

Legal Aid Grantees & Services

March 1, 2023

# Introduction

The Lawyers Trust
Fund's mission is "to
support the provision
of civil legal services
to low-income Illinois
residents throughout
the state in an
efficient, effective,
and equitable manner."

# **About the Lawyers Trust Fund**

The Lawyers Trust Fund of Illinois (LTF) is a charitable foundation established in 1983 to support not-for-profit organizations that provide legal aid services to low-income individuals and families. The Lawyers Trust Fund's revenue comes from three sources created by the authority of the Supreme Court of Illinois: the Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) program, a legal aid fee assessed on Illinois lawyers as part of the annual attorney registration process, and unidentified funds in IOLTA accounts.

The grants made by LTF each year help legal aid organizations that collectively form a safety net for tens of thousands of low-income Illinoisans who face serious civil legal problems, cannot afford to hire an attorney, and have nowhere else to turn.

# Purpose of this Report

This report provides an overview of LTF's 2023 grantees and the services they provide. It is intended to highlight the scope and nature of that work, as well as important information about staff, governing boards, and funding sources.

This report will be updated on an annual basis. Future reports will include additional trend data to help interested stakeholders understand developments in the legal aid ecosystem in Illinois.

#### A Note on the Data

The information in this report is derived mainly from grant applications submitted by legal aid organizations to the Lawyers Trust Fund in September 2022. These applications formed the basis of LTF's grant awards for calendar year 2023. Most of the data submitted is for the period July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022. The data is reported in the aggregate for all 48 of LTF's 2023 grantees.

# LTF Grantees: 2023

The information in this report is based on data submitted by the organizations listed below in their applications for calendar year 2023 funding from LTF. For more information about the programs' locations, a description of their services, and the amount of their grants, please visit the LTF website.

- Access Living
- Ascend Justice
- Cabrini Green Legal Aid
- CARPLS Legal Aid
- Center for Disability & Elder Law
- Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation
- Chicago Coalition for the Homeless
- Chicago House & Social Service Agency
- Chicago Lawyers'
   Committee for Civil Rights
- Chicago Volunteer Legal Services
- Chicago Workers
   Collaborative
- Children's Legal Center
- Chinese American Service League
- DePaul University
   College of Law Asylum &
   Immigration Clinic
- DuPage Legal Aid
- Equip for Equality
- Erie Neighborhood House

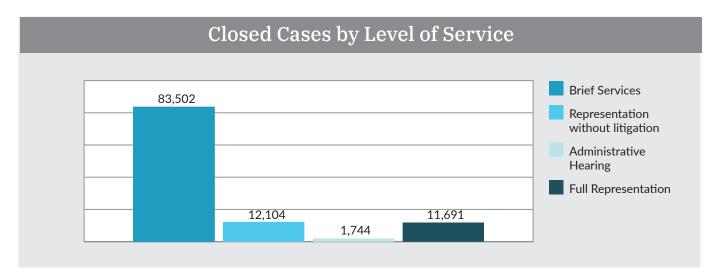
- Farmworker & Landscaper Advocacy Project
- Greater Chicago Legal Clinic
- Illinois Equal Justice Foundation
- Illinois Legal Aid Online
- Immigration Project
- Indo-American Center
- James B. Moran Center for Youth Advocacy
- Ladder Up
- · Land of Lincoln Legal Aid
- Law Center for Better Housing
- Legal Aid Chicago
- Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Family Services
- Legal Council for Health Justice
- Life Span Center for Legal Services & Advocacy
- National Immigrant Justice Center
- North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic

- Northern Illinois Justice for Our Neighbors
- Prairie State Legal Services
- Public Interest Law Initiative
- Raise the Floor Alliance
- Shriver Center on Poverty Law
- Southern Illinois University School of Law Legal Clinic
- Spanish Community Center
- Syrian Community
   Network
- The Resurrection Project
- The Village Legal & Community Project
- Uptown People's Law Center
- Valley Immigrant Advocates
- Westside Justice Center
- World Relief Chicagoland
- Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights

# Case and Client Information

#### **Closed Cases/Levels of Service**

The Lawyers Trust Fund's 48 legal aid grantees closed a total of **109,041** cases between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022. The scope of the service provided in these cases is reflected in the chart below. (For definitions of the various levels of service, follow this link.)



# **Open Cases**

As of June 30, 2022, LTF grantees reported a total of 41,584 open or pending cases.

## Trend Data: Closed Cases by Level of Service

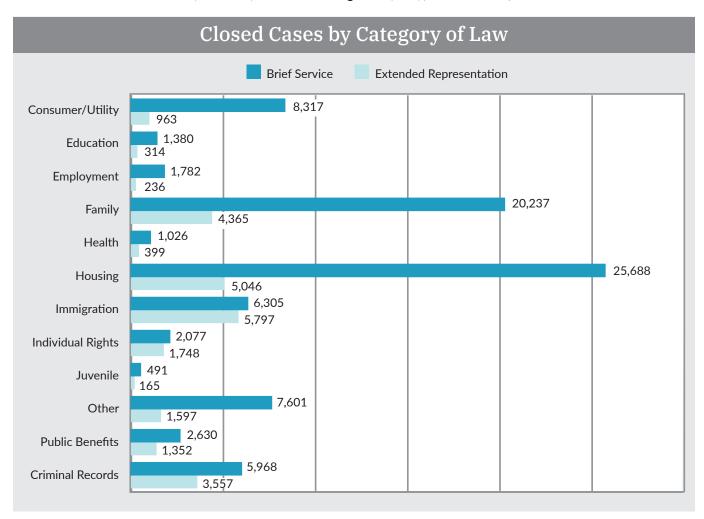
The chart below shows the number of closed cases by level of service over the past five years. The data collection period for 2021 cases coincided with the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in stay-at-home orders, court closures, and disruptions to how and where legal aid organizations could meet with and serve clients.

Not surprisingly, the number of cases closed in 2021 declined: brief service cases fell 12.9% compared to the average for the three previous years, while extended representation (comprised of administrative hearings, representation without litigation, and full representation) cases were down 28.8%. By 2022, extended representation cases (25,539) had reverted to the average for 2018 – 2020.



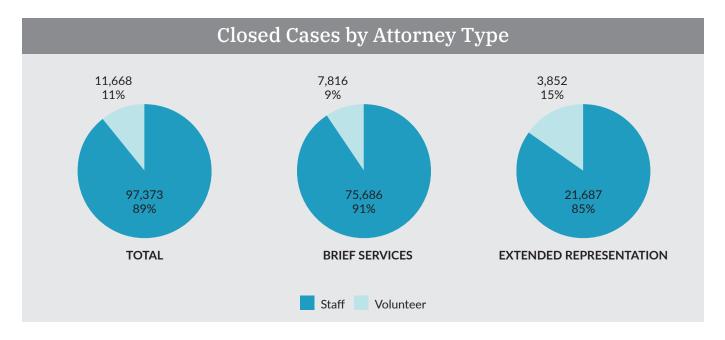
## Closed Cases by Category of Law

Legal aid organizations funded by LTF provide services in a wide range of case types related to issues involving access to shelter, safety, family stability, and other critical needs. These cases are grouped into the general categories in the chart below. (For definitions of the various categories of law, follow this link.)



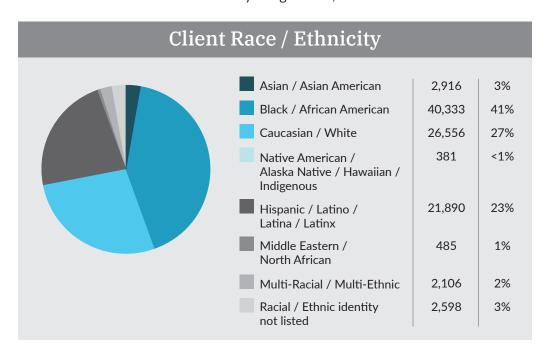
#### Staff & Pro Bono Services

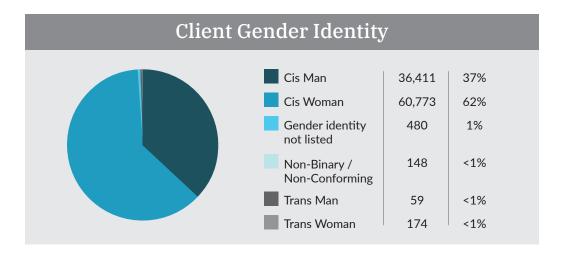
Many LTF grantees rely on generous contributions of time and expertise by volunteer attorneys to help provide legal services to clients. The following charts show the number and percentage of closed cases handled by volunteer attorneys and staff attorneys for the period July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

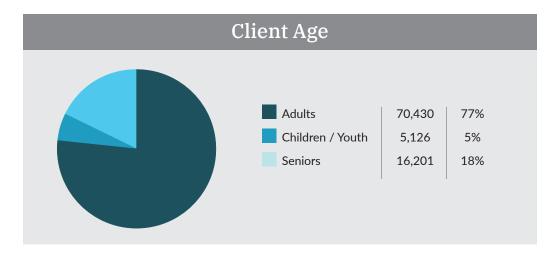


## **Client Demographics**

The Lawyers Trust Fund's mission includes supporting the provision of legal aid services in an equitable manner. Consequently, LTF collects data on the demographic characteristics of the clients served by our grantees, as reflected in the charts below.





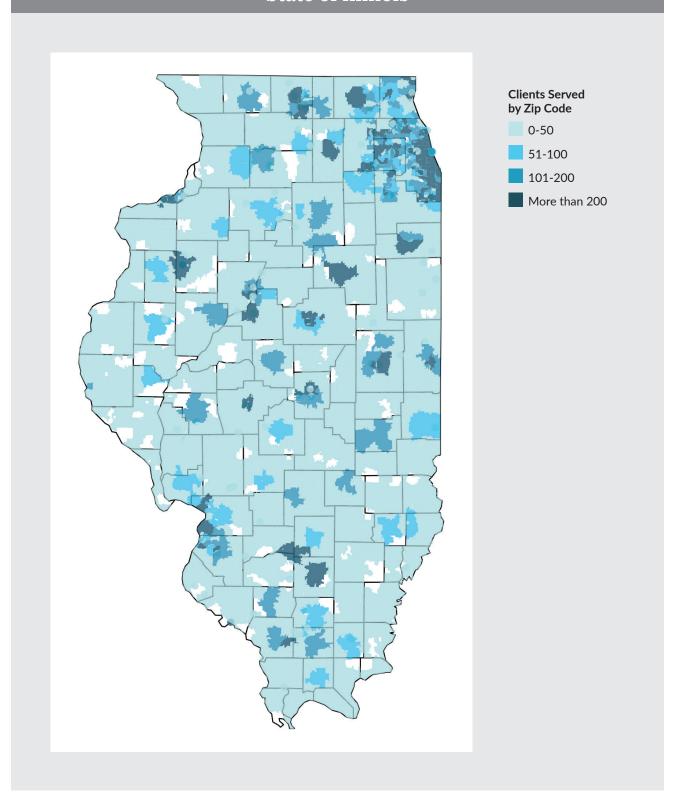


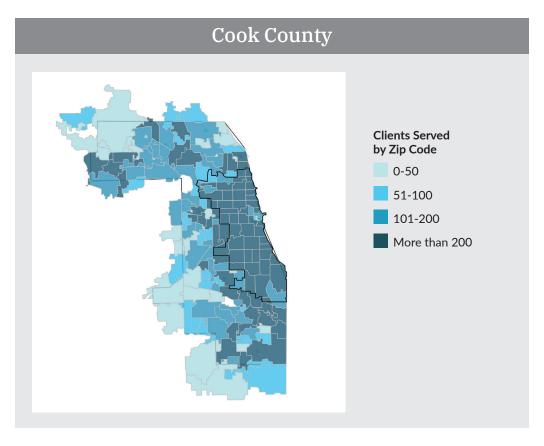
LTF also invited programs to report voluntarily on clients' disability identities. Of the data submitted, 39% of clients served by LTF grantee programs identified as having one or more disabilities.

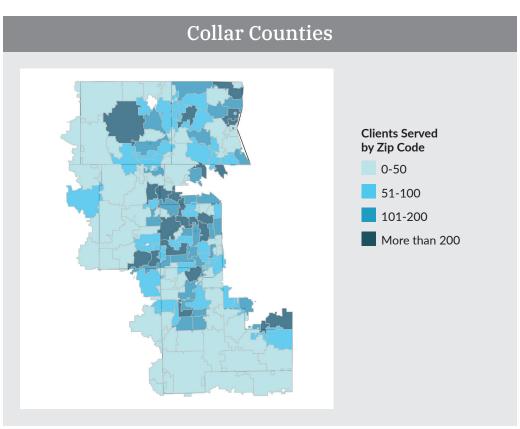
#### Geographic Distribution of Legal Aid Services

As a statewide funder of legal aid services, LTF collects information about the geographic distribution of the services provided by its grantees. Legal aid programs use a wide variety of methods (e.g., telephone hotlines, online intake, internet-based legal information, on-site clinics at community partner agencies) to ensure that people in all areas of the state have access to help. The following maps show the geographic distribution of services provided between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022.

# State of Illinois







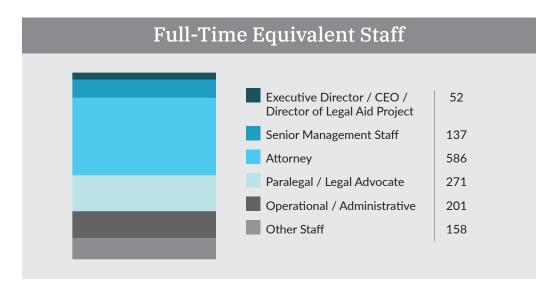
# Data On Legal Aid Organizations

# **Legal Aid Budgets**

The 48 legal aid organizations funded by LTF had budgets totaling **\$156,718,081** for the period July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022.

## Legal Aid Staff

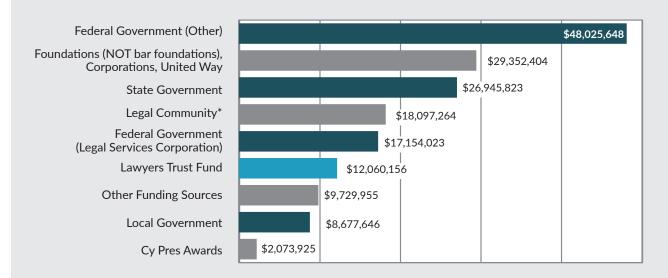
LTF grantees employed 1,405 full-time equivalent staff members as of June 30, 2022. Of this total, 857 were front-line attorneys or paralegals/advocates engaged in direct client service. It is important to note that in many—especially smaller—organizations, individuals serving as executive/project directors or senior management staff are also engaged in advising and representing clients.



# Legal Aid Revenue

LTF's 48 grantees reported total revenue of **\$172,116,845** for the period July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022. Fifty-nine percent of that funding was from public sources, including grants and contracts from local governments, the State of Illinois, and the federal government, including the Legal Services Corporation. The chart below breaks down the sources of funding in more detail.

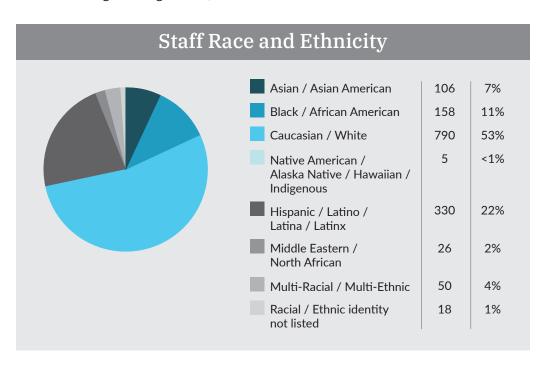
# Sector-Wide Organizational Revenue by Source

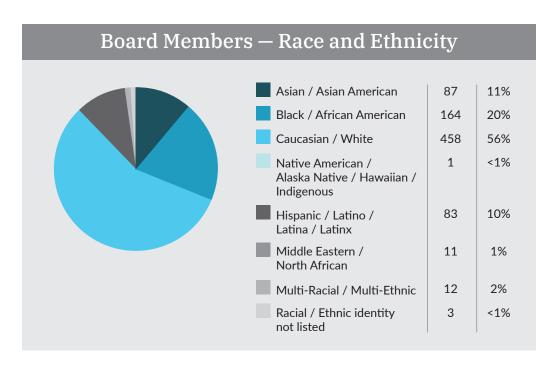


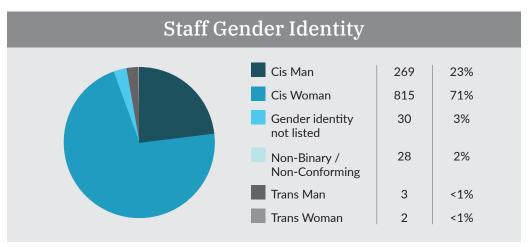
<sup>\*</sup>Includes financial contributions from law firms, bar foundations, bar associations, and individual donors. Does not include the \$95 annual registration fee paid by Illinois attorneys and administered by the Lawyers Trust Fund. Also does not include the value of pro bono services contributed by lawyers.

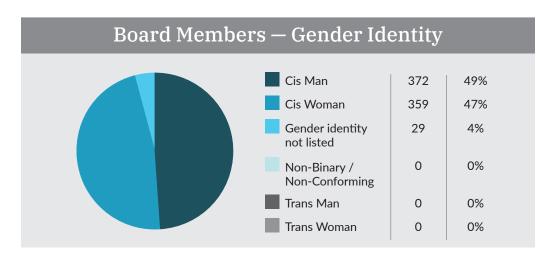
# Staff and Board Demographics

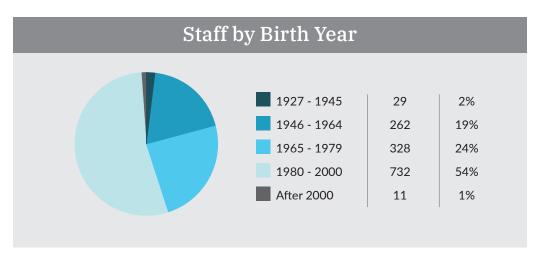
The Lawyers Trust Fund and its grantees recognize that diversity is a fundamental building block of a healthy, sustainable, and effective organization. Consequently, LTF collects data regarding the demographic composition of its grantees' staff members and governing boards, as reflected in the charts below.











LTF also invited programs to report voluntarily on staff members' disability and sexual orientation identities. Of the data submitted:

- 20% of legal aid staff members identified as having one or more disabilities
- 82% of legal aid staff members identified as straight, 8% as gay/lesbian, 6% as a sexual orientation identity not listed, and 3% as bisexual

## Demographic Profile of Legal Aid Leaders

Leaders of LTF-funded legal aid programs (both executive directors / chief executive officers of their legal aid organizations, as well as the directors of the legal aid projects at larger social service agencies) were:

- 64% Caucasian/White, 16% Hispanic/Latino/Latina/Latinx, 14% Black/African American, 4% Asian/Asian American, and 2% Middle Eastern/North African
- 70% cis women, 27% cis men, and 2% non-binary/non-conforming
- 2% born between 1927 and 1945, 24% born between 1946 and 1964, 44% born between 1965 and 1979, and 29% born between 1980 and 2000

# **Demographic Profile of Legal Aid Lawyers**

Of all legal aid lawyers at LTF-funded programs, including both staff/senior staff attorneys and supervising/managing attorneys:

- 64% are Caucasian/White, with the remainder Hispanic/Latino/Latina/Latinx (13%), Black/African American (8%), Asian/Asian American (5%), multi-racial/multi-ethnic (4%), or of a race/ethnicity not listed (2%)
- 68% are cis women, 28% are cis men, and 4% are trans, non-binary/non-conforming, or a gender identity not listed
- The majority were born between 1980 and 2000 (57%), while 24% were born between 1965-1979, 16% were born between 1946-1964, 2% were born before 1946, and 1% were born after 2000



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