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ANNUAL REPORT
Central Jersey Legal Services

CJLS
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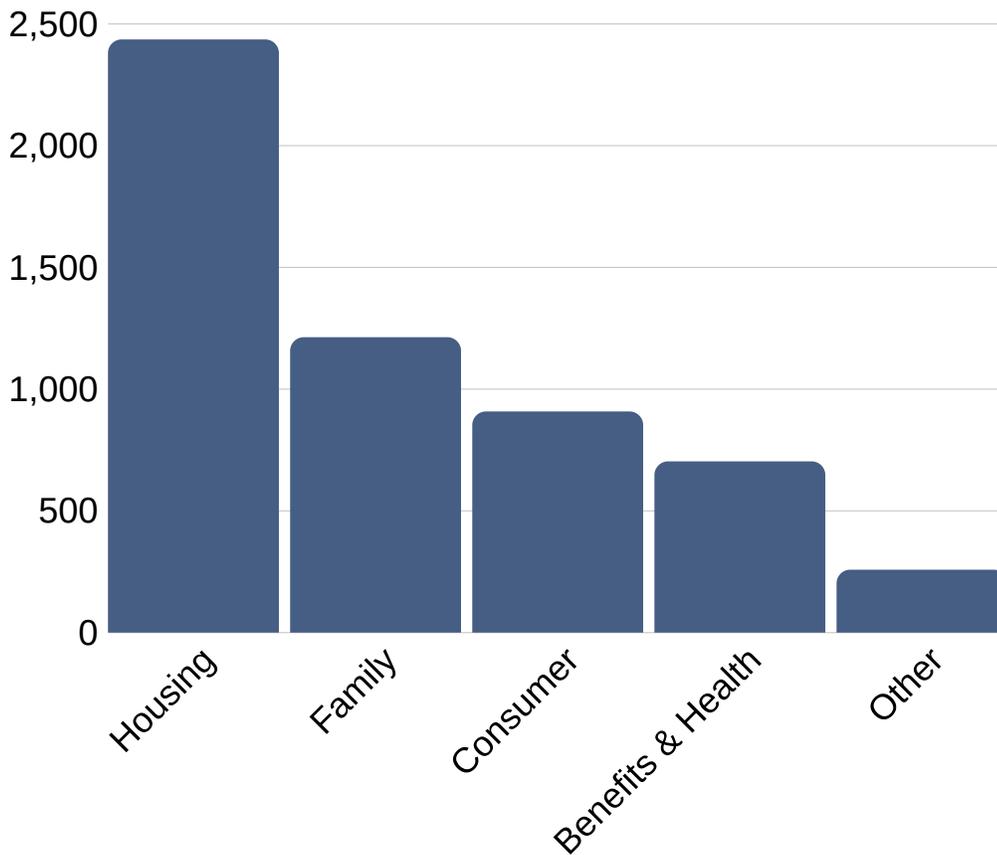


Our Cases

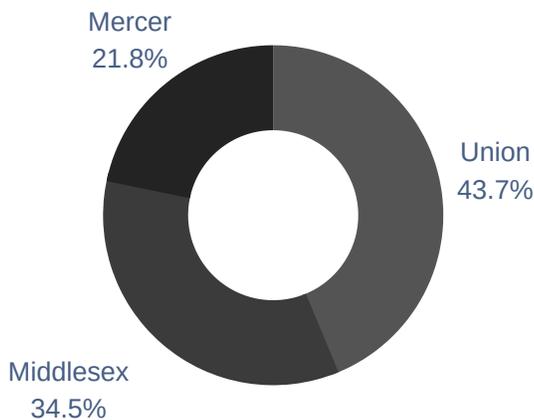
6,675
Requests for Assistance

5,498
Total Cases Closed

Closed Cases by Legal Issue



Closed Cases by County



Closed Cases by Level of Service



Our Clients

12,952 people lived in households we assisted in 2019.

4,823 were children under 18.



Clients' average household income in 2019 was **\$18,826/Year**.



72% of clients were women.



25% of clients age 60 and older.

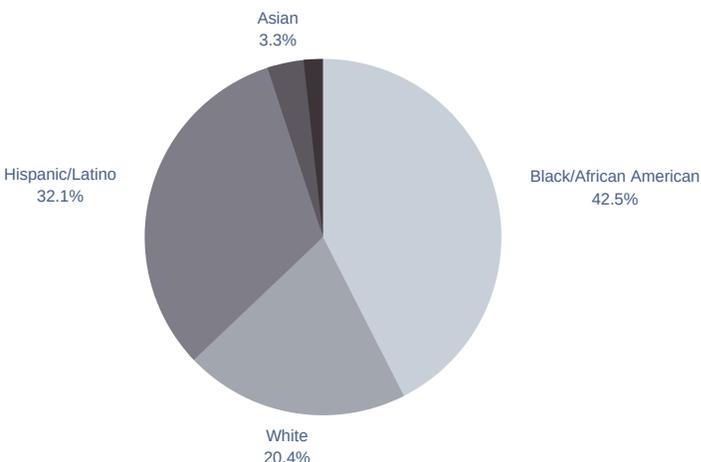


38% of clients were living with a physical or mental disability.



16% of clients spoke a language other than English.

Clients by Race/Ethnicity



Case Outcomes



487

**Affordable
Housing
Maintained**



259

**Child
Custody &
Support
Secured**



228

**Excessive
& Unlawful
Debt
Resolved**



98

**Protection
Orders
Obtained**



76

**SSI/SSD &
Other
Benefits
Secured**



59

**Health
Care
Accessed**

These outcomes represent only a portion of CJLS' work. CJLS provides different levels service to our clients, including counsel and advice or brief assistance. It's difficult to track outcomes from clients we only speak to once or twice. The outcomes reported here are for cases in which we provided extended representation in court or negotiations outside the courtroom.

In some cases, we provide legal advice and brief services. These are often cases where a client can resolve their legal problem on their own, given a clear understanding of their rights and the steps they need to take. Our attorneys and paralegals review the facts of a client's case, answer questions, and explain what needs to be done and what to expect. They may write a letter or make a phone call on the client's behalf. With legal advice, clients understand their rights and are prepared to address their problem on their own.

OUR STORIES



Jacob

Jacob, a young man living with physical and mental disabilities, came to CJLS in 2016 after he was twice denied SSI benefits. He lived in a rooming house, able to get by with sporadic financial help from his father. His father did his best to support Jacob when he could, but it was not enough. It took three years and several hearings, but we succeeded in getting Jacob SSI benefits retroactive to 2006. Over that three years, we opened six other cases for Jacob. We helped when his GA benefits were terminated, he couldn't pay his rent, and he was illegally locked out of his room. We assisted when his employment at a fast food restaurant was terminated and his full pay withheld, and we advised him what to do when his landlord illegally demanded he pay utilities. It's been a long road, but Jacob has finally found a stable footing.

Angela

Angela met and married her husband while in the U.S. on a student visa. Soon after they were married he became physically abusive. He allowed her visa to expire without petitioning her for legal status. Angela was trapped. She was afraid to leave him or ask for help because she believed she would be deported and he would get custody of their two small children. So she stayed - until the day he hurt one of the kids. Then she called the police. A CJLS Family Attorney helped Angela get a restraining order, and our Immigration Attorney helped her prepare and file a VAWA Self-Petition, which allows abused spouses to acquire legal status without the participation of their abusive spouse. Angela's petition was approved. She's now a lawful permanent resident and living free of violence.