LOUISIANA’S CIVIL LEGAL DESERTS

The findings in the inventory assessment revealed that nearly 15% of the state’s population live in “civil legal deserts.” These are areas where great barriers to in-person legal services and online resources exist.

For example, areas designated in red in the map below represent places where in-person civil legal help (at either a civil legal aid office, law library, or self-help center) is at least a 45-minute drive away. These areas also frequently have high rates of poverty and limited access to broadband internet, making civil legal help effectively inaccessible.

Approximately 600,000 people in Louisiana earn below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level and reside in an area shaded in red. The parishes with the highest poverty rates and lack of access to nearby legal aid offices and broadband include much of the Northeast side of Louisiana, such as Concordia, Tensas, Madison, and East Carroll parishes. The parishes in red will be considered as sites for this implementation proposal.