



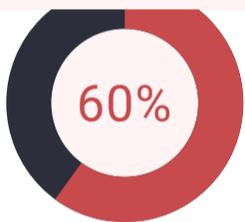
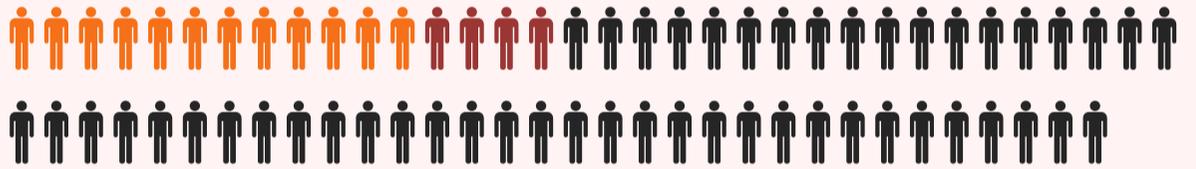
The Tennessee Faith & Justice Alliance

An initiative of the Tennessee Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission's Faith-Based Committee

Tennessee consistently has one of the highest poverty rates in the nation, sometimes scoring within the top ten poorest states.



In fact, nearly **1 in 6 Tennesseans** live at or below the poverty line, and approximately **1.4 million Tennesseans** live at **125%** of the poverty line or below. A lawyer is certainly not in the budget for these individuals, and may not be for even more Tennesseans who are barely making ends meet.



The Tennessee Statewide Legal Needs Assessment showed that more than **60%** of low income and extremely low income Tennesseans experience at least **one civil legal issue per year**.

The same report showed that nearly **20%** of low income and extremely low income Tennesseans experience **3-5 civil legal issues per year**, and more than **10%** of low income and extremely low income Tennesseans experience **6 or more civil legal problems per year**.



With more than **1.4 million Tennesseans** who cannot afford a lawyer, more than **half of those** who experience at least **one civil legal issue per year**, and more than **half of those** who experience **three or more** civil legal issues per year, the numbers add up so fast it can start to make you a little dizzy.



And there is bad news...

There is good news...

There ARE free legal resources in TN!

help4tn.org **tn.freelegalanswers.org**
4 Legal Aid Societies **legal clinics** **forms**
80 Legal Aid Attorneys **Pro Bono**
Help

Despite many free legal resources available in TN, **61%** of low income Tennesseans took no action to resolve their legal problem, most often because they did not think the system would help them. Only **31%** were able to do anything about their problem, and only **16%** sought help from a free legal resource.

61%

31%

16%

How Can Faith Communities Help?

The Tennessee Faith & Justice Alliance is an alliance of faith-based groups and attorneys who commit to providing and connecting legal resources in their congregations and communities.

11,5242 Houses of Worship in TN

3,522,345 Religious Adherents in Tennessee

Why Faith and Justice?

Legal issues can be frightening and difficult to address, and many people turn to their faith leaders for help, often because the faith community is trusted a way that others are not.

People who may have had a negative experience with the legal system in the past or who do not know where else to turn, may instead turn to their faith community for support. In fact, research suggests that up to 60% of people turn to their faith communities first in a time of crisis.



The Tennessee Faith & Justice Alliance works to connect people to legal resources where they are already going for help. It also provides opportunities for attorneys to use their legal skills to serve others in accordance with their faith practice, and works to connect houses of worship with other faith communities and legal communities.

TN Faith & Justice Alliance Projects: Four Models



Model 1: Training clergy and lay leaders to spot potential legal issues when they are listening to the concerns of parishioners



Model 2: Using a Referral Model designed to pair volunteer lawyers with congregants in need of legal assistance



Model 3: Establishing inter-faith free legal advice clinics



Model 4: Providing community education trainings on common legal issues relevant to the community

In 2017, the Tennessee Faith & Justice Alliance partnered with 125 or more houses of worship, nonprofits, agencies, legislators, judges, and others to host or cohost approximately 100 clinics, legal trainings, and events across TN. We hosted our first annual Pro Bono & Faith Days (#PBFDDays) outreach & connected faith and justice communities through statewide meetings, mailings, and network development. We are growing rapidly and expect even more to report in 2018!

What are we asking of you?



Get the word out!

Be willing to promote TFJA projects and available legal resources to your community using your organization's infrastructure

Get informed!

Join our monthly mailing lists so you know of upcoming events and needs for volunteers. Sign up on our webpage <http://justiceforalltn.org/i-can-help/faith-based-initiative>

Get involved!

Talk with your faith community and work with our team to determine what other kinds of participation in the Tennessee Faith & Justice Alliance might be right for you.