



## Context

The State Bar of California 2024 Justice Gap Study found that Californians do not receive any or enough legal help for 77% of problems that substantially impact their lives.

Compared to 2023, eviction filings increased in San Mateo County by 9.5% in 2024.

As reported by CalMatters, about 23% of Silicon Valley residents lived below the poverty threshold in 2021, a 3% increase from 2019. The top 0.001% of Silicon Valley households hold more wealth than the bottom 50%. (Silicon Valley Institute for Regional Studies.)

In the Silicon Valley region, unemployment rates are still higher for Black or African Americans (5.3%) compared to Whites (4.2%) and Asians (3.4%) in 2023.

## Who we served

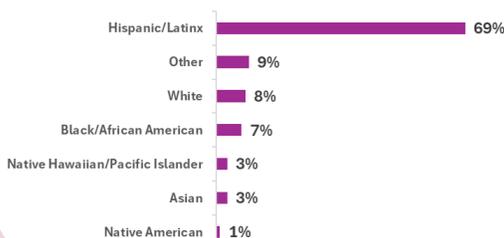
In 2024, we provided legal services in **1,416 cases**, and our legal services reached **5,923 household members (1,309 kids)**.

**52% of our clients have kids.**

80% of clients served are below 30% of the Area Median Income and our client's **average monthly income is \$2,385**.

61% of clients identified as having limited English proficiency and 22% of clients identified as having a disability or a disabled household member.

Race/Ethnicity



Our mission is to provide transformative legal services that enable diverse communities in East Palo Alto and beyond to achieve a secure and thriving future.

Founded by community advocates in 2002, we offer free legal services to working class families who live and work in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties.

### Legal Services

- Advice
- Brief services
- Full scope representation
- Know-your-rights

### Impact

- Housing stability
- Increased income
- Secure legal status

### Change

- More inclusive and stable communities
- More equitable laws

## Immigration



Our immigration team provided **337** consultations, obtained or renewed **186** work permits, obtained **15** green cards for new lawful permanent residents, prevented deportation in **14** cases, won asylum for **9** asylees, and obtained citizenship for **6** individuals.

**All impacting 2,530 household members.**

## Economic Advancement

**213** barriers removed for **92** clients who want to move past their criminal records.

Our economic advancement team recovered **\$136,000** in unpaid wages and other damages for workers who experienced wage theft and/or unfairness in the workplace.



## Housing



Our Housing team impacted **1,884** household members.

**70%** of cases where we provided limited scope or full scope representation, we were able to prevent the loss of housing or negotiate better move out terms.

**\$517,162** rent debt waived.

## Social Work

While cases are ongoing, our social worker supported **65** clients in improving economic self-sufficiency, increasing access to healthcare, food relief, and more.



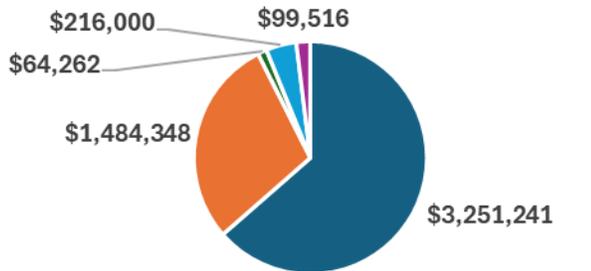
## Pro Bono

Our **484** pro bono attorney volunteers contributed **12,078** hours, valued at over \$12 million.



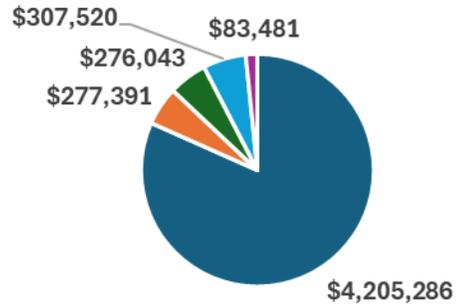
## Financials

### FY24 Revenue



- Government Contracts
- Foundations & Grants
- Individual Giving
- Sponsorships
- Other Earned Income

### FY25 Expense



- Salaries & Benefits
- Professional Services
- Emergency Housing Fund
- Occupancy & Office
- Dues, Meetings & Travel

## Still Dreaming Big: The Impact of DACA

When Lupe was eight and a half years old, his family arrived in the U.S., leaving behind everything they knew in search of a better future. It wasn't until his teenage years that Lupe began to feel the limitations imposed by his undocumented status. It was during this time that Lupe became acutely aware of the doors that were closed to him. He legally couldn't get a driver's license, couldn't apply for college in the same way, and couldn't get a job to help his family with their growing expenses.

DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) offered Lupe a change to dream big. Like thousands of other young people, for the first time, Lupe felt doors were finally opened for him.

As Lupe entered college, his work permit allowed him to get a job that helped pay for tuition and living expenses. **It wasn't just about earning money—it was about claiming his right to contribute, to be part of the workforce, and to carve out a future for himself.**

Today, Lupe works for a non-profit helping refugees rebuild their lives in the U.S. His work is driven by his own experiences as an immigrant. DACA has given him the stability to pursue a career in social impact, and it has fueled his passion for helping those who need it most. But while DACA has opened many doors, Lupe's life is still marked by uncertainty. Every day, he is grateful for the opportunities he has, but he also lives with the constant fear that DACA could be revoked.

Despite the uncertainty, Lupe remains hopeful. He focuses on the things he can control and continues to push forward with a positive outlook. He believes that DACA matters because it allows people like him to pursue their dreams without the limitations of being undocumented. It gives him the chance to contribute to society and build a future that once seemed impossible.

At CLSEPA, we share Lupe's big dreams. We seek to create a just and thriving future for all in our community, knowing that we may never see it but never giving up the good fight. We will continue representing Dreamers like Lupe and others seeking to build a brighter world for themselves and their families.

## Thank you to our supporters!

*Please go to: <https://clsepa.org/about> for a full list of our FY24 supporters!*

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**Join our mission! As a free legal services provider, we rely on government grants, private funds, and people like you to keep the lights on and our doors open.**

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