



## NEW HAMPSHIRE LEGAL ASSISTANCE

*Working for Equal Justice Since 1971*

[www.nhla.org](http://www.nhla.org)

July 1, 2020

Legislative Advisory Board  
Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery  
107 North State Street  
Concord, NH 03301

Via email: [gerald.h.little@goferr.nh.gov](mailto:gerald.h.little@goferr.nh.gov)

RE: New Hampshire Legal Assistance

Honorable Members of the Legislative Advisory Board:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide information about the civil legal aid provided by New Hampshire Legal Assistance (NHLA). With this letter I am sending along NHLA's previous testimony to the Legislative Advisory Board, which summarizes the surge in need for civil legal aid we are expecting.

Safe, affordable housing is the foundation of family stability. During the coronavirus pandemic, keeping families housed is also an essential public health strategy. Housing is NHLA's biggest practice area; we focus on preventing homelessness.

Eviction and foreclosure moratoria have been valuable tools to keep people in their homes during these challenging times. NHLA also applauds the announcement of the Housing Relief Program, which will help households with arrearages get caught up. Despite these smart strategies, we continue to expect an eviction crisis resulting from the severe economic downturn, as well as an uptick in foreclosures.

With additional funding, NHLA would hire temporary staff to advise and represent low-income tenants and homeowners trying to stay in their homes. We request \$128,000 to support the hiring of two temporary attorneys (from approximately August 1 through December 30). NHLA has also made an application to the Nonprofit Relief Fund seeking funding for these two temporary positions, as well as other pandemic-related expenditures. If we receive funding directly from the Governor's Office for Relief and Recovery, we will reduce our Nonprofit Relief Fund request correspondingly.

I look forward to the opportunity to speak with you and answer your questions. Thank you for all your work to keep the people of our state safe, healthy, and housed during this crisis.

Sincerely,

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