OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

VALUES
- Compassion
- Competence
- Equity
- Professionalism
- Empowerment
- Transparency
- Diversity
- Mutual Respect
- Trust

PROBLEM STATEMENT
With the highest poverty rate in the country of a Metropolitan Statistical Area with over one million people,* many of our low-income, disadvantaged and minority populations encounter legal issues of survival and barriers to individual and family stability.

STANCES
- Poverty, race and ethnicity are inextricably linked
- Working collaboratively, analyzing data and listening to clients help identify patterns of need
- Systemic advocacy advances social change and benefits communities
- Excellence in legal advocacy is essential to client success

FOCUS
- Low-income persons, disadvantaged people and seniors in Shelby, Fayette, Lauderdale & Tipton counties

STRATEGIES
- We use a human rights/freedom-from-want framework for advocacy
- We follow patterns and trends to identify broad, systemic issues
- Our priority service areas address the basic needs of low-income people
- We conduct regional needs assessments to understand the most pressing legal issues of low-income people
- We nurture relationships and partnerships to deepen our impact
- Our community education targets isolated and vulnerable people

ANTICIPATED CHANGES
- Increased economic security for our low-income, disadvantaged and marginalized clients
- Elimination of policies, practices and structures that perpetuate inequitable treatment
- Removal of legal impediments to employability, equal and quality education, safe living conditions, food, health care, consumer protection and freedom from want**

EQUAL JUSTICE
The fair, equal, and impartial treatment of all people


**Roosevelt, Franklin D. "Four Freedoms." President of the U.S.A.’s State of the Union Speech to the U.S.A. Congress, 6 January 1941, Washington, D.C.