

2020

ANNUAL REPORT



LAND OF
LINCOLN
-LEGAL AID-

Breaking Barriers to Justice

IN THIS REPORT

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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 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,

On March 17, 2020, in response to the statewide COVID-19 shutdown, we closed our offices, gathered files and laptops, and sent our staff home to work at their kitchen tables, in their bedrooms, and if they were lucky - spare offices. It felt ominous, but I assumed it would be short-lived.

I was wrong.

In short order, we found ourselves forced to adapt to this new reality and figure out on the fly how to best serve our many clients and those newly unemployed and in need of legal help. Attorneys became frontline workers, attending courts where they might be unable to social distance and were often the only one masked. We set up zoom hearing rooms, so our clients who lacked internet or camera could attend court in our offices. For seniors wanting to execute advance directives, we instituted a drive-thru model, setting up tents in parking lots where notaries and staff alike assisted. Our outreach went virtual - Facebook Live "Know Your Rights" events with community partners, informational cartoon videos on our YouTube channel, and Expungement Summits conducted on a variety of virtual platforms.

The silver lining of the COVID-19 pandemic is that it spurred innovation and ingenuity in our response at Land of Lincoln. But the economic and social toll of this pandemic, not to mention the human suffering and devastating loss of lives, have had a striking impact on our staff and our clients. I felt a lump welling in my throat a few days ago as I reviewed cases staff have designated "COVID-related": a grandmother seeking custody of her grandkids after her daughter died of COVID; another client who got COVID, was hospitalized, took three months to partially recover and was in danger of getting evicted because he couldn't work. While Land of Lincoln is uniquely situated to help them resolve these legal problems and provide some peace of mind, we know it will take years for our community members to heal.

This is why we are so grateful for all of you. The steadfast support of all you - our funders, friends, donors, and champions - have enabled us to weather this pandemic and help more than 10,000 Illinois residents last year. You have ensured our provision of high quality legal services in the hardest of times and deliver justice to many. We couldn't do it without you. Thank you.

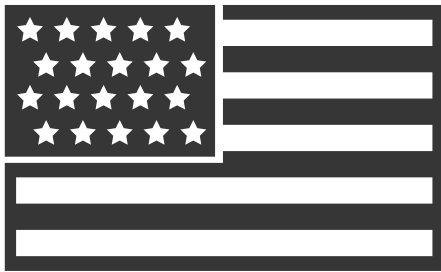
Yours truly,



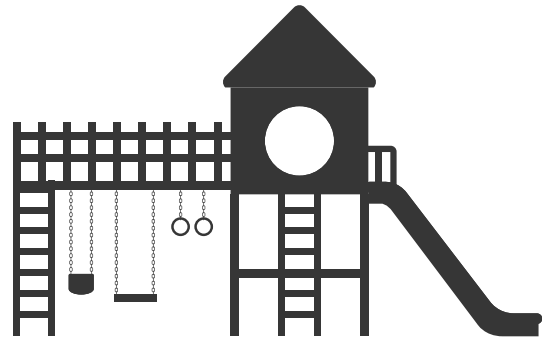
Clarissa Gaff
Executive Director

WHO YOU HELPED IN 2020

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, Land of Lincoln was able to help more than 8,700 clients throughout our 65-county service area, including:



726 Active Military,
Veterans & Their Families



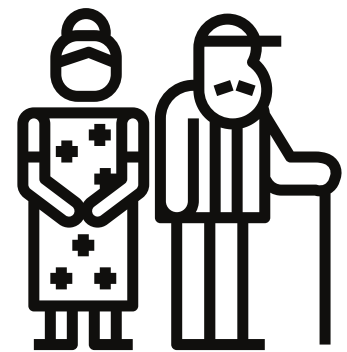
9,011
Children Impacted



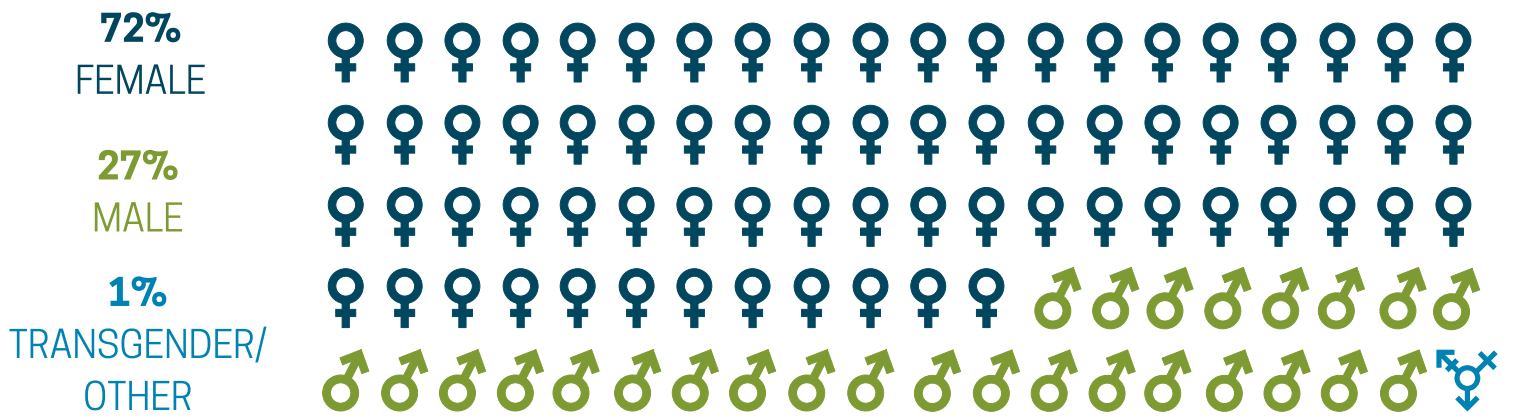
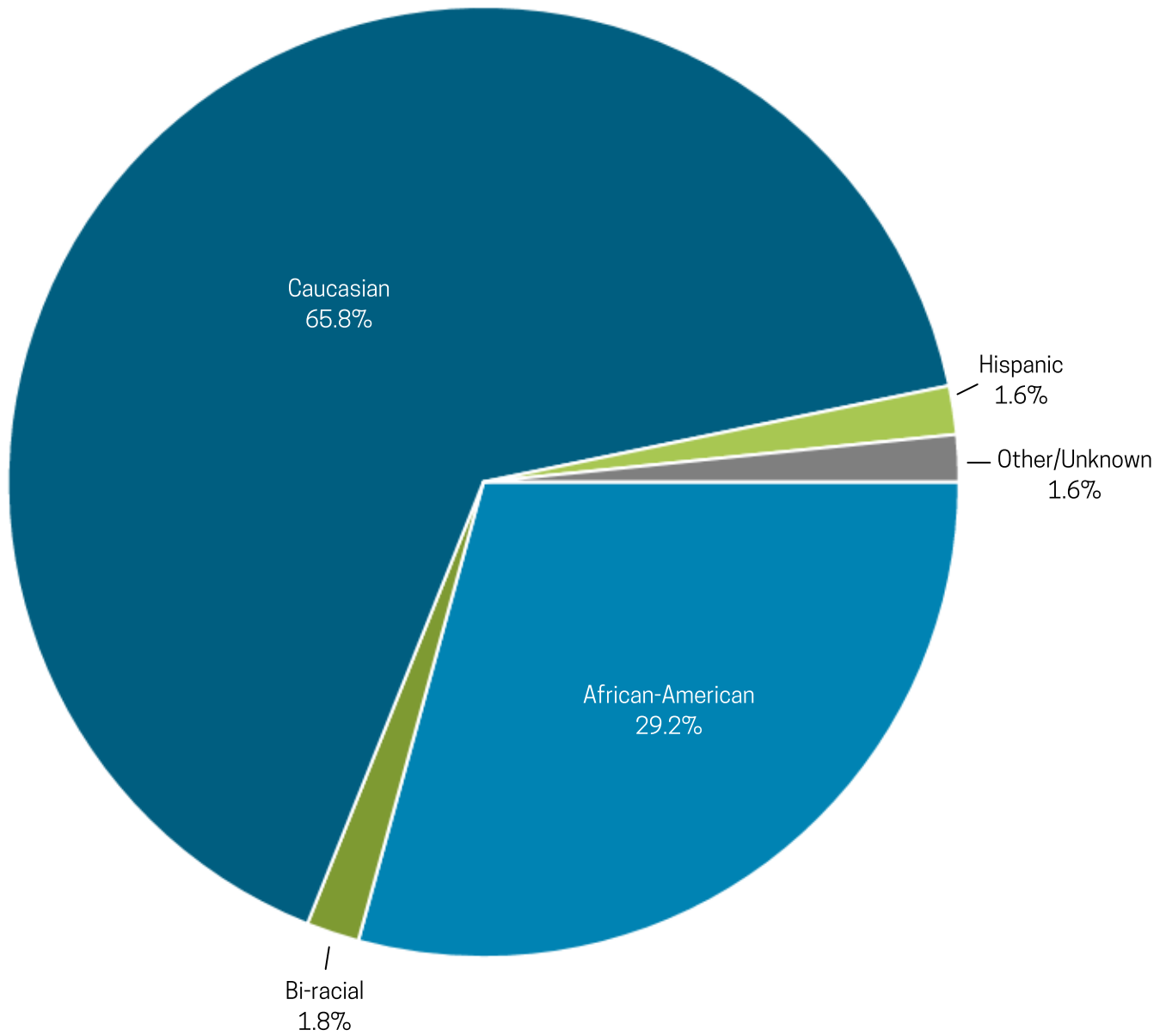
2,185
Living with a Disability



2,134
Survivors of
Domestic Violence



1,751
Seniors



A FRESH START

A Land of Lincoln attorney assisted Tony, a veteran who made a good living as a truck driver after completing his military service and returning to civilian life. Tony had gone through a period in which he struggled with drug addiction that resulted in the loss of good paying jobs. He also received several felony convictions.

After his last arrest over 10 years ago, Tony successfully completed rehab and has been drug-free ever since.

Since becoming sober, Tony was able to get a job as a truck driver and has worked his way up the ranks. He applied for a promotion to a supervisory position, but was turned down due to his convictions.

Our attorney filed a petition to seal and expunge Tony's records. After the state's attorney objected, the attorney presented Tony at a hearing. Tony testified at the hearing about how he had changed and the impact his criminal record had on his life and his employment prospects. The court granted expungement of two records and sealing of three. Tony's employer has been supportive of his efforts to expunge and seal his records, and notified him that he is likely to receive the promotion.



Image by kzenon via Canva



JUSTICE FOR TENANTS

In August 2020, Madison County was continuing to hold eviction hearings, but entering judgments with dates after the Governor's eviction moratorium order was set to expire. The Governor's moratorium orders had been entered every 30 days, so some of the eviction judgments had dates on them that were in violation of the current moratorium order (e.g. August 1).

In mid-August, Land of Lincoln's Western Regional Office Managing Attorney, Chelsea Hubbard, received a frantic call from a mobile home tenant who, with his family of five, was going to be evicted that afternoon. The Sheriff had stopped by that morning to let the tenant know.

Chelsea called the Sheriff's office and attempted to educate them about the current moratorium that was in place until August 22nd, but the Sheriff's office insisted that it would enforce the eviction of the tenant and other tenants it had slated to evict that day.

Chelsea immediately called the State's Attorney, who intervened with the Sheriff's office and was able to get the evictions stopped. Madison County's Chief Judge issued an order halting further eviction trials and stayed the issuances of summons when evictions were filed. With Chelsea's tremendous advocacy, she was able to stop evictions in this county.

JUSTICE FOR SENIORS

Lauretta, a senior citizen living in an assisted living facility, called Land of Lincoln after she received an eviction notice. She was at risk of being kicked out of the facility because of a \$61,000 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, Megan Kinney, helped Lauretta 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 Lauretta. Her Medicaid penalty was waived and she was no longer at risk of being removed from her home at the facility.

Like many of our clients, Lauretta had several other legal issues. In addition to her assisted living facility eviction case, Land of Lincoln attorney, Nathan Elwood, assisted her in divorcing her estranged husband. In the midst of the divorce, we discovered that Lauretta had not received her pandemic economic stimulus payment of \$1,200, which would help her afford incidentals like toothpaste. One of our paralegals, Felicia Voelkel, patiently facilitated calls between the IRS and Lauretta, and within a few days, she received her stimulus payment.



Image by Laretta T.

JUSTICE FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS

Ruth, a mother of two young children, sought our assistance with an order of protection and a divorce from her abusive husband. Ruth had suffered abuse throughout their marriage. Her husband had beaten and choked her in the past, and he was emotionally abusive. When Ruth told him she wanted a divorce, he obtained an Emergency Order of Protection against her by falsely accusing her of being abusive. She was forced to temporarily leave her home, and he gained temporary custody of their children.

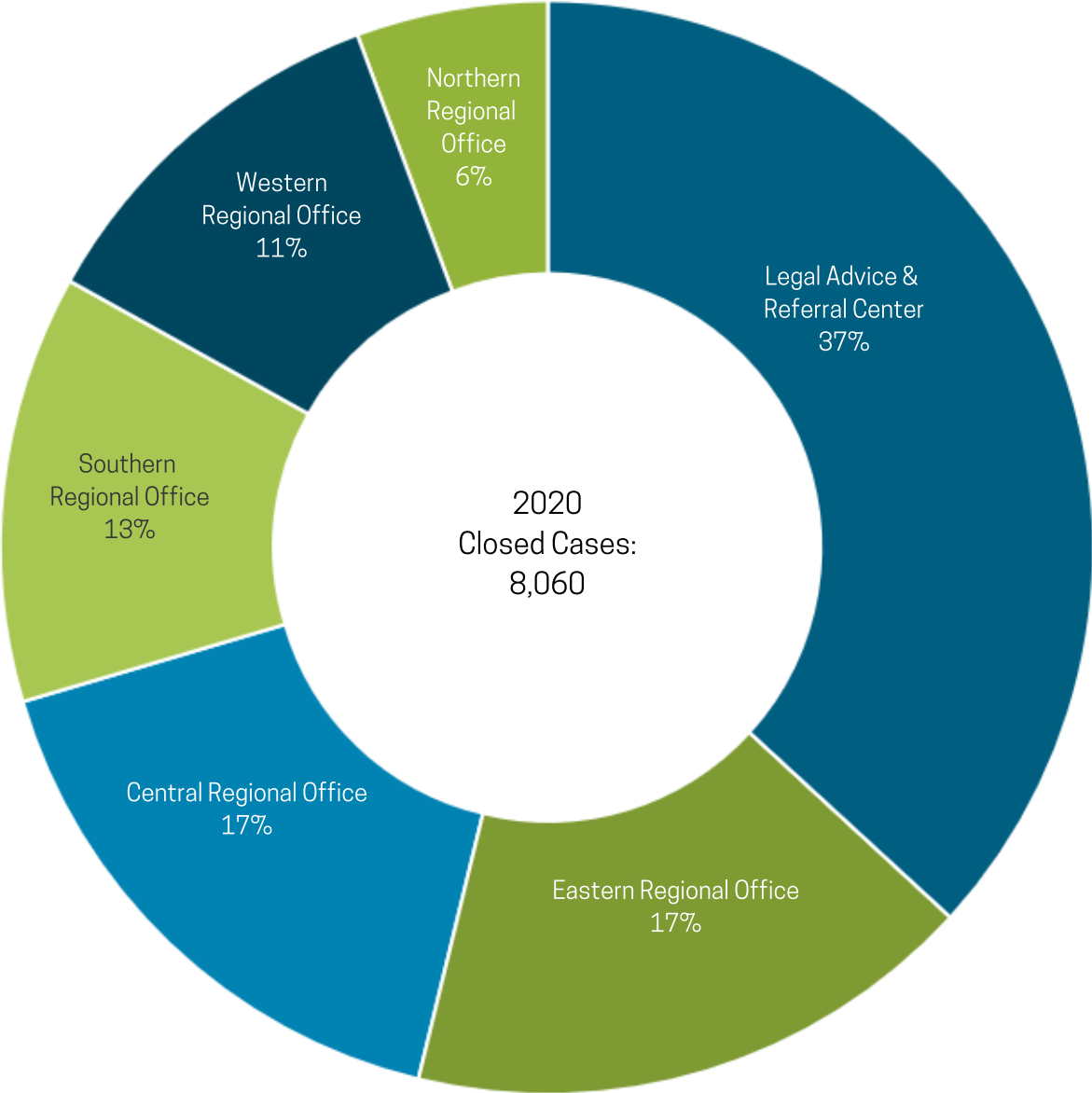
A Land of Lincoln attorney represented Ruth in court and prevented a wrongful plenary order of protection from being entered against her. While our attorney was representing her in the divorce proceeding, our client's husband began harassing her via text messages and told their children that he was going to kill their mother. Our attorney represented Ruth in an order of protection hearing, and the court granted a Plenary Order of Protection.

In the divorce proceeding, the court awarded Ruth with primary custody of the two children, and her ex-husband's visitation was restricted to every other weekend. The court also awarded Ruth possession of the marital home.

Ruth was thrilled with the result, and she and her children are now living their lives free from violence.

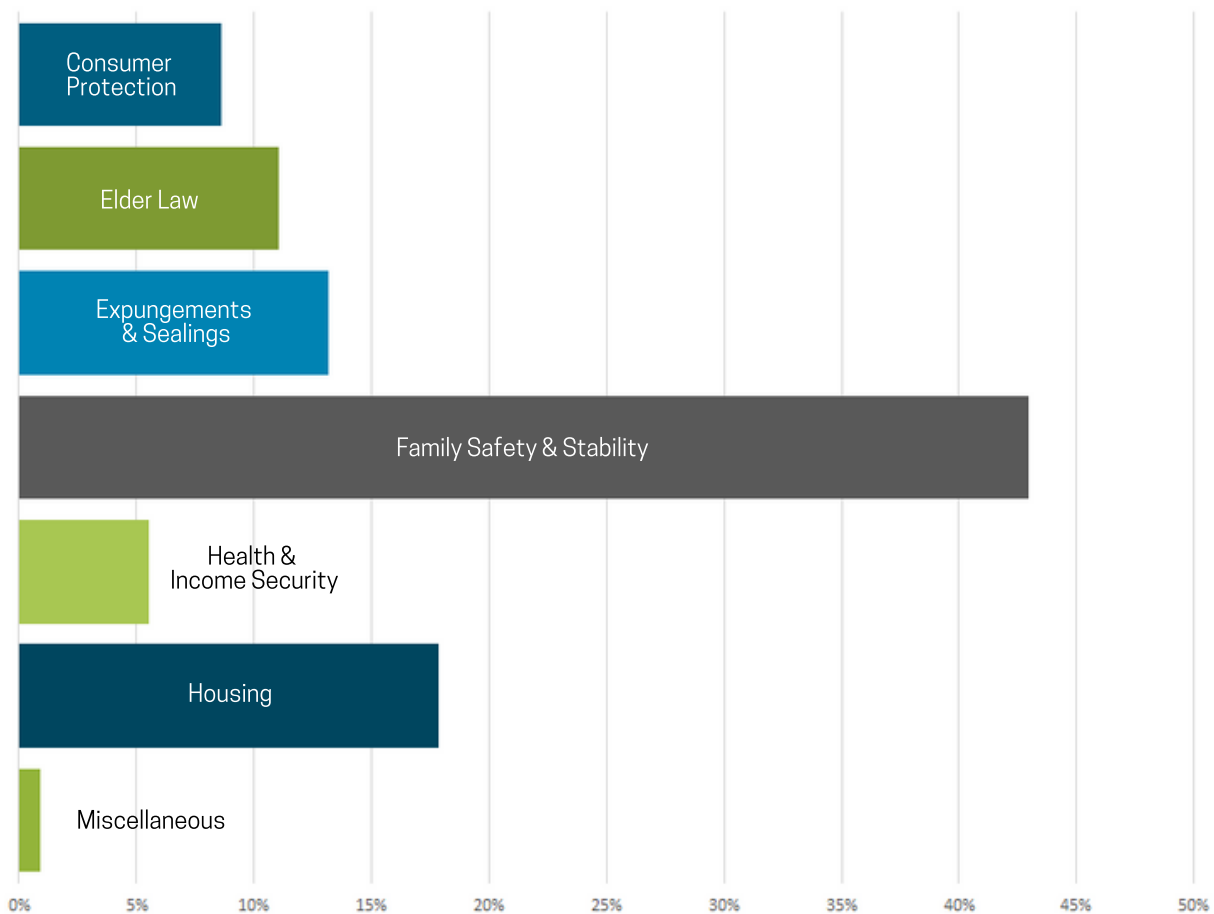


CLOSED CASES BY OFFICE



Central Regional Office	1,345
Eastern Regional Office	1,367
Northern Regional Office	453
Southern Regional Office	1,019
Western Regional Office	910
Legal Advice & Referral Center	2,966

CLOSED CASES BY AREA OF LAW



Family Safety & Stability	3,464
<small>Orders of Protection, Divorce, Custody, Guardianship, Education</small>	
Housing	1,437
<small>Rental, Homeownership</small>	
Elder Law	890
<small>Elder Abuse, Financial Exploitation, Advanced Directives and Wills</small>	
Consumer Protection	691
<small>Consumer Fraud, Debt Collection, Bankruptcy</small>	
Expungement & Sealing	1,061
Health & Income Security	443
Miscellaneous	74

OUR PEOPLE

LEGAL AID STAFF

Administrative Office

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

Central Regional Office

Angela Bates-Smith
Liz Baum
Rosemary Berkemann
Daniel Blair
Nathan Elwood
Elliott Jensen
Keesha Kimbrow
Megan Kinney
Shayla Moran
William Mueller
Julie Poplstein
Kate Scott
Sheila Smith
Levora Taylor
Angela Torblaa
Felicia Voelkel
May Yeh

Northern Regional Office

Benjamin Brown
Sandra Brown
Dowin Coffy
Melinda Hubele
Zherong Kang
Libra McNeese
McKinzie Oshesky
Sarah Peterson
Candice Stearns
Kathy Taylor

Western Regional Office

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Sandy Bohlen
Debbie Bowermaster
Kathryn Bushue
Chelsea Hubbard
Daniel Kuehnert
Fawn Pettet
Cami Plough
Kendall Reeves
Emily Riley

Legal Advice & Referral Center

Colleen Cadagin
Cassandra Cooper
Michele Davis
Stephanie Gardner
Tanya Gilbert
Jeffrey McDonald
Jenni Schroll
Oveta Thomas
Kyle Warner

Eastern Regional Office

Angela Boley
Kathy Burk
Patricia Coventry
Jessica Dixon
Joe Duncker
Caitlin Isbell
Brett Kepley
Sally Kolb
John Lafond
Amanda Marie
Nicole Massey
Valerie McWilliams
Emily Ochs
Julie Rose
John Roska
Susan Zielke

Southern Regional Office

Talesha Brooks
Steven Burgess
Christy Champ
Lana Crawford
Christina Dent
Nicholette Dolin
Kayla Estes
Tina Ewbank
Diane Goffinet
Sandi Gordon
Jason Grenman
Paul Matalonis
Madison Olsen
Ruth Schneider
Roberta Shallenberger
Heather Tillewein
Lindsay Wantuck
Andrew Weaver
Ben Youther

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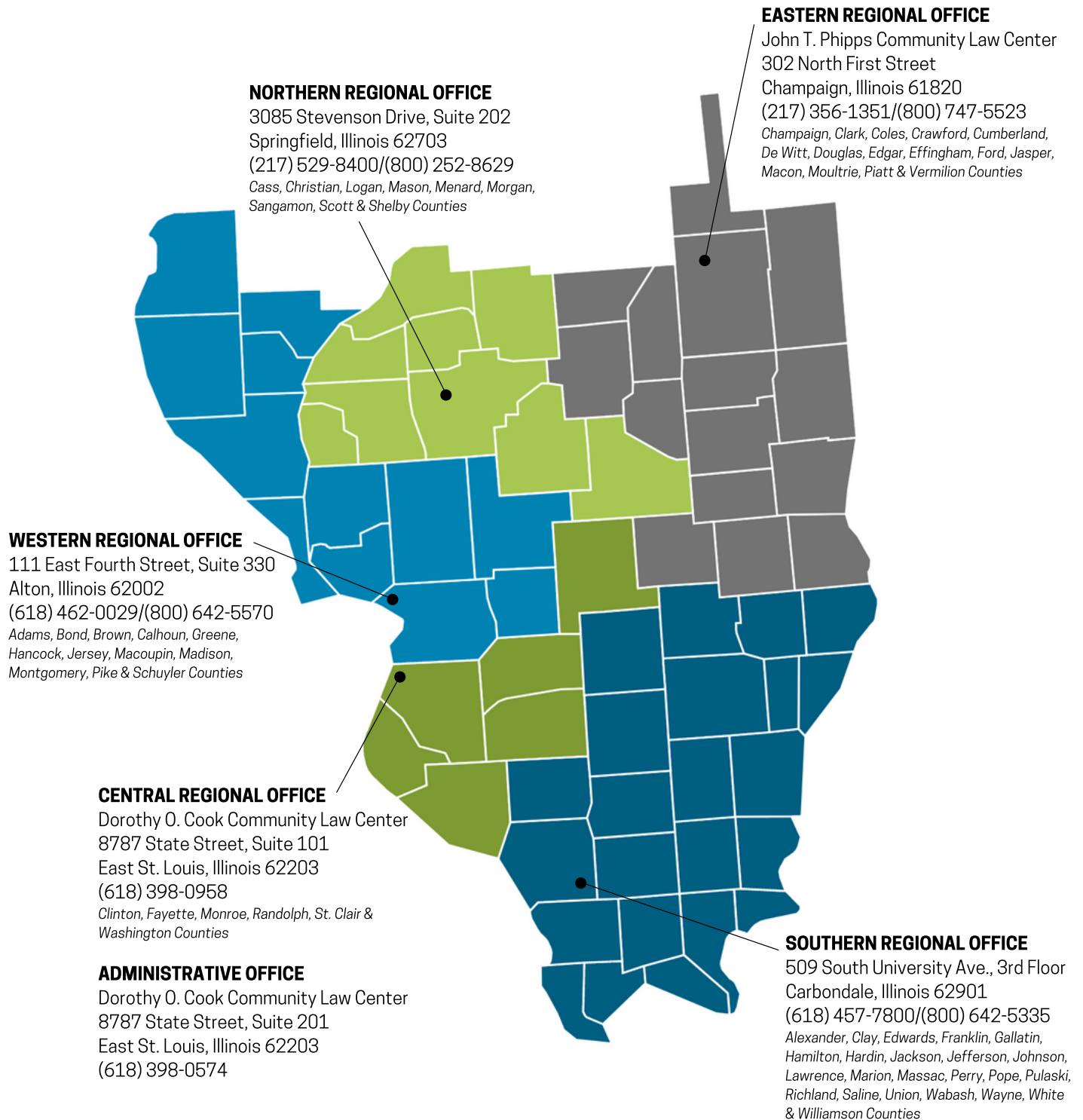
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Gerald S. Reed
John Thies

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 2020, pro bono attorneys handled 836 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
Deborah Cobb
Ryan Connor
Bruce Cook
Charles Courtney
Heather Dabler
Van-Lear Eckert
M. Caitlin Embrich
Richard Erdmann
Alan Farris
Cheryl Fisher
Brian Flynn
Matt Foster
Michael Garavalia
Kelly Garrett Hicks
Megan Gilbreth
Benjamin Grohmann
David Guymon
M. Ann Hatch
Beth Heaton
Dustin Hudson
Keith Jacob
Francine Johnston
John Johnston
Whitney Kampwerth-Luebbbers
Daniel Katzman
Randy Kelley
Chet Kelly
Kevin Kubitschek
Dominic Kujawa
Jill Laux Schubert
John Lee
Lucas Liefer
Jayni Lintvedt

Gary Mack
James Mendillo
Scott Meyer
Jamie Mitchell
Arthur Morris
Megan Nolan
Susan Parnell Wilson
Terry Peebles
Kaitlyn Rausch
Phillip Rice
Natalie Sager Steppig
Christopher Smith
Amy Spector
William Stiehl
Paul Storment III
Tim Stubblefield
Marleen Suarez
Christina Sugden
Judith Trentman-Wilson
Dennis Watkins
Stan Weller
Misty Wuebbels

Eastern Regional Office

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Tammy Baer
Judy Baker
Catherine Barbercheck
Denise Bates
Ellen Beattie
Chad Beckett
Andrew Bequette
Kaylee Boehm
Andrw Bourey
Ellyn Bullock
Marie Casteel
Joseph Chamley
Kenneth Crossman
Adam Crutchley
Richard Dahlenburg
Scott Dempsey
Kaye Dent

Eric Eves
Thorpe Facer
Kristen Fischer
John Foltz
Daniel Fossier
Kelly Freed
Aaron Galloway
Gary Geisler
William Gerber
Helen Grandone
Stephanie Hall
Andrew Hatch
Kent Heller
Mia Hernandez
Forrest Heyman
Austin Hill
Brent Holmes
Kaylan Huber
Stephen Iden
Robert Jacobson
Timothy Jefferson
Fred Johnson
Arthur Kapella
Richard Kash, Jr.
Brian King
Doug Lawlyes
Scott Lerner
Stephen LeSueur
Todd Lichtenberger
Jerome Lyke
Christina Manuel
Anne Martinkus
Steven Mayberry
John McFetridge
Charles Mockbee
Cynthia Morgan
Mark Morthland
Madison Mullady-Winter
Traci Nally
Faruq Nelson
Kevin Nolan
Tobias Ortega

Joseph Pappas
Darrel Parish
Donald Parkinson
Matthew Peek
Jeffrey Richardson
Sarah Ruholl Sehy
Twila Russell-Orr
David Ryan
Joseph Schroeder
Brian Schurter
William Scott
Lawrence Solava
Kristin Solberg
Brooke Starks
Jennifer Stuart
David Thies
Lott Thomas
William Townsley
Cassandra Tuggle
Heath Uppencamp
Angelica Wawrzynek
David Wesner
Paul Wieck
Hannah Wince
Janett Winter-Black
Ruth Wyman
Jay Znaniecki

Northern Regional Office

Michelle Blackburn
Robert Bonjean
Ryan Byers
Roland Cross
William Farr
Kelli Gordon
Rex Gradeless
Pamela Hart
Stephen Iden
Jessica Jones
Elizabeth Kling
Carrie Magerl
Erica Riplinger
Hugh Rowden
Ronald Stradt

Southern Regional Office

Robert Bateson
Rebecca Blakeslee
John Brewster
William Broom
Amanda Burton
Jonathan Cantrell
Chelsey Clark
Abigail Dinn
Kacey Eisenhauer
Edward Eytalis
Andrew Flynn
Joseph Ghibaudy
Jason Grenman
Maria Hafford
Leslie Hanson
Aaron Hopkins
Jessica Hudspeth
D. Keith Kessler
Taylor McCann
Andrew McNeill
Gary Milone
Alice Noble-Allgire
David Piercy
Julie Quinn
Benjamin Reed
Gerald Reed
Meagan Rich
Robert Roth
Diane Speir
Paige Strawn
Sarah Taylor
Krystal Tison
Julie Webb
Michael Wepsiec
Wenona Whitfield
Letitia Wiggins
Michael Wise
Bartley Zuber

Western Regional Office

Laura Andrews
Leonard Berg
Deborah Besserman
Betsy Bier
Andrew Billington

John Bitzer
Elizabeth Bozicevic
Talmadge Brenner
Dedra Brock-Moore
Kathy Buckley
Rene Butler
Ryan Byers
Timothy Chartrand
Dustin Clark
Deborah Cobb
Tanja Cook
Christopher Donohoo
Ellar Duff
Nate Elmore
Walker Filbert
Janel Freeman
Michael Glenn
Deborah Hawkins
Timothy Hinrichs
Christopher Hunter
Paul Lauber
Bonnie Levo
Justin Mattea
Stephen Morris
Andrew Mossman
Joseph Reames
Sean Rees
Marshall Rinderer
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Ryan Schnack
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Neil Schonert
Andrea Schrader
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Gina Verticchio
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Jeffrey Weishaupt
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Leslie Wood
Rick Zimmerman

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

OUR SUPPORTERS

\$50,000 - \$75,000

Ted Gianaris
M. Ann Hatch
Simmons Hanly Conroy LLC
The Gori Law Firm

\$10,000 - \$49,999

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Michael Nester
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Heyl Royster
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\$1,000 - \$4,999

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Michael Fiello
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Goldenberg Heller Antognoli
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Clarence Harrison
Jane Hays
Illinois Bar Foundation
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Hertz LLP
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Richter, Ltd.
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Dennis Ruth
Suzanne Schmitz
Sgro, Hanrahan, Durr, Rabin
& Bruce, LLP
Donald Tracy

Lois Wood
Linda & Glen Zazove

\$500 - \$999

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John Boshardy
Stacy Campbell
Citizens for Judge
Raylene Grischow
Committee to Elect
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Edelman, Combs, Lattuner
& Goodwin, LLC
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Hanagan & McGovern PC
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William Hoffeditz
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Calvin Hwang
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Chet Kelly
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James Potter
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Lee Allen
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Vivian Evans	Sheila Hunsicker	Maureen McCord	Myron Sholem
Thomas Fahey	Eugenia Huner	Brian McPeters	Sonya Sholem
Sandra Ferguson	Francis Jahn	Meehling & Bernardoni	Mark Slvermintz
Joseph Ferrante	Janice Johnson	Vicki & Norman Megginson	Michael Sinnen
Anthony Ferreira	Judith Johnson	Caitlin Megginson-Dicken	Joan & Charles Smith
First Presbyterian Church	Elizabeth Johnston	James Mendillo	Thomas Sonnebon
Edwardsville	Larry Jones	Nelson Metz	Jane Sorrells
Kristen Fischer	J. Patrick Joyce	Laurie Mikva	Twain Sponsler
Donna Fitts	Whitney Kampwerth	Miller & Hendren	Bruce Stewart
Mary Ann Flanagan	Luebbers	Melissa Mlynski	Guice Strong
Jeffrey Ford	Robert Kane	James Morphew	Patrick Sullivan
Valerie Fowler	Lloyd Karmeier	Wayne Morris	Ramona Sullivan
Robert Frederick	Patrick Keefe	Steven Mottaz	Lortetta Taber
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Zanotti	Michael Kiley	Patricia Murrell	Phillip Thies
Rebecca Gaff	Megan Kinney	C. Davd Nelson	Angelo Toscas
Emey Garfield	Debra Kionka	Faruq Nelson	D. Brian Trambley
Steven & Cheryl Garst	Edward Kionka	Daniel O'Brien	Nicole Truong
Marilyn Gibbons	Alice Kistler	Terrence O'Leary	Alan Tucker
J. Phil Gilbert	Brian Konzen	Dennis Orsey	United States Arbitration
Lara Glauber	Matthew Kramer	Thomas O'Shaughnessy	and Mediation Midwest
Elizabeth Goldschmidt	Glen Kruse	Alexis Otis-Lewis	Elizabeth Urbance
Charles & Barbara Grace	Daniel Kuehnert	John Papa	Wilma VanScyoc
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Lavina Hendricks	Russell Malson	Glenda Schmidt	Ella York
Kristen Henke	George Marifian	Janice Schofield	
Thomas Hill	Douglas Marti	Christopher Scholz	
James Hillesheim	Barbara Martin	Robert & Lanita Schuster	

Land of Lincoln Legal Aid thanks our many donors for their generous gifts of support in 2020.

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AgeSmart Community Resources
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Alton Woman's Home Association
Carle Foundation Hospital
Champaign County
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Illinois Bar Foundation
Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority
Illinois Department of Children & Family Services
Illinois Equal Justice Foundation
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Saint Clair County Health Department
Saint Clair County Intergovernmental Grants
Saint Louis Community Foundation
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
Westside Justice Center - Access to Justice

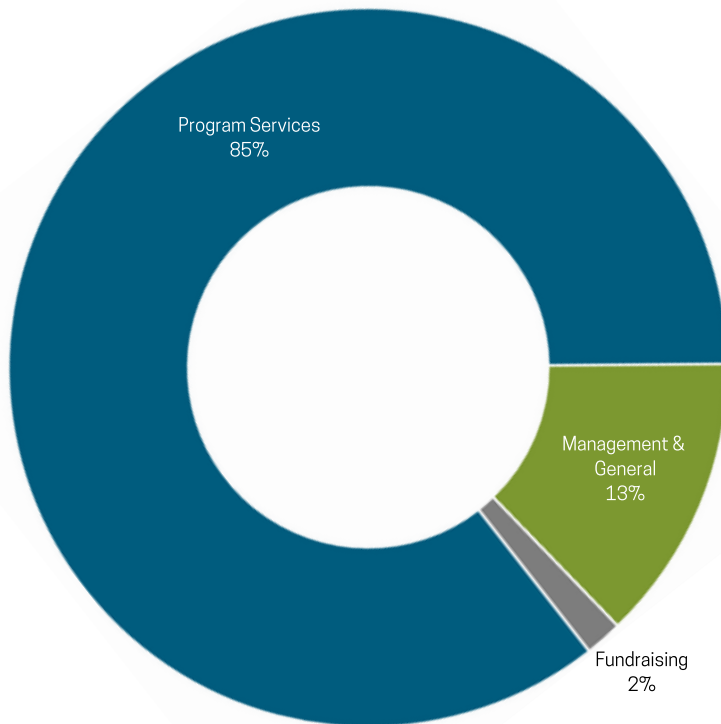
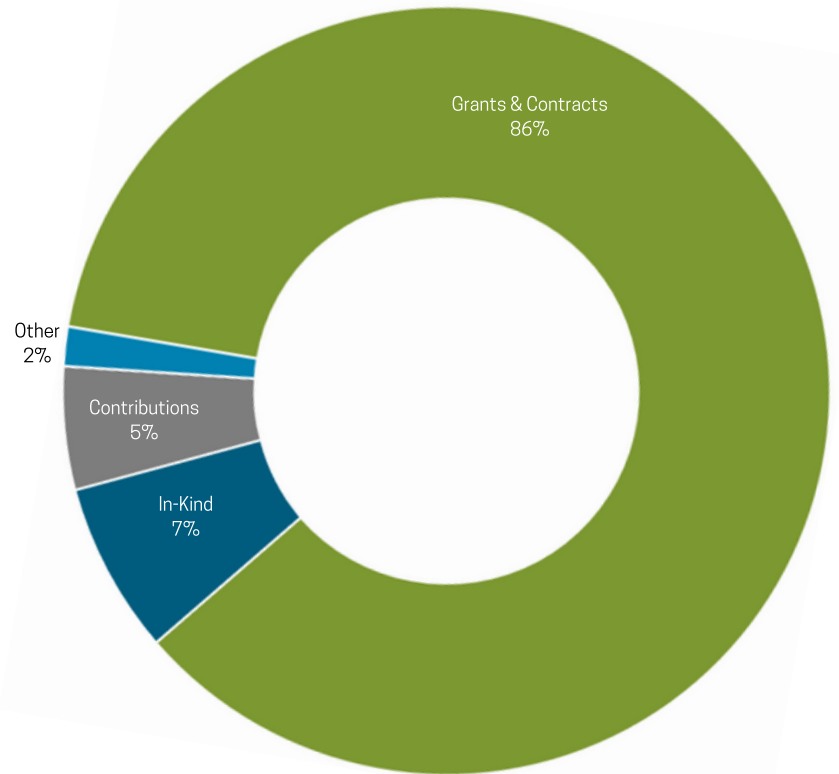
**Thank you to our institutional funders who supported
Land of Lincoln in 2020.**

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

REVENUE

Grants	\$7,864,163
Cy Pres Awards	\$905
Contributions	\$472,513
In-Kind Donations (pro bono hours)	\$661,228
Other (investment income, attorneys fees, etc)	\$152,320

2020 Total Revenue = \$9,151,129



EXPENSES

Program Services	\$7,674,461
Management & General	\$1,161,148
Fundraising	\$149,656

2020 Total Expenses = \$8,985,265



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.

Eviction & Fresh Start Project Hotline

(855) 601-9474

Mon., Wed, & Fri.: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tues & Thurs: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.



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