LIFT Wisconsin and the Legal Tune Up Tool

Poverty Matters

October 27, 2026

LIFT WISCONSIN™
Legal Interventions for Transforming Wisconsin

Legal Interventions for Transforming Wisconsin

LIFT WISCONSIN

- **Interdisciplinary Approach to find solutions**
  - LIFT developed the Legal Tune Up tool (LegalTuneUp.org) in 2020.
- **Technology as Amplifier**
  - It uses innovative technology to create a simple and free tool to help solve civil legal problems.
- **Unique**
  - It takes existing public data to easily resolve common legal issues.
  - It started small and we're adding more each year!

Access to Justice

Definition: A person facing a legal issue that has timely and affordable access to the level of legal help they need to get a **fair** outcome on the merits of their legal issue, and can walk away **believing** they got a fair shake in the process.



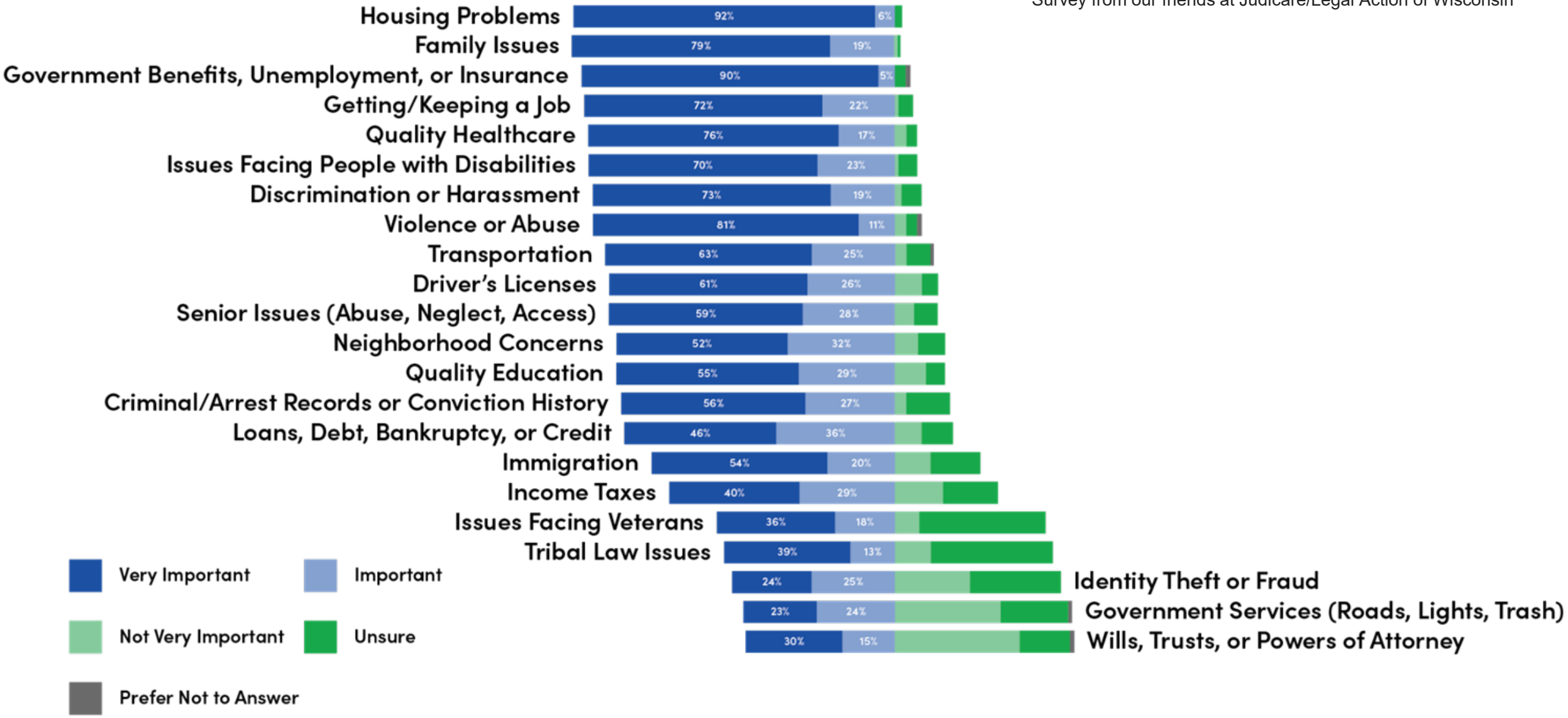
LIFT WISCONSIN™



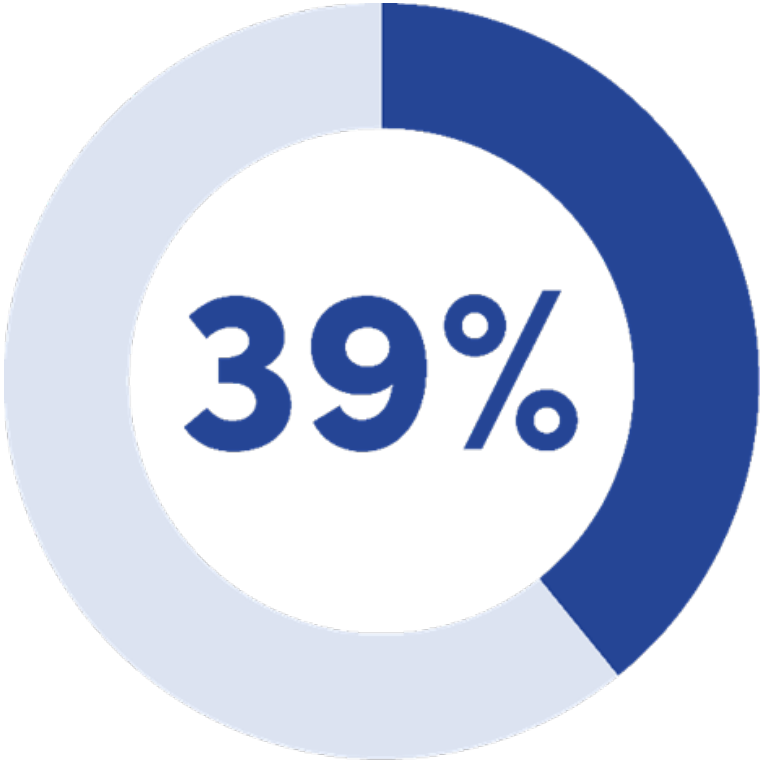
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Low Income Legal Issues in WI

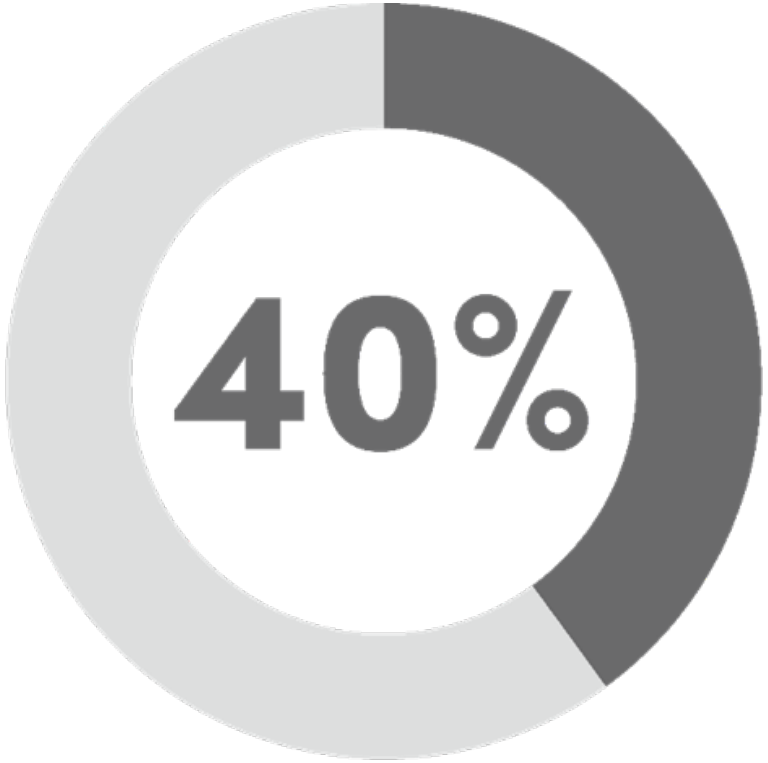
Survey from our friends at Judicare/Legal Action of Wisconsin



Low-Income Americans Don’t Trust the System



of low-income folks believe that people like them can use the system to protect and enforce their rights

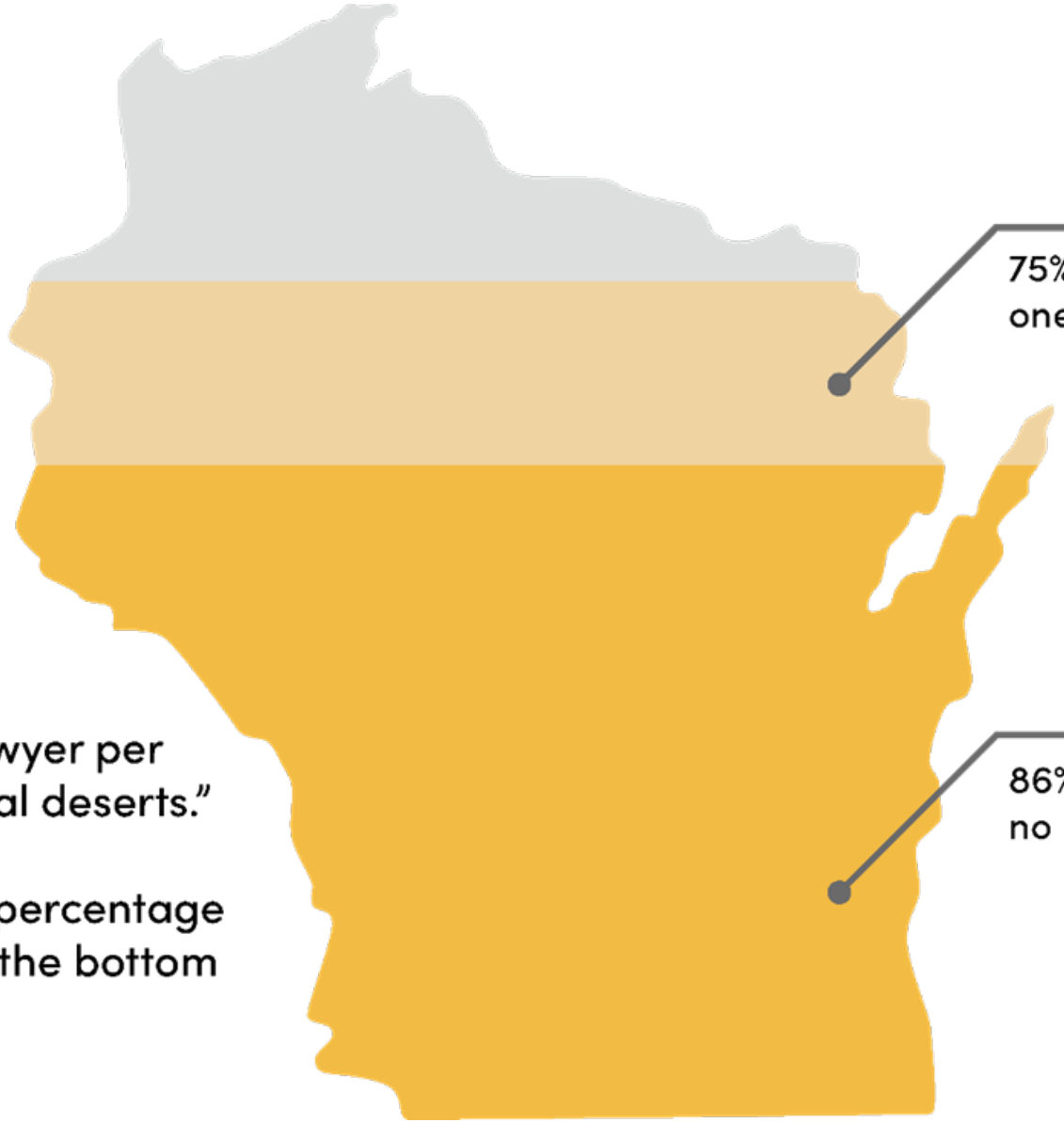


believe the system can help low income folks solve important problems



of low-income Americans believe that people like them are treated fairly in the U.S. civil legal system.

Rural Deserts in **Wisconsin**



75% of rural households faced at least one civil legal issue in the last year.

86% of those households received no help or inadequate help.

U.S. counties with fewer than 1 lawyer per 1,000 people are considered "legal deserts."

Wisconsin has an unusually high percentage of legal deserts, which ranks it in the bottom 5 states for access to civil justice.

LIFT's Mission and Model

Elevating People. Expanding Justice.

Through our commitment to improving access to justice for everyone, we seek to transform and reform legal systems, increase personal agency, and democratize data.

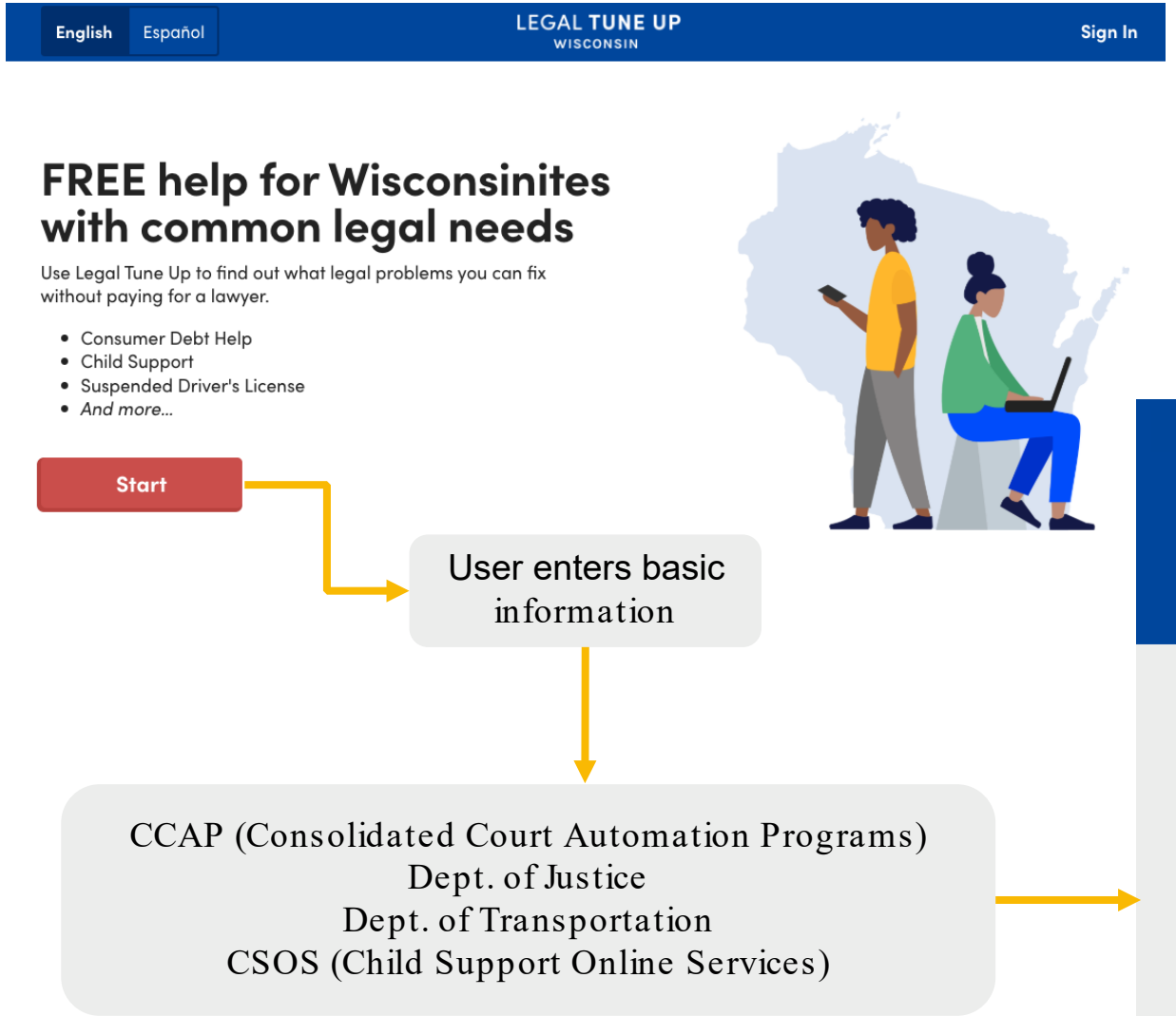


What is the LegalTuneUp tool?

Legal Tune Up seeks to address economic inequities by assisting folks in navigating through vast and overwhelming public databases that house publicly available information that result in barriers to housing, employment, and economic stability.

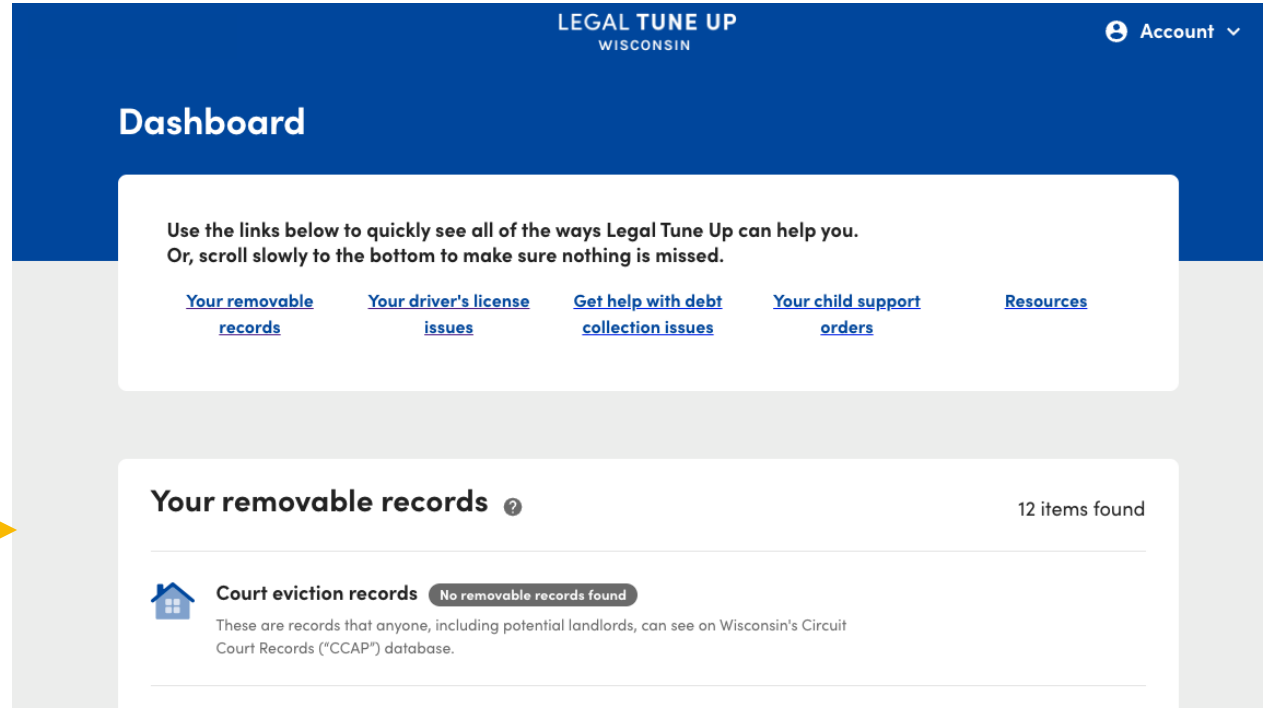


How it works



The Legal Tune Up tool searches and identifies issues related to driver's license suspensions, evictions, convictions, child support arrears, and consumer debt.

Only tool (that we know of) that aggregates data from four different state agencies into one place.



BACKGROUND CHECKS - How the Legal Tune Up Tool can help

Some court records can be removed from CCAP. The Legal Tune Up tool can help by providing helpful information and guide your clients through the necessary paperwork.



It can inform users which records are eligible for removal now and which will be removable in the near future.



It can fill out and send the form GF-184A– Request to Correct Court Records.

CHILD SUPPORT - How the Legal Tune Up Tool can help

The Legal Tune Up Tool's Child Support Module is focused on Child Support modification, not collection.

- Our calculator can help your clients find out if they might be eligible for a modification and if a modification is right for them.
- The Legal Tune Up Tool can also help them fill out the Child Support Modification form and it provides instructions on how to file it with the court and the other party.



CONSUMER DEBT - How the Legal Tune Up Tool can help

The Legal Tune Up Tool currently has three features that might be able to help with consumer debt problems:



It can help fill out and send letters to creditors to end debt collection harassment.



If they are being sued in small claims court, the tool can help file an answer with the court if they wish to dispute the lawsuit.



It can send your client text reminders for their upcoming court dates.

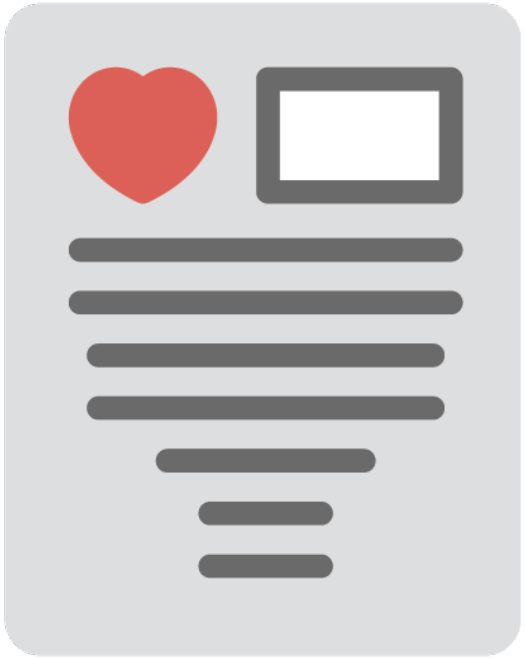
DRIVER'S LICENSES - How Legal Tune Up Tool can help

The Legal Tune Up Tool can guide folks to reinstatement who are experiencing the two most common types of driver's license suspensions and revocations: Failure to pay forfeiture suspensions and point suspensions.

- It can help by providing sample motions to reopen traffic cases, requesting payment plans, and community service requests.
- In specific situations, LIFT Wisconsin may even be able to help pay the $60 reinstatement fee required by the DMV.



POAHC- How Legal Tune Up Tool can help



The Legal Tune Up tool's newest module can assist folks in filling out a Wisconsin Power of Attorney for Health Care form with easy to understand, trauma-informed language.

- The POAHC module guides users through the form, provides definitions throughout, gives instructions on witnesses, and how to let your family and doctor know about your wishes.

Let’s see how the LTU tool works!



scan the QR code to follow along!

English | Español

LEGAL TUNE UP
WISCONSIN

Sign In

Sign in to come back and rework!

FREE help for Wisconsinites with common legal needs

Use Legal Tune Up to find out what legal problems you can fix without paying for a lawyer.

- Consumer Debt Help
- Child Support
- Health Care Power of Attorney
- Suspended Driver's License
- Record Removal
- *And more...*



Start

One-time users

Supported by LIFT WISCONSIN
Legal Interventions for Transforming Wisconsin

How it Works

Legal Tune Up checks public data to see if you can:





Step 1 of 2

Just enter some basic details

Your records may be stored in several Wisconsin record systems. We use your information to search those systems. Please complete these fields as they appear on your driver's license, if you have one.

First Name | **MI** | **Last Name**

Date of Birth

MM/DD/YYYY

Gender (as appears on your license)

Select Gender

This is required to search DOT records.

Everyone gets a free Legal TuneUp no matter who you are.*

Does your family make more or less than $45,991 per year?

Which category describes you?

How many people live in your household?

***Grant funding requires us to report demographic data, but we do not share your name.**

Get my results

One-time users

Sign in to come back and rework!

← Back

LEGAL TUNE UP
WISCONSIN

Step 1 of 3

Sign in or create an account

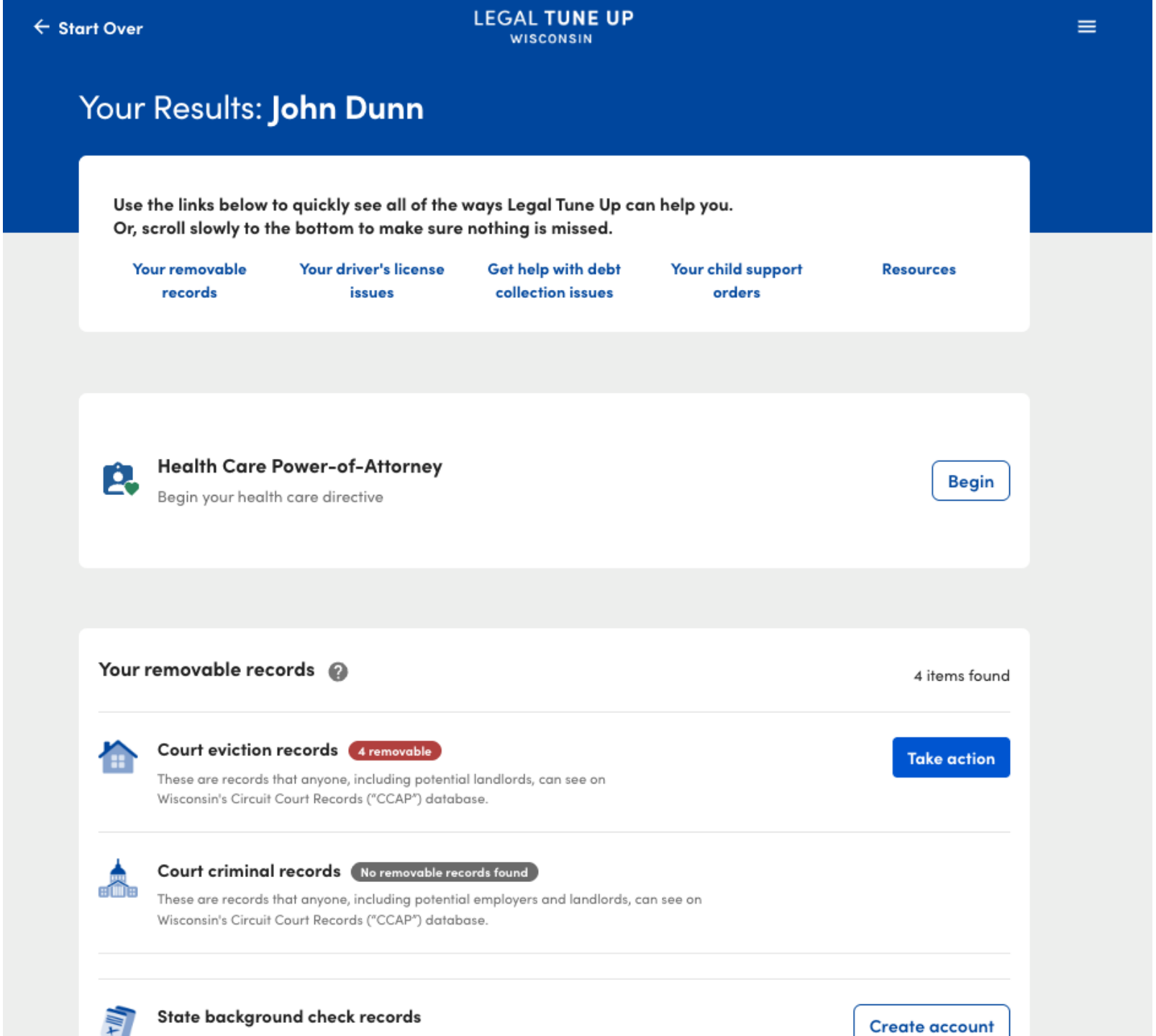
Sign in or create a new account with your email or mobile number

Mobile Number | Email Address

Your mobile number

Next

Trouble signing in?



LTU Dashboard:

- Power of Attorney for Health Care
- Removable records from CCAP

  (eviction and criminal cases)
- WI Driver's license validity
- Small claims response
- Child support modification

Your removable records

4 items found

Court eviction records 4 removable

These are records that anyone, including potential landlords, can see on Wisconsin's Circuit Court Records ("CCAP") database.

Take action

Court criminal records No removable records found

These are records that anyone, including potential employers and landlords, can see on Wisconsin's Circuit Court Records ("CCAP") database.

State background check records

These are criminal records, including arrests that anyone, including potential employers and landlords can see from the Wisconsin Department of Justice ("WORCS").

Create account

Criminal record *Tune Up Tips*

Learn more about criminal record removal in WI

Learn More

What is the difference between these records?

← Back — LEGAL TUNE UP WISCONSIN

Step 2 of 7
Record 1 of 4

Did you live at this address at any time during 01/30/2016?

John Dunn
123 Cottage Grove Rd #5
Madison, WI 53716

Yes

No, not me

Step 2 of 7

Good news, there are one or more eviction records that can be removed

John Dunn
123 Cottage Grove Rd #5
Madison, WI 53716
Case: 2020SC000000
Eligible for removal

John Dunn
456 Cottage Grove Rd.
#6
Madison, WI 53716
Case: 2019SC00001
Can be removed, Eligible for removal in 14 months

John Dunn
456 Cottage Grove Rd.
#6
Madison, WI 53716
Case: 2019SC00002
Eligible for removal

Next

2014 - Eviction - Record Removal Request

Enter the name of the county in which the case is filed.	STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, Dane COUNTY
Enter the name of the petitioner or plaintiff in that original case file.	**Petitioner/Plaintiff**: Trellis Apartments, LLC et al (First name / Middle name / Last name) -vs-
Enter the name of the respondent or defendant in that original case file.	**Respondent/Defendant**: John (First name) Dunn (Last name)
Enter the case number. File one form per case.	**Request to Correct Court Record** Case No. 2019SC00002

1. I ☒ am ☐ am not one of the parties to this case. If I am not a party, my relationship to this case is _____.

Select the check box that best applies to your situation. If you check box 2, describe in as much detail as you can what the error is. **Note:** The fact that you disagree with a court's decision is **NOT** an error that can be corrected. Additionally, write in how it is that you know the information in the records is incorrect.

☐ 2. There is an error in the record of the clerk of court in the above case.

The following information is incorrect: _____

I know this information is incorrect because: _____

-OR-

Select the check box that best applies to your situation. If you check box 3, select the box that best fits your situation. **Note:** The fact that you disagree with a court's decision is **NOT** a reason to remove the records from the WCCA website.

☒ 3. I am requesting that the record no longer display online on the Wisconsin Circuit Court Access (WCCA) website because it is a:

☒ small claims case that is displaying more than two years after the case was dismissed or all claims were denied.

☐ criminal case that is displaying more than two years after an acquittal or dismissal and no additional charges were dismissed and read into the record or not dismissed.

Sign your name, print your name on the line and complete the address, email, phone number, date and state bar number (if any) on the document.

▶ _____ Signature

John Dunn — Name Printed or Typed

123 Fake St, Milwaukee, WI 55555 — Address

(123) 123-1231 — Daytime Phone / Fax Number

10/05/2026 — Date

Email Address

State Bar No. (if any)

← Back — LEGAL TUNE UP WISCONSIN

REMOVABLE COURT EVICTION RECORDS

Your forms are being sent!

All done! Below you can view copies of your form and see your next steps.

Your form was mailed to the Clerk of Courts on 10/05/2026

Keep a copy of your form(s)

These are your forms that you filled out

2016 - Eviction - Record Removal Request

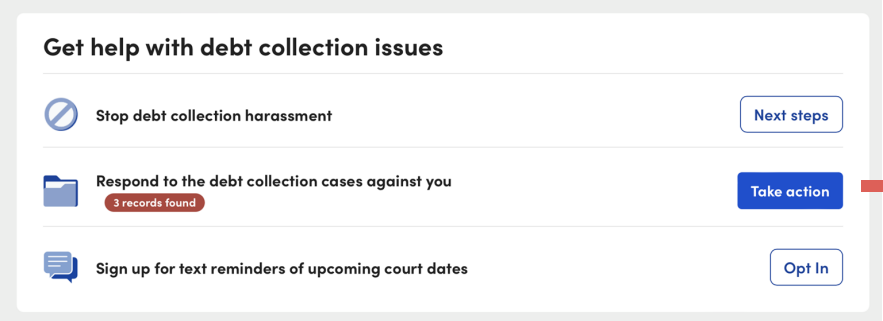
2014 - Eviction - Record Removal Request

Wait 2-4 weeks

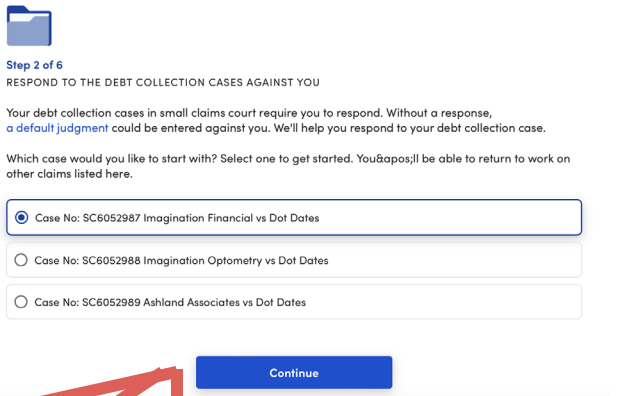
You will hear if your request is granted or denied in about 2-4 weeks. A letter will be sent to the address you used on your request form.

Don't forget to check your other results. Back to my dashboard.

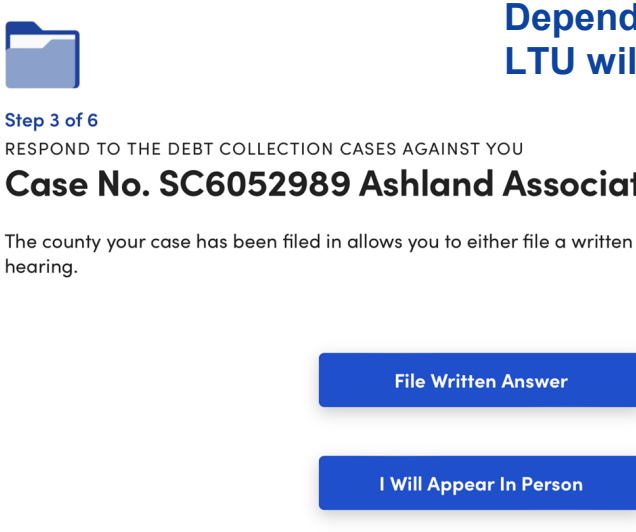
CRIMINAL & EVICTION RECORD REMOVAL

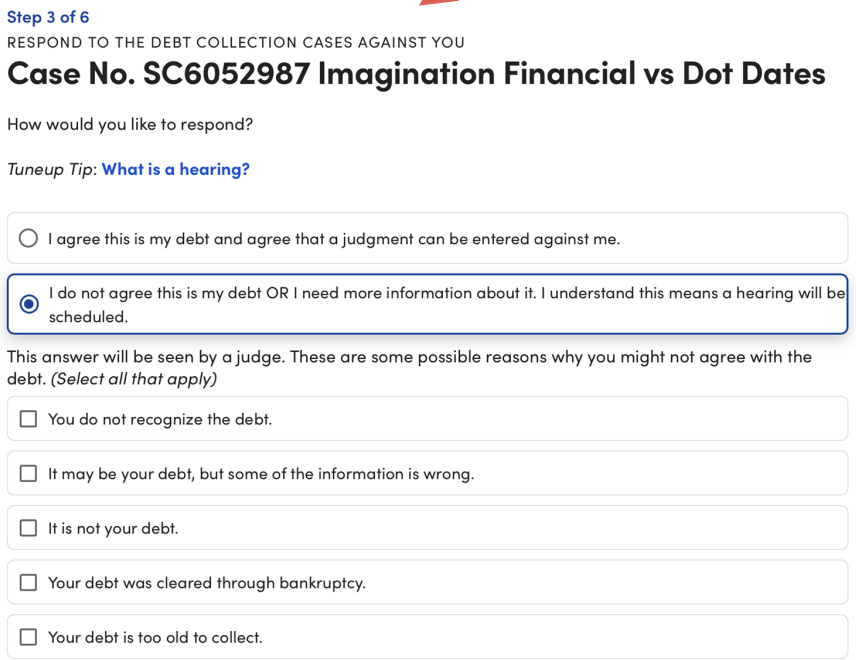


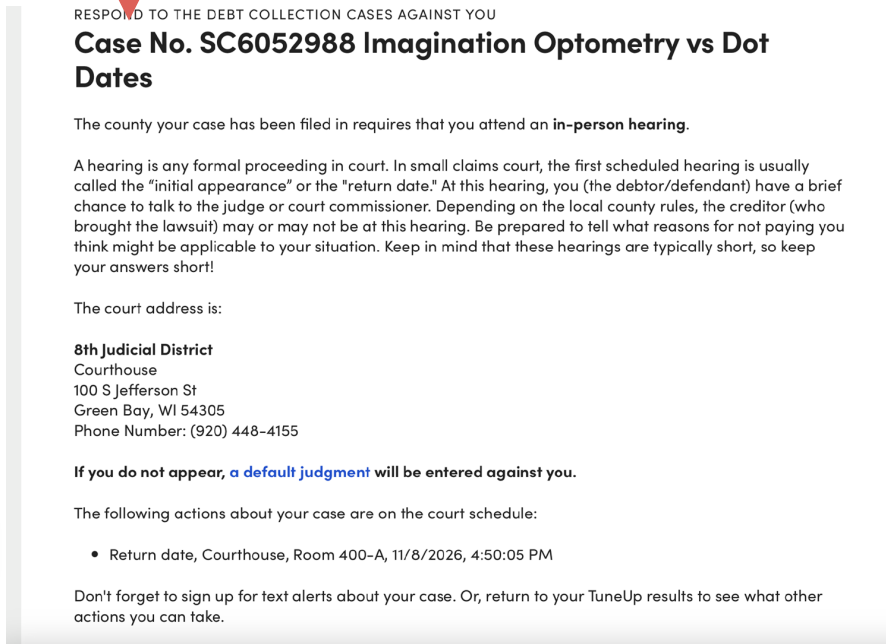
Cases to respond to



Depending on which county the case is in, LTU will direct user to answer







SMALL CLAIMS

2. Getting Started

The next few sections will cover topics including Special Provisions.

Nursing Home Care or Community-Based Residential Facility	Begin
Information About Feeding Tubes	Begin
Organ Donation	Begin
Health Care Decisions While Pregnant	Begin
Special Provisions	✓ Done
Treatment if facing a terminal or permanent condition	Begin
Principal and Agent details	In Progress

When you've completed all of the steps above, you can move on to review and finalize your documents.

Next



Special Provisions

You can add personalized information in the "Special Provisions" section. This includes wishes you want your agent to follow about healthcare and non-health care: things to do or not to do. It can be about anything in the document or new things. Some examples include:

a. Health Care: Your feelings on end-of-life care, types of procedures you want or don't want, or length of time your doctors may try certain types of care.

b. Comfort: Who you want to visit you (or not visit you) in the hospital, music to play, religious observance or none)

This is a good time to visit My Wishes Worksheet.

I want my agent to know...

Add Another Provision

Back

Continue

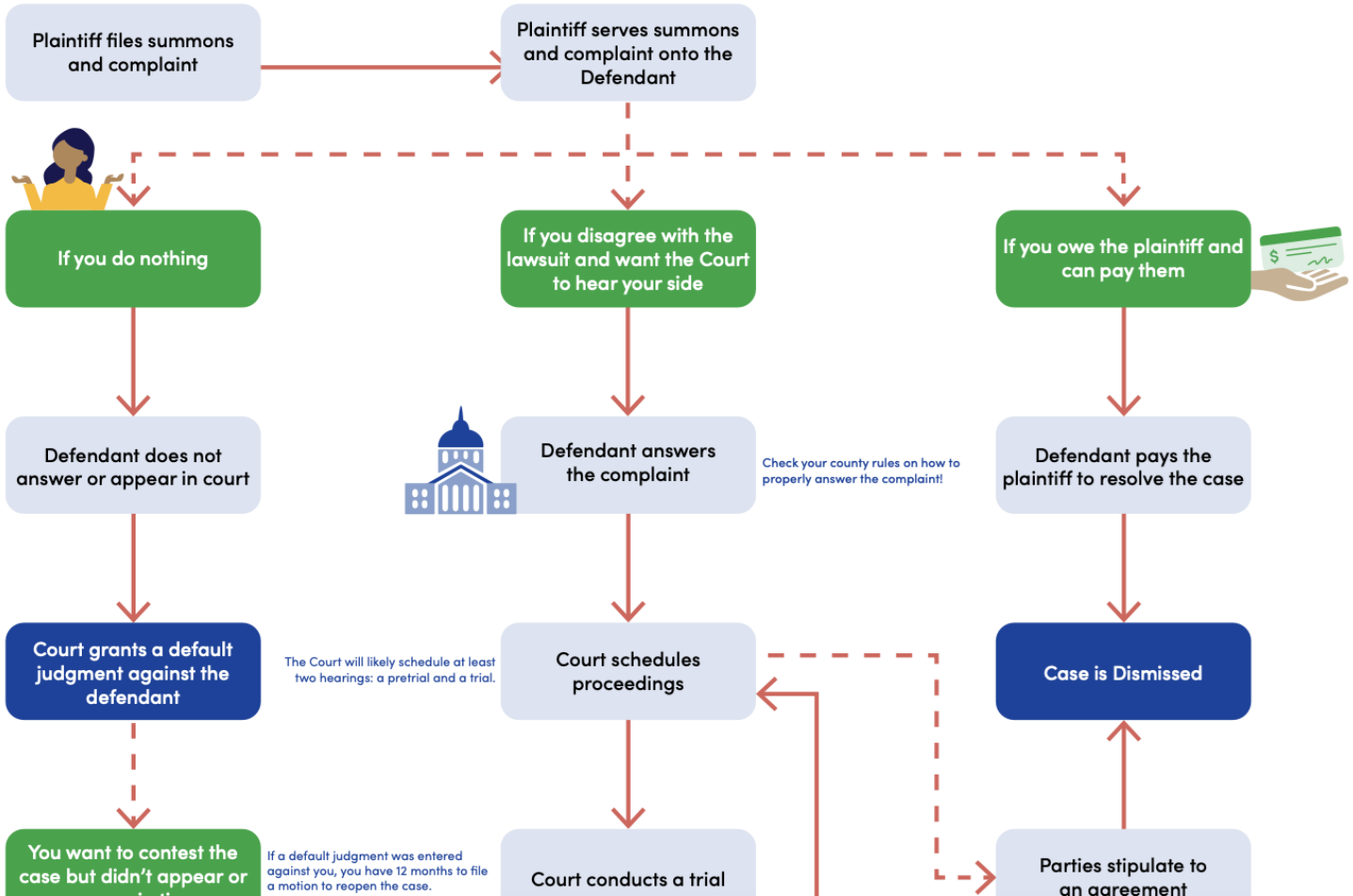
POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR HEALTH CARE

Basic Process for Wisconsin Small Claims Cases

Small Claims Court handles a variety of civil cases including evictions and cases where the money claimed is less than $10,000. Wis. Stat. §799.29(1)(c)

This flow chart is an example of small claims procedure.

Depending on the type of small claims case (ex. evictions have special rules) and the county, some things may vary.



Let's look at some of our self-help resources

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"Failure to Pay Forfeiture" Suspensions

Unpaid traffic tickets that suspend your driver's license

Around 50% of all driver's license suspensions in Wisconsin are for failure to pay a traffic forfeiture. If you find yourself in this situation, **you have options**, even if you cannot afford to pay the past-due ticket in full.



Address Your Ticket to Resolve Your Suspension

Pay the ticket

The quickest way to take care of a fine is to pay immediately. You can pay the court directly in person or on their website.

Wait out the suspension

Check the time period of your suspension. A court can suspend your driver's license for a year. If it expires in just a few months, you may need to wait until the suspension period is over. After the fine, but you can get back

Request a payment plan

If you can't pay to reduce the fine payment plan. This means that you'd pay a portion of your fine each month. You can only ask for one payment plan for each fine. If you receive a payment plan from the court and do not keep up on payments, the court can suspend your license again.

Request community service

If you cannot pay the fine, you can ask to do community service instead of paying. The judge must approve your community service request. Once your request is approved, your suspension for failure to pay fines ends and you are eligible to get your license back.

Reopen the case

You ask the judge to reopen a case if you are trying to get the citation amount lowered or thrown out (dismissed). You have to file a motion in court to get your case reopened. You should get legal advice before filing a motion.

Still have questions?

You may benefit from talking to an attorney. We host monthly clinics in Jefferson and Racine County, but no matter which county you live in, we can help connect you to the resources you need.

Which Option is Right for Me?

No one knows your financial situation better than you. As you're considering your options, keep the following

- If you are experiencing poverty, the court is required to grant certain protections. If you cannot afford to pay your ticket in full because of poverty, the court is required to give you a chance to pay in "affordable" installments (as low as $20–$25 a month). The court may ask you a series of questions to determine your eligibility and the appropriate monthly payments.
- After you're approved for a payment plan, the court should lift your suspension right away. If you miss your monthly payments, the court can suspend your license again and cancel your payment arragements. The court may not be willing to give you a second chance at a payment plan.
- If you are interested in community service, be aware that the court may not lift your suspension until after all of your assigned hours are completed. Keep that in mind as your picking your community service site!

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Instructions for completing a Wisconsin fingerprint record removal request

All fingerprint record removals will be in compliance with Wisconsin State Statute 165.84(1).

Many forms of police contact create traceable records, which can impact background checks and arrest records. If you were not charged, the charges were dropped, or you were found "not guilty" or aquitted at trial, these records may be eligible for removal, but the process does not happen automatically. You must request record removal and you must meet certain criteria.

All offenses reported on the *arrest fingerprint card* must have resulted in you being released without charge (or not prosecuted) or you being cleared of all offenses through court proceedings.

The "arrest fingerprint card" can contain one charge or many. It depends on how many violations you were charged with when the arrest first took place.

Successful completion of a first offender program (deferred prosecution) qualifies for removal, as long as the charges were dismissed or you were not prosecuted. Make sure you provide supporting documentation!



Questions about your conviction? Call the Court!

ntifying ature.

DATE OF ARREST:	ARRESTING AGENCY:	ARRESTING AGENCY CASE #:
DATE OF CONVICTION OR ADJUDICATION:	NAME OF COURT:	CHARGE & DISPOSITION:

Conviction information must include court case number and charge. The information may be found on CCAP or through the Municipal Court for ordinance offenses.

If possible, include supporting documentation like a certified copy of the court order reversing, setting aside, or vacating the conviction.

If either finger is injured, provide the impression of another finger, but clearly designate which fingers were used for the

LEFT INDEX FINGER

RIGHT INDEX FINGER

mpleted to:

tion Bureau History Unit

3701-2718.

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Legal Interventions for Transforming Wisconsin

Our website has a variety of downloadable, sharable PDFs. Please distribute freely!

We also have a driver's license reinstatement form, where LIFT will pay the $60 reinstatement fee if the user is eligible.



Testimonial on the LEGAL TUNE UP TOOL

"After removing the eviction from public records, this helped me secure a bigger apartment for my family. The new apartment is much closer to my job, a grocery store, and a park.

Thank you so much I feel like I had an easier time navigating my legal challenges after using the Legal Tune Up tool."

Collaborations



State Agencies & Libraries

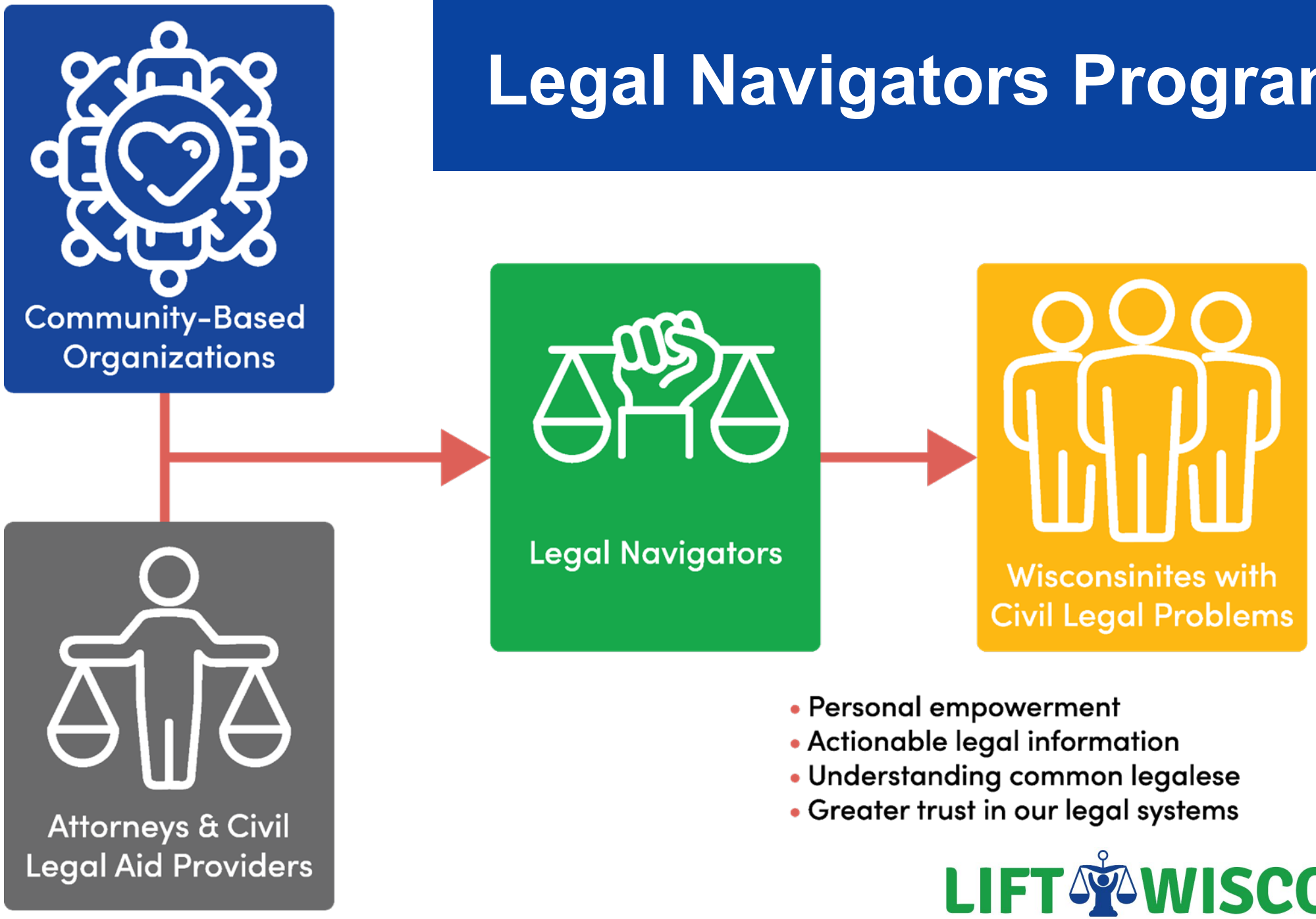


Community-Based Organizations



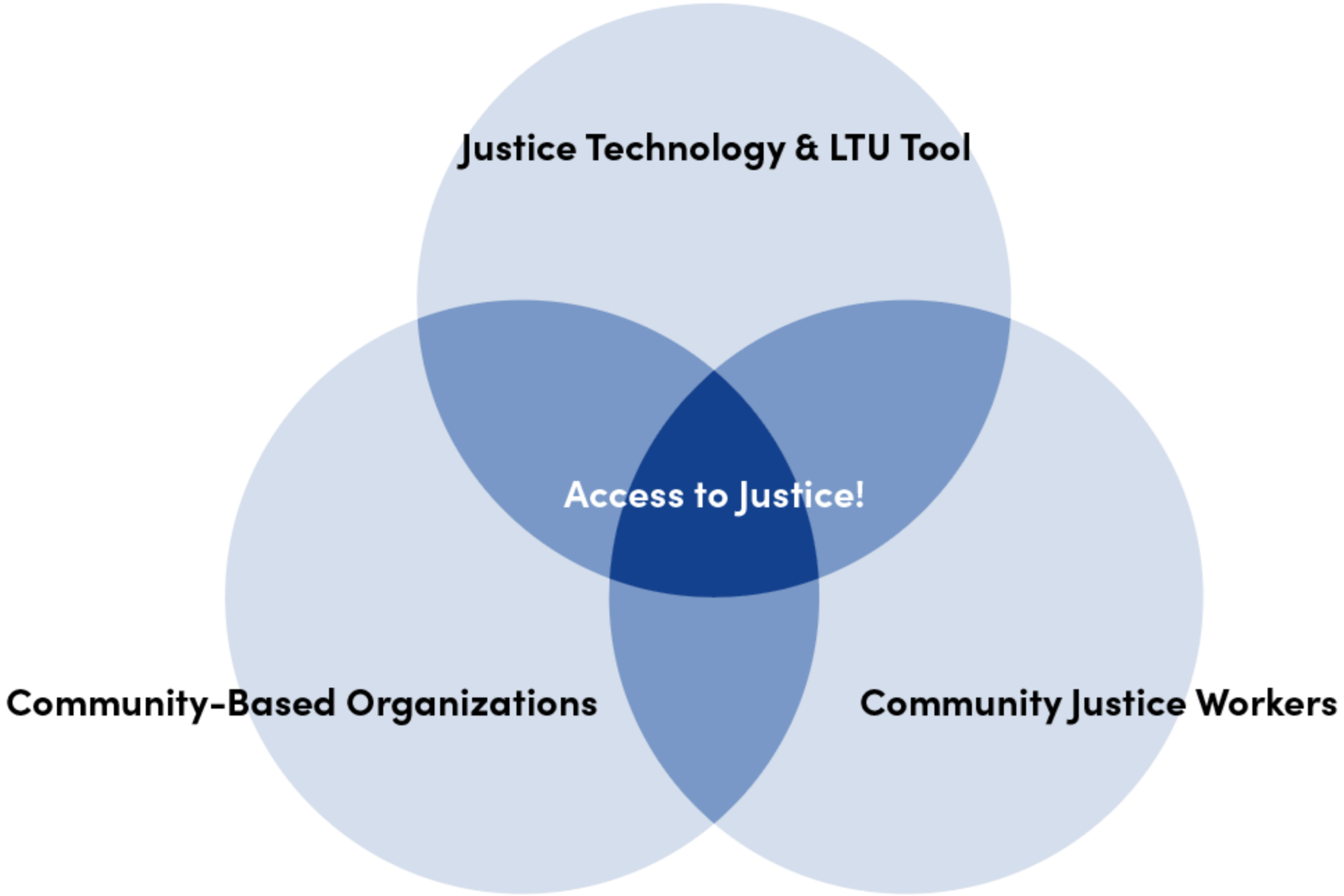
Civil Legal Aid Attorneys

Legal Navigators Program



- Personal empowerment
- Actionable legal information
- Understanding common legalese
- Greater trust in our legal systems

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Justice Technology & LTU Tool
Access to Justice!
Community-Based Organizations
Community Justice Workers

Our Impact in 2025



329 eviction cases



944 child support orders



474 driver's license records

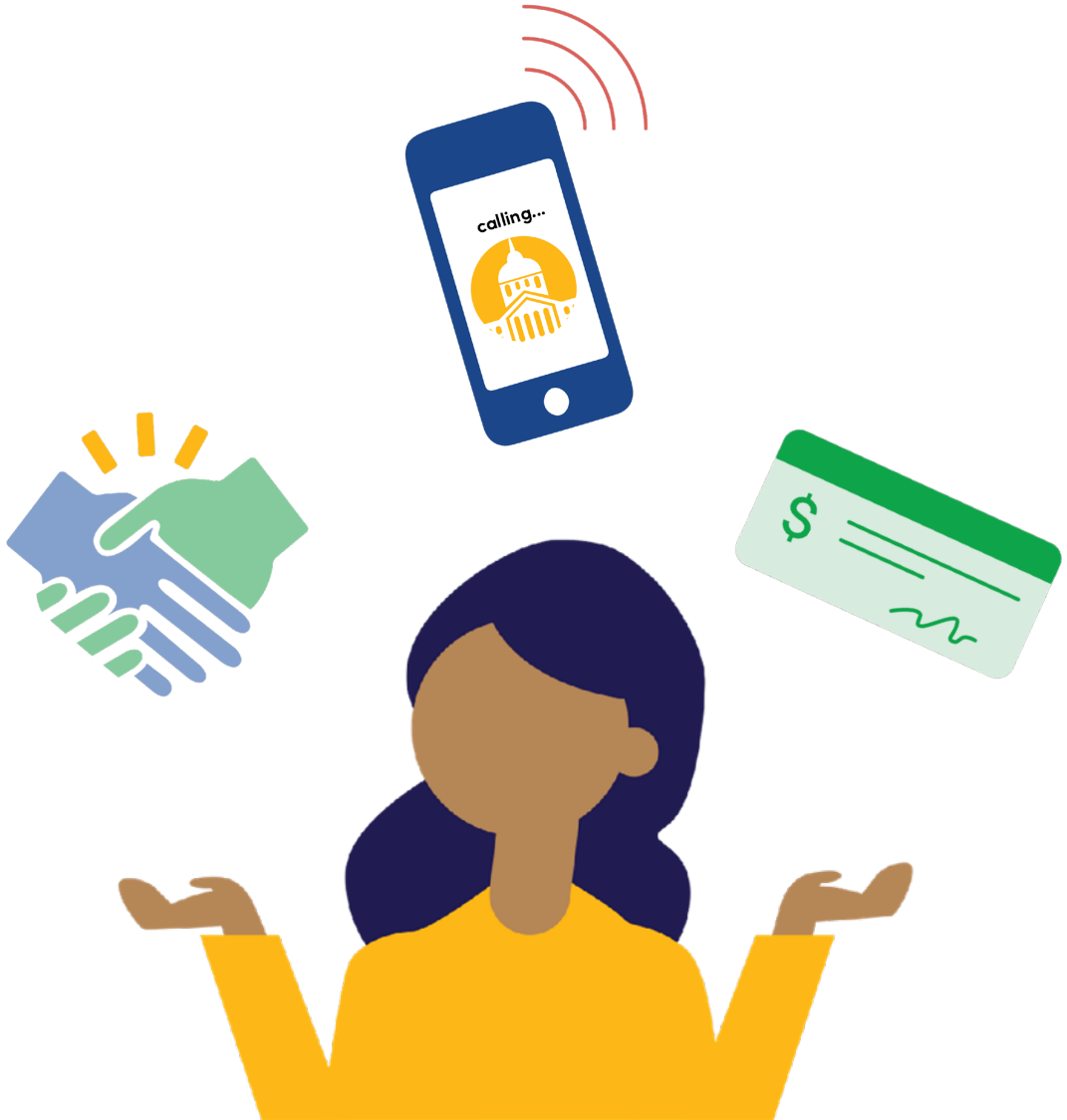


736 small claims cases

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Challenges

- Research, coordination, and organization
  - Small claims modules uses all 72 WI counties' local rules which are reflected in the LTU tool
- Accessibility and legal literacy
- Spreading awareness of the tool and building trust
- Communication with some state agencies is spotty
- Catching issues in the system requires regular awareness and check-ins
- Skepticism from lawyers
- Running the website and accessing to the data gets costly



Lessons Learned

- Iterative process that requires constant learning and adjustment
  - Evaluation
- Focus groups are important to recognizing limitations on legal literacy for everyday people
- People still need some guidance and assistance
- Communication communication communication!



Leveling the Playing Field

Policy Suggestions:

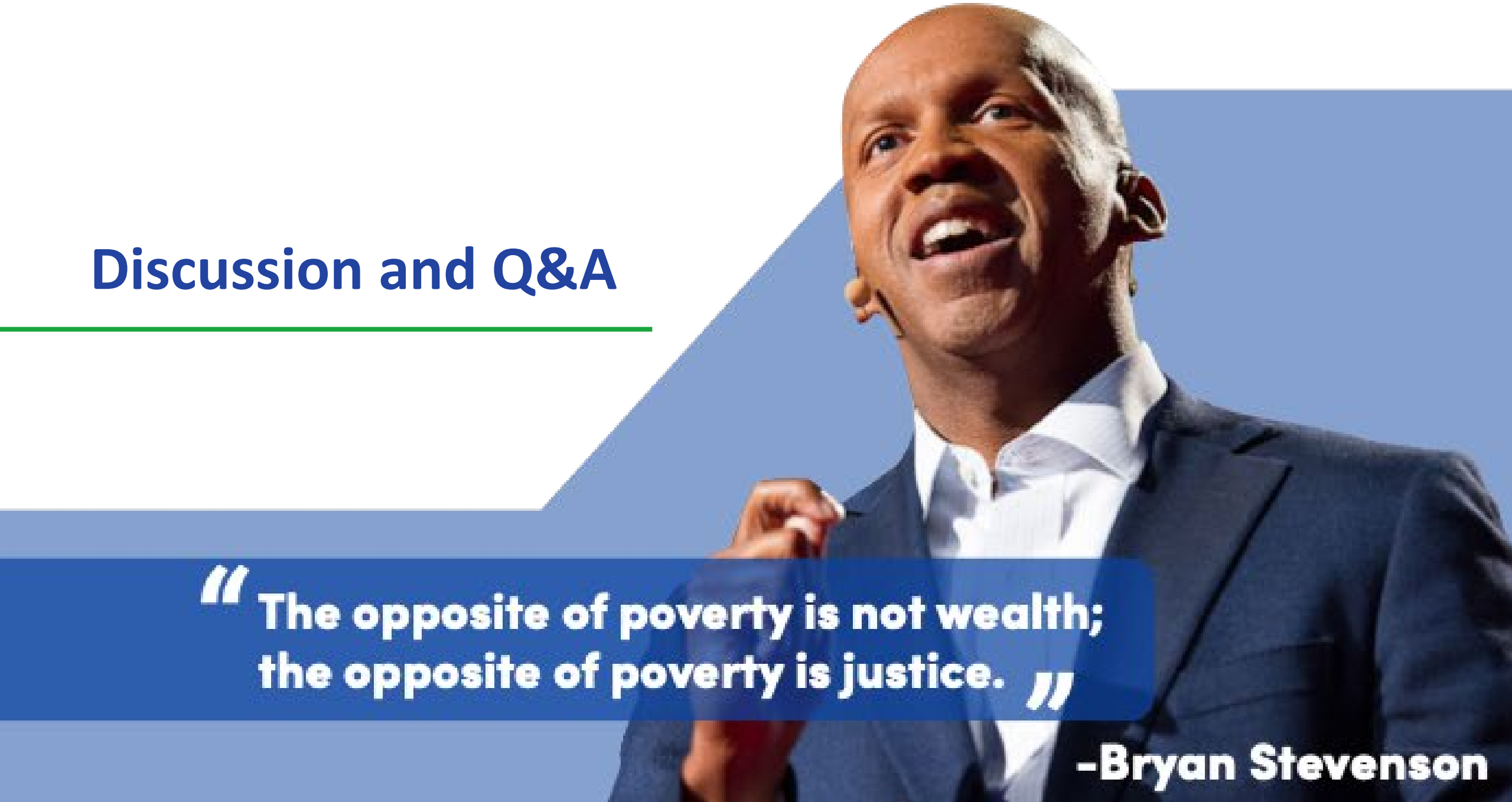
- Invest in increasing access to civil legal justice
- Reliance on more than Lawyers: community justice workers

Many state agencies use legalese, are inaccessible, and difficult to navigate.

LIFT and the LTU tool work to increase legal literacy, educate folks on what “legal” issues are, and remove barriers to participating in the legal system.



Discussion and Q&A



Stay connected with us!

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Looking for a '101' training on our modules?
Email us at: info@liftwisconsin.org

Serving all of Wisconsin

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