

\$21 Million in Civil Legal Services Funding is in Jeopardy

The federal Legal Services Corporation (LSC) is threatened with elimination by the Trump administration.

A January 19, 2017 article in *The Hill*, reported that the Trump Administration would intensify a decades-long effort to eliminate LSC funding. This plan is based on the previous recommendations of President Reagan in the 1980s, the Newt Gingrich Congress in 1995 and, more recently, a 2005 Heritage Foundation report (from a committee chaired by then-Congressman Mike Pence), all recommending the elimination of LSC. Since that initial warning more recent reports, including a February 17 article in the *New York Times*, have confirmed that this is a real and urgent threat.

If LSC funding is indeed zeroed out, it would mean the loss of approximately \$21 million in federal funding for the seven legal services programs in New York State that receive LSC funds.

LSC-funded programs provide free civil legal services to all the counties of the State, serve more than 220,000 low income New Yorkers annually, and employ more than 1,000 staff members. The loss of \$21 million in LSC funding would be catastrophic for this service-delivery system.

Below are the programs that will be affected by LSC cuts, along with some of the unions that represent legal services staff in the state of New York:

Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York Lillian M. Moy, Executive Director 518-689-6304 55 Colvin Avenue Albany, NY 12206		The Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York Paul J. Lupia, Executive Director 315-793-7000 268 Genesee Street Utica, New York 13502	
Legal Assistance of Western New York Ken Perri, Executive Director 315-781-1465 361 South Main Street Geneva, NY 14456		Nassau/Suffolk Law Services Jeffrey Seigel, Executive Director 516-292-8100 1 Helen Keller Way, 5th Floor Hempstead, New York 11550	
Neighborhood Legal Services William Hawkes, Executive Director 716-847-0650 237 Main Street, 4th floor Buffalo, New York 14203		Legal Services NYC Raun Rasmussen, Executive Director 646-442-3590 40 Worth Street, Suite 606 New York, NY 10013	
Legal Services of Hudson Valley Barbara Finkelstein, CEO 914-949-1305 90 Maple Avenue White Plains, NY 10601		NOLSW/LSSA/UAW Local 2320 Sonja Shield, President 212-228-0992, ext. 7	
NOLSW/UAW Local 2320 Gordon Deane, President 518-674-1200			