



## MidPenn Legal Services Schuylkill County 2019-2020 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.

<b>Schuylkill County Statistics:</b>	<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.

**Schuylkill County Residents Eligible  
for Legal Aid**  
(at 125% of poverty level)  
23,965

<b>Schuylkill County Fiscal Year 19-20 Overview</b>	<b>MidPenn Staff</b>	<b>Volunteer Attorney</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>
Family	137	57	194	35%
Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault/Intimidation	30	0	30	5%
Housing	192	0	192	35%
Public Benefits	51	0	51	5%
Consumer	62	11	73	13%
Health	15	0	15	3%
Employment/Expungement	6	0	6	2%
Other	17	0	17	2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>100%</b>

**5,451 hours spent on cases.**

**1,920 residents in Schuylkill County benefited from MidPenn's advocacy.**

**\$97,303.51 in savings and economic benefits to Schuylkill County clients and their communities.**

**Funding:** The Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network provides 50.3% 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 23.4% 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 101, Pottsville, PA 17901

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

Patricia Shilling, Paralegal  
Eileen Barlow, Ombudsman

