



CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES IN MINNESOTA

SEEKING JUSTICE FOR ALL

House Judiciary Finance and
Civil Law Committee
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Presented by:

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Minnesota Civil Legal Services Programs

There are 6 regional programs covering all 87 counties in Minnesota.
There are 20 targeted service programs and support organizations that meet specific population or geographic needs.



Regional Programs

- Legal Services of Northwest Minnesota
- Legal Aid Service of Northeastern Minnesota
- Anishinabe Legal Services
- Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid
- Central Minnesota Legal Services
- Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services

Targeted Programs

- Cancer Legal Care
- Community Mediation Minnesota
- Farmers Legal Action Group
- HOME Line
- Housing Justice Center
- Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota
- Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Law Center
- Judicare of Anoka County
- Legal Assistance of Dakota County
- Legal Assistance of Olmsted County
- LegalCORPS
- Legal Services State Support
- Loan Repayment Assistance Program of MN
- Minnesota Disability Law Center
- Minnesota Justice Foundation
- Rainbow Health
- Standpoint (f/k/a Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project)
- The Advocates for Human Rights
- Tubman
- Volunteer Lawyers Network

The People We Serve

Who We Serve

- At or below 125% of Federal Poverty Guidelines
(\$33,125 annual income for a family of 4)
- A civil legal issue
(Focus on basic needs, safety, shelter, health, and sustenance)
- Legal merit
- Availability of other resources

Demographics

CLS provides access to the justice system for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color; people with disabilities, the elderly; the LGBTQ community; and veterans. These populations have disproportionate numbers of people with low income who qualify for CLS services.

2020

91,988 Minnesotans served

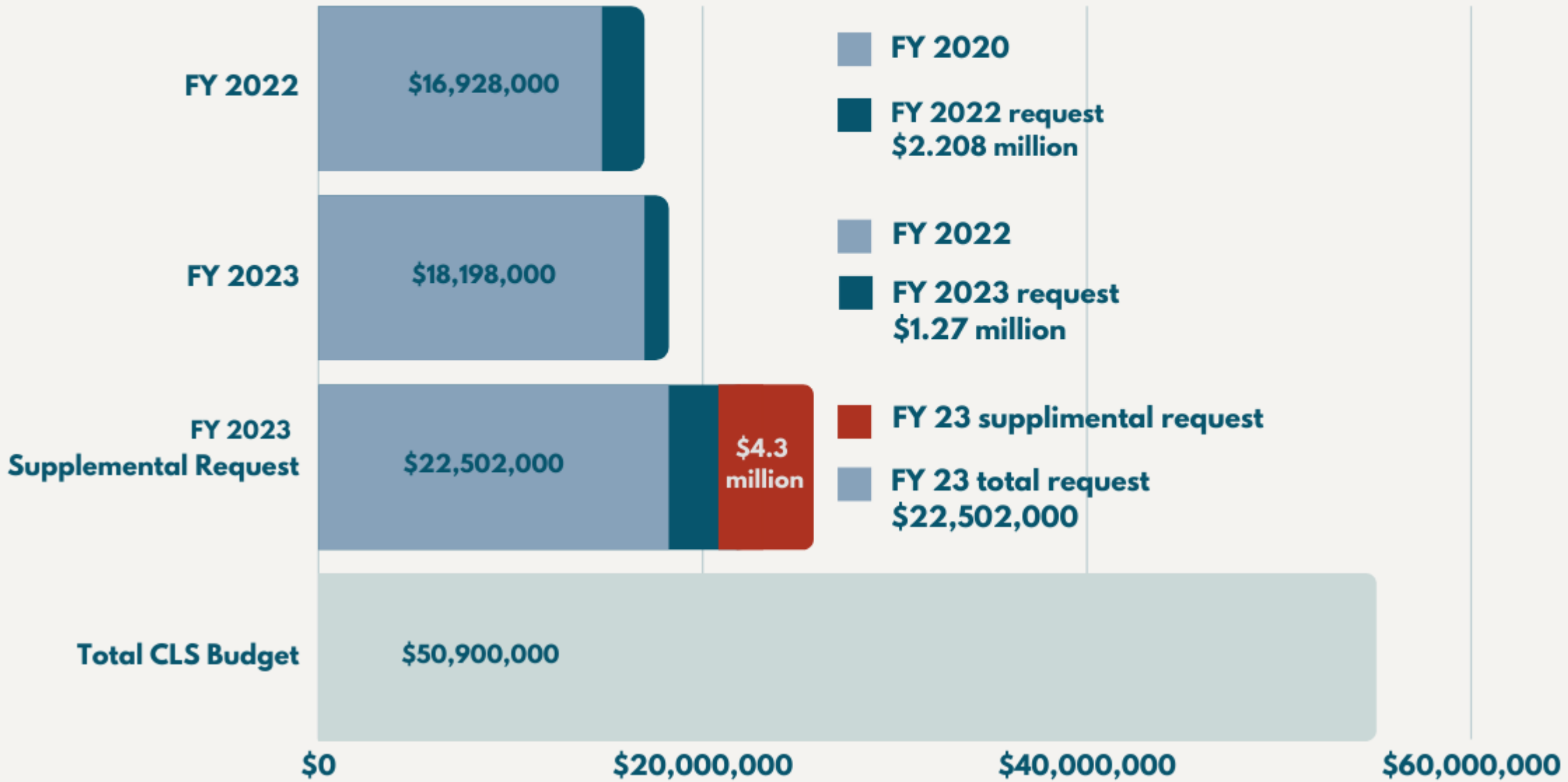
40,863 cases closed

In 2020, 51% of clients served by CLS were non-white.

25% Black
13% Hispanic
5% Asian
4% Native
4% Other



Civil Legal Services General Fund Request



Civil Legal Services Average Salary Comparison



Civil Legal Services
2021 average starting salary

\$55,200

Civil Legal Services
Projected 2022 average starting salary
after FY 2023 increase

\$60,335

Civil Legal Services
Projected 2022 average starting salary with
the supplemental budget request

\$65,000

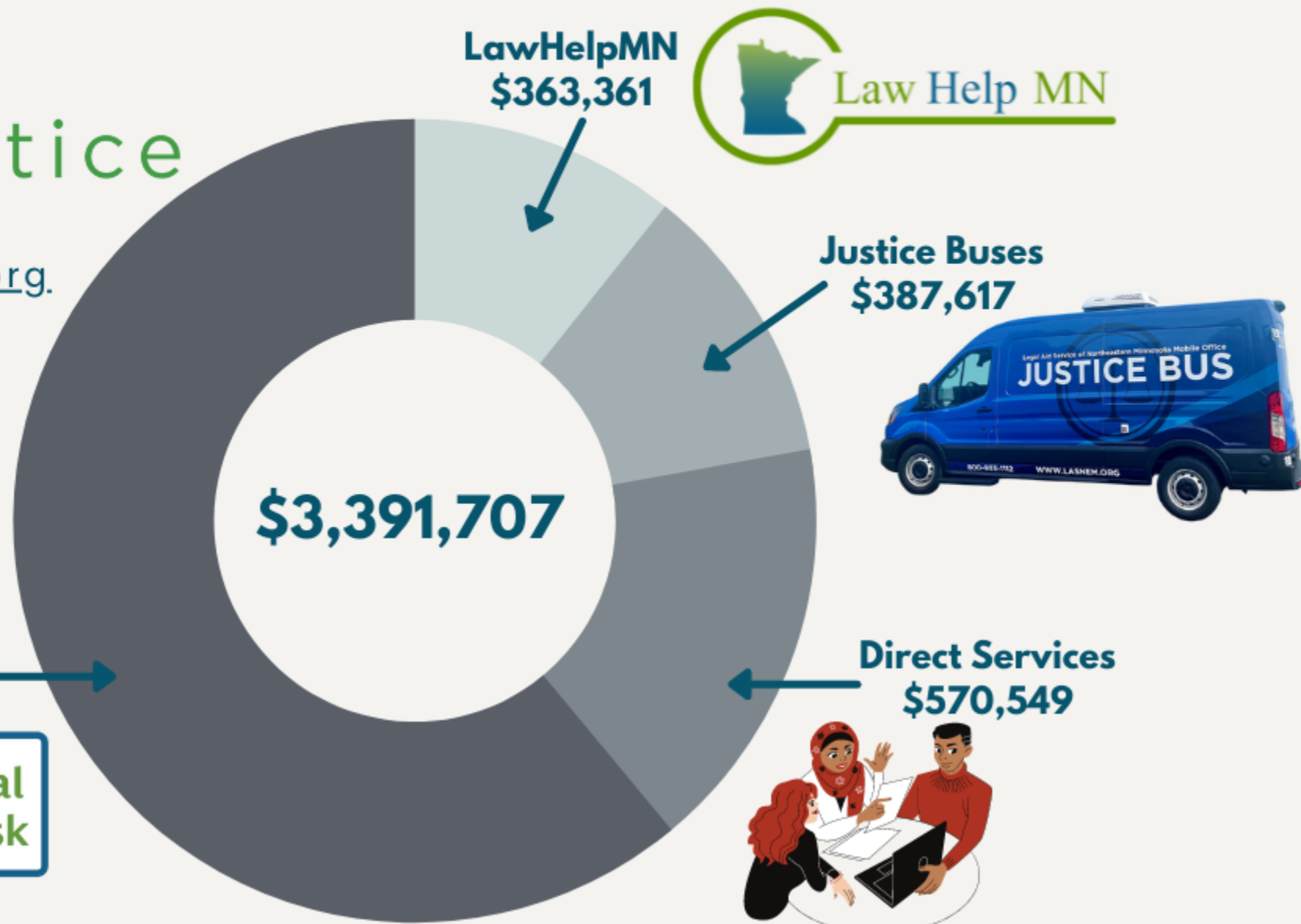
Assistant Public Defender
(2020 starting salary of 10 most populous counties)

\$65,800

Assistant County Attorney
(2020 average starting salary)

\$69,217

CARES Act Funds



Justice Buses
\$387,617



Legal Kiosks
\$2,070,180

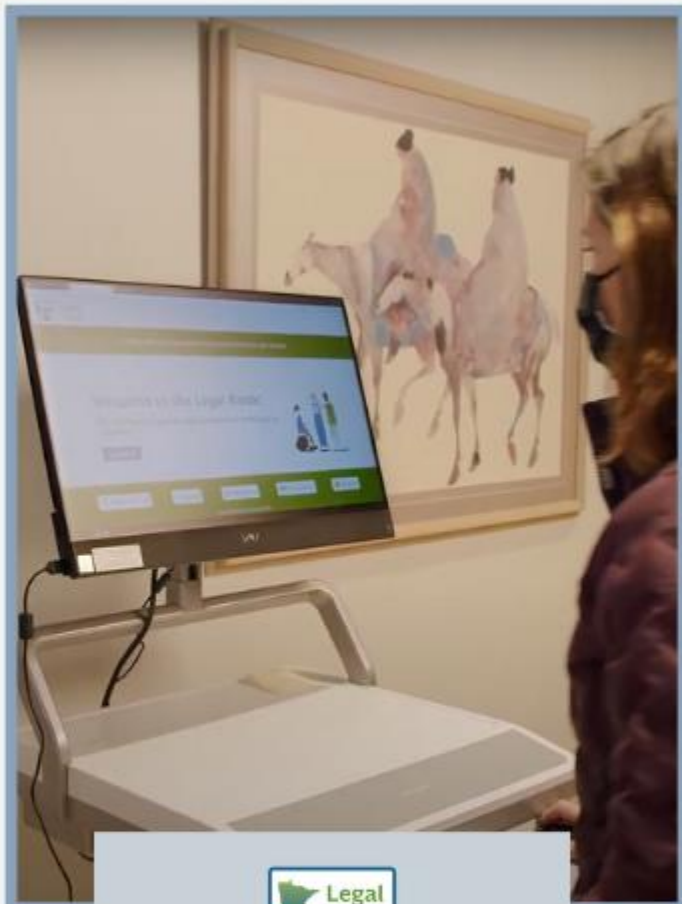


Direct Services
\$570,549



Legal Kiosks

LegalKiosk.org




NEED LEGAL AID?
It's nearby.

FIND A LEGAL KIOSK NEAR YOU

At a Legal Kiosk you can:

- Find information about your legal problem
- Apply for a free lawyer
- Learn about your rights



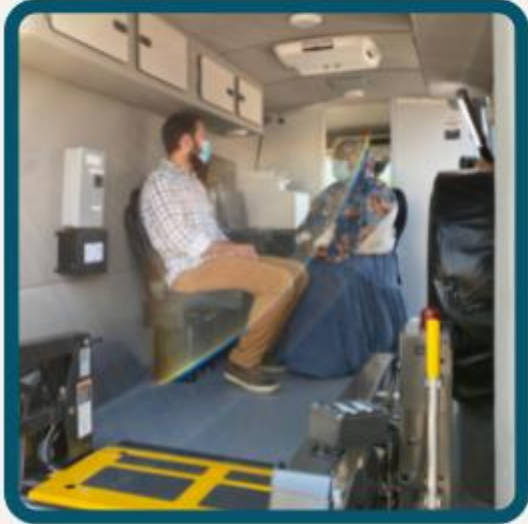
Also at some locations:

- Video meeting with your lawyer or court
- Print and scan documents



Justice Buses

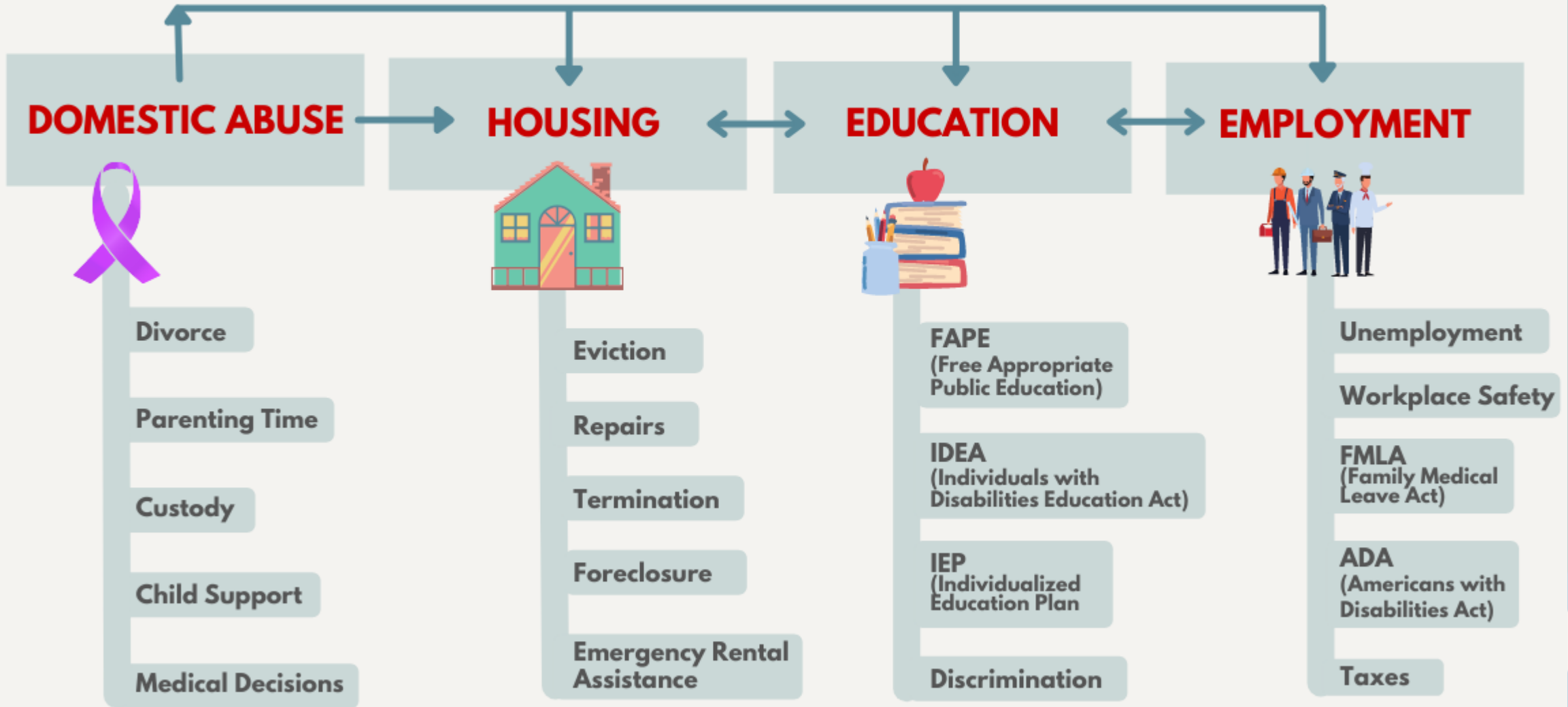
Legal Aid Mobile Offices
ReachJustice.org




reachjustice
MINNESOTA

MINNESOTA
LEGAL SERVICES
COALITION

Increased **COVID-19** related civil legal issues:



Civil Legal Services Turnaway rate - 2021



**Minnesotans who are eligible
and apply for legal assistance
from a CLS organization.**



**Minnesotans who receive
legal assistance. 45%**

55%

**are turned away due to
lack of resources.**

Civil Legal Services Turnover 2020-2021

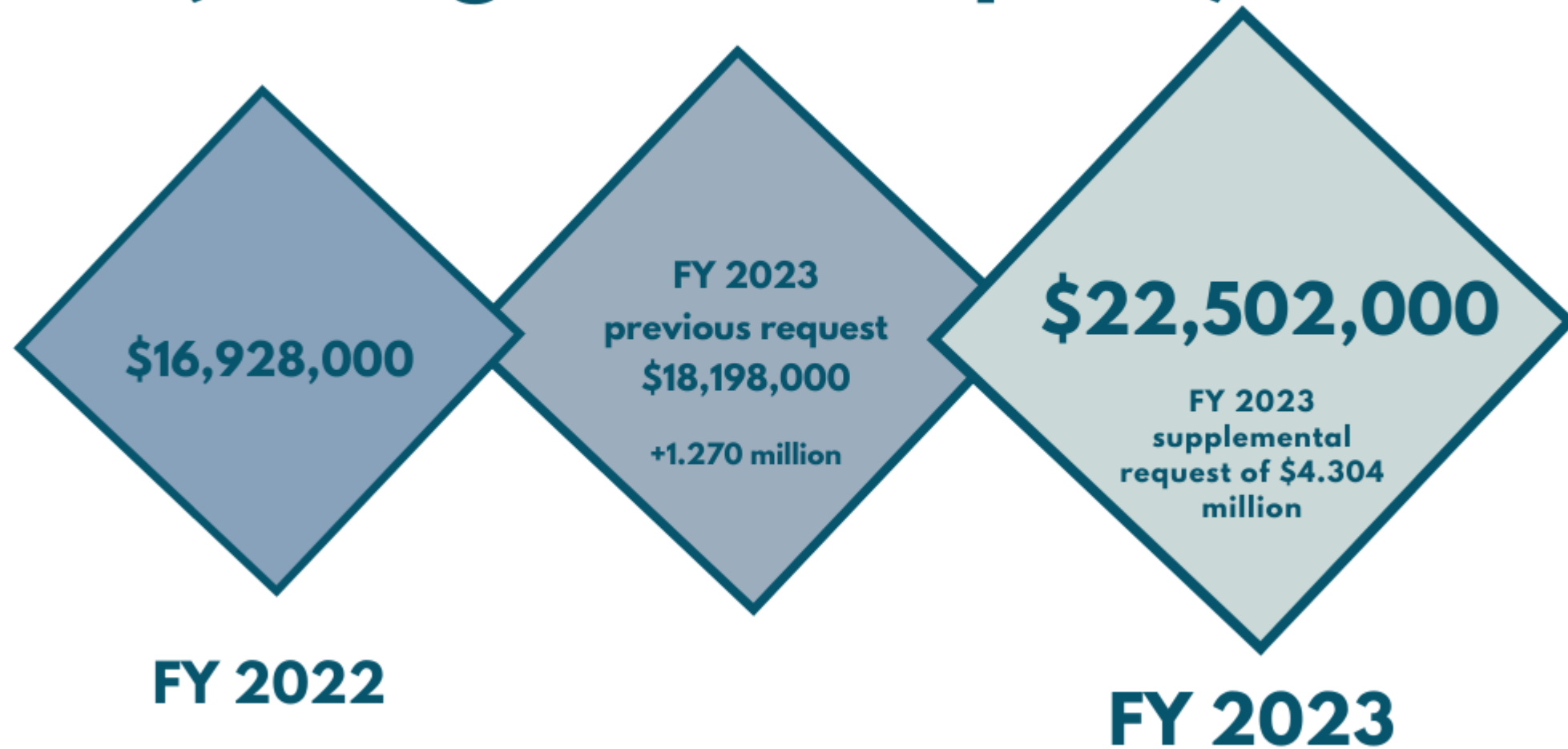


**2020-2021 CLS
turnover rate:
3.2 of every 10
CLS staff**



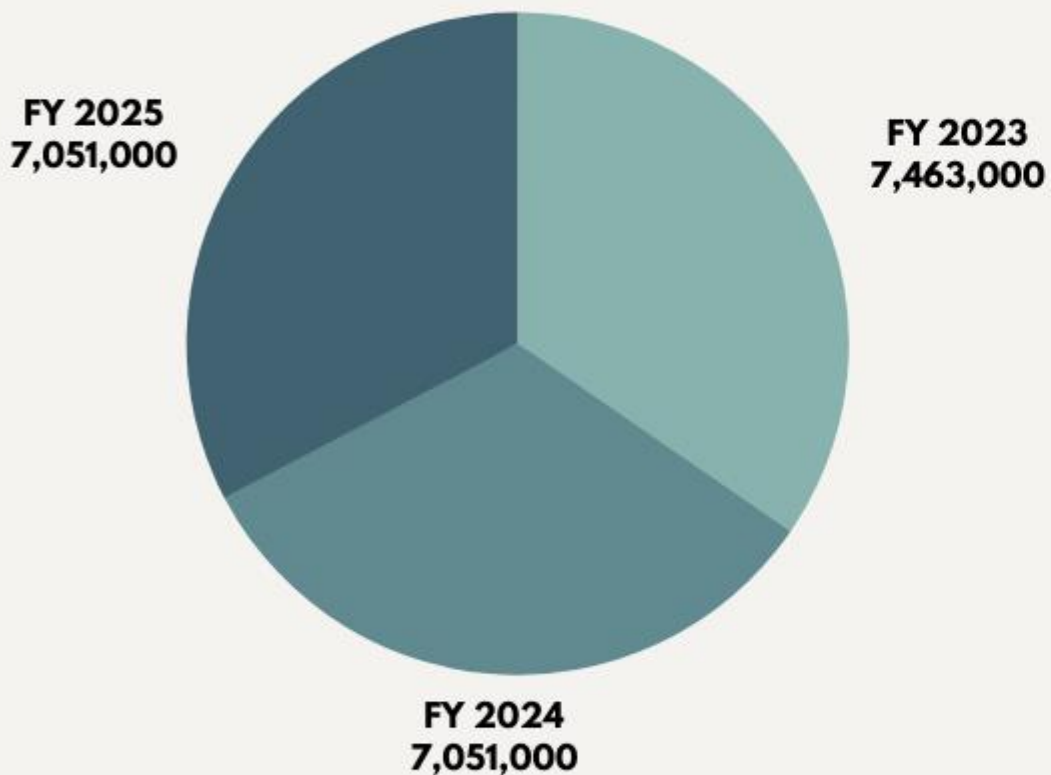
**32% of all
CLS staff**

CLS General Fund Request (change item request)

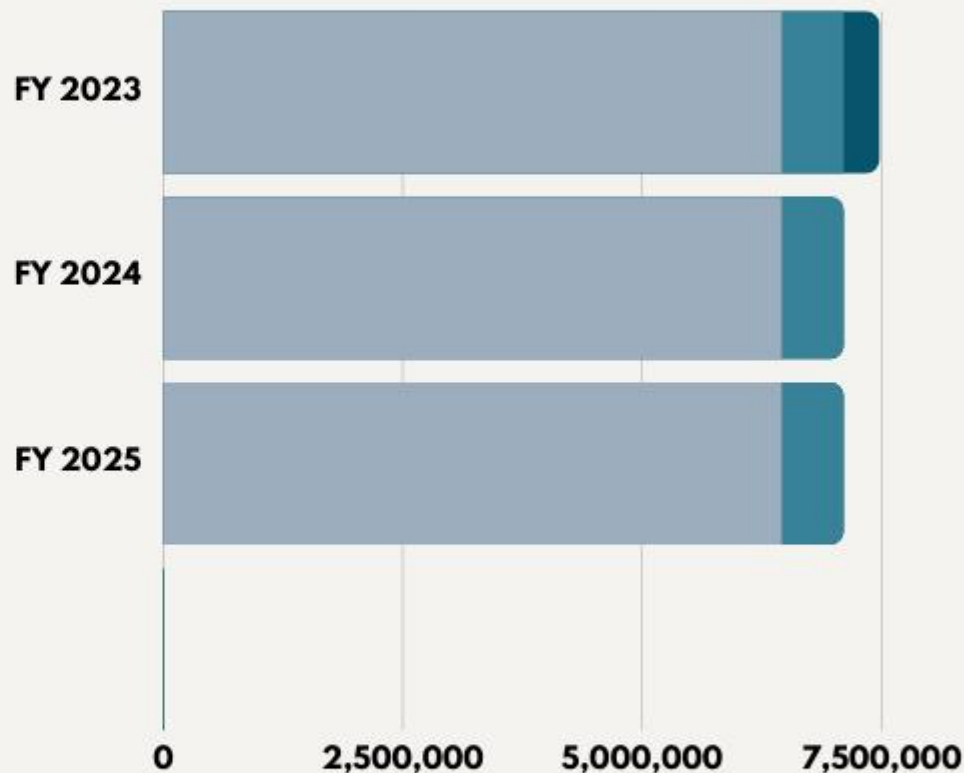


FY 2023 supplemental request of \$4.304 million to address the CLS salary crisis

American Rescue Plan



\$21.567 million of American Rescue Plan State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF)



- Emergency Staffing
- CLS Reach Justice and technology support
- FY 23 one-time new Legal Kiosk investment

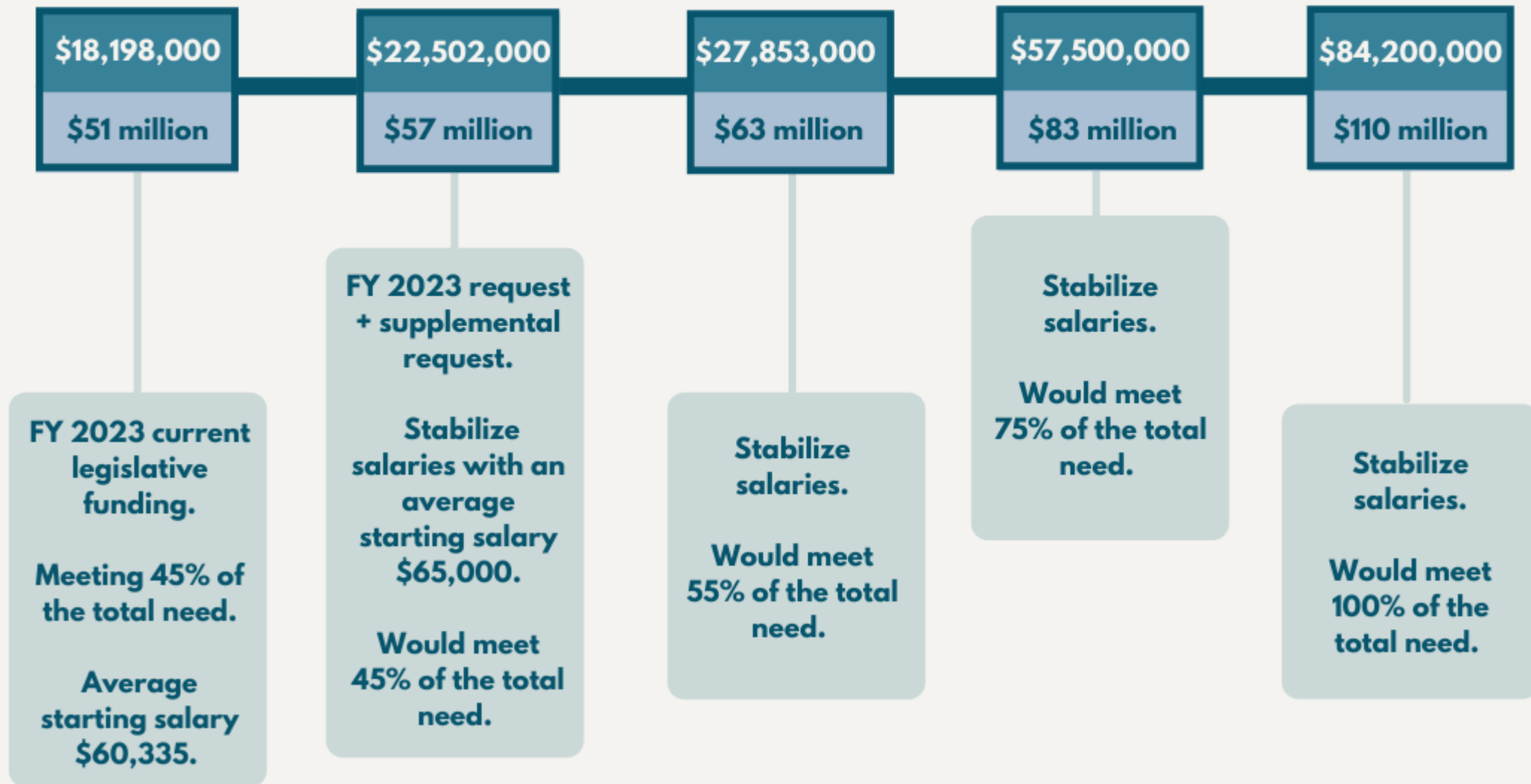
Fully funding Civil Legal Services



Legislative appropriation



Total CLS budget





Q & A

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