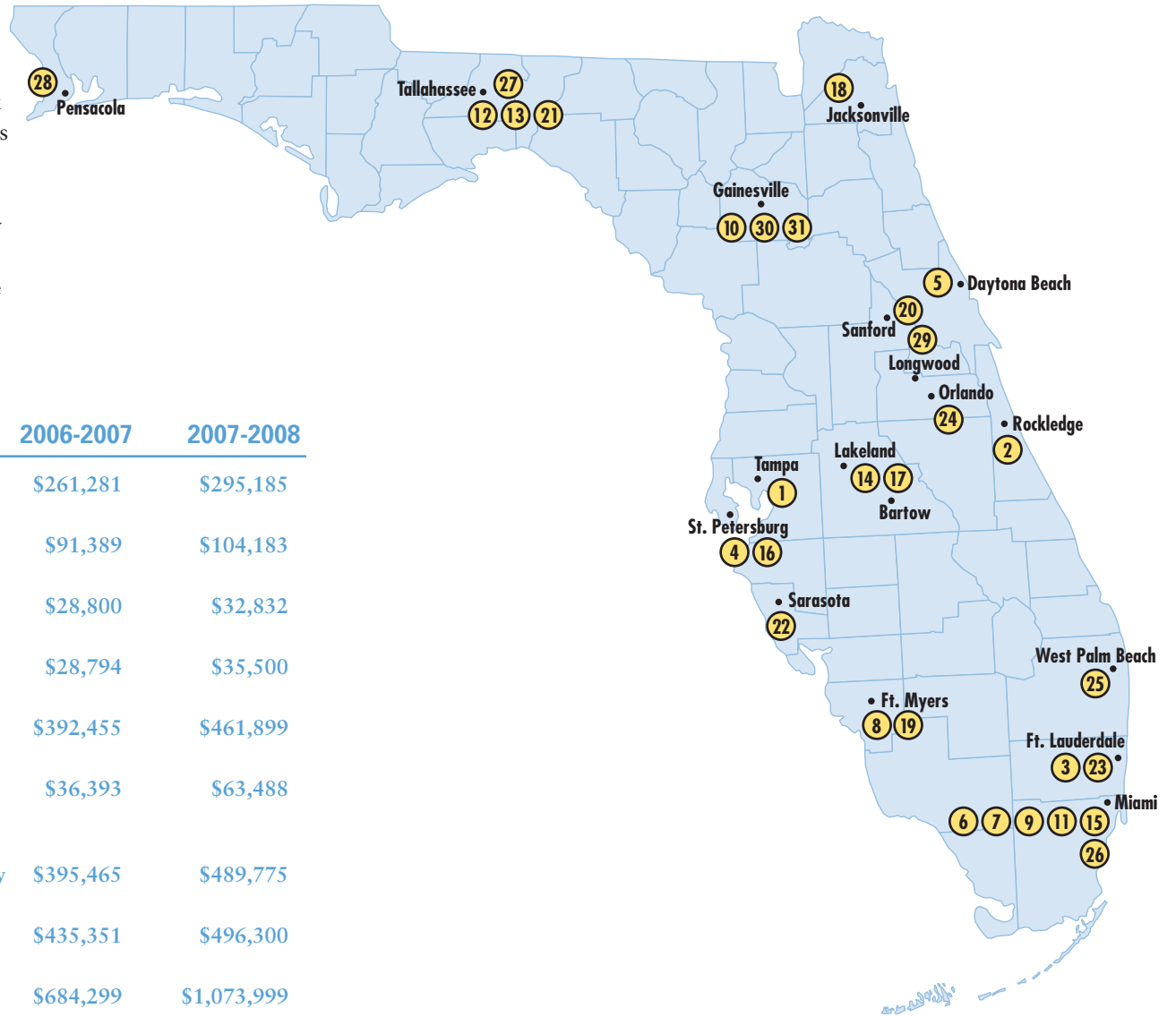


Legal Assistance for the Poor Grant Program

The Foundation's Legal Assistance for the Poor (LAP) grant program, supported primarily by IOTA funds, provides general support and special purpose grants to a network of organizations providing free civil legal services to the poor. Together, this network provides at least basic access to the justice system for low-income individuals and families residing in every county in Florida. LAP grants also support legal assistance for specific client services and to serve specific client groups.



General Support Grants

| Grantee | 2006-2007 | 2007-2008 |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| 1 Bay Area Legal Services <i>Tampa</i> | \$261,281 | \$295,185 |
| 2 Brevard County Legal Aid <i>Rockledge</i> | \$91,389 | \$104,183 |
| 3 Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida <i>Ft. Lauderdale</i> | \$28,800 | \$32,832 |
| 4 Community Law Program <i>St. Petersburg</i> | \$28,794 | \$35,500 |
| 5 Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida <i>Daytona Beach</i> | \$392,455 | \$461,899 |
| 6 Cuban American Bar Association Pro Bono Project <i>Miami</i> | \$36,393 | \$63,488 |
| 7 Dade County Bar Association Legal Aid Society <i>Miami</i> | \$395,465 | \$489,775 |
| 8 Florida Equal Justice Center <i>Ft. Myers</i> | \$435,351 | \$496,300 |
| 9 Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center <i>Miami</i> | \$684,299 | \$1,073,999 |
| 10 Florida Institutional Legal Services <i>Gainesville</i> | \$485,463 | \$730,128 |
| 11 Florida Justice Institute <i>Miami</i> | \$299,731 | \$484,193 |
| 12 Florida Legal Services <i>Tallahassee</i> | \$2,087,766 | \$2,670,753 |
| 13 Florida Legal Services Migrant Farmworker Justice Project <i>Tallahassee</i> | \$668,415 | \$761,993 |
| 14 Florida Rural Legal Services <i>Lakeland</i> | \$422,193 | \$555,400 |
| 15 Guardianship Program of Dade County <i>Miami</i> | \$72,786 | \$81,922 |
| 16 Gulfcoast Legal Services <i>St. Petersburg</i> | \$1,182,915 | \$1,345,848 |
| 17 Heart of Florida Legal Aid Society <i>Bartow</i> | \$124,694 | \$142,151 |
| 18 Jacksonville Area Legal Aid <i>Jacksonville</i> | \$926,452 | \$1,056,155 |
| 19 Lee County Legal Aid Society <i>Ft. Myers</i> | \$62,453 | \$71,196 |
| 20 Legal Advocacy Center of Central Florida <i>Sanford</i> | \$682,155 | \$763,157 |
| 21 Legal Aid Foundation of the Tallahassee Bar Association <i>Tallahassee</i> | \$38,879 | \$54,322 |

| Grantee | 2006-2007 | 2007-2008 |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| 22 Legal Aid of Manasota <i>Sarasota</i> | \$28,794 | \$35,500 |
| 23 Legal Aid Service of Broward County <i>Ft. Lauderdale – Naples</i> | \$998,014 | \$1,137,736 |
| 24 Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association <i>Orlando</i> | \$592,528 | \$675,482 |
| 25 Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County <i>West Palm Beach</i> | \$392,286 | \$447,206 |
| 26 Legal Services of Greater Miami <i>Miami</i> | \$711,673 | \$810,252 |
| 27 Legal Services of North Florida <i>Tallahassee</i> | \$283,348 | \$318,017 |
| 28 Northwest Florida Legal Services <i>Pensacola</i> | \$493,593 | \$557,696 |
| 29 Seminole County Bar Association Legal Aid Society <i>Longwood</i> | \$68,594 | \$78,197 |
| 30 Southern Legal Counsel <i>Gainesville</i> | \$258,232 | \$396,984 |
| 31 Three Rivers Legal Services <i>Gainesville</i> | \$72,442 | \$82,584 |
| Total | \$13,307,633 | \$16,310,033 |

One-Time Grants

In addition to general support grants, the Foundation provided one-time grants to assist grantees in addressing needs that are not ongoing or recurring as a part of their operations, such as technology upgrades, improved telephone systems, office furniture and other improvements. In 2007, the Foundation issued one-time grants totaling \$861,500 to 29 legal aid organizations, and in 2008, it issued grants totaling \$583,084 to 32 legal aid organizations.

Foundation Support for Pro Bono Services by Members of The Florida Bar

Members of The Florida Bar donated their time through organized pro bono programs in 2007 to handle more than 15,000 cases, which represented 14 percent of all cases closed by Foundation legal aid grantees. Foundation funds support the intake and referral of cases to pro bono volunteer attorneys and provide such volunteers with backup support and training. There is a wide variety of pro bono service opportunities for Florida attorneys, including:

- Handling cases in family law, housing matters, immigration, etc.
- Transactional attorneys helping community groups develop affordable housing

- Providing advice and counsel through clinics
- Representing children in dependency proceedings
- Co-counseling cases with legal aid attorneys in housing and consumer law
- Assisting particularly vulnerable clients, such as the elderly, the disabled and the mentally ill

Not all pro bono work has to involve direct representation of clients. For example, pro bono attorneys can also:

- Provide substantive law and skills training to legal aid attorneys
- Serve as mentors to less experienced legal aid attorneys
- Do client intake
- Participate in community legal education programs such as being a panelist at a seminar on domestic violence or speaking to the elderly about protection of their homesteads

The benefits of involving members of The Florida Bar in serving the legal needs of the poor extend well beyond the positive outcomes for individual clients because attorneys make things happen. When talent and commitment are applied to removing the legal barriers poor people face in stabilizing their lives, entire communities benefit.