



p. 646.386.4298

legalhand.org

courtinnovation.org/programs/legal-hand

Overview

At Legal Hand, our trained community volunteers provide free legal information, assistance and referrals to help members of low-income communities resolve issues that affect their lives, in areas like housing, family, immigration, divorce, domestic violence and benefits and try to prevent problems from turning into legal actions

Legal Hand trains volunteers from the communities it serves to provide free legal information, assistance, and referrals to help New Yorkers resolve issues that affect their lives. The program provides assistance in areas like housing, family, immigration, divorce, domestic violence, and public benefits. Volunteers, who are not lawyers, operate out of easy to find, neighborhood storefront centers, and are supervised by attorneys from partnering legal services organizations.

Civil legal problems, if left unresolved, can seriously harm low-income New Yorkers, forcing people out of their homes, separating families, and imposing devastating financial burdens. At this time, they are all too common: A study conducted by Legal Hand in 2016 found that 76% of Crown Heights residents interviewed had experienced at least one legally actionable problem in the past year, and over 50% had experienced more than one such problem.

Today, Legal Hand operates in Jamaica, Queens, Brownsville and Crown Heights, Brooklyn, and Highbridge and Tremont in the Bronx.

In 2017, Legal Hand's centers handled nearly 10,000 visits—approximately 800 visits each month. Seventy-one percent of visitors indicated that their visit had allowed them to resolve their legal issues. Virtually all service recipients rated the program highly for its respectful environment and clear presentation of information.

For More Information

Contact Gyulnara Barnett, program associate, at barnettg@legalhand.org