



**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.

<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.

<p><b>Berks County Residents Eligible for Legal Aid</b> (at 125% of poverty level) 72,016</p>
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<b>Berks County Fiscal Year 19-20 Overview</b>	<b>MidPenn Staff</b>	<b>Volunteer Attorney</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>
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%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>776</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>953</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**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.

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