



**MidPenn Legal Services  
Berks County Office  
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.

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

<b>Berks County Residents Eligible for Legal Aid</b> (at 125% of poverty level) 72,016
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<b>Berks County Fiscal Year 18-19 Overview</b>	<b>MidPenn Staff</b>	<b>Volunteer Attorney</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>
Family	250	93	343	25%
Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault/Intimidation	164	16	180	13%
Housing	450	44	494	36%
Public Benefits	149	18	167	12%
Consumer	96	25	121	9%
Health	16	0	16	1%
Employment/Expungement	26	1	27	2%
Other	16	11	27	2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1167</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>1375</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**15,485.9 hours spent on cases.**  
**2,329 residents in Berks County benefited from MidPenn's advocacy.**  
**\$386,313.30 in savings and economic benefits to Berks County clients and their communities.**

**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 Berks County Bar Association, Be Well Berks, the United Way of Berks County, Eastern District Bankruptcy Conference AIDSNet/Co-County Wellness, PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency and individual donors.

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