

Getting Results for Ontario

Community legal clinics by the numbers:

15,497 people assisted 60,571 referrals

124,811 legal advice and brief services provided

1,691 public legal education files

COMMUNITY LEGAL CLINIC SYSTEM

Legal Aid Ontario (LAO) supports communities across the province through a network of 79 independent community legal clinics that provide services based upon local needs. The clinics address the unique needs of low-income disadvantaged people with legal assistance in areas such as social assistance and other income support programs, and housing law. These represent people's most basic needs: a source of income for those unable to work, and a roof over their heads.

Specialty Clinics assist specific groups of individuals, who are not only poor, but also marginalized for other reasons. Specialty Clinics represent the elderly, the disabled, urban Aboriginals, persons with mental illnesses as well as providing assistance in specific areas of law such as workers compensation, workers' health and safety, and social benefits.

Clinic clients are disproportionately those with physical and mental illnesses, literacy issues, single mothers, the elderly, victims of abuse, recent immigrants, and visible minorities. Community legal and specialty clinics make a necessary contribution to the justice system in Ontario. Without them, thousands of disadvantaged people would not have access to vital and sometimes life saving legal help when they need it most.