

# Legal Services Vermont Priorities 2026

Priority	Goal	Strategy	Desired Outcomes
<b>Housing:</b> Maintain and improve housing stability and quality for low-income individuals and families.	Help clients avoid eviction or transition to new housing.		
		General eviction cases	Protect 250 clients from eviction through advice, referral and representation
		Eviction advice cases and outreach	Provide advice and legal information to 200 clients and community advocates on evictions
		Mobile Home Cases	Protect 25 clients from eviction and preserve their mobile home leases through advice, referral and representation
		Subsidized housing cases	Protect housing subsidies for 50 individuals and families through advice, referral and representation

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		Habitability cases	Assist 50 clients with housing habitability issues through advice, referral and representation
		Emergency housing cases	Assist 20 clients with emergency housing denials
	Ensure that the legal system protects the rights of tenants, and that the public has effective legal information about housing rights		
		Public education through vtlawhelp.org	Provide legal information to at least 10,000 in-state user sessions on vtlawhelp.org and improve self-help legal information.
		Support for pro se litigants, better court forms, plain language, and improved court services	Through the LSV TIG project, work to improve pro se access to court forms and filing processes.
		Improve statewide enforcement of housing habitability codes	Support clients to advocate with Town Health Officers to enforce habitability regulations in 30 cases

## Legal Services Vermont Priorities 2026

**Consumer and Benefits:** Improve financial stability for low-income individuals and families

Improve clients' financial status through consumer information and advocacy

Debt collection/repo cases

Reduce or prevent judgment in 75 cases through legal information, advice, referral and representation

Bankruptcy/debtor relief cases

Provide counsel and connect 40 bankruptcy clients with private lawyers

Collection practices cases

Assist 25 clients to protect themselves from creditor harassment through legal information, advice, referral and representation

Public education through vtlawhelp.org

Provide consumer legal information to at least 2,500 in-state user sessions through vtlawhelp.org and improve self-help information and forms.

## Legal Services Vermont Priorities 2026

Preserve and provide access to basic government benefits

Social Security Cases

Assist 75 clients in appealing Social Security overpayments and terminations

Food Stamp, Reach Up, Fuel Assistance, and Social Security eligibility cases

Assist 30 clients in receiving or retaining benefits through legal information, advice, referral and representation

Public education through vtlawhelp.org

Provide benefits information to at least 2,500 in-state user sessions from Vermont through vtlawhelp.org and improve self-help information and forms.

**Family:** Preserve and protect family stability and safety

Provide legal support and assistance for individuals in family matters

Domestic Abuse cases

Assist 150 victims of domestic violence in getting protective orders through legal information, advice, referral and representation

## Legal Services Vermont Priorities 2026

Divorce and Custody cases

Assist 100 clients with counsel and advice in divorce and custody cases through legal information, advice, referral and representation

Public education through vtlawhelp.org

Provide legal information to at least 10,000 in-state user sessions in family law through vtlawhelp.org and improve self-help information and forms.

Crime victim cases

Provide legal assistance to 75 crime victims through advice, referral and representation

Crime victim referrals

Coordinate crime victim referrals with other statewide agencies for 200 crime victims

**Legal Assistance and Education:**  
Empower low-income individuals and families

Provide support for low-income clients in civil legal matters

Helpline assistance for low-income Vermonters

Through helpline support, 3,000 low-income Vermonters will receive information and advice about civil legal matters

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	Counsel and advice cases	150 low-income Vermonters will receive counsel and advice in civil legal matters
	Pro Bono assistance	Work with statewide partners to improve LSV's pro bono program and expand pro bono participation by private attorneys
Assist low-income Vermonters in understanding their rights and managing their legal problems		
	Legal information available on the web at <a href="http://vtlawhelp.org">vtlawhelp.org</a>	Provide legal information to at least 75,000 in-state user sessions on a broad range of civil legal issues and work to update and improve information and forms on the website.
	Advice in civil legal matters	150 clients receive pro se assistance in civil legal matters
Assist low-income Vermonters to represent themselves in court		
	Coaching, help with pleadings, and advice in civil court cases	Draft pleadings and provide pro se support to 150 low-income Vermonters with active cases in court and update pro-se

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**Outreach:** Improve access to legal assistance and information

Provide more access to legal advice and information for low-income Vermonters

information and forms on [vtlawhelp.org](http://vtlawhelp.org).

Access to legal clinics

Continue to expand statewide access to legal advice clinics using staff and pro bono resources

Access to legal information

Continue to expand outreach and training opportunities to new venues, especially in underserved areas of the state