



**MidPenn Legal Services
Berks County Office
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.

Berks County Statistics:	<u>2010</u>	<u>2018</u>
Total Population	400,197	420,152
Residents below the poverty level*	12.4%	13.6%
Households Receiving Food Stamps	9.1%	13.6%
Poverty Population*	48,726	54,716

*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><u>Berks County Residents Eligible for Legal Aid</u> (at 125% of poverty level) 72,016</p>
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Berks County Fiscal Year 19-20 Overview	MidPenn Staff	Volunteer Attorney	Total	%
Family	185	74	259	27%
Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault/Intimidation	117	10	127	13%
Housing	282	47	329	35%
Public Benefits	77	19	96	10%
Consumer	90	19	109	11%
Health	8	0	8	1%
Employment/Expungement	8	0	8	1%
Other	9	8	17	2%
TOTAL	776	177	953	100.00%

13,344.6 hours spent on cases.
1,660 residents in Berks County benefited from MidPenn's advocacy.
\$89,683.76 in savings and economic benefits to Berks 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 Berks County Bar Association, the United Way of Berks County, Eastern District Bankruptcy Conference AIDSNet/Co-County Wellness, PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency and individual donors.

Staff in the Berks County MidPenn Office: 501 Washington Street #401, Reading, PA 19601

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