
<b>1. Basic Field Programs</b>								
Total	310,447		310,171		407,815		97,664	
Appropriation	310,171		310,171		407,815		97,664	
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	153		-		-		-	
<b>2. Grants from Other Funds Available</b>								
Total	229		-		-		-	
Appropriation	-		-		-		-	
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	229		-		-		-	
<b>3. US Court of Veterans Appeals Funds</b>								
Total	1,275		-		-		-	
Appropriation	-		-		-		-	
US Court of Veterans Appeals Funds	1,247		-		-		-	
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	28		-		-		-	



# LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

America's Partner For Equal Justice

## ACTIVITIES IN BRIEF

(dollars in thousands)

	2007 Estimate		2008 Base		2008 Estimate		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) 2008 Base to 2008 Est.	
	Amount	Perm Posn's	Amount	Perm Posn's	Amount	Perm Posn's	Amount	Perm Posn's
<b>B. TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES</b>								
Total	1,254		1,239		5,000		3,761	
Appropriation	1,239		1,239		5,000		3,761	
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	15		-		-		-	
<b>II. MANAGEMENT &amp; ADMINISTRATION</b>								
Total	14,300	91	14,236	88	15,400	91	1,164	3
Appropriation	12,661	91	12,661	88	13,825	91	1,164	3
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	1,239		1,175		1,175		-	
Other Funds Available	400		400		400		-	
<b>III. LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM</b>								
Total	997		550		1,550		1,000	-
Appropriation	-		-		1,000		1,000	-
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	997		550		550		-	
<b>IV. OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL</b>								
Total	2,891	17	2,557	23	3,091	23	534	-
Appropriation	2,507	17	2,507	23	3,041	23	534	-
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	384		50		50		-	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>331,270</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>328,753</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>432,856</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>104,103</b>	<b>3</b>
Appropriation	326,578	108	326,578	111	430,681	114	104,103	3
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	3,017		1,775		1,775		-	
US Court of Veterans Appeals Funds	1,247		-		-		-	
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	28		-		-		-	
Other Funds Available	400		400		400		-	



# LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

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## APPROPRIATION EXPENSES BY ACTIVITY — FISCAL YEARS 2007 AND 2008

(dollars in thousands)

	2006 Funds Carried Forward to 2007		2007 Estimate		2008 Base		2008 Request	
	Amount	Perm Posn's	Amount	Perm Posn's	Amount	Perm Posn's	Amount	Perm Posn's
Corporation Management & Administration	1,239		12,661	88	12,661	88	13,825	91
Funds Carried Forward from FY 2007 to FY 2008	-		-		1,175		1,175	
Other Funds Available	-		400		400		400	
Loan Repayment Asst Program							1,000	
Funds Carried Forward from FY 2007 to FY 2008	997		-		550		550	
Office of Inspector General	384		2,507	23	2,507	23	3,041	23
Funds Carried Forward from FY 2007 to FY 2008	-		-		50		50	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>2,620</b>		<b>15,568</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>17,343</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>20,041</b>	<b>114</b>
Program Activities	397		311,410		311,410		412,815	
Funds Carried Forward from FY 2007 to FY 2008	-		-		-		-	
Veterans Appeals Funds	28		-		-		-	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,045</b>		<b>326,978</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>328,753</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>432,856</b>	<b>114</b>



# LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

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## MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION, & INSPECTOR GENERAL TOTAL SUMMARY — FISCAL YEARS 2007 AND 2008

(dollars in thousands)

SUMMARY TOTALS	Management & Admin., & Inspector General		Program Authorities		Totals		CHANGE
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	
Management & Administration	14,300	15,400	-	-	14,300	15,400	1,100
Office of Inspector General	2,891	3,091	-	-	2,891	3,091	200
Grants and Contracts	-	-	313,082	412,815	313,082	412,815	99,733
Loan Repayment Assist. Prgm.	-	-	997	1,550	997	1,550	553
Total Expenses	17,191	18,491	314,079	414,079	331,270	432,856	101,586

### Sources of Funds for the Delivery of Legal Assistance

Appropriation	311,410	412,815
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	397	-
US Court of Veterans Appeals Funds	1,247	-
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	28	-
Total	313,082	412,815

### Sources of Funds for the Loan Repayment Assistance Program

Appropriation	-	1,000
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	997	550
Total	997	1,550

### Total Sources of Funds

Appropriation	326,578	430,681
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	3,017	1,775
US Court of Veterans Appeals Funds	1,247	-
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	28	-
Other Funds Available	400	400
Total	331,270	432,856

Fiscal Year 2008  
Budget Request



# LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

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## MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES BY OBJECT CLASS — FISCAL YEARS 2007 AND 2008

(dollars in thousands)

OBJECT CLASS	Management and Administration		Program Authorities		Totals		CHANGE
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	
Personnel Compensation	7,894	8,297	-	-	7,894	8,297	403
Employee Benefits	2,364	2,565	-	-	2,364	2,565	201
Other Personnel Services	154	104	-	-	154	104	(50)
Consulting	644	905	-	-	644	905	261
Travel and Transportation	639	839	-	-	639	839	200
Communications	146	146	-	-	146	146	-
Occupancy Costs	1,672	1,672	-	-	1,672	1,672	-
Printing and Reproduction	112	136	-	-	112	136	24
Other Operating Expenses	525	533	-	-	525	533	8
Capital Expenditures	150	203	-	-	150	203	53
Total for Management Administration	14,300	15,400	-	-	14,300	15,400	1,100

### Sources of Funds for Management and Administration

Appropriation	12,661	13,825
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	1,239	1,175
Other Funds Available	400	400
Total	14,300	15,400



# LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

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## INSPECTOR GENERAL EXPENSES BY OBJECT CLASS — FISCAL YEARS 2007 AND 2008

(dollars in thousands)

OBJECT CLASS	Office of Inspector General		Program Authorities		Totals		CHANGE
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	
Personnel Compensation	1,906	2,248	-	-	1,906	2,248	342
Employee Benefits	473	562	-	-	473	562	89
Other Personnel Services	141	-	-	-	141	-	(141)
Consulting	183	84	-	-	183	84	(99)
Travel and Transportation	119	150	-	-	119	150	31
Communications	14	14	-	-	14	14	-
Occupancy Costs	1	1	-	-	1	1	-
Printing and Reproduction	4	3	-	-	4	3	(1)
Other Operating Expenses	27	20	-	-	27	20	(7)
Capital Expenditures	23	9	-	-	23	9	(14)
Total for Inspector General	2,891	3,091	-	-	2,891	3,091	200

### Sources of Funds for Inspector General

Appropriation	2,507	3,041
Funds Carried Forward from Previous Year	384	50
Total	2,891	3,091



# LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

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## STAFF POSITIONS — FISCAL YEARS 2006, 2007, AND 2008

	2006 Budget	2007 Budget		2008 Budget	
	Number of Positions*	Change From 2006	Number of Positions*	Change From 2007	Number of Positions*
OFFICE					
Executive Office	7	(2)	5	0	5
Legal Affairs	7	0	7	1	8
Government Relations / Public Affairs	8	(2)	6	0	6
Human Resources	6	(1)	5	0	5
Financial & Administrative Services	9	0	9	0	9
Information Technology	6	2	8	0	8
Program Performance	21	3	24	2	26
Information Management	10	(3)	7	0	7
Compliance & Enforcement	17	0	17	0	17
	91	(3)	88	3	91
Inspector General	17	6	23	0	23
TOTAL	108	3	111	3	114

\* Full-time equivalents



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## STAFF SALARIES — FISCAL YEARS 2006, 2007, AND 2008

### MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

SALARY RANGES	2006 Budget	2007 Budget		2008 Budget	
	Number of Positions*	Change From 2006	Number of Positions*	Change From 2007	Number of Positions*
LSC BAND I \$26,880 - \$52,190	11	(3)	8	0	8
LSC BAND II \$44,670 - \$80,480	25	(2)	23	2	25
LSC BAND III \$71,380 - \$108,600	44	1	45	1	46
LSC BAND IV \$104,050 - \$125,310	6	1	7	0	7
LSC BAND V \$118,960 - \$132,120	4	0	4	0	4
Unclassified Positions	1	0	1	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>91</b>

\* Full-time equivalents



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## STAFF SALARIES — FISCAL YEARS 2006, 2007, AND 2008

### OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

SALARY RANGES	2006 Budget	2007 Budget		2008 Budget	
	Number of Positions*	Change From 2006	Number of Positions*	Change From 2007	Number of Positions*
LSC BAND I \$26,880 - \$52,190	0	0	0	0	0
LSC BAND II \$44,670 - \$80,480	2	5	7	0	7
LSC BAND III \$71,380 - \$108,600	11	(1)	10	0	10
LSC BAND IV \$104,050 - \$125,310	3	2	5	0	5
LSC BAND V \$118,960 - \$132,120	1	0	1	0	1
Unclassified Positions	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23</b>

\* Full-time equivalents



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