

Law and Justice Interim Committee
SJR 6: Study of Legal Services for Low-Income Montanans
Meeting #3: November 17, 2005

Presentation by: Montana Legal Services Association
Montana Self-Help Law Project

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A Project of MLSA

LAW AND JUSTICE INTERIM COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 17, 2005 MEETING
EXHIBIT 3

2004 Closed Cases

	Advice	Brief Service	Extended Service	Total
Consumer	534	99	34	667
Education	3	0	0	3
Employment	111	15	15	141
Family	1187	515	246	1948
Juvenile	17	4	1	22
Health	75	5	3	83
Housing	495	63	27	585
Inc. Maint.	383	426	115	924
Ind. Rights	56	157	3	216
Misc	83	48	15	146
Total	2944	1332	459	4735

Advice includes Reasons Closed A, C, D, and E

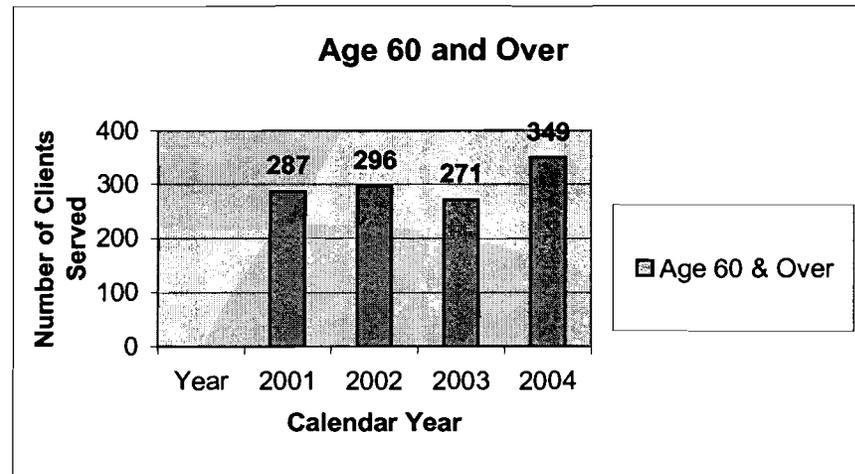
Brief Service includes Reasons Closed B and K

Extended Service includes Reasons Closed F, G, H, I and J

2004 Age, Ethnicity and Gender

	Under 18	18-59	60 +	Totals
Asian or P.I.	0	9	0	9
Black	0	27	0	27
Hispanic	4	651	46	701
Native American	7	497	49	553
White	34	2992	246	3272
Other	6	159	8	173
Totals	51	4335	349	4735

Men	1430
Women	3305
<i>Total</i>	4735



Summary of Statistical Information

Total Cases Opened in 2004	4,811	Total MLSA	4361	92%
Total Cases Remaining Active as of 1/1/05	1,368	Total PAI	374	8%
Total Hours	18,993	Total Cases Closed in 2004	4,735	100%
Total # of People Helped (Closed Cases Only)	11,697	Total Hours Donated by PAI	3485.84	

2005 Closed Cases

	Advice	Brief Service	Extended Service	Total
Consumer	444	51	24	519
Education	5	0	0	5
Employment	90	6	6	102
Family	1025	383	160	1568
Juvenile	20	2	2	24
Health	58	4	0	62
Housing	425	22	17	464
Inc. Maint.	273	64	36	373
Ind. Rights	44	11	1	56
Misc	101	37	57	195
Total	2485	580	303	3368

Advice includes Reasons Closed A, C, D, and E

Brief Service includes Reasons Closed B and K

Extended Service includes Reasons Closed F, G, H, I and J

**Stats as of 9/22/05.

Summary of Statistical Information

2005 Total Requests for Services to date	5,180
Total Cases Opened in 2005	4,006
Total Cases Remaining Active as of 06/2005	2,034
Total # of People Helped (Closed Cases Only)	9,303

# of DV cases closed	432
# clients served over age 60	219

Private Attorney Involvement

Total MLSA	3084	92%
Total PAI	284	8%
Total Cases Closed in 2005	3,368	100%
Total Hours Donated by PAI	1874.5	

Montana County	Total Population in 2000	100% Poverty Pop 2000	125% Poverty Pop 2000	185% Poverty Pop 2000	% Of Persons In Poverty
Beaverhead County	8,723	1,491	2,038	3,419	17.1%
Big Horn County	12,439	3,632	4,547	6,344	29.2%
Blaine County	6,945	1,951	2,522	3,480	28.1%
Broadwater County	4,310	466	683	1,370	10.8%
Carbon County	9,423	1,089	1,576	3,083	11.6%
Carter County	1,338	242	334	572	18.1%
Cascade County	78,438	10,605	14,887	25,986	13.5%
Chouteau County	5,799	1,191	1,525	2,528	20.5%
Custer County	11,272	1,700	2,533	4,096	15.1%
Daniels County	1,971	334	435	800	16.9%
Dawson County	8,625	1,285	1,802	3,021	14.9%
Deer Lodge County	9,182	1,451	2,061	3,318	15.8%
Fallon County	2,788	349	544	932	12.5%
Fergus County	11,440	1,767	2,268	4,035	15.4%
Flathead County	73,241	9,489	13,142	23,276	13.0%
Gallatin County	64,752	8,319	11,171	19,367	12.8%
Garfield County	1,267	272	345	572	21.5%
Glacier County	13,060	3,568	4,734	7,106	27.3%
Golden Valley County	981	253	310	468	25.8%
Granite County	2,803	472	640	1,114	16.8%
Hill County	16,300	2,996	3,747	6,391	18.4%
Jefferson County	9,807	882	1,408	2,248	9.0%
Judith Basin County	2,317	490	599	1,014	21.1%
Lake County	26,015	4,862	6,583	11,375	18.7%
Lewis and Clark County	54,565	5,960	7,923	14,010	10.9%
Liberty County	2,094	425	531	813	20.3%
Lincoln County	18,568	3,558	5,056	8,112	19.2%
McCone County	1,968	331	394	701	16.8%
Madison County	6,765	821	1,250	2,355	12.1%
Meagher County	1,901	359	451	794	18.9%
Mineral County	3,795	598	855	1,533	15.8%
Missoula County	92,656	13,691	18,396	30,029	14.8%
Musselshell County	4,409	877	1,169	1,872	19.9%
Park County	15,556	1,780	2,618	5,003	11.4%
Petroleum County	491	114	161	225	23.2%
Phillips County	4,514	828	1,094	1,725	18.3%
Pondera County	6,347	1,194	1,560	2,409	18.8%
Powder River County	1,822	235	349	666	12.9%
Powell County	5,704	719	998	1,839	12.6%
Prairie County	1,177	202	255	469	17.2%
Ravalli County	35,576	4,927	7,128	12,713	13.8%
Richland County	9,541	1,161	1,583	2,993	12.2%
Roosevelt County	10,373	3,358	3,988	5,573	32.4%
Rosebud County	9,197	2,063	2,520	3,671	22.4%
Sanders County	10,074	1,737	2,489	4,289	17.2%
Sheridan County	4,085	602	829	1,429	14.7%
Silver Bow County	33,577	5,005	6,805	11,450	14.9%
Stillwater County	8,108	791	1,119	1,930	9.8%
Sweet Grass County	3,539	403	585	1,080	11.4%
Teton County	6,369	1,056	1,442	2,437	16.6%
Toole County	4,839	624	941	1,666	12.9%
Treasure County	851	125	201	340	14.7%
Valley County	7,587	1,026	1,593	2,500	13.5%
Wheatland County	2,159	440	645	1,042	20.4%
Wibaux County	1,023	157	281	463	15.3%
Yellowstone County	126,323	14,032	19,257	35,065	11.1%
State Totals	878,789	128,355	174,900	297,111	14.6%

Helena, Montana

March 09, 2005

MAXIMUM INCOME STANDARD FOR ELIGIBLE CLIENTS
(Fact Sheet)

Montana Legal Services Association is a non-profit corporation organized by the State Bar of Montana for the purpose of furnishing legal services to the indigent. Income eligibility standards for receiving services from the Association are:

LSC / MLSA Poverty Guidelines

Size of Family Unit	125% Level		187.5% Level**	
	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly
1	\$ 11,963	\$ 996.92	\$ 17,995	\$ 1,495
2	16,038	1,336.50	24,057	2,005
3	20,113	1,676.08	30,170	2,514
4	24,188	2,015.67	36,282	3,024
5	28,263	2,355.25	42,395	3,533
6	32,338	2,694.83	48,507	4,042
7	36,413	3,034.42	54,620	4,552
8	40,488	3,374.00	60,732	5,061
OVER 8 – add per person	\$ 4,075	\$ 339.58	\$ 6,113	\$ 509

125% to 187.5% Poverty Level - may be served if justified by one of the factors in MLSA Reg #401 (LSC Reg # 1611). The reason (factor) must appear in the intake notes in PRIME. These cases must have executive director approval if considered for service beyond counsel and advice.

****Above 187.5% Poverty Level** - A person may be served even if that person's gross income exceeds 187.5% of the poverty level if that person's gross income is primarily committed to medical or nursing home expenses but requires prior, written approval of the director.

OVER-INCOME FACTORS

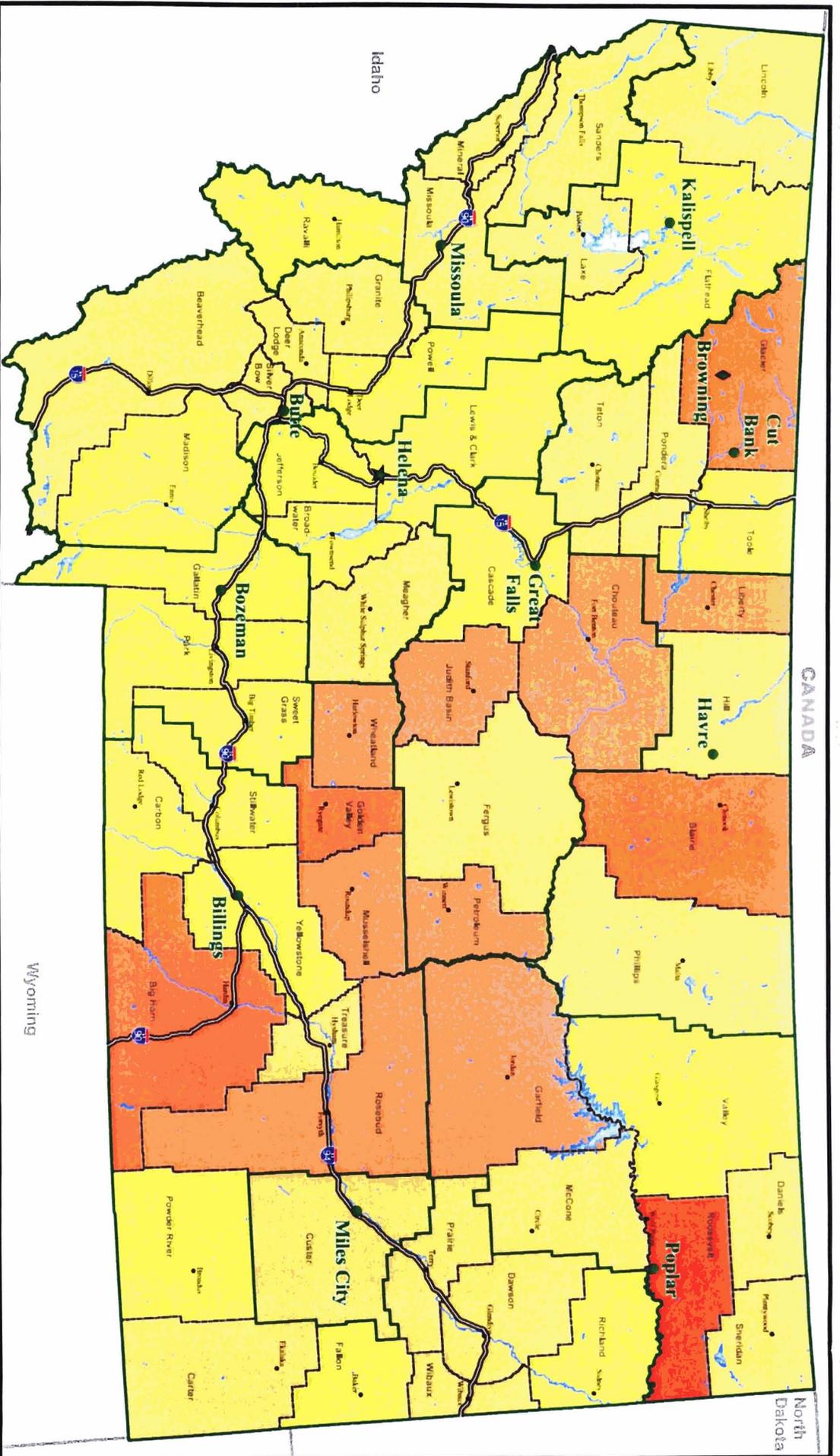
Factors which shall be used in the determination of the eligibility of clients over the maximum income level are:

- a) Government Program for the Poor
- b) Current income prospects;
- c) Medical expenses;
- d) Fixed debts and obligations;
- e) Employment Expenses
- f) Aged - Infirm
- g) Other factors

Factors which shall be used in the determination of the eligibility of clients under the maximum income level are:

- h) Income Prospects
- i) Availability of Private Counsel
- j) Consequences to Client
- k) Excess Assets
- l) Other Factors
 - 1. Refusal of Job

UNDER-INCOME FACTORS



Percent of Montana Persons in Poverty 2000

Percentage of Total Population in Poverty by County

0 - 1%	25% - 29%
2% - 3%	30% - 34%
4% - 5%	35% - 39%
6% - 9%	40% - 44%
10% - 14%	45% - 49%
15% - 19%	50% - 60%
20% - 24%	Over 60%

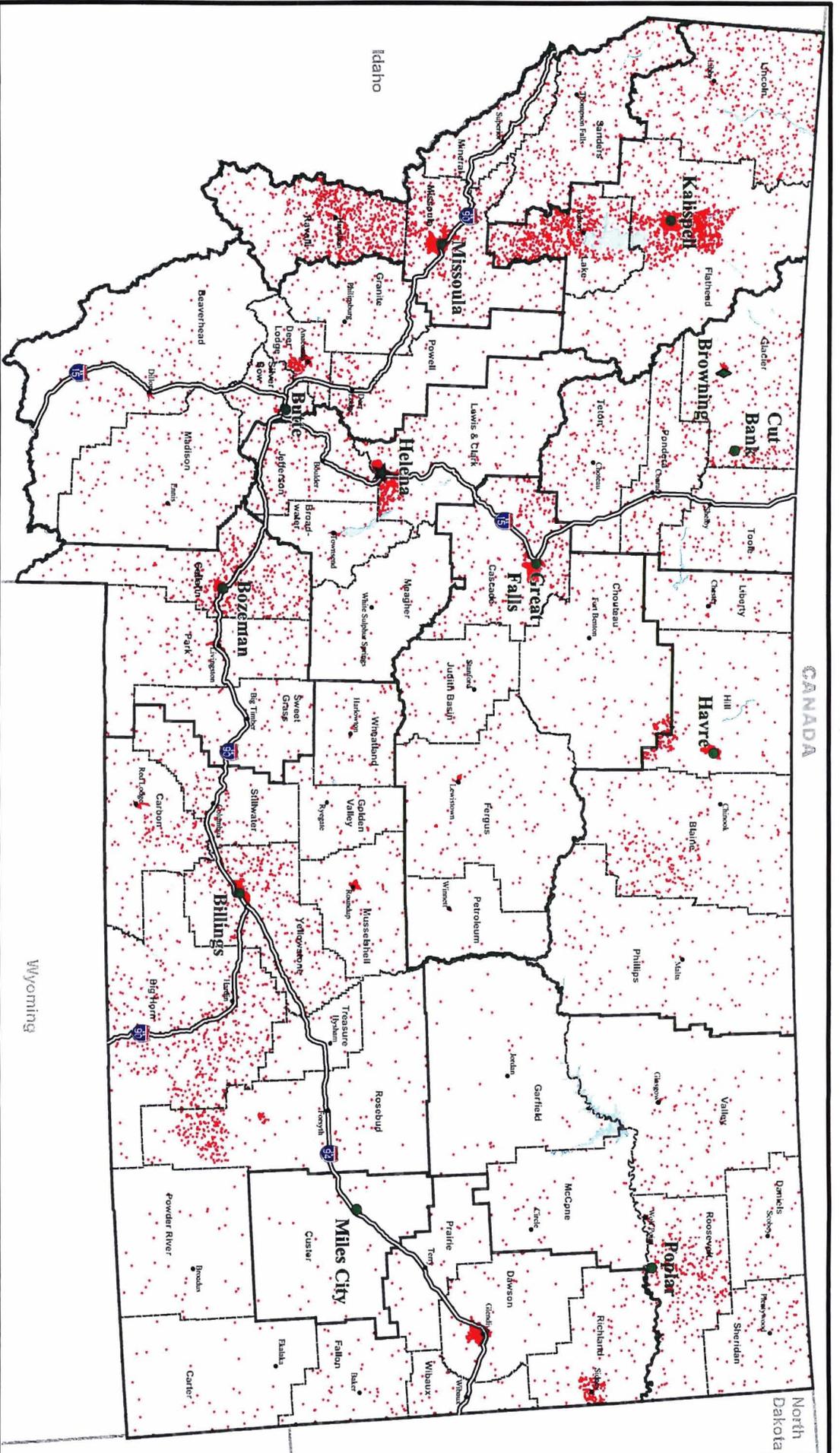
- ★ Main Office
- Branch Office
- ◆ Satellite Office
- Service Area
- Boundary
- City
- Interstate
- County Boundary
- Water

Source: Demographic - U.S. Census Bureau (2000)



Montana Legal Services Association





125% Poverty Population 2000



Persons Below the 125% Poverty Level by Census Tract

1 Dot = 10 Persons

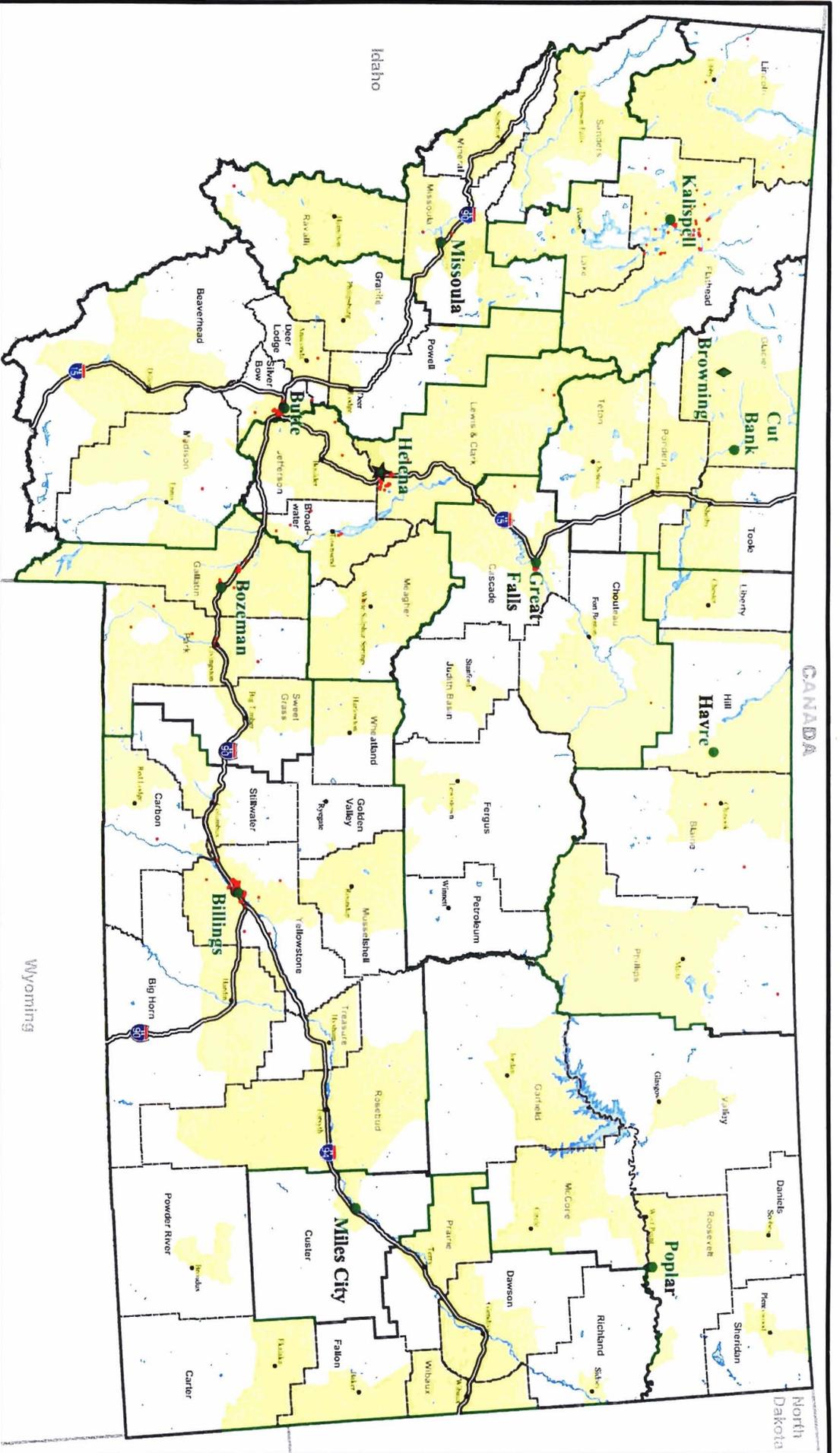
- ★ City
- Main Office
- ◆ Branch Office
- Satellite Office
- ▭ County Boundary
- ▭ Interstate
- ▭ Service Area Boundary
- ▭ Water

Note 1: Income level is only one factor in determining client eligibility, set at or below 125% of the poverty level. See 45 CFR Parts 1601-1644.

Note 2: Dots are placed randomly within Census Tract.

Source: Demographic - U.S. Census Bureau (2000)

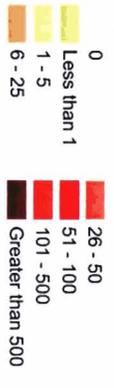
0 30 60 Miles



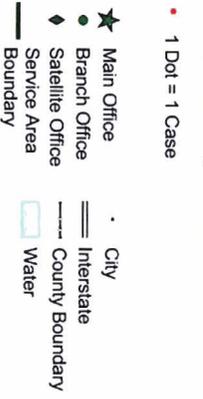
Distribution of Montana PAI Closed Cases 2003 and Density of Attorneys 2004



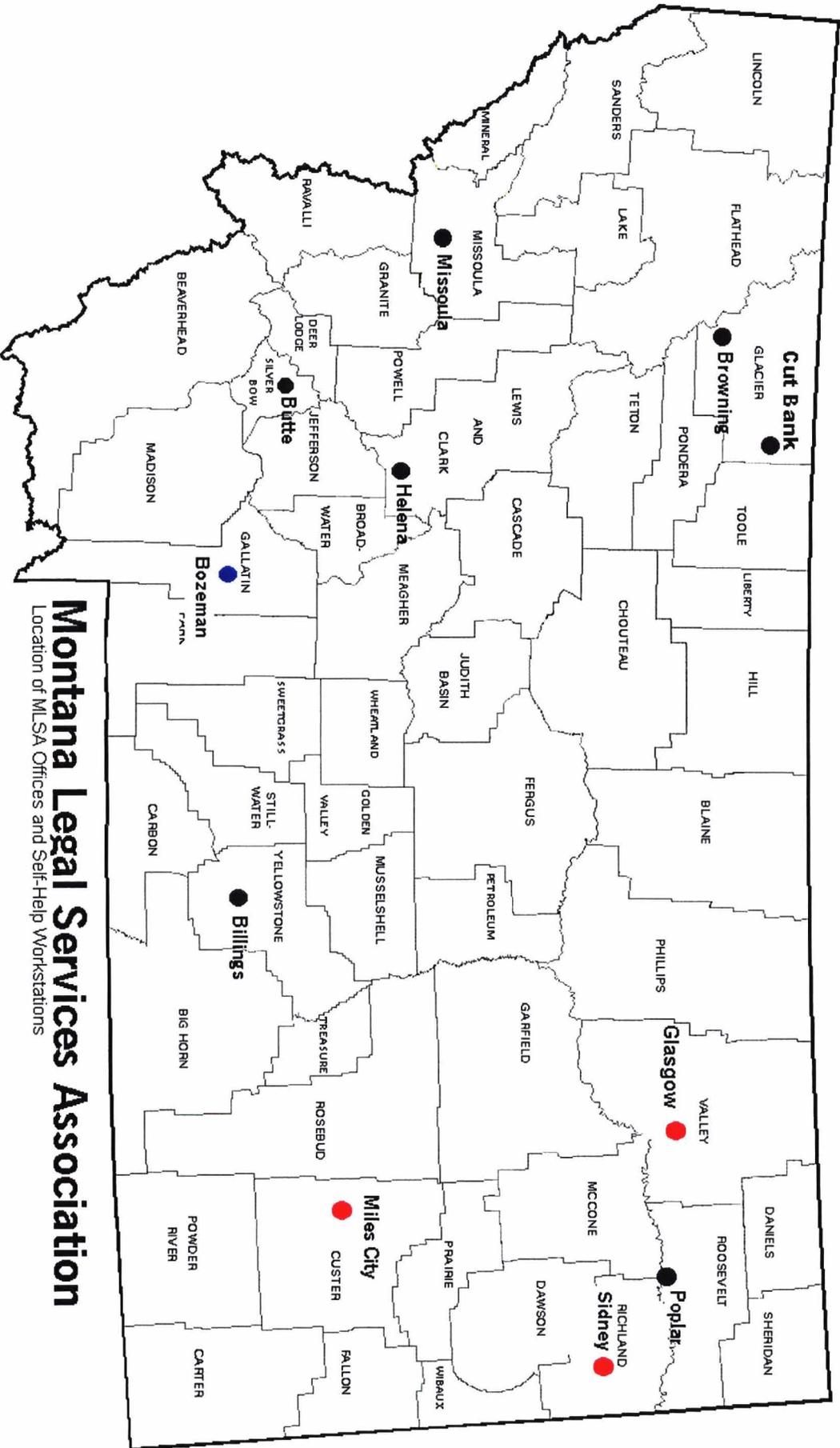
Number of Attorneys per Square Mile by Zip Code



Closed Cases by Location



Source: PAI Closed Cases - Montana Legal Services Program (2003); Geocoding Rate: 93%
 Number of Attorneys - State Bar of Montana (2004)



Montana Legal Services Association

Location of MLISA Offices and Self-Help Workstations

**Montana Legal Services Association
2005 Annual Budget**

	Amount	Percent of Total Budget	Notes
Revenue			
LSC	\$ 1,031,385	43.25%	
LSC - Native American Unit	145,302	6.09%	
LSC - Migrant Farmworkers Unit	49,702	2.08%	
MT Justice Foundation (IOLTA)	144,756	6.07%	
VAWA - Domestic Violence Unit	79,085	3.32%	
DPHHS - Domestic Violence Unit	34,430	1.44%	
Filing Fee Funds - Domestic Violence Unit	186,562	7.82%	
AG/MCADSV TA Funds	10,000	0.42%	
Altria	30,000	1.26%	
Echoing Green	37,028	1.55%	
LSC Website Grant	22,500	0.94%	
LSC Video Conferencing Grant	63,518	2.66%	
LSC Hotdocs Grant	31,961	1.34%	
LSC Website Plus Grant	170,615	7.15%	
LSC Shared IT Grant	14,050	0.59%	
FLAC Grant	7,850	0.33%	
Fort Peck Tribes	106,683	4.47%	
NARF/NAIIS Grant	49,025	2.06%	
Crow Tribal Contract	67,915	2.85%	
IRS LITC	31,250	1.31%	
AmeriCorps/VISTA	46,971	1.97%	
Contracts	20,474	0.86%	
Misc	3,500	0.15%	
Total Revenue	\$ 2,384,562	100.00%	
Revenue by Category			
<i>Relatively Stable Funding</i>			
LSC	\$ 1,226,389		Includes funds earmarked for Native American and Migrant Units depends on interest rates on IOLTA accounts
MT Justice Foundation (IOLTA)	144,756		
Filing Fee Funds - Domestic Violence Unit	186,562		
	\$ 1,557,707	65.32%	
<i>Not Available to MLSA in 2006</i>			
VAWA- Domestic Violence Unit	79,085		startup money; no longer available startup money; no longer available
DPHHS - Domestic Violence Unit	34,430		
Echoing Green	37,028		
LSC TIG	302,644		
	453,187	19.01%	
<i>Fee for Service Revenue</i>			
Fort Peck Tribes	106,683		8.18%
Crow Tribal Contract	67,915		
Contracts	20,474		
	195,072		
<i>Funds for Special Project</i>			
AG/MCADSV TA Funds	10,000		funds a parttime technical assistance attorney for the DV Unit funds an attorney in the DV Unit Missoula County and local bar grants
Altria	30,000		
FLAC Grant	7,850		
IRS LITC	31,250		funds a low-income taxpayer clinic
AmeriCorps/VISTA	46,971		
NARF/NAIIS Grant	49,025		DOJ funds for Native American Unit
	175,096	7.34%	
Misc	3,500	0.15%	
Total Revenue	\$ 2,384,562	100.00%	