



Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida 2021 Annual Report

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WHO WE ARE

Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida (CCLA) provides free civil legal services to low-income and otherwise eligible residents of Broward County. CCLA protects and defends the legal rights of families, seniors, veterans, and underserved populations such as homeless persons, victims of domestic violence, and persons living with HIV/AIDS. Every year CCLA provides critical assistance to thousands of individuals who could otherwise not afford legal representation. We strengthen our community by stabilizing families in crisis, opening pathways to justice, and encouraging social and economic growth.



868

Individuals or families with family law issues were assisted during 2021



3500+

Broward residents accessed free legal assistance during 2021



44,000+

People have accessed free legal assistance since the start of CCLA in 2004



1.97M

Broward County has an estimated 1.97 million residents



215,000

215,000+ live in poverty and cannot afford legal help



3,770

There is 1 full-time CCLA attorney for every 3,770 people in need

OUR FUNDERS





Dear Stakeholders,

As we navigated the new challenges of our changing world, 2021 was filled with endless adjustments. Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida, Inc.'s (CCLA) loyal staff remained steadfast in their drive to provide high quality, critical legal services to those who so dearly need our advocacy. I am incredibly proud of their life-changing work.

Still combating the effects of the pandemic, and the unique economic and societal challenges upon us, more than 3,500 Broward residents accessed free legal assistance from CCLA in 2021. With more people than ever living in poverty in Broward County, and many more eligible through our special grants, CCLA's online applications have flowed in and our phone never stops ringing. Every day, our attorneys assert and defend the legal rights of under-

served families, senior citizens, veterans, victims of domestic violence, immigrants, and persons living with HIV/AIDS.

Just one of our many wonderful programs, the innovative Mobile Justice Squad project, provides a wide range of legal assistance to our community's homebound, disabled, and transportation-challenged senior citizens. This mobile law office travels far and wide throughout the county responding to the unique legal needs of our most vulnerable generation.

In 2021, over 18,590 visitors visited CCLA's website looking for legal assistance or information, almost double the number of visitors from 2019. Our creative and dedicated staff regularly update our content to inform the public about emerging legal issues and available programs. CCLA staff develops connections with partner organizations to introduce vital assistance and programs to our community. Our outreach plan integrates in-person events with virtual training and educational opportunities across our social media platforms. We post timely and important information on our website and social media sites, drawing thousands of views.

CCLA helps Broward County residents build safer, healthier and more stable lives. Of utmost importance to CCLA, is reaching out to alert community partners and vulnerable populations to the availability of our legal resources. In 2021, our attorneys received national and local recognition throughout countless media outlets, shedding light on the significant impact of our work; this expanded our reach to an audience of more than 580 million.

The commitment and wisdom of our active Board of Directors, the contribution of time from pro-bono attorneys and volunteers, the financial support from our sponsors and donors, have all been integral to CCLA's success. Legal Services Corporation, VOCA, Area Agency on Aging of Broward County, The Jim Moran Foundation, and Legal Aid Service of Broward County are just a few of the funders and partners who have worked closely with us and shown extreme dedication to the legal needs and well-being of Broward County's citizens. We could not do this work without their help.

Each day we do our very best to make a positive impact on this community to make it a better place for our clients to live. Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Lisa G. Goldberg, Executive Director

WHY IT MATTERS

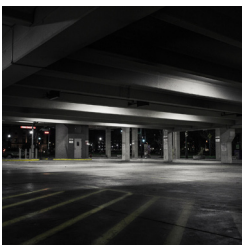
Story of Justice: Claudia Fights to Live Safe with Her Children



Claudia* was married to her husband Ron* for almost 18 years before they separated. A few years before their separation, Ron started to become aggressive and violent. In one incident, Ron followed Claudia from her work event to their home. In a fit of jealousy, he proceeded to stop her vehicle, snatch a necklace from her throat, and break her windshield. In addition, Ron would frequently involve the children in the marital disputes and tell the children that their mother was cheating on him. Worried about her and her children's safety, Claudia filed for a restraining order. Ron agreed to an entry of Final Judgment of Injunction for Protection Against Domestic Violence for two years. Claudia also filed for divorce from her spouse during the proceedings of the injunction. Claudia reached out to Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida (CCLA) for free civil legal assistance in both the injunction for protection and divorce case.

It took almost two years to complete Claudia's divorce litigation. During those two years, Ron frequently changed addresses, did not file amended financial affidavits, did not provide discovery, did not follow the time-sharing agreement, and did not provide any court ordered child support. Ron was determined to delay the proceedings and continued to ask for the marital home to be sold in order for him to receive half the profits. Claudia continued to live in the marital home after their separation and continued to pay all the expenses for the children and marital home by herself. After the Court heard all the testimony and evidence at final hearing, the Court awarded Claudia the marital home, retroactive child support, shared parental responsibility with ultimate decision-making authority for the minor children, and 100% time-sharing until Ron completes a Batterer's Intervention Program, Mental and Substance Abuse Evaluation, and any recommended treatment before seeing the minor children. Claudia has now been able to live in the home, in her name only, with her children in peace.

Story of Justice: Maria Fears for Her Life



Maria* dated Cody* for four years, enduring severe physical abuse throughout their relationship. Eventually, Maria realized that it was not safe for her to be around Cody and ended the relationship. After ending the relationship, Cody showed up unannounced at Maria's workplace. Upon seeing her talking to a customer, Cody became angry and demanded that Maria tell the customer to leave. As Maria pleaded with Cody to calm down, he screamed at her, punched her in the stomach, and left the scene before the police arrived. The next day, Cody convinced Maria to meet him in the parking lot at a nearby department store so she could return his personal belongings. Cody assured Maria that there would be security cameras in the parking lot so she would be safe. When Maria arrived at

the parking lot, it was empty and quiet. Cody asked her to get into his vehicle so they could talk about what happened the day before. Maria reluctantly got into his vehicle, but soon realized that he did not want to talk about the incident but rather argue about it. She tried to open the door of the vehicle to leave but he locked her inside of the car. When she asked him again to let her out of the car, Cody pulled out a knife, pressed it to her thigh, and told her he would slit her throat if she tried to leave the vehicle again. For the next few hours, Maria waited in fear. When Cody finally fell asleep, she exited the vehicle and escaped from the parking lot before Cody realized she was gone.

Maria went straight to the courthouse to file a Petition for Injunction for Protection Against Dating Violence. She was granted a Temporary Injunction and reached out to Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida (CCLA) for representation at her final evidentiary hearing. CCLA worked extensively with Maria to prepare for the final hearing. CCLA uploaded photos of her injuries to the Court's system, subpoenaed the officer who responded to the incident at Maria's place of employment, and also held virtual practice hearings. Finally, CCLA proceeded to a final evidentiary hearing. At the final evidentiary hearing, the Judge did not want to proceed because Cody was not present. CCLA argued that Cody was properly served and had notice of the court proceedings, so it would not be a violation of his due process rights to proceed with a hearing. The Judge heard the arguments and conducted a final evidentiary hearing on Maria's Petition for Injunction for Protection. The Judge found Maria's testimony and the evidence credible. Ultimately, the Judge granted Maria a Final Judgment of Injunction for Protection Against Dating Violence until further order of the Court. Maria was grateful to receive CCLA's guidance throughout this difficult time in her life. She finally felt safe and at peace knowing that Cody could not harm her anymore.

Serving Our Sisters (S.O.S.) Provides Support for Female Veterans



The Serving Our Sisters (S.O.S) project at Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida (CCLA) provides trauma-informed civil legal services and outreach to assist female veterans in Broward County to reintegrate into civilian life. Since its inception in 2020, the project has helped more than 50 female veterans in Broward County access resources vital to their financial and medical security.

Female veterans face a unique set of needs that often go unmet. Female veterans experience military sexual trauma (MST) at significantly higher rates than the general population. In 2018 alone, the Department of Defense (DOD) received 7,623 reports of MST involving service members. The Center for Law and Military Policy found that on a daily basis, more than 70 military members experience MST. Women in the military are 16 times more likely to experience sexual trauma than their civilian counterparts. MST is a historically widespread problem.

Thousands of veterans leave the military with less than honorable discharges due to the behavioral symptoms of MST and PTSD. This often means that their access to veteran resources is severely limited or completely revoked. Veterans often return to civilian life without resources, guidance, or prior knowledge on how to address everyday issues. For MST victims, discussing trauma with lawyers or social workers unfamiliar with military culture can be complex. Many female veterans are uncomfortable with or do not trust assistance from the male-dominated Veterans Affairs health system. In short, finding services that are both veteran-specific and trauma-informed is challenging.

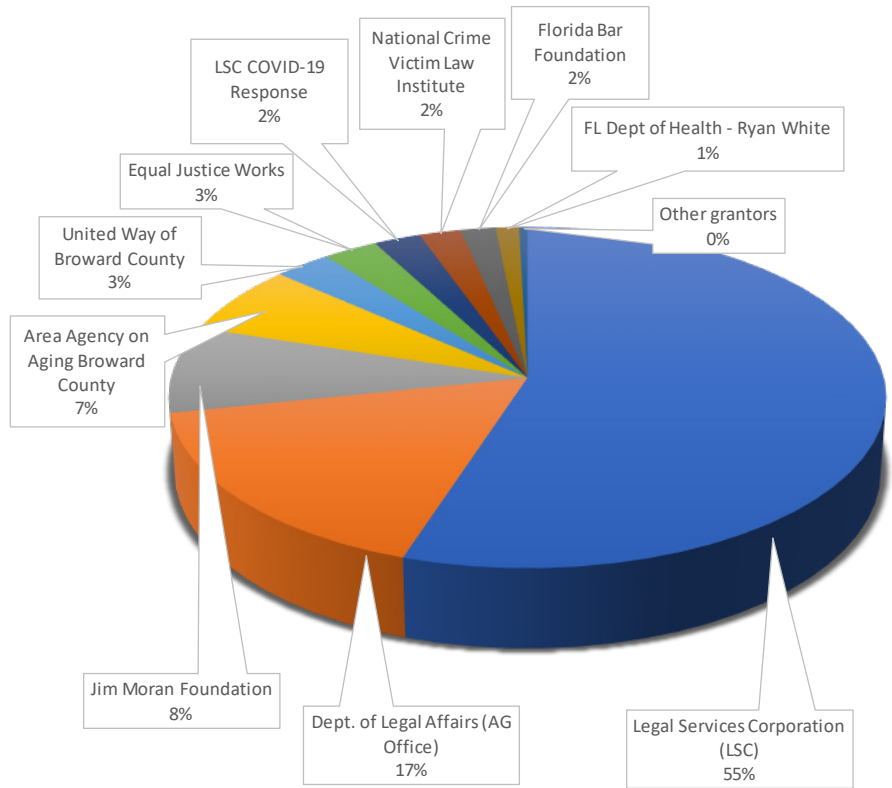
The S.O.S. project aims to help bridge this gap in legal service for veterans. With the assistance of social workers, healthcare providers, and other service providers for veterans, the project ensures that resources are in place to prevent recurring issues and support a long-term systematic change.

This first-of-its-kind project in Florida is an Equal Justice Works Fellowship sponsored by The Florida Bar. The project is helmed by Veteran and Equal Justice Works Fellow Brittany Brooks. To learn more about this project, contact CCLA at 954-736-2400.

BY THE NUMBERS: 2021

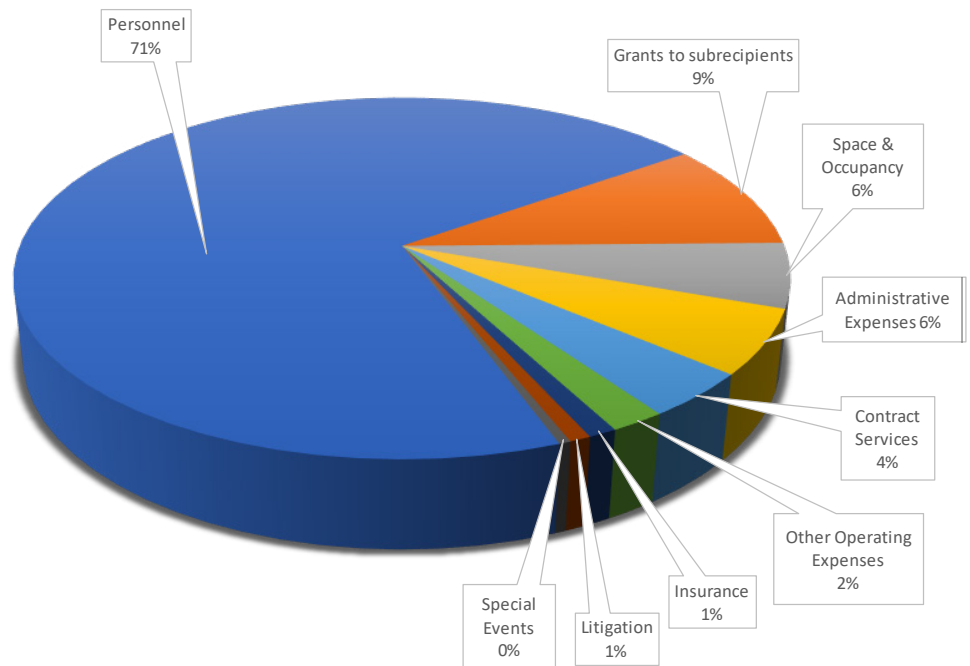
Revenue

Source	Revenue
Legal Services Corporation (LSC)	\$2,733,174
Dept. of Legal Affairs (AG Office)	\$828,956
Jim Moran Foundation	\$409,246
Area Agency on Aging Broward County	\$326,167
United Way of Broward County	\$143,422
Equal Justice Works	\$137,087
LSC COVID-19 Response	\$117,803
National Crime Victim Law Institute	\$104,244
Florida Bar Foundation	\$87,515
FL Dept of Health - Ryan White	\$58,311
Other grantors	\$20,880
TOTAL	\$4,966,805



Expenses

Source	Expense
Personnel	\$3,543,832
Grants to subrecipients	\$478,972
Space & Occupancy	\$289,702
Administrative Expenses	\$288,311
Contract Services	\$201,115
Other Operating Expenses	\$98,910
Insurance	\$51,177
Litigation	\$38,302
Special Events	\$20,999
Travel	\$18,435
Supplies	\$7,151
Postage	\$3,673
TOTAL	\$5,040,579



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