

## Regional Funding

### Fiscal Year 2023 - Partner Funding Application

#### Legal Aid Works (Formerly Rappahannock Legal Services)

##### Agency Total Budget

*In the boxes below provide an overview of the administrative costs associated with your total agency budget for the FY 2023 Budget. Please also provide updated FY 2021 Actuals, data has been rolled over from previous application submissions for other fiscal years.*

	FY 2019 Actual	FY 2020 Budgeted	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Estimate	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Budget	FY 2023 Budget
Salary	993,348.68	993,348.68	1,011,441.40	1,027,948.00	781,355.75	742,668.60	1,203,049.00
Benefits	249,044.95	249,044.95	245,449.46	273,118.54	166,812.79	209,042.08	339,366.00
Operating Expenses	131,205.00	131,205.00	127,228.69	126,956.00	133,157.93	117,560.00	140,144.93
Capital Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Expenses	80,392.00	80,392.00	67,828.00	83,674.09	55,442.75	68,180.00	112,029.31
Total	1,453,990.63	1,453,990.63	1,451,947.55	1,511,696.63	1,136,769.22	1,137,450.68	1,794,589.24

##### Agency Total Revenues

*Please include revenue associated with your entire organization for FY2023. Please also provided updated FY 2021 Actuals, data has been rolled over from previous application submissions for other fiscal years. This section represents the TOTAL revenue your organization is receiving. The revenue associated with specific programs will be listed within your program budgets; this section represents total revenues. (For example if your organization requests funding for multiple programs the total amount requested from each locality or other entities goes within this section)*

	FY 2019 Actual	FY 2020 Budgeted	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Estimate	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Budget	FY 2023 Budget
Caroline	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Fredericksburg	29,380.00	29,380.00	29,380.00	29,380.00	29,380.00	29,380.00	29,380.00
King George	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Spotsylvania	28,684.00	28,684.00	28,684.00	28,684.00	28,684.00	28,684.00	28,684.00

	<b>FY 2019 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2020 Budgeted</b>	<b>FY 2020 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2021 Estimate</b>	<b>FY 2021 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2022 Budget</b>	<b>FY 2023 Budget</b>
Stafford	32,445.0 0	32,445.0 0	31,796.0 0	32,445.0 0	31,796.0 0	31,796.0 0	31,796.0 0
United Way	52,000.0 0	52,000.0 0	52,000.0 0	0.00	18,750.0 0	18,750.0 0	18,750.0 0
Grants	1,089,04 2.99	1,089,04 2.99	1,106,62 6.40	908,753. 81	1,007,08 8.72	923,442. 70	1,556,93 1.00
Client Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fundraising	40,600.0 0	40,600.0 0	59,867.4 0	35,800.0 0	43,132.8 4	26,500.0 0	28,500.0 0
Other (Click to itemize)	180,338. 64	180,338. 64	142,093. 75	475,133. 82	207,786. 77	77,397.9 8	99,048.2 4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,453,99 0.63</b>	<b>1,453,99 0.63</b>	<b>1,451,94 7.55</b>	<b>1,511,69 6.63</b>	<b>1,368,11 8.33</b>	<b>1,137,45 0.68</b>	<b>1,794,58 9.24</b>

**Surplus / Deficit**

	<b>FY 2020 Budgeted</b>	<b>FY 2020 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2021 Estimate</b>	<b>FY 2021 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2022 Budget</b>	<b>FY 2023 Budget</b>
Surplus or Deficit	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	231,349.11	0.00

## Legal Aid Works (Formerly Rappahannock Legal Services)

### Agency Budget Narrative

#### Administrative Expenses

**Provide an overview of the administrative costs for your agency.**

Our administrative costs include rental of our office space, utilities, supplies, liability and malpractice insurance, reimbursement of travel (to court), mandatory Virginia State Bar dues, supplies, postage, and equipment such as computers and printers. We also pay for a development director whose job is to manage our fundraisers and solicit donations from individuals.

**If your agency is requesting an increase or decrease in administrative funding, please describe in detail the reasons for these changes.**

N/A. We are not asking for any increase or decrease. We are asking for level funding.

**Please provide justification for and specific amounts of administrative costs that are defrayed by locality funds.**

Our administrative costs are modest and in line with the requirements of operating a nonprofit law office. In order to provide the services we offer the residents of PD 16, we have to pay for staff to conduct intake, recruit and train volunteers, and manage our finances.

#### Capital Expenses

**Please provide an overview of the capital costs for your agency.**

N/A We do not have capital costs in our budget.

**Please provide justification for and specific amounts of capital costs that are defrayed by locality funds.**

N/A We do not have capital costs in our budget.

#### Salary & Benefit Expenses

**Please provide an overview of any increases or decreases in general personnel expenses for your agency.**

In the next two years, we will show an increase in general personnel expenses due to a two-year grant received from the Commonwealth of Virginia in partnership with IKEA, a two-year grant from Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) funded by the federal government from DCJS, a seven month DHCD RRP Education & Outreach Grant from The federal Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) funds, and a three-year grant for housing issues from Jessie Ball DuPont.

**Please provide a description of any changes to agency benefits structure or cost.**

We do not anticipate any changes to agency benefits structure or cost, beyond any customary annual increases that the insurance company may pass along to us. We generally budget for such an increase every year.

## Budget Issues

**Provide any legislative initiatives or issues that may impact the agency for the upcoming year.**

We know of no legislative initiatives or issues that may impact our organization for the upcoming year.

**If you are aware of “outside” funding sources that will expire or be reduced on a set cycle or date, please note those below and how you are planning for them.**

We are not aware of any outside funding sources that will expire or be reduced on a set cycle or date.

**Please detail any identified agency needs or areas of concern that are currently not being addressed in your funding request.**

We are concerned about the effect of the pandemic on our budget in several respects. First, our main source of funding is a grant from the Legal Services Corporation of Virginia, which gets its funding from court filing fees, which are significantly down due to court closures and fewer court cases being filed. Second, we anticipate that our costs might rise regarding purchase of PPE and other elements that require us to protect our staff and the clients we serve. We are applying to as many grants as possible, hoping to get some new sources of funding to offset the unanticipated expenses related to the pandemic and to offset the possible loss of funding.

## **Legal Aid Works (Formerly Rappahannock Legal Services)**

### **Locality Information**

#### **Caroline County**

In FY 2021, our organization served 179 persons who reside in Caroline County.

#### **City of Fredericksburg**

In FY 2021, our organization served 169 persons who reside in the City of Fredericksburg.

#### **King George County**

In FY 2021, our organization served 76 persons who reside in King George County.

#### **Spotsylvania County**

In FY 2021, our organization served 411 persons who reside in Spotsylvania County

#### **Stafford County**

In FY 2021, our organization served 275 persons who reside in Stafford County

## Legal Aid Works (Formerly Rappahannock Legal Services)

### Agency Information

**Agency Name** Legal Aid Works (Formerly Rappahannock Legal Services)  
**Physical Address** 500 Lafayette Boulevard, Suite 100, Fredericksburg, VA, 22401, US  
**Mailing Address** 500 Lafayette Boulevard, Suite 100, Fredericksburg, VA 22401, USA  
**Agency Phone Number** (540) 371-1105 x116  
**Federal Tax ID #** 23-7362601  
**Web Address** www.LegalAidWorks.org  
**Agency Email Address** akloeckner@LegalAidWorks.org

### Agency Mission Statement

We champion fairness by advocating for those with the least access to the civil court system. Vulnerable low-income adults who face imminent homelessness through illegal eviction or foreclosure; victims of domestic violence who need civil protective orders, custody/support orders or divorces; and people who are in crisis due to financial abuse by creditors can get assistance from our organization.

**Number of Years in Operation** 48

**Main Contact** Ann H Kloeckner, phone: (540) 371-1105 x116, email: akloeckner@LegalAidWorks.org

**Job Title** Executive Director

### Localities Served

*Please select any/all localities your agency serves.*

**Caroline**   
**Fredericksburg**   
**King George**   
**Spotsylvania**   
**Stafford**

### Agency Collaborative Impact

**Describe in detail how the community would be impacted if your agency were dissolved or merged with another partner agency.**

LAW is the sole agency in PD 16 giving legal help to indigents in the civil justice system. Confused litigants representing themselves slow the court system as they struggle with presenting their cases, thus slowing the system for everyone. There is no right to a free lawyer in civil matters, so without LAW, these vulnerable clients would have to figure out a complex system on their own. Without Legal Aid helping the most vulnerable in our region, it would be impossible to achieve the standard of equal access to justice for all. If LAW merged with another partner agency, no other agency could deliver the critical legal help a law firm like LAW could achieve. Other agencies would have to hire lawyers, provide malpractice insurance, state bar member dues and other costs of running a law office, and would have to consider difficult ethics issues such as the requirement of setting up screenings for conflicts of interest. If we dissolved, other nonprofits would lose an irreplaceable ally.

## **Agency Community Impact**

*Please provide at least two examples of how the mission and vision of your agency impacts the community and overall region.*

### **Example 1**

Legal Aid Works has responded to the eviction crisis long before the pandemic hit, and in the past 18 months, has built on that experience to provide residents of PD 16 with solid, reliable information on their rights as tenants and homeowners. We have prepared Know Your Rights fact sheets, updating them as the laws changed rapidly. We sent our attorneys and paralegals to the General District Courts in PD 16 whenever there was a substantial eviction docket, to conduct outreach, informing tenants of their rights and how to avoid illegal eviction. As the only source of free legal services for civil legal matters, our advocates became a crucial source of reliable legal advice which made the difference between sheltering in place and becoming homeless. As a community and region, PD 16 saw evictions continue throughout the pandemic, sometimes with as many as 70 to 80 cases on the eviction docket on a particular day. Our mission and vision impacts our region by keeping people in their homes through avoidance of illegal evictions and foreclosures.

### **Example 2**

We provide assistance to domestic violence survivors, offering advice and representation in Civil Protective Orders (PO), as well as custody and support matters. Through our close collaboration with Empowerhouse, the survivor who relies on Empowerhouse's shelter looks to Legal Aid Works for crucial legal advice and representation. The impact of this work on the community and region is an essential link along with local law enforcement, prosecution, victim witness coordinators and Empowerhouse's shelter, offering a continuum of advocacy on behalf of survivors of domestic violence who will not have to face their abusers alone in the civil court system. Our attorneys provide zealous representation to ensure that a survivor's legal needs are met.

### **Example 3 (Optional)**

Our attorneys were part of a statewide team of Legal Aid organizations which banded together to file a Federal class action law suit against the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) on behalf of tens of thousands of Virginia workers who were unlawfully prevented from receiving unemployment benefits to which they were entitled. At the time we filed the lawsuit in April of 2021, Virginia was dead last of all 50 states in timely distribution of unemployment benefits (hitting the required deadline of 21 days after application only 4% of the time). By October of 2021, due to the lawsuit, and the ongoing obligations that the VEC was forced to meet, tens of thousands of Virginians, many in PD 16, are now receiving benefits that they would not have received if the lawsuit had not shone a spotlight on this illegal inaction by the VEC. The managing attorney of our Fredericksburg branch office which serves PD 16 was a key player in this lawsuit, engaging in hours of negotiation and settlement conferences with the opposing attorneys.



# Legal Aid Works (Formerly Rappahannock Legal Services) - Legal Aid Works (Formerly Rappahannock Legal Services) Civil Legal Representation Program

## Program Overview

*You may save your work at any time by clicking on the "Save My Work" link/icon at the bottom or top of the page.*

*When you have completed all questions on the form, select the "Save My Work and Mark as Completed" link/icon at the bottom or top of this page.*

*You may also SWITCH between forms in this application by using the SWITCH FORMS feature in the upper right corner. When switching forms, any updates to the existing form will automatically be saved.*

## General Information

<b>Program Name</b>	Legal Aid Works (Formerly Rappahannock Legal Services) Civil Legal Representation Program
<b>Is this a new program?</b>	No

## Program Contact

<b>Name</b>	Ann H Kloeckner
<b>Title</b>	Executive Director
<b>Email</b>	akloeckner@LegalAidWorks.org
<b>Phone</b>	(540) 371-1105 x116

## Program Purpose / Description

### Provide an overview of this program

We exist to fill the justice gap, leveling the playing field for those who cannot afford an attorney when they face a civil legal matter, such as obtaining a civil protective order, custody or support; stopping an illegal eviction or foreclosure; or being denied a benefit to which they are entitled, such as unemployment benefits or food stamps. We educate the low-income community about their legal rights in civil matters.

## Client Fees

### Please describe the fees clients must pay for the services by this program.

Our clients are indigent and do not pay a fee for our services.

## Justification of Need

**Please state clearly why this service should be provided to the citizens of the region and why the localities should consider this funding request.**

We are the only agency that offers these services (no duplication). When we get a protective order, an enforceable support order or get unemployment benefits for a client, we help stabilize the community. With their rights protected, clients become self-supporting citizens and the PD16 social services system has fewer clients in crisis who use resources. We assist the court system by representing people who could not afford a lawyer. In a difficult economic climate, our efforts have brought in much needed support orders or benefits for your residents. In FY21, we handled 439 cases, helped 1,671 PD16 residents, assisting 126 clients in domestic violence cases, & securing the following benefits: \$173,716 in child and spousal support awards; \$12,100 avoided in collections, \$72,373 avoided in housing matters payments. Our office assists vulnerable low-income residents of your counties by helping them avoid homelessness and protecting them with civil protective orders.

**If this is a new program, be sure to include the benefits to the region for funding a new request.**

N/A

**Target Audience and Service Delivery**

**Describe the program’s intended audience or client base and how those clients are served.**

LAW represents people who are under 125% of the Federal poverty guidelines with civil legal matters. According to the 2010 Census, Planning District 16 has 25,829 citizens whose income level makes them eligible for our services. For an average family with one parent and two children, the monthly income limit would be approximately \$2,288. LAW serves all of PD16 (Spotsylvania County, City of Fredericksburg, Caroline County, King George County and Stafford County) from our office in Fredericksburg. In addition, LAW serves all of Planning Districts 9 (Culpeper, Fauquier, Madison, Orange, Rappahannock Counties) from an office in Culpeper and Planning District 17 (The Counties of Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond, and Westmoreland) and parts of Planning District 18 (Essex, King & Queen and King William Counties) from our Tappahannock office. We have served Planning District 16 since 1973.

**If your program has specific entry or application criteria, please describe it here.**

Clients must be under the 125% of the Federal poverty guidelines. We only help those with civil legal matters, prioritizing our resources to focus on the critical areas of avoiding homelessness and protecting victims of domestic violence.

**Legal Aid Works (Formerly Rappahannock Legal Services) - Legal Aid Works (Formerly Rappahannock Legal Services) Civil Legal Representation Program**

**Program Budget Narrative**

**Please indicate in detail reasons for increases or decreases in the amounts you are requesting.**

N/A We are asking for level funding.

**If an increase is being requested, please describe the impact not receiving an increase would have on the program.**

N/A

**In particular, please describe in detail if any increase is sought for new positions or personnel.**

N/A

**Legal Aid Works (Formerly Rappahannock Legal Services) - Legal Aid Works (Formerly Rappahannock Legal Services) Civil Legal Representation Program**

**Program Specific Budget**

*In the boxes below provide program specific administrative costs associated with this program for FY 2023. Please also provide updated FY 2021 Actuals. Data has been rolled over from previous fiscal year application submissions.*

	<b>FY 2019 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2020 Budgeted</b>	<b>FY 2020 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2021 Estimate</b>	<b>FY 2021 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2022 Budget</b>	<b>FY 2023 Budget</b>
Personnel	430,298.88	471,285.26	393,116.28	399,711.92	420,460.98	399,711.92	634,876.60
Benefits	98,509.09	119,345.85	94,144.62	123,382.76	117,303.89	123,382.76	178,842.20
Operating Expenses	107,769.66	106,834.42	79,880.00	105,839.52	65,485.40	105,839.52	100,570.78
Capital Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>636,577.63</b>	<b>697,465.53</b>	<b>567,140.90</b>	<b>628,934.20</b>	<b>603,250.27</b>	<b>628,934.20</b>	<b>914,289.58</b>

**Program Specific Revenue**

*In the section below please provide revenue specifically associated with your program for FY 2023. Please also provide updated FY2021 Actuals. Data has been rolled over from previous fiscal year application submissions. The revenue in this section supports the implementation of your program and the services provided to the community.*

	<b>FY 2019 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2020 Budgeted</b>	<b>FY 2020 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2021 Estimate</b>	<b>FY 2021 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2022 Budget</b>	<b>FY 2023 Budget</b>
Caroline	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Fredericksburg	29,380.00	29,380.00	29,380.00	29,380.00	29,380.00	29,380.00	29,380.00
King George	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Spotsylvania	28,684.00	28,684.00	28,684.00	28,684.00	28,684.00	28,684.00	28,684.00
Stafford	32,445.00	31,796.00	32,445.00	31,796.00	31,796.00	31,796.00	31,796.00
United Way	52,000.00	52,000.00	52,000.00	18,750.00	18,750.00	18,750.00	18,750.00
Grants	490,757.88	274,045.28	417,631.90	418,824.20	316,104.85	418,824.20	477,427.46

	<b>FY 2019 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2020 Budgeted</b>	<b>FY 2020 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2021 Estimate</b>	<b>FY 2021 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2022 Budget</b>	<b>FY 2023 Budget</b>
Client Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fundraising	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other (Click to itemize)	1,810.75	280,060.25	5,500.00	100,000.00	177,035.42	100,000.00	326,752.12
Guardian Ad Litem			500.00		1,172.50		
Bar Dues			5,000.00		2,500.00		
Guardian Ad Litem	1,548.50	500.00					
Client Donations	262.25	100.00			296.00		
Bar Dues		1,000.00					
Reserve Fund		278,460.25		100,000.00		100,000.00	
Non designated funds from LSCV					173,066.92		326,752.12
<b>Total</b>	<b>636,577.63</b>	<b>697,465.53</b>	<b>567,140.90</b>	<b>628,934.20</b>	<b>603,250.27</b>	<b>628,934.20</b>	<b>914,289.58</b>

**Surplus / Deficit**

	<b>FY 2019 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2020 Budgeted</b>	<b>FY 2020 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2021 Estimate</b>	<b>FY 2022 Budget</b>	<b>FY 2023 Budget</b>
Surplus or Deficit	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

# **Legal Aid Works (Formerly Rappahannock Legal Services) - Legal Aid Works (Formerly Rappahannock Legal Services) Civil Legal Representation Program**

## **Collaborative Impact**

### **Efforts and Partnerships**

**Describe in detail examples of collaborative efforts and key partnerships between your program and the other programs or agencies in the area.**

AW collaborates through active key partnerships, including working with EmpowerHouse (representing some of their clients in need of protective orders and training their shelter staff on legal rights); RCASA (advising their rape crisis clients on family law and immigration matters); Thurman Brisben Center (regular talks to their residents on tenants' legal rights); Micah Ministries (advising their staff on tenants' legal rights, accepting many referrals from their programs); active participant in Council of Executives, a group of nonprofit leaders which shares best practices in nonprofit governance; active participant in Rappahannock Area Domestic Violence Task Force (area law enforcement, Commonwealth's Attorney and nonprofit groups that work with victims of domestic violence). We produce Know Your Rights presentations held at FAHASS, Micah Ministries, Habitat for Humanity and Thurman Brisben Center.

## **Collaborative Impact**

**Describe in detail how the community would be impacted if your program were dissolved or merged with another partner agency.**

LAW is the sole agency in PD 16 giving legal help to indigents in the civil justice system. Confused litigants representing themselves slow the court system as they struggle with presenting their cases, thus slowing the system for everyone. There is no right to a free lawyer in civil matters, so without LAW, these vulnerable clients would have to figure out a complex system on their own. Without Legal Aid helping the most vulnerable in our region, it would be impossible to achieve the standard of equal access to justice for all. If LAW merged with another partner agency, no other agency could deliver the critical legal help a law firm like LAW could achieve. Other agencies would have to hire lawyers, provide malpractice insurance, state bar member dues and other costs of running a law office, and would have to consider difficult ethics issues such as the requirement of setting up screenings for conflicts of interest. If we dissolved, other nonprofits would lose an irreplaceable ally.

**Legal Aid Works (Formerly Rappahannock Legal Services) - Legal Aid Works (Formerly Rappahannock Legal Services) Civil Legal Representation Program**

**Number of Individuals Served**

**Localities**

*Please provide the actual numbers of individuals served in this program during FY2021 and the estimated numbers of individuals to be served in FY2023.*

<b>Locality</b>	<b>FY2017 (Actual)</b>	<b>FY2018 (Actual)</b>	<b>FY 2019 (Actual)</b>	<b>FY 2020 (Actual)</b>	<b>FY 2021 (Actual)</b>	<b>FY 2022 Estimate</b>	<b>FY 2023 Estimate</b>
Fredericksburg City	161	141	202	257	169	150	150
Caroline County	136	108	116	123	179	95	95
King George County	80	61	41	29	76	30	30
Spotsylvania County	474	473	386	720	411	400	400
Stafford County	354	498	427	613	275	400	400
Other Localities	110	23	0	34	561	20	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,315</b>	<b>1,304</b>	<b>1,172</b>	<b>1,776</b>	<b>1,671</b>	<b>1,095</b>	<b>1,095</b>

# Legal Aid Works (Formerly Rappahannock Legal Services) - Legal Aid Works (Formerly Rappahannock Legal Services) Civil Legal Representation Program

[View Diagram](#) Goals and Objectives

## Goals

### Goal:

Provide legal services for victims of domestic violence. We help stabilize & keep the family safe by obtaining protective orders, we also seek child & spousal support. We anticipate the numbers will continue at a high level, due to the stressors tough economic situations create. If the family needs to sort out issues of child custody & visitation, we are able to provide full assistance to the family. Also, we assist the DV victim with other legal matters, such as housing and immigration.

Objectives		2020 Baseline	2020 Year End	2021 Baseline	2021 Year End	2022 Baseline	2022 Year End	2023 Baseline
<b>Provide advice and representation for victims of domestic violence to obtain protective orders against their abusers.</b>	Total # Clients Served	40	32	40	19			20
	Total # Clients Achieved/Successful	20	25	20	18			10
	% Achieved / Successful	50	78.13	50	94.74	0	0	50
<b>Provide advice and representation for victims of domestic violence to obtain enforceable orders of child and spousal support against their abusive partner.</b>	Total # Clients Served	55	65	55	15			20
	Total # Clients Achieved/Successful	27	44	27	11			15
	% Achieved / Successful	49.09	67.69	49.09	73.33	0	0	75



## Explanation & Overview

**If your outcomes are significantly less than your stated objectives, please note any reasons why this might be the case**

In the past fiscal year, the pandemic was responsible for the closure of court houses and the disruption of court dockets. While we still counseled clients remotely, there was no question that the disruption of the pandemic at least partially caused our lower numbers. We anticipate that the coming year will bring an increase in the number of cases that our staff handle.

## Updates for FY2018

**Please note any changes you plan to make to the program, or the stated goals and objectives, given the data you have reported**

We plan no changes.

**If you are restating the goals or objectives for the prior calendar year, please include those here**

We will continue to provide legal assistance (advice and possible representation) to survivors of domestic violence in civil legal matters, such as obtaining civil protective orders, custody and child/spousal support, help with avoiding illegal evictions or foreclosures, and immigration matters as well.

### Goal:

**Provide legal services for indigent clients who were wrongly denied unemployment benefits. In the recent difficult economic situation, unemployment benefits cases are vitally important to struggling individuals. We are hoping to take a similar number of cases in this area in the following fiscal year, in order to assist at-risk residents of Planning District 16 who have lost their jobs.**

Objectives		2020 Baseline	2020 Year End	2021 Baseline	2021 Year End	2022 Baseline	2022 Year End	2023 Baseline
<b>Provide advice and representation for indigent clients to obtain back awards and monthly continuing awards of unemployment benefits that were wrongfully denied to them.</b>	Total # Clients Served	8	7	8	4			4
	Total # Clients Achieved/Successful	4	0	4	0			2
	% Achieved / Successful	50	0	50	0	0	0	50

<b>Provide advice and representation for those who were wrongly denied unemployment benefits.</b>	Total # Clients Served	8	7	8	4			4
	Total # Clients Achieved/Successful	4	7	4	4			4
	% Achieved / Successful	50	100	50	100	0	0	100

## Explanation & Overview

### If your outcomes are significantly less than your stated objectives, please note any reasons why this might be the case

Over the course of FY 2022, we experienced a significant drop in the number of applicants for our services in the area of unemployment benefits. This was partially due to the fact that the entire Commonwealth was on lock down for the last quarter of the fiscal year and the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) was not processing cases in a timely manner (which generates possible disputes and administrative hearings which we would help our clients navigate). Along with other legal aid organizations in Virginia, Legal Aid Works filed a Federal class action law suit against the VEC on behalf of clients who applied for benefits but have heard nothing from the VEC since they applied, sometimes many months ago (the standard response time normally is 21 days). We anticipate that this coming year will see an increase in claims because, due to the class action law suit, many more applicants are able to file appeals of either denials or delays in receiving benefits to which they are entitled.

## Updates for FY2018

### Please note any changes you plan to make to the program, or the stated goals and objectives, given the data you have reported

We plan to do more outreach to residents of PD 16 during FY 2023 regarding their rights in unemployment cases. As the pandemic continues, this issue will only increase in importance as people struggle to find jobs and to survive periods of unemployment. Navigating the confusing world of unemployment benefits law will take expertise that our staff attorneys can offer to struggling workers. We spent hundreds of hours this year in litigating the Federal class action law suit filed against the VEC, and while that did not result in individual cases handled (our initial goal), it did force the VEC, under the scrutiny of a federal court judge, to provide cash awards to the workers who had waited in vain for benefits.

### If you are restating the goals or objectives for the prior calendar year, please include those here

We will continue to advise clients about their rights regarding unemployment benefits.