

A large, intense explosion or fireball in shades of orange, yellow, and red, set against a dark background, occupying the middle section of the cover.

JUSTICE RISING

2017-18
Impact Report

LegalAidOfNebraska.org



Inspired by our clients who face strife and injustice every day, Legal Aid has risen to the challenges of our work and mission.

MESSAGE

from the Executive Director

Are you familiar with the legend of the phoenix? According to mythology, this magical bird bursts into flames at the end of its long life, and is reborn as it rises up, transformed, from the ashes.

Transformation is not easy. Like the phoenix, Legal Aid of Nebraska took a leap of faith to transform our services.

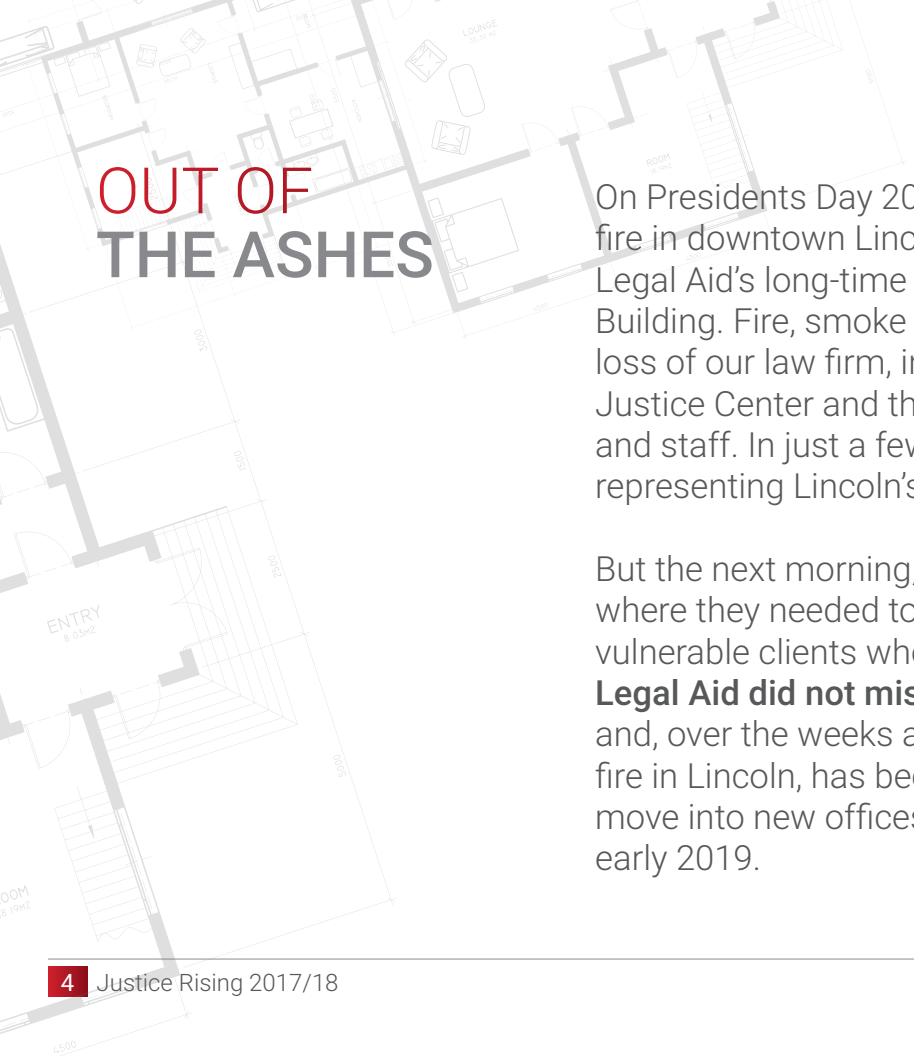
In 2017-18, we unveiled a new three-year strategic plan and reaffirmed our legal priorities. Critical projects were launched and expanded: assisting vulnerable elders and victims of domestic violence, meeting and serving clients in their own neighborhoods,

and recruiting volunteer attorneys to assist in case of catastrophic disasters in Nebraska. And we survived our own catastrophic disaster – a devastating fire that destroyed our Lincoln offices on February 19, 2018.

Inspired by our clients who face strife and injustice every day, Legal Aid has risen to the challenges of our work and mission. Our nearly 50 attorneys, and additional staff and volunteers provide a remarkable range of legal help, changing the lives of Nebraska's low-income families.

There is far more to come. **Justice is rising.**

Milo Mumgaard
Executive Director, Legal Aid of Nebraska



OUT OF THE ASHES

On Presidents Day 2018, an early morning, three-alarm fire in downtown Lincoln ripped through and destroyed Legal Aid's long-time home in the historic Terminal Building. Fire, smoke and water damage caused a total loss of our law firm, including the self-help Access to Justice Center and the offices of two dozen attorneys and staff. In just a few hours, over 30 years of history representing Lincoln's poor was obliterated.

But the next morning, Legal Aid's lawyers were exactly where they needed to be: in court, representing the vulnerable clients who rely upon them every day.

Legal Aid did not miss a beat, continuing its mission and, over the weeks and months since the disastrous fire in Lincoln, has become even stronger. Staff will move into new offices in the Terminal Building in early 2019.

We knew all along Legal Aid in Lincoln could rise up from these ashes – because we see it every day from our low-income clients. Every day we use the law to help them escape horrific abuse, keep a roof over their families' heads, end the constant worry of too much debt and too little income, and stop the instability in their lives. Each day, Legal Aid's clients find hope and optimism that previously seemed too far out of reach, too much to overcome. In the face of unrelentingly bad odds, our clients daily teach us what it means to rise up and come out better on the other side.

Legal Aid's story of hope needs to be repeated for many more low-income Nebraska families, so that even more can **"rise from the ashes."**

LEGAL AID BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Hon. Patrick Rogers – President

Hon. Patricia Lamberty – Vice President

Douglas Murray – Treasurer

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Eluid "Eli" Aguilar	Lorene Thomas
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Marsha Fangmeyer	Terry Waite
Sarah Fischer	Michael Willet
Ron Oleson	Brandi Yosten
Hannah Sommers	
Don Swanson	

FOCUS ON PRIORITIES

Focus. Legal Aid is taking huge steps forward to improve our focus. After talking with hundreds of clients, allies, and leaders over 18 months, Legal Aid refocused its time and resources on the most significant legal needs impacting the daily lives of our low-income clients: housing, income & benefits, family and debt.

This focus on basic legal needs – including wrongful foreclosures or evictions, debt collection by predatory lenders, domestic violence, vulnerable families in unsafe and unstable homes, denial of basic supports and lost wages to bad employers – now directs everything we do. Because we are focused, Legal Aid can make even more of an impact on the relentlessly stressful daily lives of Nebraska’s low-income families.

IN 2017

Legal Aid fought to protect the rights of:



Housing: 1,253 households facing unfair evictions, unsafe residences and other housing issues



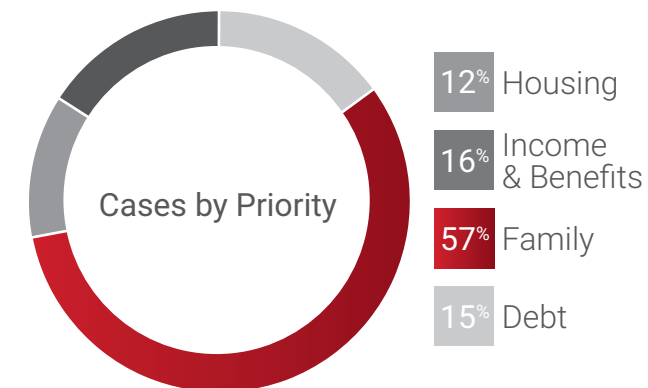
Income & Benefits: 1,722 families in need of income supports such as social security, SNAP, health insurance, taxes, veteran benefits and unpaid wages



Family: 6,093 families striving for stability through protection orders against domestic violence, child custody, divorce and guardianships



Debt: 1,631 individuals with consumer needs, including medical debt, bankruptcy and utility shut-offs



WHERE, HOW AND WHO WE SERVE

In 2017, the work of Legal Aid of Nebraska impacted 26,747 people



10,699 cases were handled and closed



1,375 cases involved a victim of abuse



30.1% of all households served were in deep poverty



50.6% of all households helped included children



2,154 clients were disabled



21.8% of all clients were older adults (over 60)



469 cases involved U.S. veterans



18,427 requests for assistance

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2017, the work of Legal Aid of Nebraska impacted **26,747** people

“I’m glad I took the step and fought for my kids. It was a long journey, but so worth it! I’m so thankful for Legal Aid!”

– Jessica



To hear Jessica’s whole story, please go to www.legalaidofnebraska.org/jessica

LAW FIRM

PARTNERS IN JUSTICE



FOUNDATION & ORGANIZATION

DONATIONS AND GRANTS

Baird Holm LLP
Donahue & Faesser, PC, LLO
Erickson & Sederstrom, PC, LLO
Hauptman O'Brien Wolfe & Lathrop
Husch Blackwell, LLP
Koley Jessen
Kutak Rock
Lamson Dugan & Murray
Locher Pavelka Dostal Braddy & Hamme, LLC
Mattson Ricketts Law Firm
McGill Gotsdiner Workman & Lepp, PC, LLO
McGowan & McGowan PC

McGrath, North, Mullin, & Kratz PC LLO
O'Neill Heinrich Damkroger
Bergmeyer Shultz PC, LLO
Rensch & Rensch Law, PC, LLO
Runge Law Office LLC
Sennett, Duncan, Jenkins, & Wickham, PC, LLO
Willet & Carothers
Woods & Aitken LLP

Many thanks to all the generous individuals who helped make "equal justice happen" in 2017. We appreciate you and respect your privacy.

American National Bank
AmeriCorps
Community Health Endowment of Lincoln
Cooper Foundation
Fidelity National Title Group
Harrison Financial Services
Heartland United Way
Immanuel Vision Foundation
Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska
Legal Services Corporation
Lexington Community Foundation
Lincoln Community Foundation
Lincoln Financial Foundation, Inc.
Lozier Foundation
Mutual of Omaha Foundation
Nebraska Commission on Public Advocacy
Nebraska Crime Commission

Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services
Nebraska Farmers Union Foundation, Inc
Nebraska Lawyers Trust Account Foundation
Omaha Bar Association
Omaha Central Chiropractic
Omaha Community Foundation
Sherwood Foundation
SilverStone Group
Union Pacific Railroad
United Way of Lincoln & Lancaster County
United Way of the Midlands
US Department of Justice, Office
of Justice Programs
Weitz Family Foundation
William & Ruth Scott Family Foundation
Woods Charitable Fund

AN ETHICAL OBLIGATION



“I’ve always had a commitment to public service – I was raised that way. That’s why Kutak Rock is a good place for me, because they have always had an emphasis on building a better community.”

Kutak Rock attorney Amy Van Horne has been a member of the Legal Aid Board of Directors since 2015 and is Chair of the Board’s Planning Committee.

“After I learned about Legal Aid and the work they did, I wanted to get involved,” she said. “When people need an attorney and can’t afford one, Legal Aid attorneys are in

the trenches providing services to those who otherwise wouldn’t have it. It is critically important.”

Kutak Rock also has a long history of support for equal justice. “It is humbling to be serving today with a strong Legal Aid that is, in many significant ways, a direct result of the hard and selfless leadership of Nebraskans like Bob Kutak, David Jacobson and Harold Rock,” said Legal Aid Executive Director Milo Mumgaard.

The generous support of Nebraska’s law firms, including Kutak Rock and many others, and of board members like Amy are an embodiment of the attorney’s ethical obligation of financial and professional service.

Amy Van Horne
Kutak Rock – Attorney

VOLUNTEERS & PRIVATE ATTORNEY INVOLVEMENT

Thank you to our volunteers and interns for dedicating time and energy to Legal Aid's mission.

PRO BONO ATTORNEYS

Jack Horgan, Elkhorn
Amie Martinez, Lincoln

DISASTER RELIEF PROJECT ATTORNEYS

Erin Aitcheson
Robert Alexander
Roxanne Alhejaj
Sophia Alvarez
Dwyer Arce
Kurt Arganbright
Carly Bahramzad
Fredrich Bartell
Paul Brian Bartels
Claire Bazata
Susan Beel
Kelvin Berens
Claude Berreckman
David Blagg
Meghan Blinn
Brent Bloom

D.C. "Woody" Bradford III
Alex Brown
Jonathan Brown
Angela Burmeister
Eileen Reilly Buzzello
Dale Callahan
Catherine Cano
Mark Carraher
Ryan Carson
Jeffrey Chalkley
Steven Chase
Edwina Christiansen
Carol Cleaver
Robert Cohen
Patrick Connealy
Patrick Cooper
Dale C.Crandall
Arianna Crum
Gene Crump
Daniel Cummings
Ray Curtis
Frank Daley

Brian Davis
Mary Rose Donahue
Shawn Dontigney
Joe Dreesen
Michael Dunn
Matthew Dunning
Chawnta Durham
Steven Elmshaeuser
Marsha Fangmeyer
David Fisher
Phaedra H.Fisher
Mark Fitzgerald
Kent Floran
Jessica Forch
Tana Fye
Lorin Galvin
Ross Gardner
Franklin F.Ginsbach
TJ Gist
Becky Gould
Shurie Graeve
Jackie Grau

Tom Green
Emily Haas
Scott V.Hahn
John T. Haarala
Kevin Hartzell
Bill Harvey
Gretchen Harvey
Daniel Hassing
Luke Patrick Henderson
Robert Henderson
Jamie Hermanson
Kristi Hilliard
Robert Hippe
Kortnei Hoeft
Jim Hoppe
Sara Houston
Wanda Howey-Fox
Chris Hoyme
David Hubbard
Ron Hunter
Kenny Jacobs
Abigail Johnson

Sally R. Johnson
C.G. Jolly
Julie Jorgensen
Jessica Källström
-Schreckengost
Ryan J. Kapsimallis
Brendan M. Kelly
Debra Keith
Susan Koenig
Keith Kollasuhm
David J. Koukol
Corianna Kubasta
Jacqueline Langland
Victor LaPluma
Dan Lindstrom
Jeff Loeffler
Rachel Lookado
Christin Lovegrove
Elizabeth Madlener
Craig Martin
Mike Matejka
Rebecca A. Marron

Thomas Maul
Angie McClure
Shannon McCoy
Kate McCoy Jones
Megan McDowell
Mark McKeone
Tod McKeone
Steve Mercure
Paula Metcalf
Mikolajczyk. Megan
Danielle Miller
Millsap Sarah
Steve Moeller
Moore Ashley
Adam Morfeld
Dani Myers
Jeanne Neumann
Glasford
Tom O'Connor
Damilola Oluyole
Patrick Oman
Ralph Pappard
Alexis Pappas
Jeffery Peetz

Scott Peterson
Carol Pinard-Cronin
Kay Prather
William Quigley
Gregory Ramirez
Michael Ramirez
Lilly Richardson-Severn
Scout Richters
Michael Rickert
Andrew Roszak
Matt Ruane
Mindy Rush Chipman
Mike Samuelson
Hope Schawang
RaeAnn Schmitz
Tim Shaw
James Sieben
Christine Smith
Dave Sommers
Katherine M.Stanish
Jacob Steinkemper
Molly Steinkemper
Lindsay Surdell
Casey Symington

Suzi Tast
Alan Thelen
Stephanie Tiritilli
Kent Trembly
Jason Thomas
Cathy Trent-Vilim
Janine F. Uccino
Susan Ugai
Wes Van Ert
Amy Van Horn
Heather Voegel
Jeff Wagner
Terry Waite
Nancy Waldron
Corey Wasserburger
Ryan Watson
Joshua Weiner
Katie Welsh
Ken Wentz
Mary Wenzl
Kevin R. Wesley
Brett Wessels
Erin Wetzel
Bradley J. White

Jason White
David Williams
Toni Wilson
Joshua Woolf
Michael Ziskey
John Zimmer

PRIVATE ATTORNEY INVOLVEMENT ATTORNEYS

Avis Andrews – Fremont
Frank Barron – Tekamah
John Begley – Omaha
Ben Beethe – Tecumseh
Mike Borders – Broken Bow
Jon Braaten – Lincoln
Justin Daake – Oxford
Bruce Dalluge – Tecumseh
Jeff Ensz – Minden
William Erickson – Broken Bow
Morgan Eskra – Columbus
Leta Fornoff – Fremont
Steve Fillman – York
Leta Fornoff – Fremont

continued >

2017 VOLUNTEERS & PRIVATE ATTORNEY INVOLVEMENT

Tara Gardner – Lincoln
Vanessa Gorden – Lincoln
Angela Heimes – Omaha
Josh Johnson – Hastings
Stephen Knudsen – Aurora
Steffanie Kotik – Lincoln
Jeff Kurtz – Omaha
Cheryl Marsh – Broken Bow
Angelica McClure – Lincoln
Megan McDowell – Lincoln
Lisa Meyer – York
John Moeller – Sioux City IA
Stephanie Payne – Lincoln
Mark Porto – Grand Island
Kay Prather – Beloit KS
Katy Reichert – Scottsbluff
Kathy Rockey – Norfolk
John Sabott – Grand Island
Audrey Sautter – York
Lisa Shifflet – McCook
Melissa Schutt – Fremont

Ashley Spahn – Benkelman
Lisa Shifflet – McCook
Shaylene Smith – Crete
Gail Steen – Lincoln
Sandy Stern – Omaha
Erin Urbom – Grand Island
Nicholas Wurth – Omaha

VOLUNTEERS AND INTERNS

Roselle Agdipa
Kelsey Arends
Brett Baalhorn
Lauren Camp
Kallie Davis
Jessica Dodd
Emma Franklin
Matthew Furrow
Kalli Gloudemans
Kaycee Greenfield
Noelle Hoeft

Fritz Hudson
Bryan Karasiuk
Farhan Kashem
Joy Kathurima
Yoonhee Kim
Claire Kraft
Katelyn Lawrence
Vanessa Lobo
Josef Loukota
Juan Palma
Deanna Pina
Kory Quandt
Zahra Salih
Erin Sheehan
Betsy Shevik
Madeline Sobek
Joanna Uden
Barbara Vargo
Cassi Wigington
Julianna Zieno

“We advocate for the most vulnerable whether it be due to illness, risk of homelessness or domestic abuse. We give a voice to those who would otherwise not be heard.”

— Ann Mangiameli
Managing Attorney, Health,
Education & Law Project

PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

Legal Aid makes equal justice happen through numerous statewide programs and projects:

- ▶ Native American Program
- ▶ Farm and Ranch Program
- ▶ Ag Worker Rights Program
- ▶ Health Education and Law Project (HELP)
- ▶ REACH Initiative
- ▶ Tax Law Project
- ▶ Juvenile Justice Project
- ▶ Elder Justice Project
- ▶ Disaster Relief Project
- ▶ Clean Slate Project
- ▶ Juvenile Reentry Project
- ▶ UPLIFT Project
- ▶ Housing Justice Project
- ▶ Private Attorney Involvement
- ▶ AccessLine®
(centralized intake, advice and counsel)
- ▶ Access to Justice (assisted self-help center and online through LawHelpNE.org)

Legal Aid of Nebraska does not discriminate on the basis of religion, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, race, color, age, marital status, citizen or authorized alien status, veteran status, or disability in the administration of any of its programs.

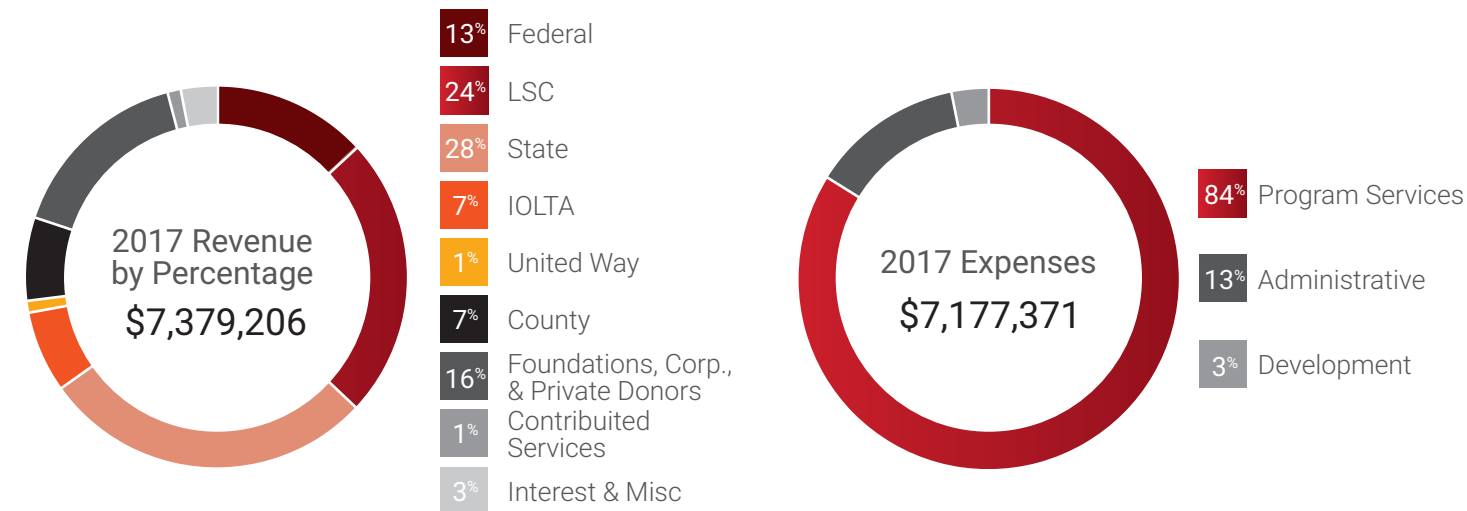


To hear Brooklynn's whole story, please go to www.legalaidofnebraska.org/brooklynn

“To come home and have a notice on your door is gut-wrenching. Without Legal Aid, I would have been literally homeless with three children and none of my belongings.”
– Brooklynn

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Legal Aid of Nebraska
for the year ended December 31, 2017



NOTE: Best practices for non-profit organizations indicate that the organization should have operating reserves equal to between three and six months operating expenses. At 12-31-17, Legal Aid of Nebraska had operating reserves of approximately 3.1 months, based on the 2017 budget.

PARTING WORDS



Hon. David Piester

The Hon. David Piester, who has been a longtime supporter and President of the Legal Aid of Nebraska Board of Directors for five years, retired from the Board on September 30, 2018. He had this to say:

“2017 was a year of increased focus for Legal Aid to be as effective as we can, with even more fiscal stability. Legal Aid’s Board and staff maintained a firm eye on the bottom line, while looking to our future full of exciting growth. The Board’s completion and launch of Legal Aid’s *Strategic Plan 2018-20* gives a practical roadmap for our vision of bringing meaningful civil legal assistance to low-income Nebraskans in all corners of our amazing state.

“When 9 out of 10 civil legal problems facing our clients continue to go unaddressed, it is imperative Legal Aid seeks new and even more effective ways of **making equal justice happen.** The new Strategic

Plan opens the door to so many new opportunities, partnerships, and funding. And with a growing, talented, and caring staff, Legal Aid continues to be an excellent employer, well-administered non-profit, and remarkable community asset – a source of great pride for all involved.

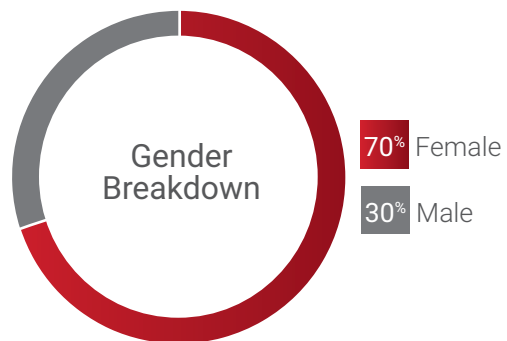
“Most of the time we are thrown into transformation by life and unavoidable circumstances. While the beginning of 2018 was a little rocky, Legal Aid will emerge from the Lincoln fire stronger and even more empathetic to the plight of our clients. But in order to keep up this focus and momentum on behalf of the most vulnerable members of our state, Legal Aid needs your help. With your ongoing and increased financial support, Legal Aid can bring the promise of justice to so many more Nebraskans who need it. Please help with what you can. I personally can vouch for how far your support goes, and how much difference it makes for children, families, and other struggling Nebraskans. Thank you again for your support.”

WE
MAKE
EQUAL
JUSTICE
HAPPEN

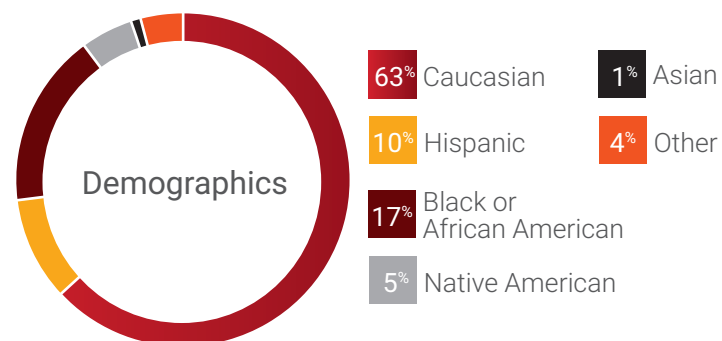
OUR MISSION

To promote justice, dignity, hope and self-sufficiency through quality civil legal aid for those who have nowhere else to turn.

Gender Breakdown



Demographics



LEGAL AID LOCATIONS

OMAHA

209 S. 19th St., Suite 200
Omaha, NE 68102-1709

LINCOLN

(beginning late February, 2019)
941 O Street, Suite 300
Lincoln, NE 68508

GRAND ISLAND

1811 W. 2nd St., Suite 440
Grand Island, NE 68803

NORFOLK

214 N. 7th St., Suite 10
Norfolk, NE 68701

NORTH PLATTE

102 E. 3rd St.
Suite 102
North Platte, NE 69101

SCOTTSBLUFF

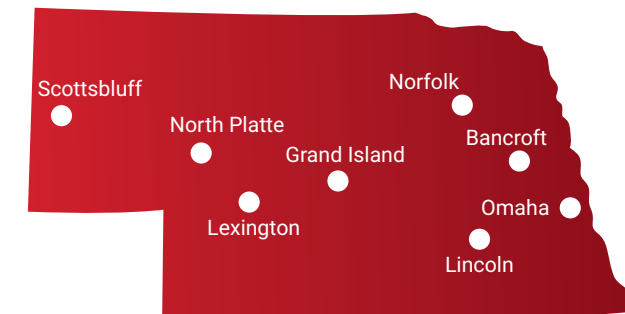
1423 1st Ave., P.O. Box 1365
Scottsbluff, NE 69363

BANCROFT

415 Main St.,
P.O. Box 325
Bancroft, NE 68004

LEXINGTON

200 W. 7th Street, Suite 220
Lexington, NE 68850





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Statewide AccessLine® 1-877-250-2016

Legal Aid of Nebraska is a 501(c)3 organization funded in part by the Legal Services Corporation.

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