

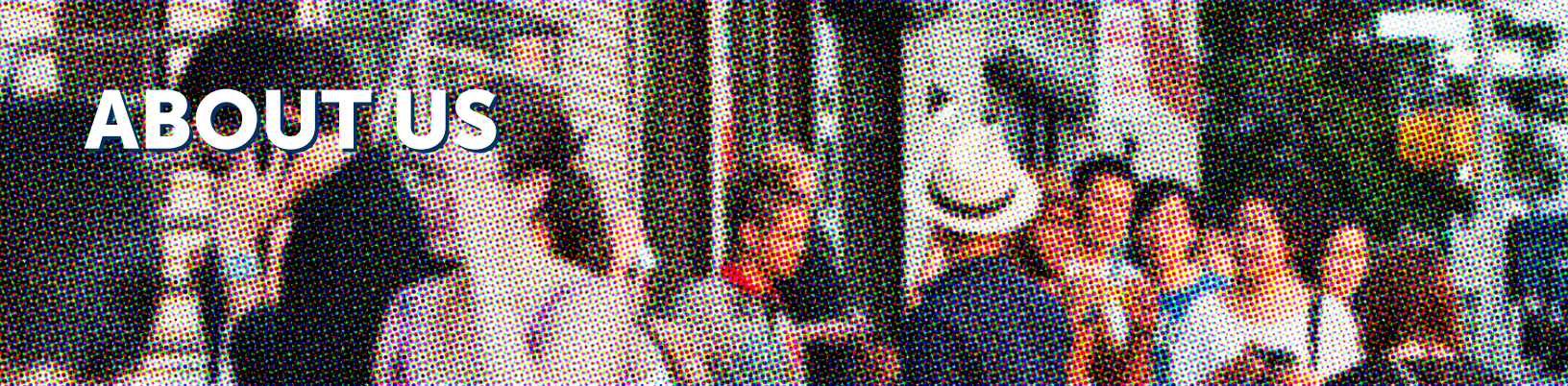
**BROOKLYN LEGAL SERVICES
CORPORATION A**

IMPACT REPORT 2024



**Brooklyn
Legal
Services
Corporation A**

ABOUT US



Brooklyn A advocates for justice, equity, and empowerment, working tirelessly to dismantle barriers and protect the rights of New York's diverse communities.

Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A (Brooklyn A) is committed to ensuring that every New Yorker has equal access to legal services to seek justice, amplify their voices, and confront systemic racism and oppression. Founded in 1968 during the War on Poverty, Brooklyn A recognizes the pivotal role attorneys play in combating poverty, inequality, and discrimination.

Through a combination of **civil legal services, organizing efforts, and educational resources**, we empower individuals and communities to assert their rights and stand against harassment, displacement, and gentrification. Our work helps create stronger, more equitable neighborhoods.

OUR IMPACT

Through representation, advice, education, and advocacy, Brooklyn A:

- **Keeps individuals and families housed** by preventing evictions and ensuring safe, healthy living conditions for tenants
- **Resolves tax conflicts**, assisting low-income individuals with federal or state tax disputes
- **Protects homeowners' equity and generational wealth** by representing them in foreclosure and bankruptcy proceedings, negotiating loan modifications, and challenging predatory lending practices
- **Supports survivors of domestic violence**, representing them in family court proceedings and helping them establish safety and stability
- **Advocates for small businesses**, assisting with commercial lease negotiations to foster economic resilience
- **Strengthens community institutions** by representing nonprofit, worker co-op, and advocacy groups vital to local neighborhoods



DEAR FRIENDS,

As I reflect on the last year for Brooklyn A, I am filled with pride and gratitude. Despite the persistent challenges posed by the ongoing housing crisis and the broader economic pressures facing our communities, our dedicated team has continued to provide vital legal services to New Yorkers in need. By the close of fiscal year 2024, we handled 5,172 cases, directly impacting more than 8,166 New Yorkers. Through unwavering advocacy and commitment to our mission, our staff has demonstrated resilience and an unshakeable dedication to justice. I could not be prouder of all that we've achieved together.

Our goal this past year was to expand Brooklyn A's reach, strengthen key partnerships, and deliver the highest quality legal services. We are pleased to report that we've made significant strides in this direction. Brooklyn A is growing — we increased our staff by 14% to a total of 92 full-time employees, with new investments in staff development and training. We are especially excited about the expansion of our anti-eviction tenant practice, which has now extended beyond Brooklyn into Queens. This growth is a direct result of the extraordinary efforts of our team, who continue to steadfastly work tirelessly to provide equal access to legal services for all New Yorkers, helping them assert their rights and overcome systemic barriers.

Our work doesn't stop at individual casework. Last year, we continued to advocate through citywide and statewide coalitions, participating in public hearings and engaging with elected officials on critical issues impacting our client communities. We've worked on matters related to rent regulation, tenant harassment, Right to Counsel, foreclosure, small business protections, domestic violence, and much more. The 2023 Annual Report from the Permanent Commission on Access to Justice highlights a troubling statistic: New York State is facing a \$1 billion shortfall in funding to provide legal services for low-income individuals facing civil legal issues. While the challenges are great, we remain committed to closing the justice gap — and we know that together, with the support of our elected officials, partner government agencies, foundation and corporate partners, and pro bono colleagues, we can achieve meaningful change.

As we look ahead, we know that our work is far from over and the need for our critical services will only likely intensify. We are grateful to all the donors and supporters who support our mission and contribute to our progress. A heartfelt thank you goes out to the entire team at Brooklyn A. Their dedication to expanding and delivering high-quality legal services is truly inspiring. The journey is not always easy, but it is one we walk together, with passion and determination.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jessie Rose". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jessie Rose

Executive Director

BROOKLYN A 2024

BY THE NUMBERS

CASES HANDLED

5,172

FORECLOSURE
CASES HANDLED

365

TENANT ASSOCIATIONS
SUPPORTED

52

PEOPLE
IMPACTED

8,166

SMALL BUSINESS
MATTERS

1,386

TENANT CASES
HANDLED

2,975

TAX CLIENTS SERVED

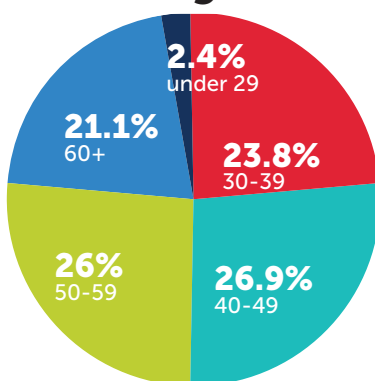
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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
CASES HANDLED

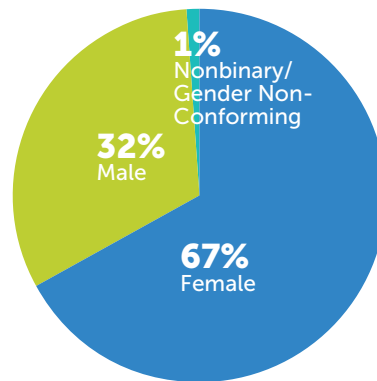
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WHO WE SERVE

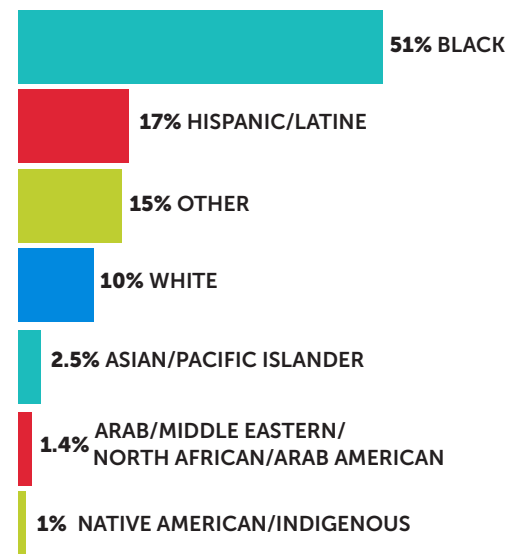
Age



Client Gender



Client Race & Ethnicity



Languages Served

American Sign Language Spanish Nepali Hungarian
Chinese/Mandarin Korean Bengali Turkish
Arabic Georgian English Gujarati Hindi Polish
Japanese French Creole Creole Hebrew Albanian
Russian Serbocroatian French Chinese/Cantonese

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Over the past year, through Brooklyn A's combined virtual and in-person outreach efforts, we proudly participated in and hosted 129 educational and outreach events, connecting with more than 3,400 individuals. These achievements would not have been possible without the incredible organizations we partnered with along the way. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our partners for their dedication and collaboration in advancing justice and equity in our communities.

Accompany Capital
Association for Neighborhood
& Housing Development
Brooklyn Chamber of
Commerce
Brooklyn Public Library
Catholic Charities Brooklyn
& Queens
Center for NYC
Neighborhoods
Citizens Bank
Columbia University SBDC
Communitas America
Coney Island Neighborhood
Revitalization Corporation
Cooper Square Committee

Cypress Hills Local
Development Corporation
El Puente
End of Life Choices New York
Fifth Avenue Committee
First Corinthian Baptist
Church
Flatbush Gardens Tenant
Association
Grow Brooklyn
Inwood Merchant Association
Kingsbridge Road Merchants
Association
LiveOnNY
Local Development
Corporation of Crown Heights

NHS Brooklyn
NHS of Queens
Northwest Bronx Community
& Clergy Coalition
NYC Small Business Services
NYCC Communities
NYS Attorney General Office
Queens Chamber of
Commerce
Renaissance (REDC)
Riseboro Community
Partnership
Yemeni American Merchants
Association

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION CONT.

Brooklyn A extends our deep gratitude to our elected partners who have championed justice and equity in their advocacy and by collaborating with us to provide much needed community outreach and education this year. We also thank those who advocated for and secured funding* to support our mission. Your unwavering commitment empowers our communities and strengthens our fight for justice for all.

SPONSORS

Congresswoman
Nydia Velázquez

State Senator
Roxanne Persaud*

State Senator Julia Salazar

State Senator
Zellnor MyrieMyrie

State Senator
Andrew Gounardes*

Former State Senator
Iwen Chu*

Assembly Member
Maritza Davila

Assembly Member
Latrice Walker*

Assembly Member
Alicia Hyndman

Brooklyn Borough President
Antonio Reynoso*

New York City Council
Speaker Adrienne Adams*

New York City Council
Speaker Amanda Fariás*

Representative
Robert Holden*

Representative Farah Louis

Representative
James Gennaro*

Representative Selvena
Brooks-Powers*

Representative Julie Menin*

Representative
Pierina Ana Sanchez*

Representative
Sandra Ung*

Representative
Shekar Krishnan

Representative
Nantasha Williams*

Representative
Jennifer Gutiérrez

Representative
Crystal Hudson*

Representative Chi Ossé*

Representative Sandy Nurse*

Representative
Shahana Hanif*

Representative Rita Joseph*

Representative Chris Banks*

Former Representative
Marjorie Velázquez

POLICY AND ADVOCACY

Brooklyn A aims to help New Yorkers in every way possible—day-to-day, that means providing services. But we also push for policy change that will have a lasting impact.



We make sure to advocate for legislation at the city, state, and federal level that can improve the lives of our clients and sustain the service provider organizations that serve them. As a member of multiple civil legal service coalitions, Brooklyn A joins in broad efforts to improve government systems so our work serving clients can grow. In May of 2024, our Executive Director, Jessica Rose, became the Co-Vice President of the New York Legal Services Coalition Board of Directors and Co-Chair of its Legislative Steering Committee. The new role deepens Brooklyn A's long involvement with the NYLSC, enhancing our voice when calling for change across the state. She also is a member of the Steering Committee of the Leap Coalition in New York City and the Committee on Legal Aid of

the New York State Bar Association. Many of our staff are active members of coalitions that help amplify the voices of our client community and advocate for issues aligned with our collective missions.

This past year, we spoke up in favor of a law changing notarization requirements in civil cases—removing a needless burden on low-income New Yorkers and aligning New York with federal practice and 20 other states across the country. We also joined our peers to oppose Governor Kathy Hochul's "sweep" of Interest on Lawyers Account (IOLA) funding in last year's state budget, unjustly steering tens of millions out of a dedicated account for civil legal services. Brooklyn A continues to lend our voice to advocate for policies and legislation that can have meaningful impact on our work and the people we serve.

The Brooklyn A blog also produces valuable advocacy and educational materials shared regularly with our community. The Brooklyn A Policy Committee is a rotating collective of staff members who dedicate time to writing op-eds, tracking laws and trends among clients that could benefit our clients. The team keeps our blog up-to-date with trends like new tax laws, educational resources like how to handle a potential foreclosure, and valuable news alerts like newly opened voucher waitlists.

CONSUMER & ECONOMIC ADVOCACY (CEA)

FORECLOSURE PREVENTION

KEY STAT

365
FORECLOSURE
CASES HANDLED



FORECLOSURE
PREVENTION



DEBT
RELIEF



DEED THEFT
& SCAM
PREVENTION

Preserving homeownership is critical to maintaining housing and financial security for millions of families across New York City. The Consumer & Economic Advocacy (CEA) Program's Foreclosure Prevention work serves low-to-moderate income New Yorkers so they can continue to build wealth for generations to come. The team uses civil legal remedies, bankruptcy and debt relief, and educational outreach to help prevent homeowners from losing their greatest financial asset. We work to get out ahead of issues, offering robust education on deed theft scams and predatory lending.

*This home
means unity.
It will be the
place where my
family will come
together for
generations.*

— CHERYLL



Losing the house Cheryll had owned for over 20 years was not an option. During the COVID-19 crisis, Cheryll no longer received the rental income she desperately needed, and after paying a steep total for a burst pipe, she missed a mortgage payment. Despite having enough savings to cover her debt, her monthly payments ballooned, and the lender refused to work with her on a loan modification. Fearing foreclosure, Cheryll connected with Brooklyn A to sort out the situation. Our team was able to represent her in foreclosure proceedings and apply for multiple grants that would cover her growing debt and negotiate a path forward so Cheryll could continue to live in her beloved brownstone comfortably.

CONSUMER & ECONOMIC ADVOCACY (CEA)

LOW-INCOME TAXPAYER CLINIC

KEY STAT

313

TAX CLIENTS
SERVED



RESOLVE ISSUES WITH
THE IRS AND NEW YORK
STATE DEPARTMENT OF
TAXATION AND FINANCE



EDUCATION ON
TAX LAW CHANGES
AND COMPLIANCE

With Brooklyn A's help, Kim was able to get completely out of tax debt and ended up owing the IRS just \$1.

Small mistakes on a return or a financial setback can lead to frightening tax situations. The Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) helps resolve tax debts and disputes at the state and federal level. Using legal services and education, income-eligible New Yorkers work with our team to remedy their situations—many times clearing thousands of dollars in tax debt. The team works closely with pro bono partners and conducts bi-weekly tax clinics to extend our reach as far as possible.



When Kim's tax preparer in 2015 mistakenly marked her nephew as a dependent, she wasn't able to notice the error—she had recently lost her eyesight and was navigating an already complicated system with a new disability. She didn't realize a tax debt of thousands of dollars was growing until she received bills from the IRS and New York State Department of Taxation of Finance. She connected with Brooklyn A and worked closely with our attorneys to negotiate a path forward. With Brooklyn A's help, she was able to get completely out of tax debt and ended up owing the IRS just \$1.

CONSUMER & ECONOMIC ADVOCACY (CEA)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (DV) PROGRAM

KEY STATS

55

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
CASES HANDLED

249

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
SURVIVORS SERVED ACROSS
ALL BROOKLYN A PROGRAMS



ORDERS OF
PROTECTION



LEGAL
REPRESENTATION
IN FAMILY COURT



SAFETY PLANNING
AND OPTIONS
COUNSELING

Today, Pi is in a
much healthier
state and is
determined to
advocate for
other domestic
violence
survivors

Our Domestic Violence (DV) Program uses legal services and social services to help survivors from across New York City. Representing clients in family court, helping secure orders of protection, housing and social services, and more, the DV team aims to provide holistic assistance to clients so they can achieve both safety and justice.



Pi (a pseudonym) is an international student in New York and met her ex-boyfriend while at school. When she tried to break up with him, he became abusive and dangerous. He broke into Pi's home, assaulted her, and spread lies about her to their peers. The situation not only put Pi's safety in jeopardy but upended her life as an international master's student trying to pursue her ambitions. Brooklyn A helped secure an order of protection for Pi and guided her through the court process so she could return to peace and safety once again. Today, Pi is in a much healthier state and is determined to advocate for other domestic violence survivors.

PRESERVING AFFORDABLE HOUSING (PAH)

KEY STATS

2,975

HOUSING CASES HANDLED

52

TENANT ASSOCIATIONS
SERVED



LEGAL
DEFENSE



REMEDY
HARASSMENT
AND
NEGLECTED
REPAIRS



ORGANIZING
TENANTS

Together with Brooklyn A, Laura was able to address her apartment issues, clear tens of thousands in rental debt, and can now live peacefully in her longtime Brooklyn apartment with resources she needs for the future.

Representing tenants in housing court was amongst the original program work of Brooklyn A more than 55 years ago and the Preserving Affordable Housing (PAH) Program continues that legacy with fierce advocacy today. PAH serves tenants facing eviction, harassment from landlords, unaddressed repairs, and more. Through legal representation in housing court, brief advice services, and regular legal education, the PAH team empowers renters so they can maintain livable, secure housing in New York City. PAH also works with tenant associations, helping them organize and mobilize to assert their rights and leverage their collective power.



Laura went through a difficult period after she lost her job. She faced mental health issues, and once her savings dried up, she wasn't able to pay her rent for a long time. The landlord threatened eviction unless Laura could address issues in her apartment and resolve the outstanding debt—which only continued to grow as the public assistance portals proved nearly impossible to navigate alone. Once she connected with Brooklyn A, our team worked together with Laura to apply for various forms of rental assistance and clear up her case in court. Our social worker served as the point person coordinating between the city and various organizations offering rental assistance, and more importantly serving as an ally to Laura in this challenging period.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (CED)

KEY STAT

1,386

SMALL BUSINESS MATTERS
HANDLED



TRANSACTIONAL
LEGAL SERVICES



COMMERCIAL
LEASE
ASSISTANCE



SUPPORT FOR
COMMUNITY-
BASED
PROJECTS

If I did not get the support from CLA, I would have really, really been struggling. The water was pretty much to my nose. Then CLA came. I would say they, quite simply, rescued me.

— MICHAEL

Small businesses and local nonprofits are New York City's main employer, the heart of any neighborhood, and the focus of our Community & Economic Development (CED) Program. The team administers the NYC Department of Small Business Services City's Commercial Lease Assistance (CLA) Program of the NYC Department of Small Business Services, offering free legal services to qualifying business owners across the entire city. Our nonprofit, worker co-op, and advocacy group support keeps vital organizations in healthy operating order through transactional services and assistance forming internal structures.



D Roti Hut officially opened for business in Jamaica, Queens in February 2020; it would have to close in response to the pandemic just a month later. The owner, Michael, was crushed—he had worked more than a decade in food service dreaming of having a restaurant of his own only to have a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic disrupt him. Rental debts started piling up, so he reached out for help from the Commercial Lease Assistance Program and connected with a Brooklyn A attorney. Our staff helped him to negotiate a path out of debt and keep D Roti Hut afloat. Since then, the restaurant has thrived, and Michael's dream remains alive.

ANNUAL EVENT

The 2024 Spread Justice: It's the Brooklyn A Way! Annual Event was a truly inspiring evening, bringing together an intimate and vibrant assortment of our stakeholders to celebrate resilience, advocacy, and justice. Held at The Robert NYC, a venue known for its breathtaking views of Central Park and artistic atmosphere, the event perfectly set the tone for an unforgettable celebration.

At the event, we honored the five remarkable clients whose stories you read about earlier in this report. They embody the transformative impact of Brooklyn A's work. These honorees remind us of the power of justice and advocacy in transforming lives, and their stories are a testament to the heart of our mission.

This evening of celebration was made possible by the generosity of so many supporters, including our top sponsors, whose contributions ensure our continued ability to serve those in need:

Partner Sponsors: Debevoise & Plimpton LLP; Kelley Drye & Warren LLP

Advocate Sponsors: Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP; Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP; Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP; Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

Leader Sponsors: DLA Piper; Thomas McC. Souther; Milbank LLP; Pitta Bishop & Del Giorno LLC; and Tiffany Threadcraft

To all our supporters, advocates, and champions, we thank you for standing with Brooklyn A and helping us continue the fight for justice.

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS

Brooklyn A extends our deepest gratitude to all of our government, private, and individual funders whose generosity fuels our mission to provide access to justice and empower communities.

This year, we are especially proud to recognize two first-time supporters: Mother Cabrini Health Foundation and Trinity Church Wall Street, whose grants enhanced our ability to deliver critical housing defense services to low-income New Yorkers and preserve long-term housing affordability. These funds have been instrumental in preventing evictions and foreclosures, and ensuring more tenants can secure stable, livable homes.

In addition, we are profoundly grateful to BankUnited, Citizens Bank, ConEd, Esquire Bank, The New York Bar Foundation, Santander, and the Venable Foundation for their crucial support. Their contributions have helped us provide essential services to families, individuals, and businesses throughout our community.

Your commitment inspires and sustains our work, allowing us to make a lasting impact in the lives of countless New Yorkers. Thank you for standing with Brooklyn A!



BROOKLYN A PRO BONO PROGRAM

Brooklyn A is incredibly grateful for the continued support and dedication of our pro bono partners. Their generous contributions of time, expertise, and resources enable us to expand our capacity and serve the community in ways that would not be possible without their help.

These partnerships have not only helped us grow, but they have also fostered lasting, fruitful relationships that we deeply value. We are immensely thankful for their commitment to justice and for standing with us in our mission to provide legal services to those who need it most.

The following are our FY24 pro bono partners:

To learn more about becoming a pro bono partner, contact:

Ndukwe Agwu
Chief Legal Officer & General Counsel
nagwu@bka.org

Akerman LLP	McDermott Will & Emery LLP
Ashurst LLP	McGuireWoods LLP
Cozen O'Connor	Milbank LLP
Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP	Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP
Dentons	Proskauer Rose LLP
DLA Piper LLP	Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
Duane Morris LLP	Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP
Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP	Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP
Lowenstein Sandler LLP	

FY 2024 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES

Program services	85%
Management & General Admin	14%
Fundraising	1%



REVENUE AND SUPPORT

Government Contracts & Grants	\$ 13,986,148
Contributions	\$ 497,068
Special Events	\$ 28,416
Program Fees	\$ 135,954
Other Income	\$ 682,133

Total Revenue and Support **\$ 15,329,719**

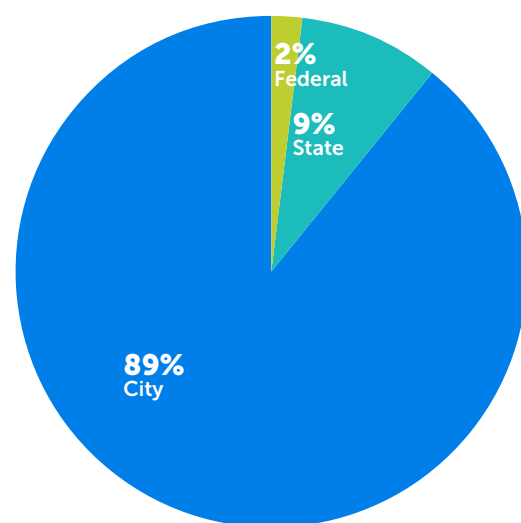
EXPENSES

Program Services	\$ 12,141,115
Supporting Services	\$ 2,151,558

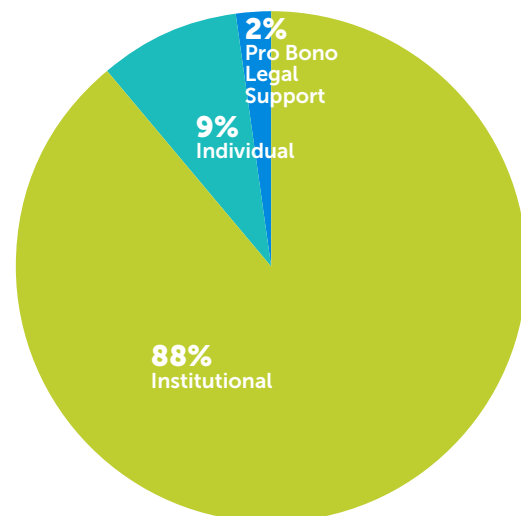
Total Expenses **\$ 14,292,673**

Change in Net Assets \$ 1,037,046

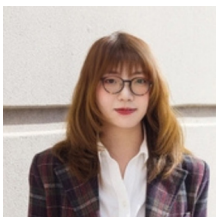
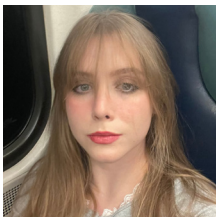
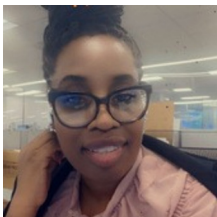
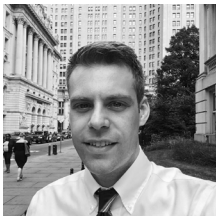
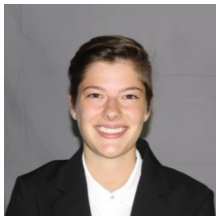
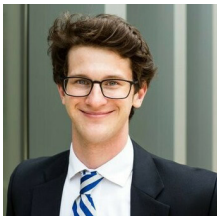
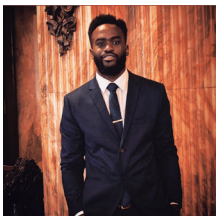
GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS & GRANTS



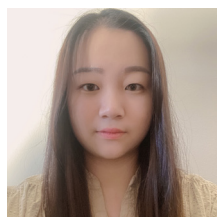
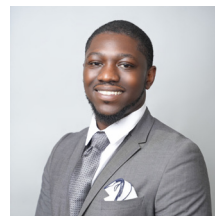
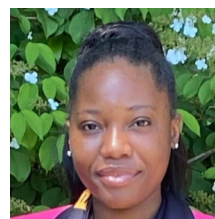
CONTRIBUTIONS



BROOKLYN A STAFF 2024



BROOKLYN A STAFF CONT.



Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A

 **bkalegal**

 **BrooklynLSCA**

 **bkalegal**