



# LAV PROGRAM

## Legal Assistance for Victims Grant Program

July – December 2016

The purpose of the LAV Program is to strengthen civil and criminal legal assistance for victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking through innovative, collaborative programs. These programs provide victims with representation and legal advocacy in family, immigration, administrative agency, housing, protection or stay-away order proceedings, and other similar matters. The LAV Program is intended to increase the availability of civil and criminal legal assistance in order to provide effective aid to victims who are seeking relief in legal matters arising as a consequence of abuse or violence.<sup>1,2</sup>

- **221** grantees reported this period.

## VICTIM SERVICES

LAV Program grantees provided direct legal services to **27,750** victims of domestic/sexual violence in matters arising from the abuse or violence. Beyond traditional legal services, lawyers and non-lawyers provide safety planning and other support

services. The partnerships between legal services providers and victim services organizations allow grantees to increase the number and type of support services they offer.

- **213** grantees used funds for victim services (96% of all grantees reporting).

Victims seeking services <sup>3</sup>		
Victims	Total	Percentage
Served	24,027	81%
Partially served	3,723	13%
Not served	2,024	7%
Total seeking services	29,774	100%

<sup>1</sup> This report contains selected data submitted by LAV Program grantees on a semi-annual progress report.

<sup>2</sup> Throughout this document, the sum of percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding.

<sup>3</sup> Percentages are based on victims seeking services.

## Services to victims:

- Safety planning (by lawyers) was provided to **10,300** victims (37% of all victims receiving services);
- Safety planning (by other staff) was provided to **8,677** (31%) victims;
- Non-attorney legal advocacy was provided to **5,979** (22%) victims;
- Support services (by other staff) were provided to **5,640** (20%) victims;
- Support services (by lawyers) were provided to **3,824** (14%) victims;
- Pro se clinics/group services (by lawyers) were provided to **894** (3%) victims; and
- Pro se clinics/group services (by other staff) were provided to **412** (1%) victims.

## Victims served or partially served by type of victimization:

- Domestic/dating violence: **21,622** (78% of all victims receiving services)
- Sexual assault: **5,513** (20%)
- Stalking: **615** (2%)

Demographics of victims served	Total	% of those receiving services
<b>Race/ethnicity<sup>4,5</sup></b>		
White	10,951	41%
Hispanic or Latino	9,325	35%
Black or African American	3,656	14%
Asian	1,867	7%
American Indian and Alaska Native	622	2%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	177	1%
<b>Gender<sup>4</sup></b>		
Female	25,786	94%
Male	1,648	6%
<b>Age<sup>4</sup></b>		
13-17	732	3%
18-24	3,839	14%
25-59	21,363	80%
60+	906	3%

<sup>4</sup> Percentages are based on victims receiving services for whom this information was known.

<sup>5</sup> Some victims may identify with more than one race/ethnicity, so the total number reported in race/ethnicity may be higher than the total number of victims served.

<b>Other demographics<sup>6</sup></b>		
Immigrants/refugees/asylum seekers	9,278	33%
Limited English proficiency	7,968	29%
Rural	5,678	20%
Disabilities	2,759	10%

<b>Victims' relationship to offender<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>% of those seeking services</b>
<b>Domestic violence</b>		
Spouse/intimate partner	20,003	88%
Dating relationship	1,554	7%
Other family/household member	1,011	4%
Acquaintance	120	1%
<b>Sexual assault</b>		
Spouse/intimate partner	3,500	53%
Acquaintance	1,317	20%
Other family/household member	862	13%
Stranger	487	7%
Dating relationship	396	6%
<b>Stalking</b>		
Spouse/intimate partner	1,315	83%
Dating relationship	115	7%
Acquaintance	90	6%
Other family/household member	33	2%
Stranger	26	2%

<sup>6</sup> Because victims may be represented in more than one of these categories, or not at all, the total for this category may be higher or lower than the total number of victims served.

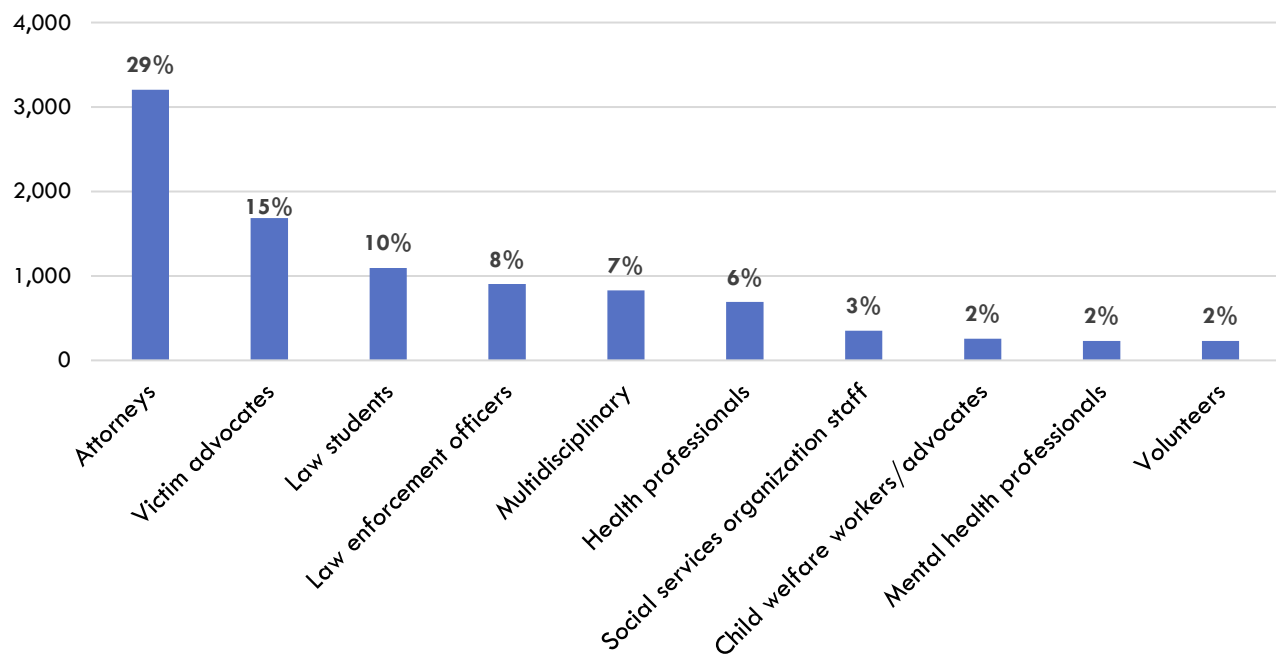
<sup>7</sup> Victims may have been abused by more than one offender and/or may have experienced more than one type of victimization, so the total for each victimization category (when unknowns are included) may be higher than the total number of victims served in each of those categories. Percentages presented here are based on the total number of known relationships in each victimization category.

## TRAINING

Grantees provide training for professionals so that they can improve services to victims of domestic/sexual violence facing complex legal issues and to increase offender accountability.

- **103** grantees used funds for training (47% of all grantees reporting).
- **11,192** professionals attended **467** events.

### Types of professionals most frequently trained



### Topics on which grantees most frequently provided training:

- Identifying legal issues;
- Protection orders;
- Domestic violence overview, dynamics, and services;
- Domestic violence laws;
- Issues specific to victims who are immigrants, refugees, or asylum seekers;
- Confidentiality;
- Issues specific to victims who have limited English proficiency;
- Serving underserved/unserved populations;
- Sexual assault overview, dynamics, and services; and
- Safety planning.

## STAFF

Grant-funded staff provide direct legal services, training, and mentoring for lawyers representing victims, and support services for victims, to increase victim safety and offender accountability.

- **219** grantees used funds for staff (99% of all grantees reporting).
- **417** full-time equivalent (FTE) staff were funded this period.

Funded staff positions <sup>8</sup>	FTEs	% of all funded staff
Attorney	237	57%
Victim advocate	46	11%
Paralegal	40	10%
Legal advocate	38	9%
Administrator	17	4%
Program coordinator	17	4%
Support staff	17	4%
Law student/intern	3	1%
Trainer	2	<1%
Information technology staff	1	<1%
Translator/interpreter	1	<1%

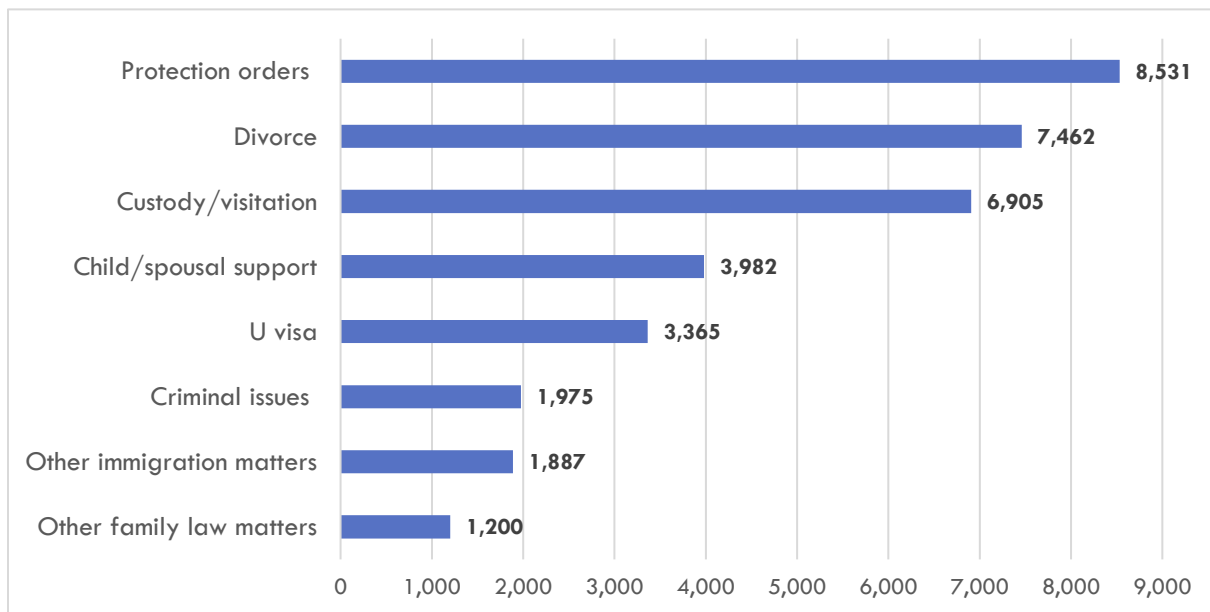
<sup>8</sup> Categories are rounded to the nearest whole number and only categories with at least one FTE after rounding are included.

## LEGAL SERVICES

Grant-funded lawyers, paralegals, and specially appointed advocates provide legal services to victims of domestic/sexual violence to assist them with a variety of legal matters, including family law (divorce, child custody, and visitation), protection orders, immigration, and housing.

- **6,162** victims received assistance with multiple legal issues (22% of all victims receiving services).

### Victims receiving assistance with legal issues



### Legal Outcomes

Grantees report on a number of legal outcomes for the cases for which there is a final disposition. These outcomes include provision of information and referral services only; brief services; negotiated resolution; court decision; and/or an administrative decision. Grantees report on the disposition of each legal matter they addressed.

- **26,475** legal issues were disposed of.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>9</sup> The total number of outcomes includes all dispositions for all categories of issues. Only the top five categories of legal issues disposed of are presented; all listed issue categories included 1-2% of their dispositions as “had other results.”

<b>Legal outcomes</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>% of outcomes</b>
<b>Protection orders</b>	<b>7,187</b>	<b>27%</b>
Court decision (33% of protection orders)		
Received information/referral/advice only (29%)		
Received brief services only (15%)		
Negotiated resolution/filed action (13%)		
Victim withdrew (7%)		
Negotiated resolution/no filed action (1%)		
Administrative decision (1%)		
<b>Custody/visitation</b>	<b>4,936</b>	<b>19%</b>
Received information/referral/advice only (46% of custody/visitation)		
Court decision (22%)		
Received brief services only (15%)		
Negotiated resolution/filed action (12%)		
Victim withdrew (4%)		
Negotiated resolution/no filed action (1%)		
Administrative decision (<1%)		
<b>Divorce</b>	<b>4,545</b>	<b>17%</b>
Received information/referral/advice only (50% of divorce)		
Court decision (17%)		
Received brief services only (15%)		
Negotiated resolution/filed action (9%)		
Victim withdrew (5%)		
Administrative decision (1%)		
Negotiated resolution/no filed action (1%)		
<b>Immigration matters<sup>10</sup></b>	<b>2,513</b>	<b>9%</b>
Received information/referral/advice only (37% of immigration matters)		
Administrative decision (34%)		
Received brief services only (12%)		
Negotiated resolution/filed action (10%)		
Court decision (4%)		
Victim withdrew (2%)		
Negotiated resolution/no filed action (<1%)		
<b>Child/spousal support</b>	<b>2,477</b>	<b>9%</b>
Received information/referral/advice only (47% of child/spousal support)		
Court decision (24%)		
Received brief services only (12%)		
Negotiated resolution/filed action (10%)		
Victim withdrew (4%)		
Administrative decision (2%)		
Negotiated resolution/no filed action (1%)		

<sup>10</sup> Immigration matters include the following categories: U visa, VAWA self-petition, T visa, cancellation of removal, and other immigration matters.