






# How Legal Services Help Health Care Address the Social Determinants of Health

Common Social Determinant of Health	How Legal Services Can Help	Impact of Legal Services on Health / Health Care
<p><b>INCOME</b> Resources to meet daily basic needs</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appeal denials of food stamps, health insurance, cash benefits, and disability benefits</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increasing someone's income means s/he makes fewer trade-offs between affording food and health care, including medications.</li> <li>2. Being able to afford enough healthy food helps people manage chronic diseases and helps children grow and develop.</li> </ol>
<p><b>HOUSING &amp; UTILITIES</b> A healthy physical environment</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secure housing subsidies</li> <li>• Improve substandard conditions</li> <li>• Prevent evictions</li> <li>• Protect against utility shut-off</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A stable, decent, affordable home helps a person avoid costly emergency room visits related to homelessness.</li> <li>2. Consistent housing, heat and electricity helps people follow their medical treatment plans.</li> </ol>
<p><b>EDUCATION &amp; EMPLOYMENT</b> Quality educational and job opportunities</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secure specialized education services</li> <li>• Prevent and remedy employment discrimination</li> <li>• Enforce workplace rights</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A quality education is the single greatest predictor of a person's adult health.</li> <li>2. Consistent employment helps provide money for food and safe housing, which also helps avoid costly emergency health care services.</li> <li>3. Access to health insurance is often linked to employment.</li> </ol>
<p><b>LEGAL STATUS</b> Access to jobs</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resolve veteran discharge status</li> <li>• Clear criminal / credit histories</li> <li>• Assist with asylum applications</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clearing a person's criminal history or helping a veteran change their discharge status helps make consistent employment and access to public benefits possible.</li> <li>2. Consistent employment provides money for food and safe housing, which helps people avoid costly emergency health care services.</li> </ol>
<p><b>PERSONAL &amp; FAMILY STABILITY</b> Safe homes and social support</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secure restraining orders for domestic violence</li> <li>• Secure adoption, custody and guardianship for children</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Less violence at home means less need for costly emergency health care services.</li> <li>2. Stable family relationships significantly reduce stress and allow for better decision-making, including decisions related to health care.</li> </ol>

This chart is reprinted from "Framing Legal Care as Health Care," a messaging guide created by the National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership. Please do not recreate it without permission.