



**MidPenn Legal Services
Schuylkill County
2018-2019 Fact Sheet**



MidPenn is free civil legal aid. We are a legal emergency room for the poor. We provide advice and counsel to help very low-income families solve problems and get back on track.

Case Types: We handle critical civil matters: child custody, domestic violence, housing, elder law, public benefits and consumer. We do not handle criminal cases.

Mission: MidPenn Legal Services is a non-profit law firm providing free civil legal aid to low-income families in crisis.

Vision: We seek orderly resolutions for poor families with critical legal problems. We protect personal safety, stabilize housing, secure income, and obtain health care for those with nowhere else to turn.

Schuylkill County Statistics:	<u>2010</u>	<u>2018</u>
Total Population	140,831	142,067
Residents below the poverty level*	11.9%	12.5 %
Food Stamp recipients	9.6%	15.0%
Poverty Population*	17,646	17,118

*The U.S. Census Bureau excludes institutionalized people, people in military group quarters, college dorms and unrelated individuals under 15 years old when calculating poverty rates.

<p>Schuylkill County Residents Eligible for Legal Aid (at 125% of poverty level) 23,965</p>
--

Schuylkill County Fiscal Year 18-19 Overview	MidPenn Staff	Volunteer Attorney	Total	%
Family	144	53	197	35%
Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault/Intimidation	28	0	28	5%
Housing	197	0	197	35%
Public Benefits	29	0	29	5%
Consumer	71	4	75	13%
Health	17	0	17	3%
Employment/Expungement	11	0	11	2%
Other	14	0	14	2%
TOTAL	511	57	568	100%
<p>5,513.9 hours spent on cases. 1,103 residents in Schuylkill County benefited from MidPenn's advocacy. \$50,718.86 in savings and economic benefits to Schuylkill County clients and their communities.</p>				

Funding: The Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network provides 43% of our funding from various sources including, Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts, state and federal Title XX, filing fee add-ons, and the Disability Advocacy Project. The Legal Services Corporation provides 28% of our funds. Additional support comes from the Regional Housing Legal Services, PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency, Schuylkill County Commissioners, the Schuylkill County Bar Association, the Schuylkill Office of Senior Services and individual donations.

Staff in the Schuylkill County MidPenn Office: 315 North Centre Street, Suite 201, Pottsville, PA 17901

Valerie West, Esq., Managing Attorney
 Marsha A. Chwastiak, Attorney
 Lynn Breidegam, Paralegal

Patricia Shilling, Paralegal
 Eileen Barlow, Ombudsman

