

# LAV PROGRAM

## Legal Assistance for Victims Grant Program

January – June 2017

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>

- **184** grantees reported this period.

## VICTIM SERVICES

LAV grantees provided direct legal services to **26,790** 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.

Victims seeking services <sup>3</sup>		
Victims	Total	Percentage
Served	23,185	80%
Partially served	3,605	12%
Not served	2,310	8%
<b>Total seeking services</b>	<b>29,100</b>	<b>100%</b>

- **182** grantees used funds for victim services (99% of all grantees reporting).

<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 provided to victims:

- Safety planning (by lawyers) was provided to **9,957** victims (37% of all victims receiving services);
- Safety planning (by other staff) was provided to **8,485** (32%) victims;
- Support services (by other staff) were provided to **5,220** (19%) victims;
- Support services (by lawyers) were provided to **4,168** (16%) victims;
- Non-attorney legal advocacy (by other staff) was provided to **4,070** (15%) victims;
- Pro se clinics/group services (by lawyers) were provided to **693** (3%) victims; and
- Pro se clinics/group services (by other staff) were provided to **358** (1%) victims.

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

- Domestic/dating violence: **20,868** (78% of all victims receiving services)
- Sexual assault: **5,351** (20%)
- Stalking: **571** (2%)

Demographics of victims served	Total	% of those receiving services
<b>Race/ethnicity<sup>4,5</sup></b>		
White	11,261	44%
Hispanic or Latino	8,595	34%
Black or African American	3,587	14%
Asian	1,438	6%
American Indian and Alaska Native	687	3%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	121	<1%
<b>Gender<sup>4</sup></b>		
Female	24,741	93%
Male	1,774	7%
<b>Age<sup>4</sup></b>		
13-17	758	3%
18-24	3,722	14%
25-59	20,611	79%
60+	1,006	4%

<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 for this category may be higher than the total number of victims served.

<b>Other demographics<sup>6</sup></b>		
Immigrants/refugees/asylum seekers	8,230	31%
Limited English proficiency	7,164	27%
Rural	6,084	23%
Disabilities	2,943	11%

<b>Victims' relationship to offender<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>% of those receiving services</b>
<b>Domestic/dating violence</b>		
Spouse/intimate partner	18,863	88%
Dating relationship	1,450	7%
Other family/household member	960	4%
Acquaintance	133	1%
<b>Sexual assault</b>		
Spouse/intimate partner	3,267	54%
Acquaintance	1,217	20%
Other family/household member	747	12%
Stranger	468	8%
Dating relationship	368	6%
<b>Stalking</b>		
Spouse/intimate partner	1,073	79%
Dating relationship	112	8%
Acquaintance	100	7%
Other family/household member	42	3%
Stranger	30	2%

## TRAINING

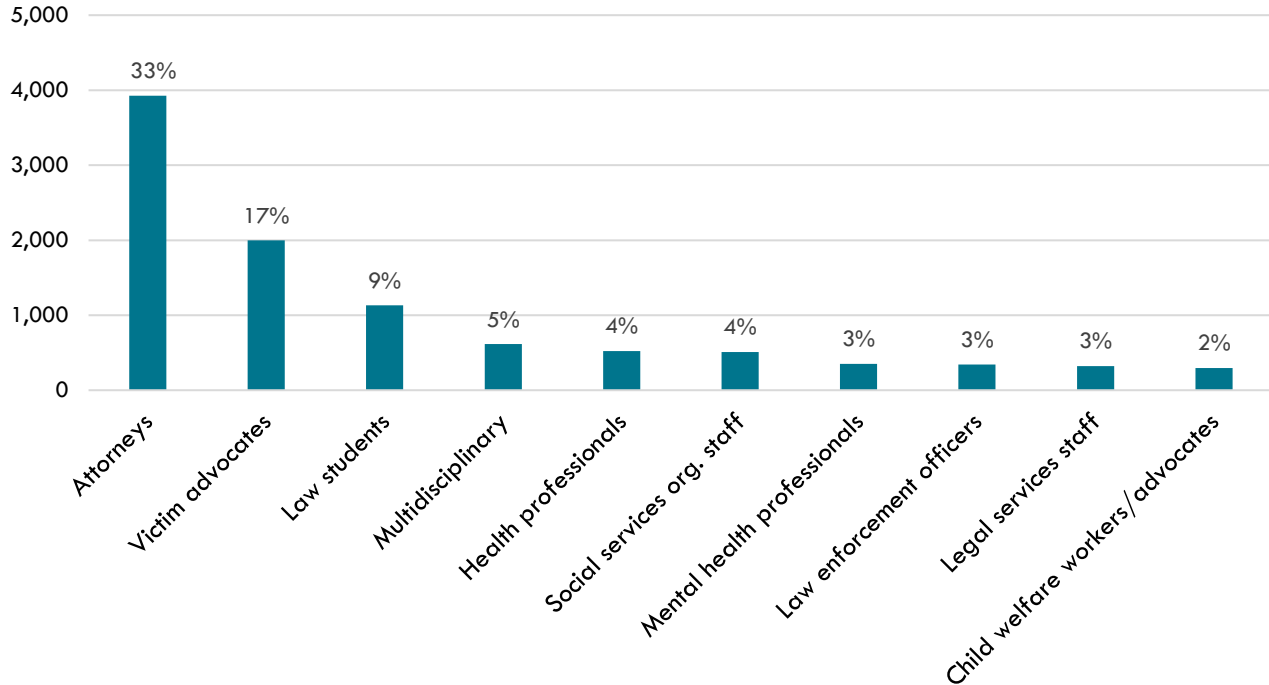
Grantees provide training for professionals so that they can improve services to victims of domestic/sexual violence facing complex legal issues and to increase offender accountability.

- **91** grantees used funds for training (49% of all grantees reporting).
- **12,047** professionals attended **510** events.

<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.

## Types of professionals most frequently trained



## Topics on which grantees most frequently provided training:

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

## 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.

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

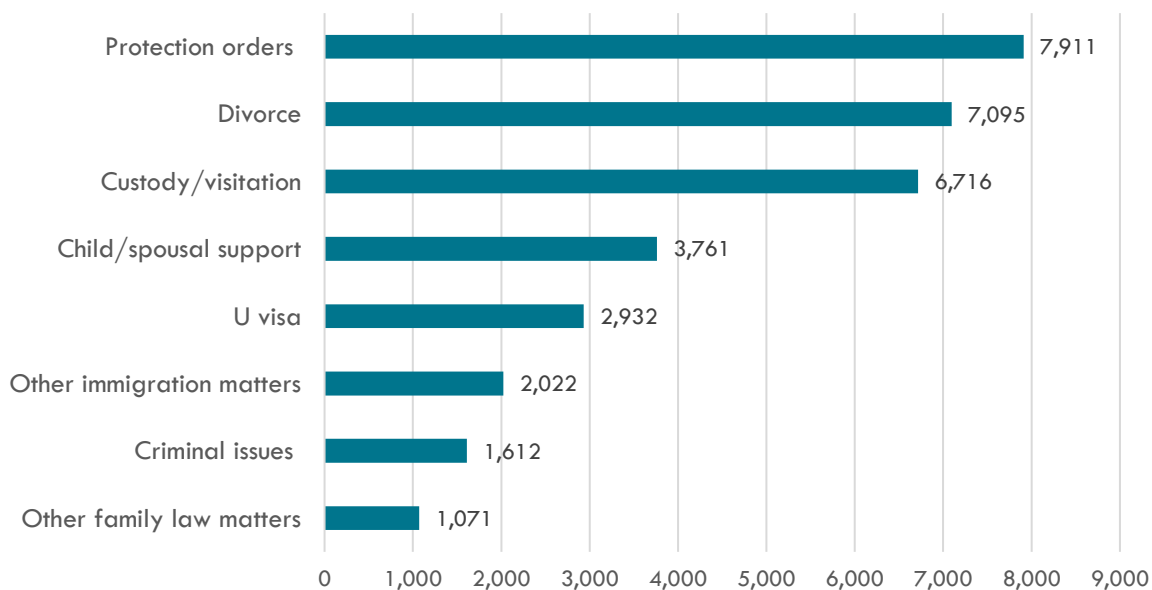
Funded staff positions <sup>8</sup>	FTEs	% of all funded staff
Attorney	232	57%
Victim advocate	41	10%
Paralegal	38	9%
Legal advocate	33	8%
Program coordinator	22	5%
Support staff	18	4%
Administrator	15	4%
Law student/intern	2	<1%
Trainer/educator	2	<1%
Information technology staff	1	<1%
Translator/interpreter	1	<1%

## 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.

- **6,395** victims received assistance with multiple legal issues (24% of all victims receiving services).

### Victims receiving assistance with legal issues



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

## 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.

- **23,191** legal issues were disposed of.<sup>10</sup>

<b>Legal outcomes</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>% of outcomes<sup>9</sup></b>
<b>Protection orders</b>	<b>6,403</b>	<b>28%</b>
Court decision (33% of protection orders)		
Received information/referral/advice only (31%)		
Negotiated resolution/filed action (11%)		
Received brief services only (10%)		
Victim withdrew (7%)		
Administrative decision (6%)		
Other result (2%)		
Negotiated resolution/no filed action (<1%)		
<b>Child custody/visitation</b>	<b>4,350</b>	<b>19%</b>
Received information/referral/advice only (51% of child custody/visitation)		
Court decision (20%)		
Received brief services only (13%)		
Negotiated resolution/filed action (10%)		
Victim withdrew (5%)		
Other result (1%)		
Negotiated resolution/no filed action (<1%)		
Administrative decision (<1%)		
<b>Divorce</b>	<b>4,099</b>	<b>18%</b>
Received information/referral/advice only (54% of divorce)		
Court decision (16%)		
Received brief services only (14%)		
Negotiated resolution/filed action (9%)		
Victim withdrew (6%)		
Other result (1%)		
Administrative decision (<1%)		
Negotiated resolution/no filed action (<1%)		

<sup>9</sup> Percentages for types of outcomes are based on the number of issues disposed of in each category.

<sup>10</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.

<b>Child/spousal support</b>	<b>2,177</b>	<b>9%</b>
Received information/referral/advice only (51% of child/spousal support)		
Court decision (20%)		
Negotiated resolution/filed action (11%)		
Received brief services only (11%)		
Victim withdrew (5%)		
Other result (1%)		
Administrative decision (<1%)		
Negotiated resolution/no filed action (<1%)		
<b>Immigration matters<sup>11</sup></b>	<b>2,113</b>	<b>9%</b>
Administrative decision (38% of immigration matters)		
Received information/referral/advice only (36%)		
Received brief services only (14%)		
Other results (5%)		
Victim withdrew (4%)		
Court decision (3%)		
Negotiated resolution/filed action (<1%)		
Negotiated resolution/no filed action (<1%)		

<sup>11</sup> Immigration matters include the following categories: U visa, VAWA self-petition, T visa, cancellation of removal, and other immigration matters.