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Santa Rosa, CA 95404

www.legalaidsc.org



*Promoting Social Justice and Advancing Human Rights
in Sonoma County Since 1958*

2020 Annual Report



Like all of you, Legal Aid has had its share of challenges over the past year. We learned how to provide legal services to people in crisis remotely. We worked with both the Sheriff's office and the Courts to protect abuse victims without exposing them to the virus, and we helped over 2,000 tenants keep their housing and navigate the ever-changing eviction laws. Your support in 2020 helped us do this. Now, we look forward to the challenges ahead.

The most vulnerable people are the hardest hit by a crisis and the last to recover. We saw this after the Great Recession and the fires. The people we serve are those most vulnerable in our community: immigrants, low-income wage earners, seniors, and tenants. They have incurred monumental debt over the past year, are experiencing doubling rates of domestic abuse, and are facing unprecedented housing instability,

With your support, Legal Aid will help our community recover, just as we did after the fires. Our housing team is doubling in size to meet the upcoming tsunami of potential housing displacement. Our veterans' benefits program and homeless prevention programs are helping veterans and the shelterless obtain public benefits, medical access, and housing vouchers so that they have both housing and income. Our disaster team will help people with employment and consumer debt issues stemming from the pandemic. Our rural and linguistic outreach programs will ensure that race and zip code do not prevent people from equal access to these benefits.

As we all emerge from this dark cloud, let us work together to lift up those most in need, and not forget that unless we have justice for all, we have justice for none.

Ronit Rubino
Executive Director

Agency Profile

Mission

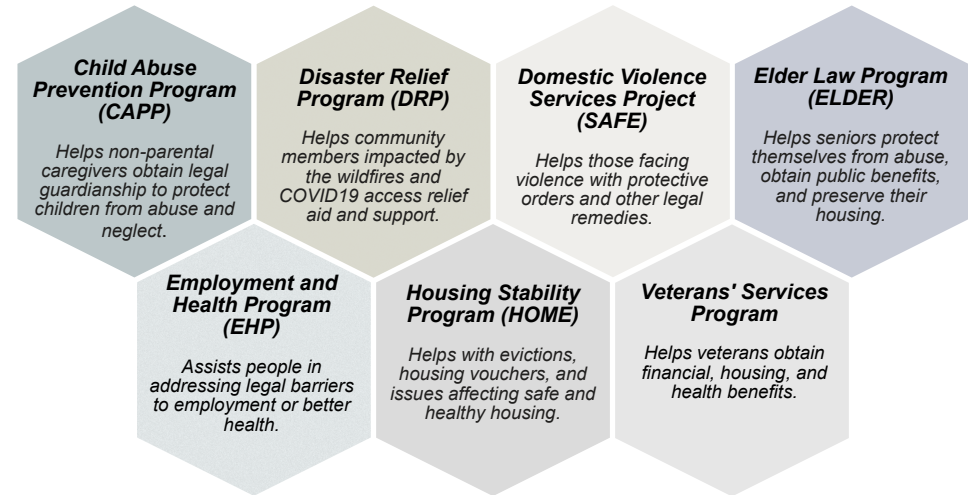
To promote social justice and advance basic human rights for vulnerable people in our community.

Founded

1958 and incorporated in 1983.

Services

LASC operates **seven** programs and engages in advocacy efforts to help local residents build safer, healthier, and more stable lives.



Staff

Thirty (33) Employees. One third of staff are bilingual.

Financials

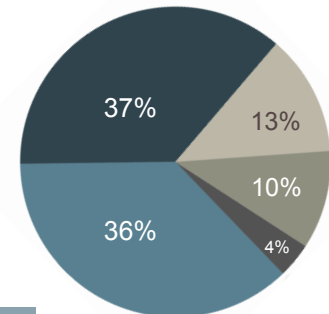
Revenue

Government Contracts	\$ 915,531
Grants and Foundations	\$ 901,863
PPP Loan	\$ 312,643
Fundraising & Private Donors	\$ 254,001
Donated Services	\$ 90,528

\$ 2,474,566

Expenses

92%	Programs
6%	Administrative & Support Services
2%	Fundraising



2020 Impact at-a-Glance

Legal Aid of Sonoma County impacted over 3,500 people.

\$ 314,700

We secured \$314,700 in housing, disability, and veterans' benefits for vulnerable community members.



We helped over 500 people hold onto their housing in the midst of a global pandemic.

\$1,625,120

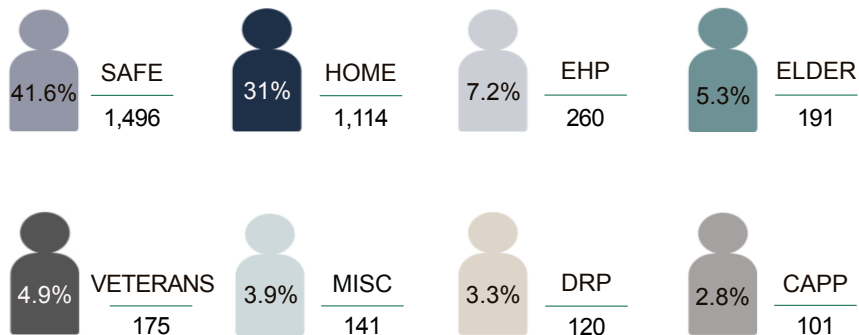
We obtained \$1,625,120 in insurance and other benefits for disaster survivors.



7,930 Calls Received

Community Members Impacted by Program

Total: 3,598



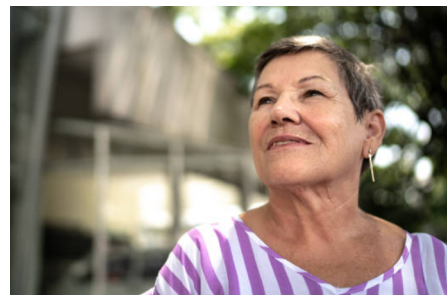
In their words...

"When my daughter suffered a health crisis, I knew her young children needed me to step in and provide my full-time care. I felt confident I could provide my grandchildren with all the love and support they needed. Still, I wondered: How can I make sure the girls maintain their health insurance, and obtain whatever health treatment they might need? How can I enroll them in preschool and school? How can I make other important decisions for them? Of course, the answer was for me to become their formal guardian. But I had no idea how to accomplish that.



Thankfully, I had the help of a guardianship specialist at Legal Aid of Sonoma County. Veronica walked me through every step. She made sure papers were properly prepared, filed and served. She guided me through the Covid-altered court procedures and followed up regarding the court's orders. I will always be grateful to Legal Aid of Sonoma County for helping to keep our family together. We all talk about the difficulties of the year 2020. I am fortunate to have received a beautiful gift - the honor of serving as guardian for my granddaughters."

- K.L.



Sofia is elderly and has dementia. Emmet is her adult son and caretaker. Sophia's husband Ron is an alcoholic and could not cope with her dementia. He began abusing Sofia, preventing her from leaving her room or using the phone, and even forcing Emmet to cook on a hotplate upstairs for her, rather than use the kitchen. Ron also physically attacked Emmett. Legal Aid helped Sofia and Emmett remove Ron from the house with a restraining order and stopped the abuse.*

Sheila,

12/7/2020

We can't thank you enough for your services... Your work has allowed us to have peace of mind & a sense of safety we would not have otherwise. My mom cried when the judge granted the RO and said "I don't have to be scared anymore!" We are so grateful to you and Legal Aid. You fought for us when it felt like no one else could help. THANK YOU!!!

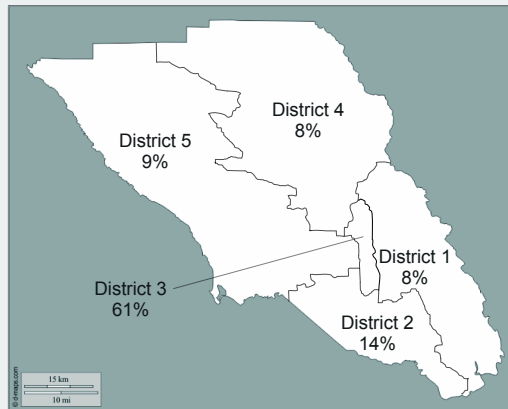
* Names changed and stock image used for Sofia's story.

Clients We Served

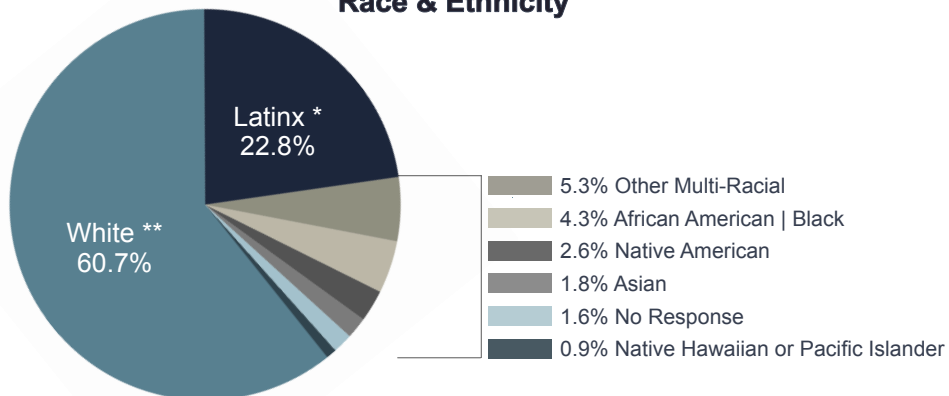
By Age



By Residence



Race & Ethnicity



* 28.3% Latinx Across all Races

** Non Latinx

Board of Directors



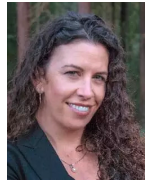
Glenn Smith
Board President
Smith Dollar PC



Chris Grabill
Board VP
General Contractor



Ed Gomez
Board Treasurer
Poppy Bank



Jacquelynne Ocaña
Board Secretary
Private Fiduciary



Ann Hudson
Exchange Bank



Devina Douglas
Attorney at Law



Jennifer Douglas
Dickenson Peatman & Fogarty



John Farrow
Farrow Commercial

Major Funders

- AARP Foundation
- Abacot Fund of CFSC
- Abbey, Weitzenberg, Warren & Emery
- Andersen, James & Linda
- Bigglesworth Family Fund
- Casteel Family Foundation
- City of Santa Rosa
- Coddling Foundation
- Community Foundation SC Resilience Fund
- Community Foundation Sonoma County
- County of Sonoma
- Dickenson, Peatman & Fogarty
- Exchange Bank
- Farrow Commercial, Inc.
- Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria
- Gack, Ken
- Half My DAF Fund
- Impact 100 Redwood Circle
- Jackson Family Fund
- John Jordan Foundation

- Kaiser Permanente Northern California
Community Benefit Programs
- Kelly, Michael
- Marin Community Foundation
Peter & Ginny Haas Fund
- Perry, Johnson, Anderson, Miller & Moskowitz
- Russian River Brewing Co
- Schulz, Jean
- Sisters of St. Joseph Foundation
- Soiland Charitable Fund of CFSC
- Sonoma County Bar Association
- Sonoma County Vintners Foundation
- Spaulding McCullough & Tansil LLP
- State Bar of California
- Summit State Bank
- Total Marin Community Foundation
- Trione, Victor
- van Löben Sels / RembeRock