

# SHORE LEGAL ACCESS

Connecting Counsel & Communities

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ANNUAL REPORT

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2023

## FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This year we invested deeply in our community's future – a down payment on our vision of access to legal representation for everyone on the Eastern Shore, regardless of financial means. We expanded services, hired new staff, moved into bigger, more visible offices, and began the re-branding process.

As our community continues recovering from the pandemic, so many of the things we thought we could rely on have shifted. Groceries are more expensive, rent has gone up, and childcare is more costly than ever. On the upside, worker wages have increased, and jobs are plentiful. We are keeping our eyes on the horizon, as we build our capacity to meet the Eastern Shore community's need for legal representation in the face of these challenging headwinds.

We are grateful for the contributions of our extraordinary network of volunteer attorneys who have been unwavering in their commitment to justice and delivering concrete results for people who otherwise could not afford counsel. Our Board, donors, funders, volunteers, and community partners make it possible for us to positively impact so many people on the Eastern Shore, one case at a time.

With warmest regards,



Meredith Lathbury Girard, Esq.



## **FY2023 Board of Directors**

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Judith Showalter, Esq.  
Mike Starling  
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# 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



- Moved into more accessible, visible offices in Easton and Salisbury to accommodate expanded services throughout the Eastern Shore.
- Expanded same-day representation for tenants in 6 counties.

- Increased access to legal services, including representation for family law cases for residents of Wicomico, Worcester, and Somerset County.
- Bolstered outreach to Hispanic and Latino/a people and added bi-lingual outreach staff.
- Launched a 2023-2025 Strategic Plan aimed at expanding services and centering client needs and equity.
- Board of Directors created new IDEA Committee and conducted a racial equity assessment.
- Hosted 12 paid interns whose work is valued at \$52,508.



# OUR IMPACT 2023

2,997

**Calls  
for assistance**



1,075

**People Obtained Legal  
Advice from an Attorney**



401

**People Represented  
in Court**



270

**People Obtained a Will,  
Financial Power of Attorney,  
and Advance Medical Directive**



\$2,129,410

**Secured in financial  
benefits for clients**



\$2,340,625

**Value of free legal  
services provided**

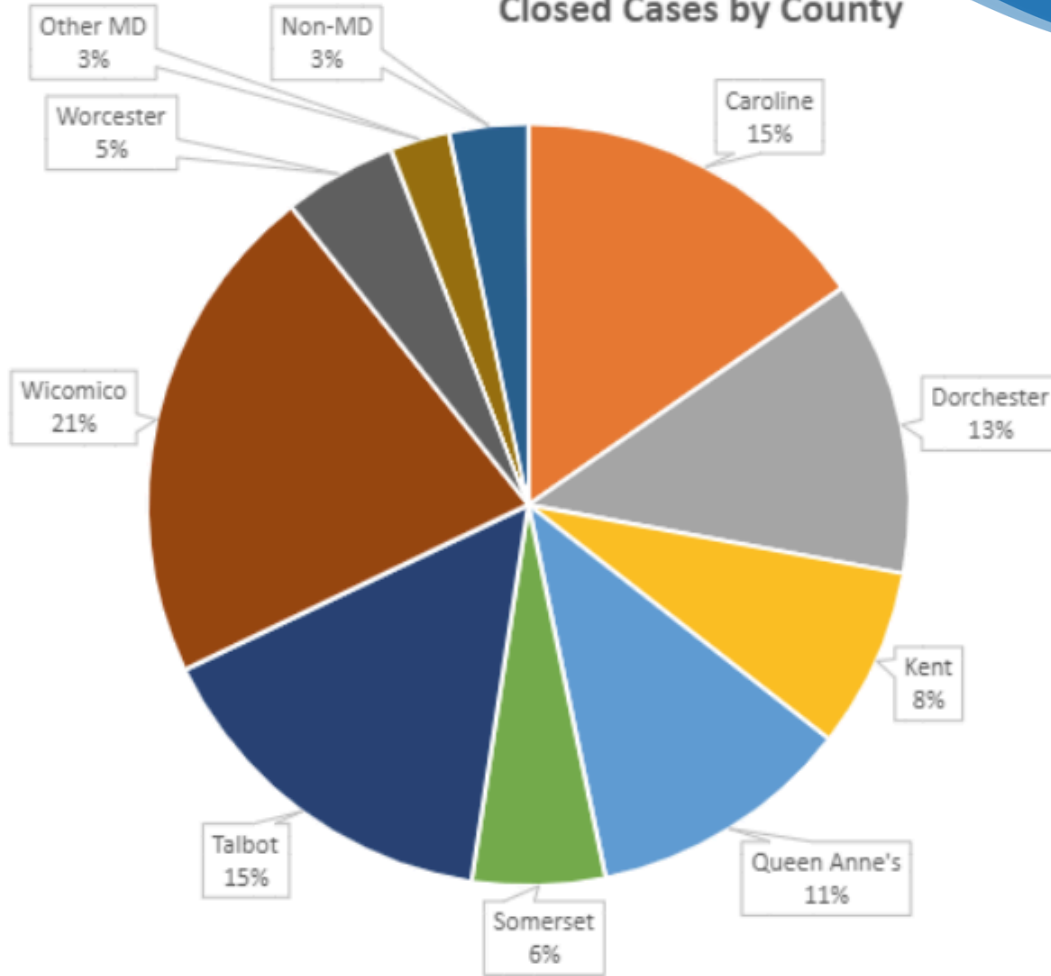


9,340

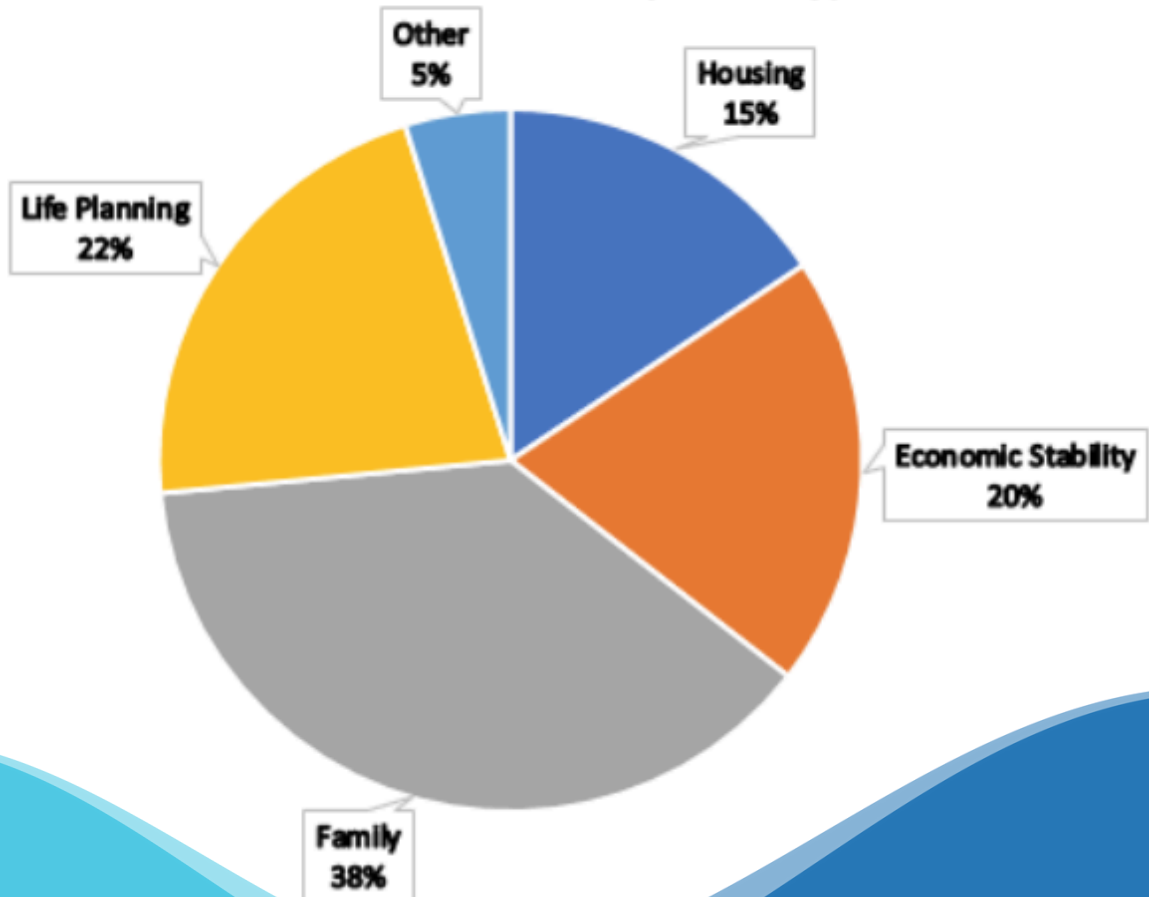
**Number of volunteer  
attorney hours**



### Closed Cases by County



### Closed Cases by Case Type

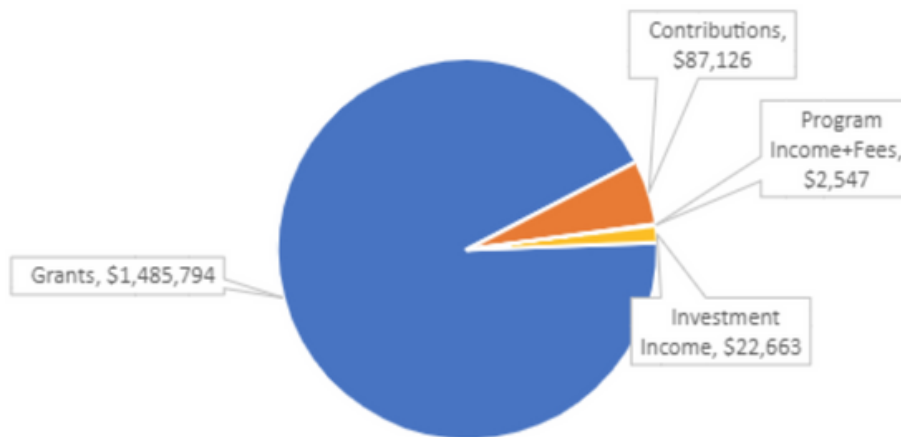




# 2023 FINANCIALS

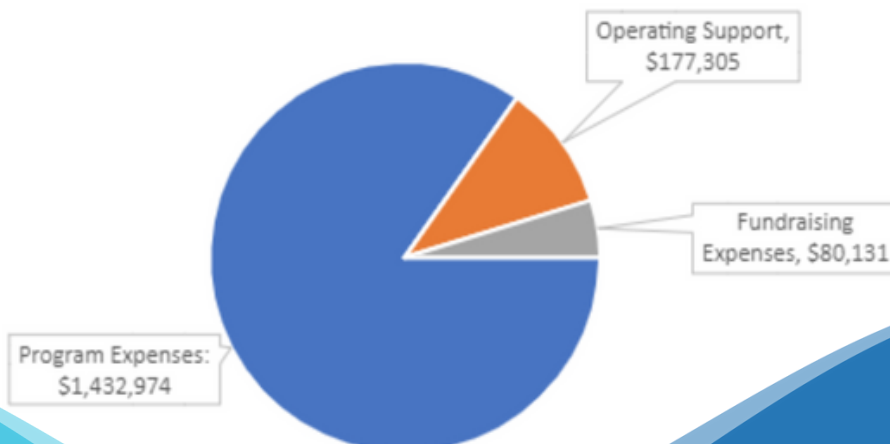
## FY23 Revenue:

<b>Grants</b>	<b>\$1,485,794</b>
<b>Contributions</b>	<b>\$87,126</b>
<b>Program Income &amp; Fees</b>	<b>\$2,547</b>
<b>Investment Income</b>	<b>\$22,663</b>
 <b>Total Support &amp; Revenue</b>	 <b>\$1,598,130</b>



## FY23 Expenses:

<b>Program Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,432,974</b>
<b>Operating Support</b>	<b>\$177,305</b>
<b>Fundraising Expenses</b>	<b>\$80,131</b>
 <b>Total Expenses</b>	 <b>\$1,690,410</b>



# 2023 JUSTICE SUPPORTERS

## Funders:

**Administrative Office of the Courts**

**American College of Bankruptcy**

**Caroline County**

**Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore**

**Dock Street Foundation**

**Equal Justice Works**

**Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment**

**Leonard & Helen R. Stulman Foundation**

**Maryland Bar Foundation**

**Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development**

**Maryland Legal Services Corporation**

**Mid-Shore Community Foundation**

**Rural Maryland Council**

**Talbot County**

**Talbot Family Network**

**United Way of Kent County**

**Upper Shore Aging**

**Wicomico County**



# 2023 JUSTICE SUPPORTERS

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