Alternative Legal Service Models That Meet the Needs Of Older Adults
Introductions

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Objectives for Our Discussion

• Current Legal Service Needs of Seniors
• Reflection on past Municipal & Legal Services service models
• Share (5) Key Factors for Implementing & Updating Programs
• Highlight (2) Service Models
• Opportunity for Open Discussion - Lets Build on the Expertise in the Room!
Our Commitment:

Helps older, dependent and disabled adults to age in place with dignity and independence;

Ensures the safety and well-being of older and dependent adults in their communities;

Creates vibrant community centers that empower and connect residents; and

Promotes equity and engagement and seeks to prevent isolation and mistreatment of older adults and people with disabilities through culturally competent and in-language services.

Mission

To improve lives and support self-determination for older adults, adults with disabilities, and communities
Mission today

To ensure our vision of equitable access to justice for all, we engage in community lawyering, legal education and outreach, and structural policy change. We respond to emerging community needs while providing self-determination tools that empower individuals to advocate for themselves and their communities. We achieve this by providing legal services that integrate with broader social support services, creating additional entry points for critical legal services, and using our collective voices to reform systems.

Staff Today- 100plus

Senior, Dependent Adults, Caregiver
Direct Services Team- 11 Members
2,000 plus inquiries for service

Original Mission

Small group of attorneys, social workers, and activists came together to provide much needed legal assistance in the community to support low-income Holocaust survivors and seniors in Fairfax District from illegal evictions, debt frauds, and denied access to government resources

Original Staff in 1974- 15
Intersection of Agencies

MUNICIPAL

LEGAL AID
Traditional Legal Assistance Program

**Goal:** Deliver high-quality, high-impact, cost effective services designed to address the unmet needs of eligible clients.

Ensure justice, dignity, health, security, maximum autonomy and independence to older Californians, and Caregivers.

Priority of service is given to those in greatest social or economic need

- Identification of Target Population
- Plan

Collaboration is key!
Service Categories

Advice

Limited Representation

Representation
Los Angeles County Region
In 2018, the Los Angeles region’s older adult population was already larger than the older adult population of 41 states and is expected to nearly double to over 2 million by 2030.

The County of Los Angeles is one of the largest, most populous, and ethnically diverse counties in the entire nation. Older adults currently make up roughly 11% (or approximately 1.6 million) of the County’s population (US Census, 2010). The County of Los Angeles older adult population is expected to double from 9.7% in 2000 to 18.2% in 2030 (USC Sol Price, 2013).

The County of Los Angeles is home to a significant portion of the State’s most vulnerable older adult population. A study completed by the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) found that many older adults with low-incomes experience food insecurity, reporting skipping meals because they did not have enough money for food.
The Hidden Poor

A new, more accurate standard of measurement gauges income security among California’s older adults and takes into account local cost of living.

37% of older adults 65+ in LA County don’t have enough income to meet their basic needs.

A single older adult who rents in LA County needs at least $28,284 per year to meet their needs.

Older Adults Experiencing Homelessness

45% of homeless individuals in California are age 50+.

57,715 older adults statewide interacted with the homeless response system.

In LA County, 17,930 adults age 55+ interacted with the homeless response system.

Credit- JUSTICE IN AGING

FIGHTING SENIOR POVERTY THROUGH LAW
Legal Services Designed for Prevention & Intervention

In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)
IHSS provides in-home assistance to eligible older adults and people with disabilities as an alternative to institutional care and enables recipients to remain safely in their own homes.

**In LA County,**
151,440 older adults 65+ receive IHSS services.
388,736 older adults statewide receive IHSS services.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
SSI is a federal income supplement program available to low-income older adults and people with disabilities.

**In LA County,**
567,486 older adults receive SSI payments.

Medi-Cal & Medicare
Older adults 65+ who have incomes at or below 138% of the federal poverty level qualify for both Medi-Cal & Medicare for their health care coverage.

**In LA County,**
517,750 older adults dually eligible.

There are 1,658,539 older adults statewide who are dually eligible.

Credit: JUSTICE IN AGING FIGHTING SENIOR POVERTY THROUGH LAW
Past Models

- Community Sites
- Home Visits
- Office Visits
- Phone Intake Only
5 Key Factors for Implementing & Updating Programs

- Expanding the Concept of Service Site
- Resilient Staff Plan
- Efficiency
- Network of Community Partnership for Projects
- Equity
KIOSK Model

You are in great company!

Our network of Legal Kiosks have already increased access to justice in several communities across the country.

- Minnesota Legal Services Coalition
- Western New England School of Law's Center for Social Justice
- Ottawa County Michigan Courts
- Texas Legal Services Center
- Legal Services of North Dakota
- Nevada Legal Services - Coming Soon!

https://www.legalkiosk.org
Get free help preparing forms for certain conservatorship matters

Are you a caregiver who needs help with conservatorship?

Are you an adult needing decision making skills?

Self Help Conservatorship Platform
Self Help
Conservatorship
Platform

Getting Started
Select your current step in the conservatorship process.

New to Conservatorship?
Before starting, learn about what conservatorship is, alternatives, as well as how the process works.
Learn More

Ready to Register?
We'll ask you a few quick questions before you register to see if the self-help clinic is a good fit for you.
Start Questionnaire

Returning Clients
Once you have registered with us, you can access instructions, workshops, videos and FAQs for your current step.
Process Overview
Platforms

Find out more about your rights by participating in a virtual tenant workshop.

Get the legal assistance you need.

Stay connected to Stay Housed L.A. County for updates.

Find additional resources in
Lets Build on the Expertise in the Room!