



Breaking Barriers to Justice

2019

ANNUAL REPORT



LINCOLNLEGAL.ORG

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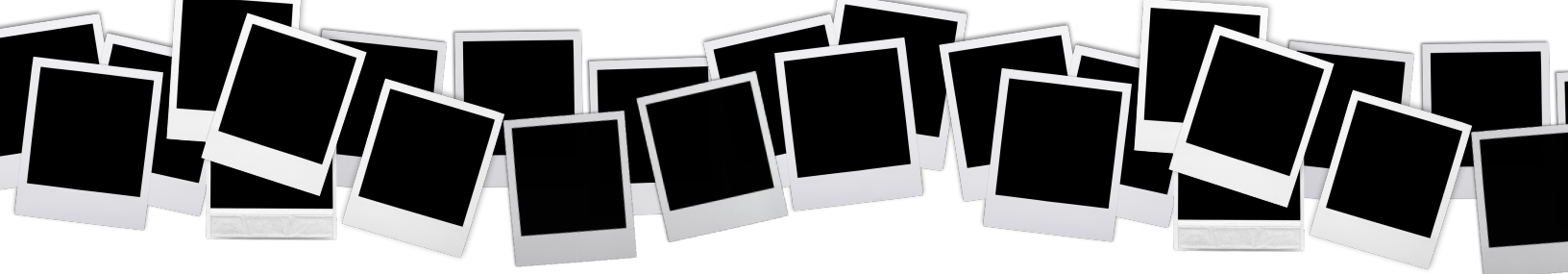
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OUR MISSION

Land of Lincoln Legal Aid's mission is to provide low-income and senior residents of central and southern Illinois with high quality legal services in order to obtain and maintain their basic human needs. Through advice, representation, advocacy, education, and collaboration, we seek to achieve justice for those whose voices might otherwise not be heard; to empower individuals to advocate for themselves; and, to make positive changes in the communities we serve.

LETTER TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on our 2019 achievements, we acknowledge that we now live in a completely different world than that of just last year. Our world has been scarred by a global pandemic that has left families reeling, mourning, and scrambling to keep a roof over their heads and food on the table.

Further, as protests swell and we say their names—George, Breonna, Tamir—our country is also reckoning with the painful reality that we have so much more to do to dismantle the structures and systems that perpetuate racism and prevent Black residents from achieving the American Dream.

Reflecting on our work of 2019 gives us hope for the years ahead. As you review our accomplishments contained in this report, we hope you are struck by the many ways we help Illinois residents achieve safety, security, and a foothold for a better life. We're proud of all that we do to protect victims from their abusers and achieve stability; to help grandparents become guardians of grandchildren left in their care; to prevent vulnerable residents of nursing homes from being evicted; to create opportunities for improved employment by helping individuals with criminal records get a fresh start through expungement and sealing of those records.

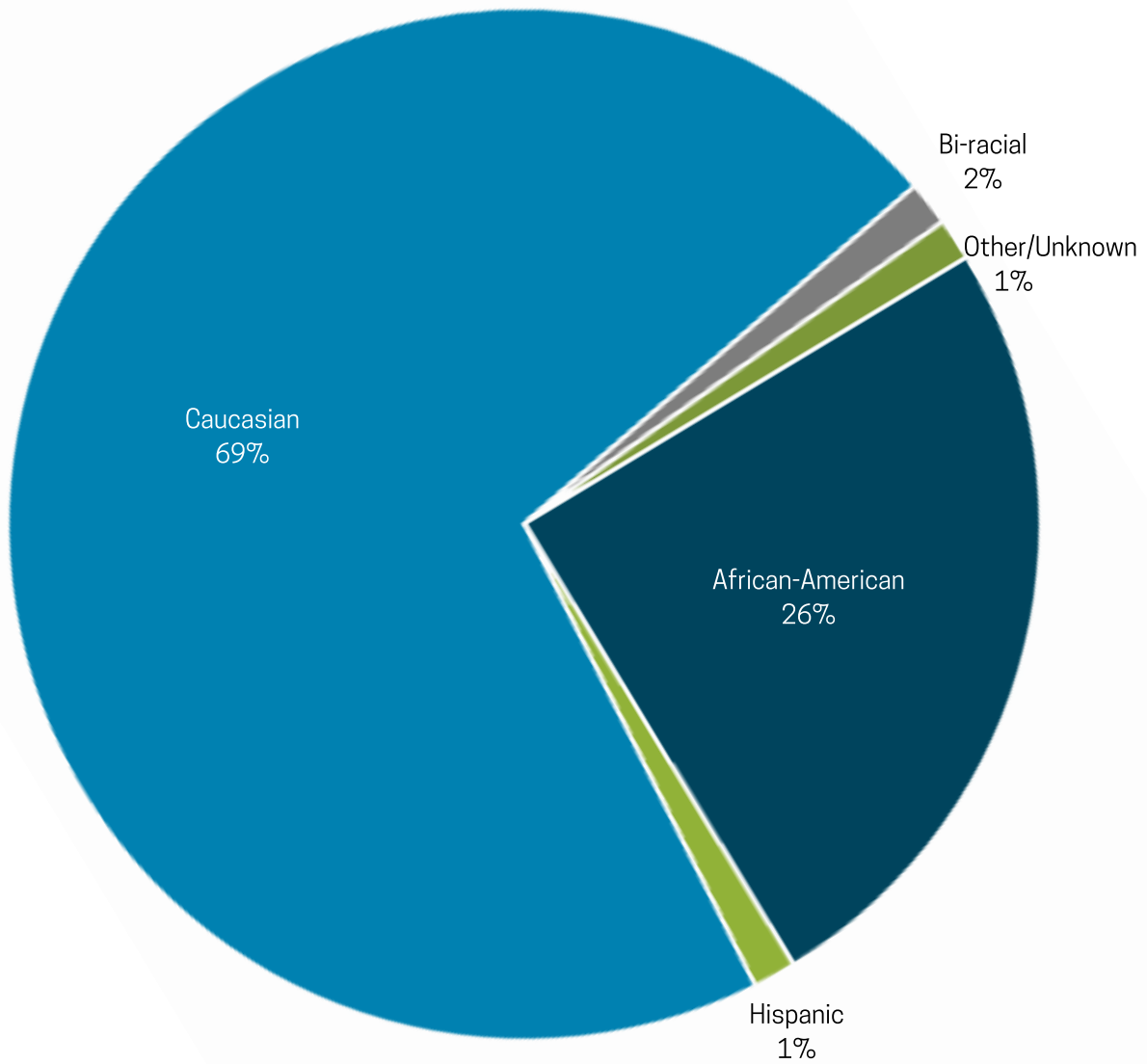
But we also know there is more to do. We are forging community-led partnerships with remarkable organizations to ensure we are connected to our communities of color and providing the services residents need. We're creating new projects, like our TANF Project, to connect our clients to benefits they need but were not aware of. Thank you so much for your ongoing support. We couldn't begin to accomplish all that we do without you.

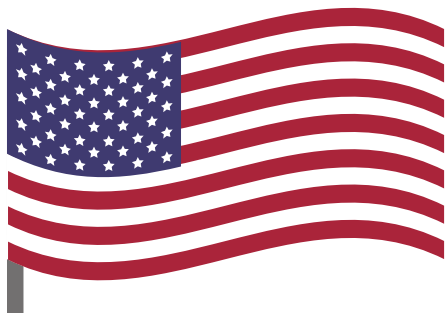
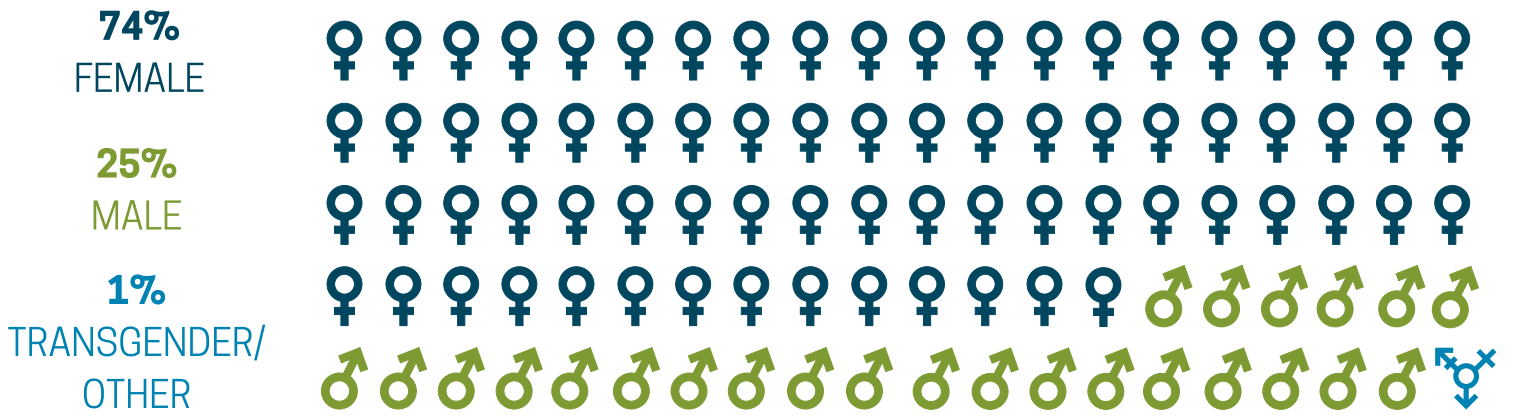
Yours truly,

Clarissa Gaff
Executive Director

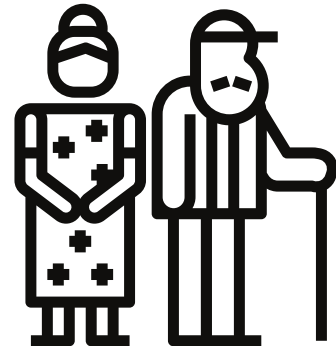
WHO YOU HELPED IN 2019

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, Land of Lincoln was able to help more than 10,000 clients throughout our 65-county service area, including:





984 Active Military,
Veterans & Their Families



2,339
Seniors



2,739
Living with a Disability



4,818
Children Impacted



JUSTICE FOR FAMILIES

Isaiah, a widowed father of three, contacted Land of Lincoln after receiving notice that his utilities would be shut off in a week for nonpayment. Isaiah was also behind on rent and a title loan he had used to pay other bills. His driver's license had been revoked for an outstanding traffic fine.

Our attorney filed a Chapter 7 bankruptcy on Isaiah's behalf, and filed a Motion to Redeem his car. While Isaiah owed \$1000 on the title loan, the car itself was 19 years old with over 150,000 miles on it. Through the bankruptcy, Isaiah was able to get his car title back for \$1 and wipe out the balance of the loan. He was also able to keep his utilities on and get his driver's license restored. The bankruptcy gave Isaiah room to breathe, and he was able to focus on his job and meeting his family's daily needs.

Consumer Protection is a core Priority for Land of Lincoln. We protect individuals from abusive collection practices, consumer fraud, and predatory lending. We also seek to preserve their limited income, so that the clients and their families can meet critical day-to-day needs, such as rent, food, medical care, and transportation.



JUSTICE FOR VETERANS

Michael, a veteran who suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), came to Land of Lincoln after being served with an eviction. He was homeless before obtaining a HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Voucher (HUD-VASH) which helped pay his rent. The voucher allowed him to rent his own place where he could live with his emotional support dog. Michael relied on a local food bank for food. He had applied for Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and his application was pending, when he received notice of the eviction.

Michael had gotten into a verbal argument with a neighbor, who had threatened to call animal control to have his emotional support dog taken away from him. The landlord filed an eviction case due to this confrontation. The stress from the eviction and threat to call animal control aggravated Michael's PTSD, so he chose to find alternate housing. Because of his limited income and service dog, Michael struggled to find new housing.

Our attorney was able to find new housing for him and have his HUD-VASH transferred. Our attorney also helped him secure payment of his security deposit through the Veterans Assistance Center and a private foundation.

With our attorney's assistance, Michael was able to negotiate a settlement with his landlord and avoid an eviction judgment. He kept his housing voucher, as well as service dog. In addition, his application for SSI was approved, so Michael now has a steady source of income and is living in a place that makes him feel safe and secure.

*Land of Lincoln prioritizes legal assistance to veterans and the active military.
Our goals are to obtain and preserve income and health benefits, prevent
homelessness, and promote family stability.*



JUSTICE FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS

Kala, a mother of one young child, sought our assistance with an order of protection and divorce from her abusive husband. During the marriage, he became extremely violent when he started drinking excessively. In one incident, he pulled Kala by her hair to the car and choked her while they were driving. A month later, he strangled her with a cord in the house, put his gun in her mouth and threatened to kill her, after kicking and slamming her into a wall. A mutual friend called the police, and Kala's husband was arrested and charged with aggravated domestic battery and aggravated battery with the use of a deadly weapon.

Our attorney represented her in an order of protection hearing. The court granted her a Plenary Order of Protection and awarded her exclusive possession of their home and no parenting time for her husband. Our attorney also represented her in a divorce, which the court granted. Kala was awarded primary custody of her son, child support, and the marital home. The court restricted her ex-husband's visitation to one supervised visit per week. Kala and her son are now safe and able to live their lives free of the violence that overwhelmed them before the divorce.

Family safety and stability is one of our core priorities. Our goals include protecting victims and families from domestic violence, and ensuring continued stability and well-being through access to income and health benefits, housing, and spousal/child support.



JUSTICE FOR SENIORS

Barbara, a senior citizen living in an assisted living facility, called Land of Lincoln after she received an eviction notice. She was at risk of getting kicked out of the facility because of a \$46,000 Medicaid penalty she incurred when her estranged husband sold property several years back. She filed a hardship waiver with the State, but it was immediately denied.

A Land of Lincoln attorney helped Barbara appeal the denial, and showed the State that she never received the proceeds from the sale of the property. She was separated from her husband and had no chance of recovering any money she was penalized for.

After negotiating, the State eventually reversed course and approved the hardship waiver for Barbara. Her \$46,000 Medicaid penalty was waived and she was no longer at risk of being removed from her home at the facility.

In addition to her nursing home eviction case, Land of Lincoln assisted Barbara in divorcing her estranged husband. Barbara no longer has to worry about her housing and Medicaid benefits being in jeopardy due to her former husband's actions.

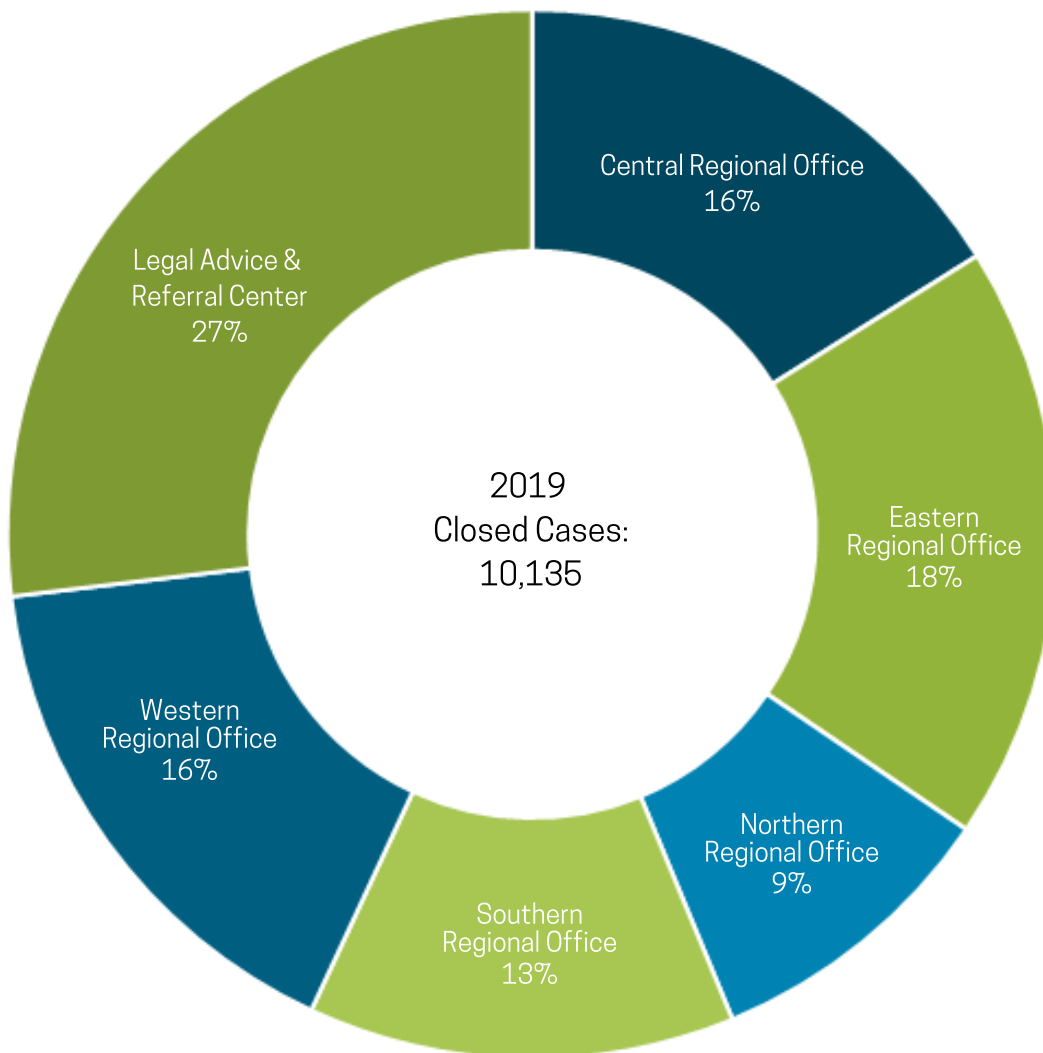
The protection of seniors and persons with disabilities is one of our core priorities. Our goals are to protect these individuals from exploitation, fraud, and violence, promote independence, and encourage self-determination.

CLOSED CASES BY PRACTICE AREA



Family Safety & Stability Orders of Protection, Divorce, Custody, Guardianship, Education	4,029
Housing Rental, Homeownership	1,802
Elder Law Elder Abuse, Financial Exploitation, Advanced Directives and Wills	1,587
Consumer Protection Consumer Fraud, Debt Collection, Bankruptcy	1,076
Expungement & Sealing of Criminal Records	1,014
Health & Income Security Medicare, Medicaid, SSDI, SSI, Employment	525
Miscellaneous	102

CLOSED CASES BY OFFICE



Central Regional Office	1,631
Eastern Regional Office	1,866
Northern Regional Office	939
Southern Regional Office	1,333
Western Regional Office	1,641
Legal Advice & Referral Center	2,725



OUR PEOPLE

LEGAL AID STAFF

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Kathy Fleshren
Clarissa Gaff
Kim Harrington
Calvin Hwang
Lura January
Dawn Ripperda
Susan Simone
Jacqueline Tate
Denise Wiegand

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Jenni Schroll
Oveta Thomas
Kyle Warner

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Cami Plough



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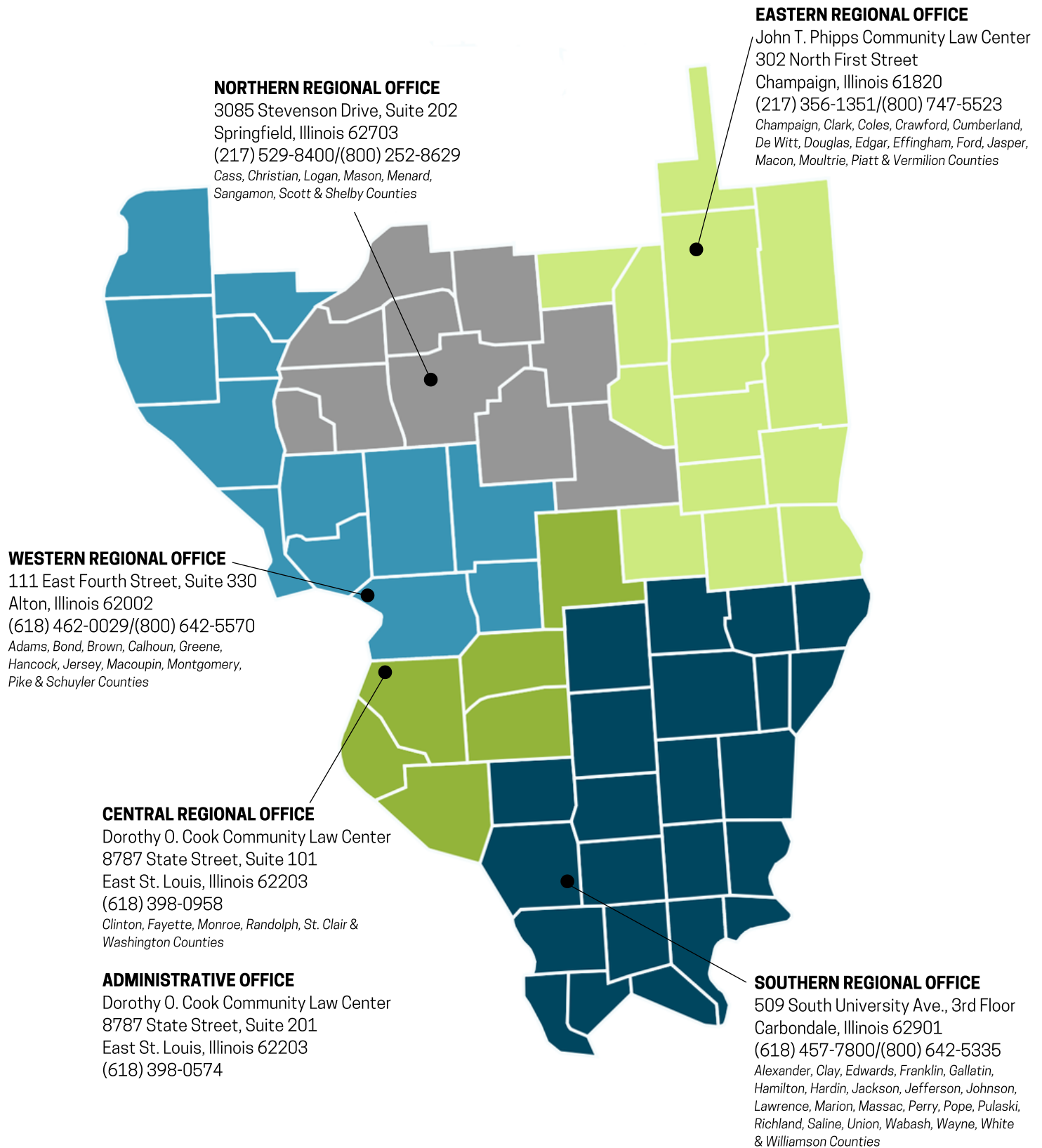
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Gerald Reed, *Advisor*

WHERE WE WORK



OUR PRO BONO PROGRAM

Land of Lincoln Legal Aid is grateful for the help of the private bar in meeting the legal needs of low-income residents of southern and central Illinois. Private attorneys partner with Land of Lincoln to provide pro bono legal services to our clients and are critical to ensuring access to justice to all, not just those who can afford it. In 2019, pro bono attorneys handled over 550 cases referred by Land of Lincoln. The following attorneys are currently active in our Pro Bono Attorney Program.

Central Regional Office

Jeanne Aubuchon
Jennifer Behme
Gary Bement
Thomas Benedict
Curtis Blood
Natalie Bower
Patricia Brennan
Pearson Bush
Don Collins
Ryan Connor
Ashley Cook
Bruce Cook
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Heather Dabler
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Van-Lear Eckert
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Kelly Garrett Hicks
David Guymon
M. Ann Hatch
Beth Heaton
Rosemarie Heidenreich Parker
Dustin Hudson
Francine Johnston
John Johnston
Whitney Kampwerth-Luebbbers
Randy Kelley
Chet Kelly
Dominic Kujawa
Jill Laux Schubert
John Lee
Jaye Lindsay
Gary Mack
James Mendillo
Scott Meyer

Jamie Mitchell
Arthur Morris
Megan Nolan
Rosemarie Parker
Susan Parnell Wilson
Terry Peebles
Jeanna Raney
Kaitlyn Rausch
Phillip Rice
Russell Scott
Christopher Smith
Amy Spector
William Stiehl
Paul Storment III
Tim Stubblefield
Marleen Suarez
Christina Sugden
Judith Trentman-
Wilson
Dennis Watkins
Stan Weller
Misty Wuebbels

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Judy Baker
Catherine Barbercheck
Denise Bates
Ellen Beattie
Kimberly Blakely
Ellyn Bullock
Bruce Burkey
Marie Casteel
Esther Cha
Joseph Chamley
Jeff Clapper
Kenneth Crossman
Adam Crutchley
Richard Dahlenburg
Scott Dempsey
Charles Devens
John Elder

Eric Eves
Thorpe Facer
Jay Ferguson
Daniel Fossier
Kelly Freed
Aaron Galloway
Gary Geisler
William Gerber
David Giffin
Tara Grabarczyk
Helen Grandone
James Green
Steven Greene
Janet Grove
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Andrew Hatch
Kent Heller
Mia Hernandez
Forrest Heyman
Austin Hill
Brent Holmes
Kaylan Huber
Robert Jacobson
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Fred Johnson
Jerry Johnson
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Richard Kash, Jr.
Brian King
Ellen Lee
Scott Lerner
Stephen LeSueur
Todd Lichtenberger
Jerome Lyke
Holly Lynch
Anne Martinkus
Steven Mayberry
Thomas Mellen
Thomas Meyer
Charles Mockbee

Cynthia Morgan
Andrew Mudd
Madison Mullady-Winter
Traci Nally
Faruq Nelson
Kevin Nolan
Tobias Ortega
Joseph Pappas
Alyx Parker
Donald Parkinson
Sarah Ruholl Sehy
Twila Russell-Orr
David Ryan
Joseph Schroeder
Brian Schurter
Stephanie Scoles
William Scott
Stephen Sheffler
Rodney Smith
Kristin Solberg
Brooke Starks
Jennifer Stuart
David Thies
Lott Thomas
William Townsley
Cassandra Tuggle
Rebecca Wade
Angelica Wawrzynek
Barbra Webber
David Wesner
Paul Wieck
Hannah Wince
Janett Winter-Black
Jay Znaniecki

Northern Regional Office

Joseph Basola
Michelle Blackburn
Kaylee Boehm
Robert Bonjean
Andrew Bourey

Edward Costa
Roland Cross
Carl Draper
William Farr
Kelli Gordon
Rex Gradeless
Steve Iden
Joanna Johnson
Jessica Jones
Elizabeth Kling
A. Kopec
Walter Lookofsky
Carrie Magerl
Mark Morthland
Elizabeth Nohren
Darrel Parish
Erica Riplinger
Hugh Rowden
Ronald Stradt
James Zachry

Southern Regional Office

William Albee
Robert Bateson
Rebecca Blakeslee
John Brewster
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Nina Brown
Jonathan Cantrell
Abigail Dinn
Diana Douglas
William Easton
Kacey Eisenhauer
Edward Eytalis
Andrew Flynn
Joseph Ghibaudy
Maria Hafford
Aaron Hopkins
Jessica Hudspeth

Eugenia Hunter
Tammi Jackson
D. Kessler
Taylor McCann
Andrew McNeill
Gary Milone
Alice Noble-Allgire
David Piercy
Julie Quinn
Benjamin Reed
Meagan Rich
Robert Roth
Elisha Sanders
Patrick Sharpe
Diane Speir
Paige Strawn
Sarah Taylor
Edward Thompson
Jonathan Turpin
Casey Twomey
Gregory Veach
Tara Wallace
Julie Webb
Michael Wepsiec
Wenona Whitfield
Letitia Wiggins
Bartley Zuber

Western Regional Office

Bruce Alford
Bradley Allen
Laura Andrews
Brenda Baum
Michele Berkel
William Berry
Deborah Besserman
Betsy Bier
Elizabeth Bozicevic

Talmadge Brenner
Chad Brigham
Dedra Brock-Moore
Kathy Buckley
Ellen Burford
Rene Butler
Ryan Byers
Amber Cameron
Dustin Clark
Zachary Clark
Deborah Cobb
Tanja Cook
Patricia Dennis
Michael Diaz
Kurt Dittmer
Angela Donohoo
Christopher Donohoo
Bryan Dooling
Tony Dos Santos
James Drazen
Ellar Duff
Nate Elmore
Walker Filbert
Derek Filcoff
Janel Freeman
Jared Giuffre
Michael Glenn
Nick Graham
Craig Grummel
Rebecca Hausman
Deborah Hawkins
Amanda Highlander
Timothy Hinrichs
Michael Hollahan
Christopher Hunter
Christine Kovach
Paul Lauber
John Leonard
Bonnie Levo

Dustin Maguire
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Robert Watson
Jeffrey Weishaupt
Michael Wesley
Trent West
Brock Willeford
Leslie Wood
Dennis Woodworth
Rick Zimmerman

If you are interested in participating in our Pro Bono Attorney Program, please call the Regional Office (p. 15) which correlates with the counties in which you work and/or live, or contact the Administrative Office at (618) 398-0574.

OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

\$50,000 - \$75,000

Bruce & Sandra Cook
John Driscoll
Ted Gianaris
M. Ann Hatch
Simmons Hanly Conroy LLC

\$10,000 - \$49,999

Joseph Bartholomew
Ann Callis
Goldenberg Heller Antognoli
& Rowland, P.C.
Greensfelder, Hemker
& Gale, P.C.
Michael Nester
Russell Scott
St. Clair County Bar
Foundation

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Bruce & Ashley Cook
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HeplerBroom LLC
Thomas Q. Keefe
Madison County Bar
Association
Terrence O'Leary

\$1,000 - \$4,999

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G. Patrick Murphy
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Robert Nelson
Brendan Nester

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Alice Noble-Allgire
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Reed Heller & Roberts
Marilyn Resch
Dennis Ruth
Suzanne Schmitz
Scott & Scott, P.C.
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Diane Thompson
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United States Arbitration &
Mediation Midwest
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Walton Telken, LLC
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Linda & Glen Zazove

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Richard Goldenhersh
W. Charles Grace
Hanagan & McGovern PC
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William Hoffeditz
Husch Blackwell
Justin B. Mattea Law, LLC
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& Dempsey
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& Richter, Ltd.
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S. Byron Balbach
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Emery Barfield
John Baricevic
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Traci Basden
Angela Bates-Smith
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Ramon & Mary Canchola
Lilian Carlson
Michael Carr
Karoline Carstens
Howard Casey
Michael Casey
Dorothy Castleman
David Cates
David & Jo Ellen Cherry
Denise Church
& Allen Andrews
Citizens for Tom Gibbons
Beverly Clark
Leonard Cleary
Holly Clemons
CNB Bank & Trust
Elizabeth Cochran
Paul Cole
Committee to Elect
Andrew J. Gleeson
Committee to Elect
Jim Gomric
Lavena Compton
Collin & Anna Corcoran
Chris & Donna Correale
Nancy Cox
Karen Craig
Lori Crenshaw Bryant
Janet Cronin
Sean Cronin
Timothy Cronin
Roland Cross
Nora Cummings
Wesley Curtis
Dalpoas Family
Charitable Fund
Lois Daniels
Ellen Dauber
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Helen Grandone
Eric Grenzsbach
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Gunsalus-Walker
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Richard Harden
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Donna Rodgers
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Jackson & Sly, LLP
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Becca Scheiblaue
Catherine Schlick
Chris & Monica Scholz
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Sgro, Hanrahan, Durr, Rabin
& Bruce, LLP
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Mark Silvermintz
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David Slater
Sarah Smith-Raschen
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Emma Solis
Thomas Sonneborn
Sorling, Northrup, Hanna,
Cullen & Cochran Trust
Sharon Sparks
St. Clair County Public
Defender's Office
Charlotte Stetson

Patricia Stitzel
Guice G. Strong
Ava Taylor
Kathleen Taylor
Sarah J. Taylor
Virginia Taylor
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Richard Tognarelli
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April Troemper
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& Associates LLC
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LAND OF LINCOLN
THANKS ITS MANY
DONORS FOR THEIR
GENEROUS GIFTS OF
SUPPORT IN 2019.



OUR INSTITUTIONAL FUNDERS

AgeSmart Community Resources
Alton Woman's Home Association
Area Agency on Aging for Lincolnland
Carle Foundation Hospital
Champaign County
East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging
Illinois Bar Foundation
Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority
Illinois Department of Children & Family Services
Illinois Equal Justice Foundation
Lawyers Trust Fund of Illinois
Legal Services Corporation
Midland Area Agency on Aging
Office of the Attorney General of Illinois
Office on Violence Against Women (VAWA)
Public Interest Law Initiative
Saint Clair County Health Department
Saint Clair County Intergovernmental Grants
Southern Illinois Healthcare
Southern Illinois University School of Medicine - HIV Care Connect
Southern Illinois University School of Medicine - Medical-Legal Partnership
United Way of Champaign County
United Way of Greater St. Louis
United Way of Greater St. Louis - Southwest Illinois Division
United Way of Greater St. Louis - Tri-Cities Area Division

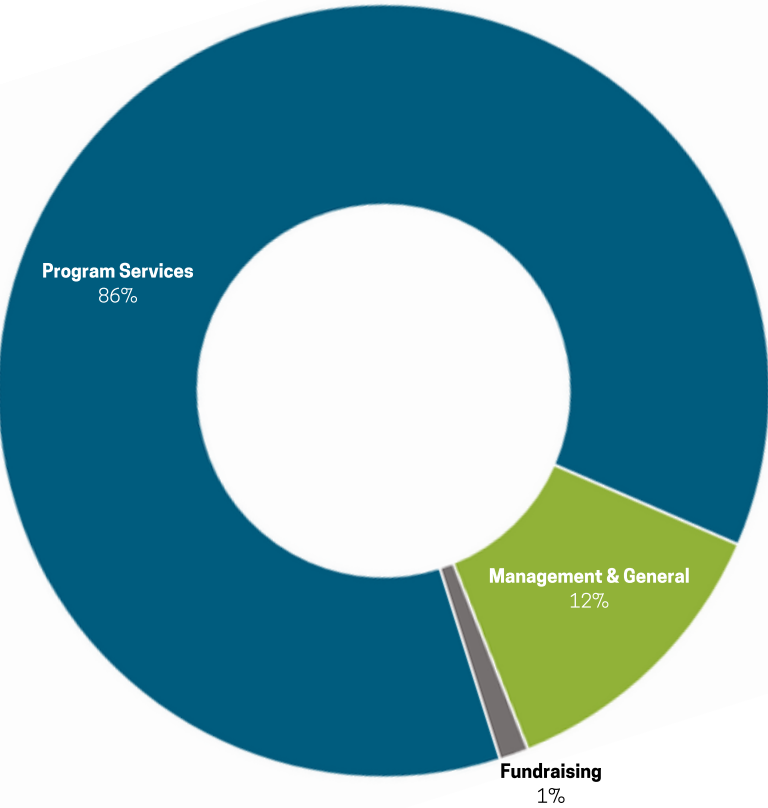
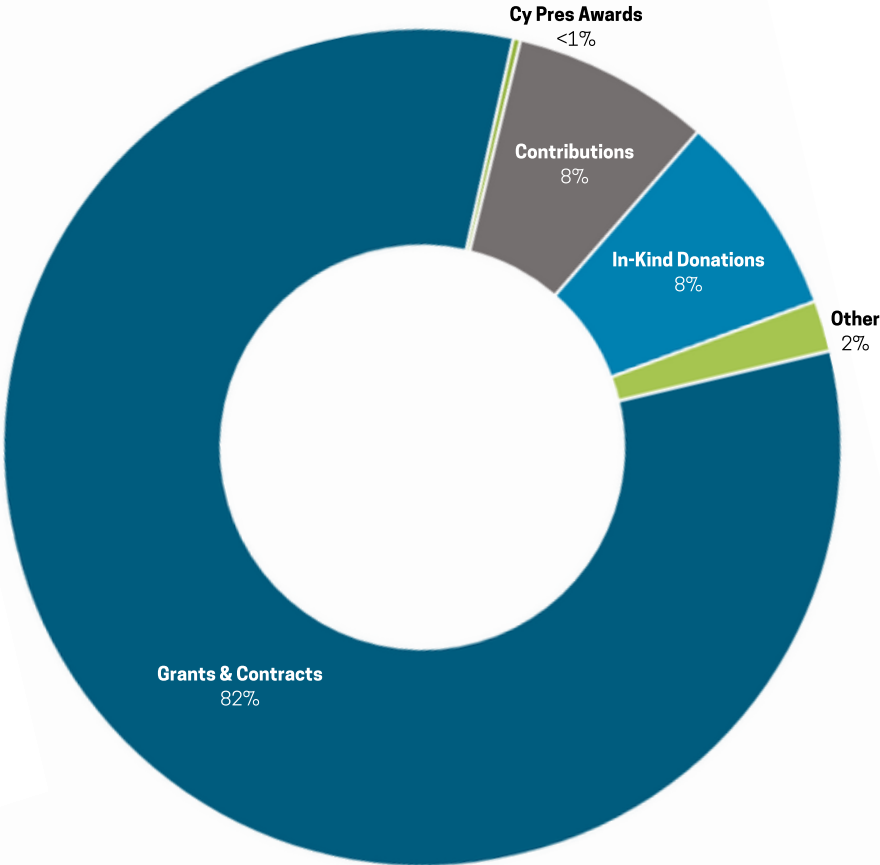
THANK YOU TO
OUR INSTITUTIONAL
FUNDERS WHO
SUPPORTED LAND
OF LINCOLN IN 2019.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

REVENUE

Grants	\$8,409,432
Cy Pres Awards	\$28,582
Contributions	\$783,472
In-Kind Donations (pro bono hours)	\$808,533
Other (investment income, attorneys fees, etc)	\$201,145

2019 Total Revenue = \$10,231,164



EXPENSES

Program Services	\$7,744,378
Management & General	\$1,111,238
Fundraising	\$110,201

2019 Total Expenses = \$8,965,817



8787 State Street, Ste. 201
East St. Louis, IL 62203

Land of Lincoln Legal Aid provides free legal assistance and representation on civil legal issues to residents throughout 65 counties in central and southern Illinois.

When they have nowhere else to turn, low-income families and individuals, people with disabilities, seniors, and veterans look to Land of Lincoln Legal Aid to help secure the most basic necessities of life.

Legal Advice & Referral Center

(877) 342-7891

Mon. - Thurs.: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Friday: 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The Fresh Start Project Hotline

(855) 601-9474

Mon. - Fri.: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



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