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We, the People of the State of Illinois ... in order to provide for the health, safety and welfare of the people; maintain a representative and orderly government; eliminate poverty and inequality; assure legal, social and economic justice; provide opportunity for the fullest development of the individual; insure domestic tranquility; provide for the common defense; and secure the blessings of freedom and liberty to ourselves and our posterity - do ordain and establish this Constitution for the State of Illinois.

PREAMBLE - ILLINOIS CONSTITUTION

LETTER TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Dear Friends and Supporters,

I read the Preamble of Illinois Constitution and was surprised by its bold aspirations - Eliminating poverty and inequality! Assuring legal, social and economic justice! A cursory glance at the preambles of surrounding states' constitutions revealed our neighbors don't share Illinoisans' ambitions. We know that all of you share these ideals. We are grateful for your commitment to creating a more fair and just society, where Illinoisans can one day be free from the unremitting effects of poverty.

At Land of Lincoln, we decided to take a page from Illinois' Preamble. In 2018, we changed our name from "Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation" to **Land of Lincoln Legal Aid**. "Legal Aid" has long embodied the concept of free legal assistance in critical areas of civil law protecting livelihoods, health, families and communities. In 1920, the American Bar Association created the first Legal Aid Committee, and by the mid 1960s there were over 150 legal aid offices in the United States. Today, there are over 500 legal aid organizations in the U.S. While not all organizations have the moniker "Legal Aid," we are proud that our new name clearly communicates that we are part of its rich history, and our continuing commitment to provide high quality legal assistance to the most vulnerable in our community. Further, our new logo, which boasts Abraham Lincoln's visage, is framed with the motto, "Breaking Barriers to Justice." Like the preamble, the motto communicates our aspirations and what we seek to achieve day in and day out. In this annual report, you'll find the stories of four individuals who, with Land of Lincoln's help, experienced the promise of Illinois' Constitution and our motto: justice. These are just four stories; in 2018, Land of Lincoln helped more than 13,000 of our friends, neighbors, and community members.

But we know that we alone didn't help those 13,000. We could not do what we do without **you**, the People. Our courageous clients, our fierce advocates, our indefatigable staff, our dedicated Board of Directors, our big-hearted pro bono volunteers, our compassionate community partners, and our generous funders and donors, are all part of our Land of Lincoln community, who are committed to providing for the health, safety and welfare for all people, and making the promise of justice for all a reality. Thank you!

Yours truly,

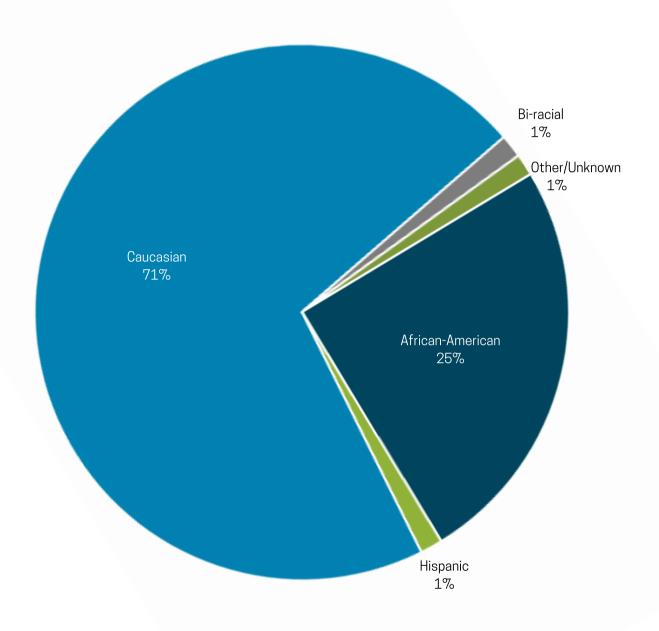
Clarissa Gaff Executive Director

OUR MISSION

Land of Lincoln Legal Aid's mission is to provide lowincome 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.

WHO YOU HELPED IN 2018

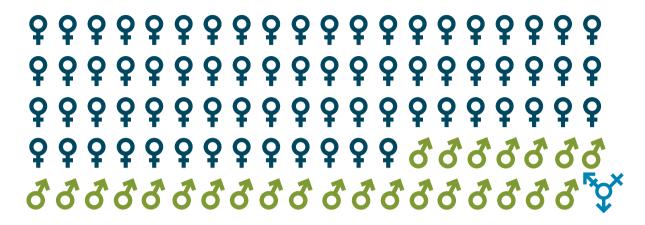
Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, Land of Lincoln was able to help more than 13,000 clients throughout our 65-county service area, including:

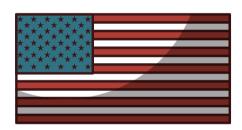


73% FEMALE

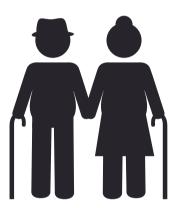
26% MALE

1% TRANSGENDER/ OTHER

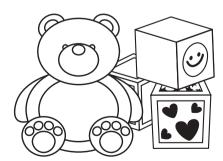




987 Active Military, Veterans & Their Families



2,388 Seniors



9,883 Children Impacted



JUSTICE FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS

The night after Thanksgiving, Ms. Davis and her child were awakened by the sound of urgent knocking on her door. She peered out and saw her angry ex-boyfriend. She told him to leave. Before the night was over, the ex-boyfriend had come back several times, trying to break down the door, throwing a bottle through her bedroom window, slashing her tires and shooting a gun in the air. She filed a police report and told the property manager at her subsidized apartment about the broken window.

A few days later, the property manager served her with a 30-day eviction notice. Distraught, Ms. Davis called Land of Lincoln. Her attorney at Land of Lincoln advised her of the protections under of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and helped her fill out a VAWA Certification to turn in to the property manager. When Ms. Davis gave it to the property manager, the property manager threw it back in her face and blamed Ms. Davis for the violence.

The landlord still filed an eviction. Land of Lincoln defended Ms. Davis at court. After an hours-long contested trial, the judge refused to allow the eviction and told the parties, "I believe Ms. Davis. I believe she is a victim. I can't think of anything she could have done differently. I'm glad this man didn't get in that night." Ms. Davis and her child remain safely housed.

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

Myra K., a 95-year old widow, came to Land of Lincoln Legal Aid after the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) denied her request for Medicaid to pay for a stair lift that would enable her to leave her basement apartment. Due to age and infirmity, Mrs. K could no longer walk up the stairs, and her son either carried her up or she crawled up them. Medicaid denied her request for a stair lift even though it was medically necessary for her to stay in the community, rather than move into a long-term care facility.

Mrs. K's son represented her at the administrative hearing at IDHS and tried to file a Complaint at the Circuit Court after the request for the stair lift was denied at the IDHS hearing. Mrs. K then contacted Land of Lincoln, who agreed to represent her at court. Her attorney argued that the stair lift was medically necessary for Mrs. K and that IDHS used the wrong standard when it denied her stair lift request at the hearing. The Judge agreed that the stair lift was necessary and IDHS should provide it. Ultimately, the stair lift was paid for and installed by IDHS. Mrs. K can now exit the basement on her own and can continue to live independently in the community rather than being forced into long-term care.

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.



JUSTICE FOR VETERANS

A Land of Lincoln attorney met a homeless veteran through the Salvation Army. He had been homeless for eight years, stashing his backpack and tarp behind a dumpster during the day until he retrieved it nightly to take cover. The Salvation Army called Land of Lincoln for assistance while the veteran was there, since he was hard to reach. The attorney rushed over to meet with the veteran.

The veteran had applied for Social Security numerous times and had been denied. At the time our attorney met him, he had received yet another denial letter and had failed to timely appeal the denial of Social Security benefits. The attorney gently coaxed his story out of him and learned that he had several disabilities, literacy issues, and he had not received the letter until his deadline for appeal had passed because he received all his mail at a food pantry that was sporadically open.

Our attorney wrote a request asking the Social Security Administration (SSA) to allow him to appeal and explained his situation. SSA allowed him to appeal. The attorney also helped him provide the necessary follow up information to SSA and helped him handle its phone calls. On the final phone call from SSA, the veteran learned that he would receive \$15,000 in back benefits, and monthly Social Security benefits going forward. As a result, he is no longer homeless.

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.



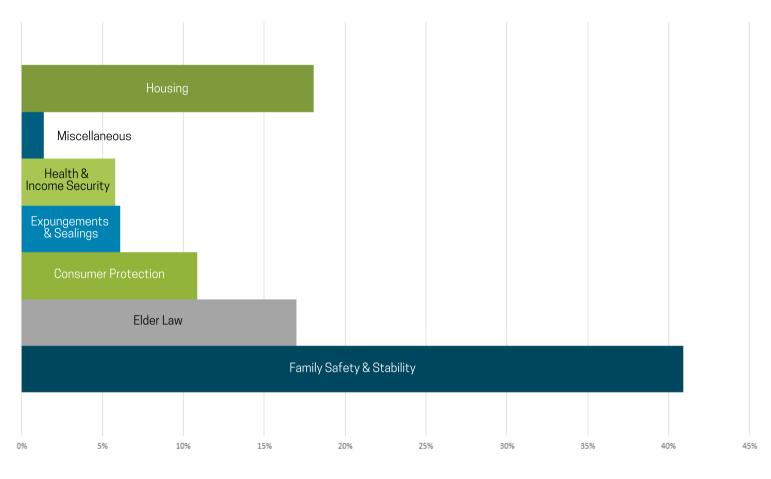
JUSTICE FOR FAMILIES

A single father was struggling to pay his utilities and a past due medical bill, when he found his wages were at risk of being garnished. He was also at risk of losing his car because he couldn't make his final car payment. His car was vital because he lived in a rural county with no public transportation.

That's when he turned to Land of Lincoln. Our attorney filed a Chapter 7 bankruptcy on his behalf. His utility and medical debts were discharged, and the financing company removed fees and interest from his final car payment. The father was able to keep his car, which allowed him to continue to take his elementary-age son to school, make it to work, and travel to trade school for training. Land of Lincoln helped him secure the stability he needed to build his future.

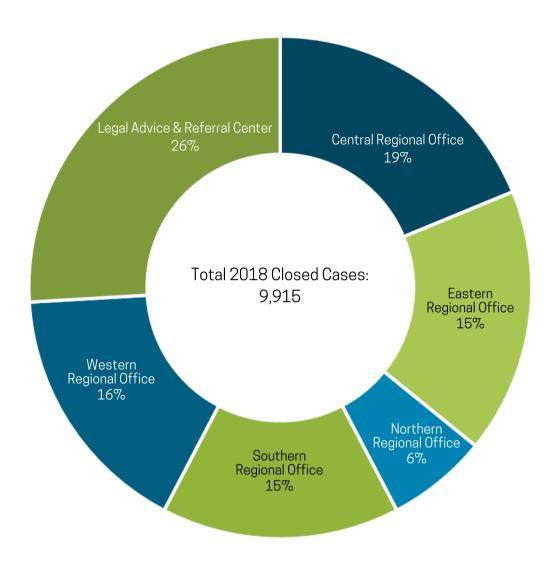
Consumer Protection is a core Priority for Land of Lincoln. We protect individuals from abusive collection practices, consumer fraud, and predatory lending. We also seek to preserve their limited income, so that the clients and their families can meet critical day-to-day needs, such as rent, food, medical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

CLOSED CASES BY PRACTICE AREA



Family Safety & Stability Orders of Protection, Divorce, Custody,	4,057
Guardianship, Education Housing Rental, Homeownership	1,789
Elder Law Elder Abuse, Financial Exploitation,	1,682
Advanced Directives and Wills Consumer Protection Conusmer Fraud, Debt Collection, Bankruptcy	1,077
Expungement & Sealing of Criminal Records	604
Health & Income Security Medicare, Medicaid, SSDI, SSI, Employment	572
Miscellaneous	134

CLOSED CASES BY OFFICE



Central Regional Office	1,862
Eastern Regional Office	1,692
Northern Regional Office	643
Southern Regional Office	1,519
Western Regional Office	1,629
Legal Advice & Referral Center	2,570



OUR PEOPLE

LEGAL AID STAFF

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Debby Brown
Kathy Fleshren
Clarissa Gaff
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Lura January
Dawn Ripperda
Susan Simone
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Julie Rose
John Roska
Thomas Sweeney
Susan Zielke

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Kyle Warner

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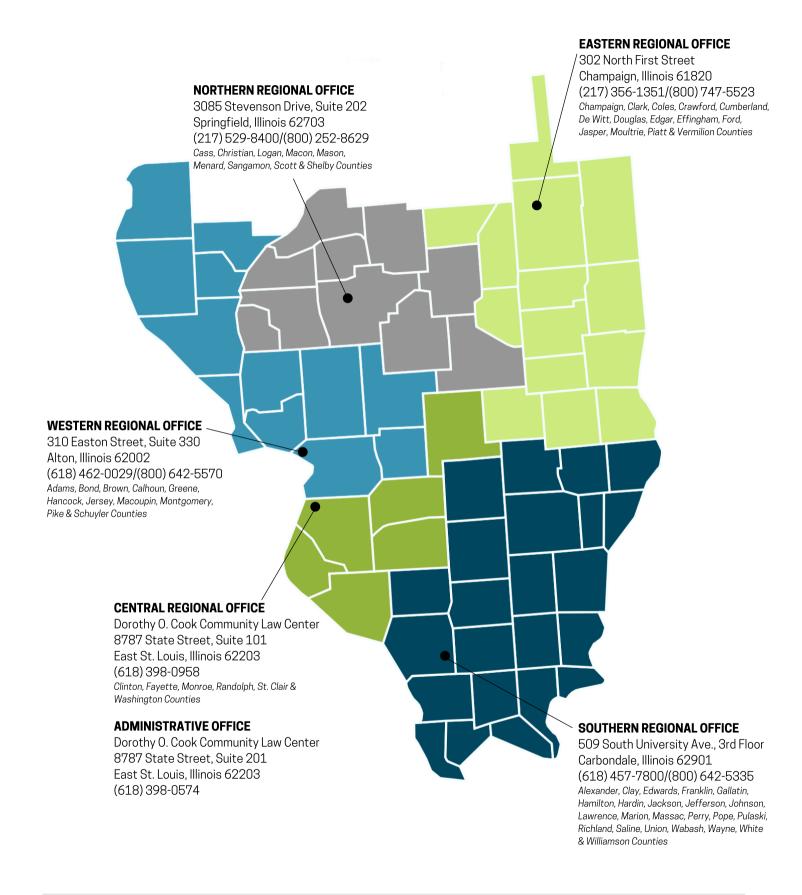
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Benjamin Edwards, Advisor M. Ann Hatch, Advisor Karen Owens, Advisor John Phipps, Advisor

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 2018, pro bono attorneys handled over 500 cases referred by Land of Lincoln. One of those cases was on behalf of an elderly couple who found themselves in circumstances no parents want to find themselves in—taking care of their middle-aged son, who had suffered a seizure that caused irreparable brain damage. Facing complex decisions regarding medical care and finances, they turned to Land of Lincoln for help. We referred them to a pro bono attorney, who helped them obtain a guardianship of their son so they could make the necessary arrangements for his care.

In 2018, other pro bono attorneys helped individuals with a variety of legal problems, including a veteran with a terminal illness needing a will and a mother of two who needed a divorce and help getting child support. Land of Lincoln annually awards its Joseph Bartylak Pro Bono Award to a pro bono attorney in each of its offices' service territories who has achieved outstanding results for our clients. In 2018, we honored: Hon. Julie Katz (Central Regional Office), Hallie Bezner (Eastern Regional Office), Denise Church (Northern Regional Office), Maria Hafford (Southern Regional Office), and Tania Cook (Western Regional Office). The following attorneys are curently active in our Pro Bono Attorney Program.

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Helen Grandone

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Beyond referring individual cases, Land of Lincoln offers other opportunities for attorneys who want to participate in pro bono work. One of our most successful opportunities is our Sealing and Expungement Summits. One of our priorities is to remove barriers to employment for our clients. Without gainful full-time employment, our clients struggle to meet their day-to-day needs. Employers routinely conduct background checks of job applicants, and many will not hire applicants with criminal records, including records that are decades old.

Lauren Gearhart

The demand for assistance to seal and expunge criminal records is very high, and the most effective way to help as many clients as possible in this area of law is to hold annual Sealing and Expungement Summits throughout our service area. Due to the vast number of clients seeking assistance at these summits, our staff attorneys cannot meet the demand. We rely on pro bono attorneys to help us serve as many people as possible on these days. In 2018, pro bono volunteers assisted at five of these summits in Danville, Champaign, Belleville, Granite City and Springfield.





OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

\$25.000 - \$75.000

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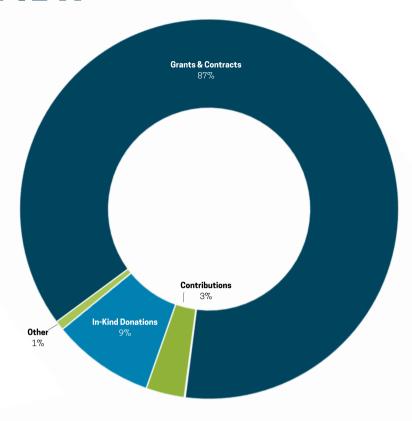
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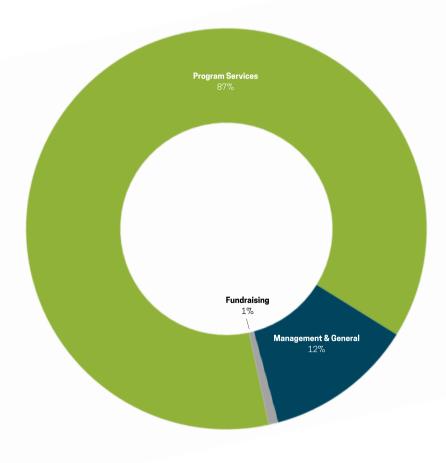
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

REVENUE

0	
Grants	\$8,085,536
Cy Pres Awards	\$6,565
Contributions	\$305,141
In-Kind Donations (pro bono hours)	\$809,021
Other (investment income, attorneys fees, etc)	\$73,919

2018 Total Revenue = \$9,280,182





EXPENSES

Program Services \$8,118,989 Management & General \$1,116,792 Fundraising \$72,411

2018 Total Expenses = \$9,308,192



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.



