



2019

IMPACT REPORT



LATIN AMERICAN LEGAL DEFENSE
AND EDUCATION FUND

TREASURING OUR PAST, WELCOMING OUR FUTURE

Last year, with a memorable celebration that brought together patrons, activists, and civic leaders, LALDEF marked its 15th anniversary. We have endured through a long period of tenacious struggle to uphold American values of inclusion, generosity, and fairness. From the hopes of a few civic minded volunteers has emerged the largest organization of its kind in the region, serving 3,000 people on an annual basis: immigrants seeking opportunity and their children yearning for the fruits of prosperity and democracy.

Our Quinceañera party was a coming of age—a good time to take pride in multiple achievements: our Community ID Program that gives people without other forms of representation a way to come out of the shadows; our FUTURO program which currently enables sixty gifted students to receive mentoring and counsel as they transition to college; tax preparation assistance, English-as-a-second-language classes; legal referrals—all the result of dedication and hard work on the part of our staff and volunteers. This Annual Report documents the results of those efforts.

A new decade is upon us and it brings old and new challenges. Currents of hatred and intolerance are surging in our country and in other parts of the world. Cruel policies restrict the



capacity of newcomers and their children to obtain respect, education, and employment. Families are torn apart in the name of laws that sacrifice justice to administrative procedure. None of this is consistent with our moral convictions.

Now as in the past, LALDEF will continue to wage the good fight. With the support of people like you, we cannot fail.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Patricia Fernández-Kelly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the last name being particularly prominent.

PATRICIA FERNÁNDEZ-KELLY
LALDEF BOARD CHAIR

ABOUT LALDEF

Mission

LALDEF promotes the rights of all immigrants, with a focus on the Latin American community in the Mercer County area, facilitates access to health care, education and legal representation; advocates for the integration of immigrants; and fosters inter-cultural communication to strengthen our communities.

Vision

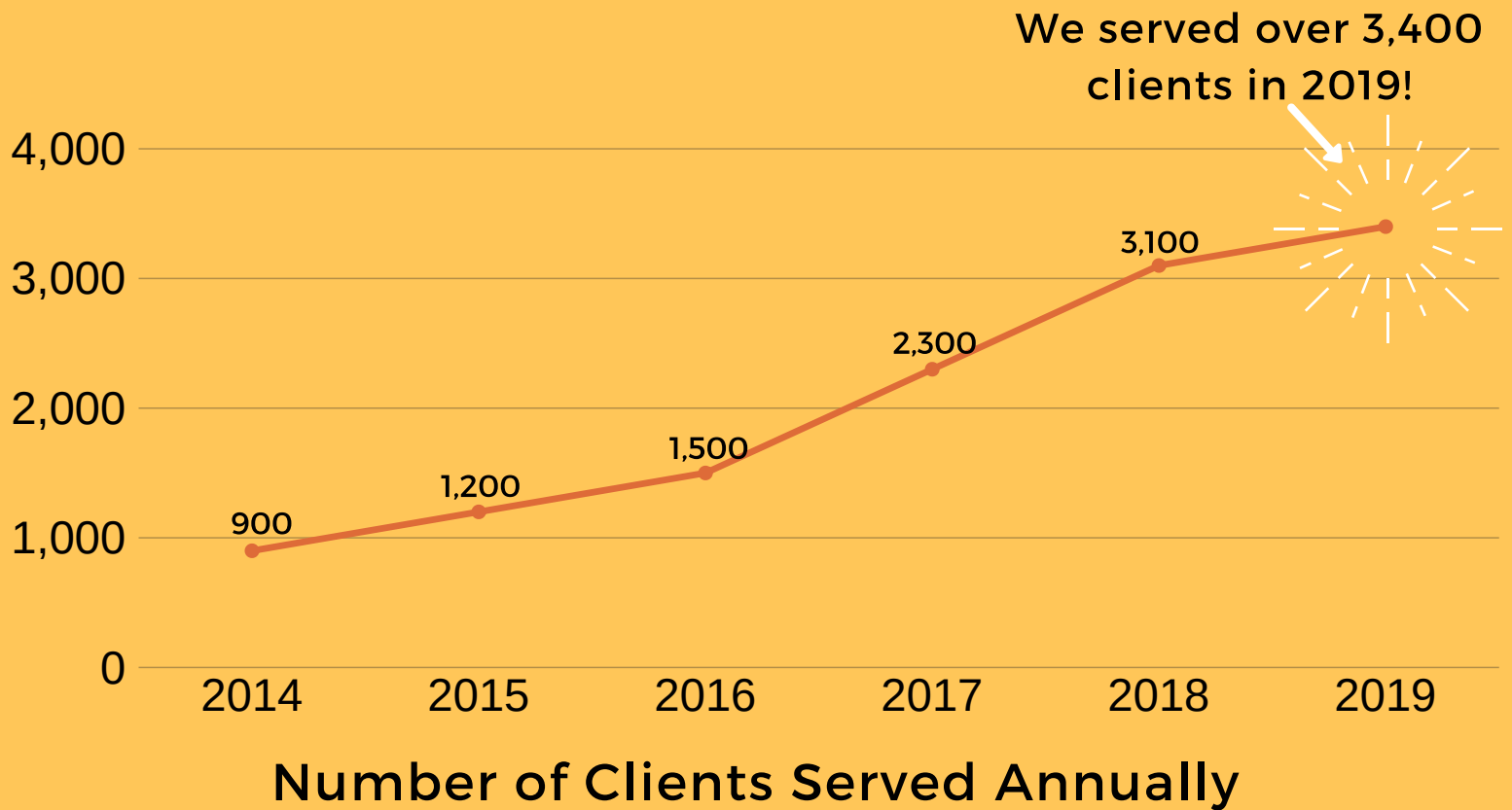
We seek to prevent human rights violations, educate immigrants about their rights and responsibilities, and foster their integration into the civic fabric of our communities.

Values

- Support
- Education
- Justice



ORGANIZATIONAL IMPACT



44%

The percentage of clients served in 2019 that were born in Guatemala. We saw an unprecedented growth in the number of clients served from Honduras, Venezuela, and El Salvador.

1,666

The number of clients served in 2019 that were female. This remained consistent with prior years where our client gender ratios remain around 50/50.

LEGAL SERVICES



244

cases handled

509

cases screened

HANDLED CASE TYPES:

- Adjustment of Status
 - Asylum
 - Change of Venue
 - Citizenship
 - Consular Processing
 - DACA Renewal
 - Employment Authorization
 - Family Petitions
 - FOIA Requests
 - Humanitarian Deferred Action
 - Legal Permanent Residency
 - Special Immigrant Juvenile Status
 - Stay of Removal
 - U-Visa
-

102

returning clients
served in 2019

ADULT EDUCATION

173

total clients served in
the adult education
programs in 2019

COURSES OFFERED:

- English for Speakers of Other Languages
 - 6 levels offered from Novice to Conversational
- Computer Classes
 - Email setup, internet research, and Microsoft Office Suite
- Citizenship Preparation
 - U.S. civics and history review, English language review, and interview skills
- Spanish Literacy
 - Spanish language reading and writing introduction
- Spanish High School Equivalency Preparation
 - Math, reading, writing, social studies and science





FUTURO

In 2019, for the first time in the organization's history we supported a total of sixty students, across four cohorts. All of the students in the program reside in Trenton or Princeton and are first- or second- generation immigrant. The FUTURO high school graduating class of 2019 was awarded over \$1,000,000 in scholarships.

The FUTURO program offers students core subject tutoring, SAT prep, college tours, arts and culture programming, financial literacy, and life skills. All program offerings are provided at no cost to the students and their families.

All of the students in the program are:

100%

Receive free or reduced lunch

3.0

GPA or above at all times

1st

In their families to attend higher ed

MERCER COUNTY AREA COMMUNITY ID CARDS

The Mercer County Area Community ID Card Program was started in 2011 through the One Community Coalition after identifying the obstacles community members faced without having an identification. The Community ID gives residents of Mercer County the opportunity to identify themselves, prove their address, and have an emergency contact on file at all times.

We partner with organizations such as the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen, Rescue Mission, and the Trenton Psychiatric Hospital to provide the ID to all underserved populations in need of identification.

In 2019, there were **1,541** ID cards issued.

15,774

ID's issued in Mercer County
by the end of 2019



IRS VITA TAX SITE

Each year we partner with the United Way of Greater Mercer County to offer FREE income tax preparation to individuals and families with household annual incomes below \$65k.

285

clients served
through tax season
from February until
June 2019

\$373K

in federal and state income tax
refunds for the 285 clients we
served during tax season

FUN FACT: Each year our staff renew their tax preparation certifications by undergoing hours of training and testing so that we can continue to provide these critical services.





BONNER STUDENTS

Through sustained partnerships with colleges and congregations, the Corella and Bertram F. Bonner Foundation seeks to improve the lives of individuals and communities by helping meet the basic needs of nutrition and educational opportunity. They execute their mission by identifying and supporting low-income, first generation, and underrepresented students, including students of color and from both rural and urban environments.

The College of New Jersey has partnered with the Bonner Foundation and run a Bonner Center on campus for students supported by the foundation.

In September 2019, we began a partnership with TCNJ's Bonner program and are actively working with 5-7 students each semester. The students volunteer at LALDEF an average of 10-15 hours per week. They support the team with curriculum preparation, logistics, and program administration.

We are excited for the added capacity that the Bonner students added to the organization so far and we look forward to a long, productive, and symbiotic relationship for years to come.



COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

In 2019, we had three huge legislative wins:

- Minimum \$15 - 2/4/19
- Wage Theft Protections - 8/6/19
- Let's Drive NJ - 12/19/20

We spent years fighting for the Let's Drive NJ campaign, which would provide undocumented immigrants access to NJ driver's licenses. We won!



It's such a huge victory for residents and advocates. There's nothing quite like being involved in such a history-making event. We accomplished so many other successes, too. I can't say enough about Laura (Mora) and the Alliance and all the advocates. At the end of the day, it's the people on the ground, who knew the residents and the people in the community who attended all those meetings even when it seemed like there was no movement, they deserve all the credit.

-Adriana Abizadeh
L.A. Parker, The Trentonian, 1/11/20



THE FIGHT DOESN'T STOP

We will keep an eye on the implementation and rollout of the driver's license privileges. We will also conduct community education to prepare residents to take the written exam for their driver's license.

In the months ahead the organization will focus efforts and energy into the Cover All Kids campaign, which, when passed, will provide undocumented NJ youth access to NJ Family Care.



CASE MANAGEMENT

School Based: To Serve More



100

families served
through school
based case
management

In 2019 we entered into a second school partnership to offer bilingual case management to families at local area schools. We now have two dedicated bilingual case managers, one at Hedgepeth-Williams Middle School for the Arts and the other at Rivera Community Middle School.

We work with parents/guardians to strengthen their families. Our goal is to increase parent engagement and facilitate family access to resources in the community. This is accomplished through tailored case management, education, and advocacy. Through our tailored programming we provide information about resources in the community that are pertinent to our clients, such as: business entrepreneurship guidance, access to health care, financial literacy, first time homebuyer programs, mental health and substance abuse counseling, and job readiness programs.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Each year we sponsor and partner with others to host a variety of events for the community around Mercer County. In 2019, we hosted a total of **63** events that were free and open to the public.

EDUCATION

- Know Your Rights Sessions
- First Time Homebuyer Info.
- Financial Literacy Workshops
- Book Club
- Coffee with a Cop



HEALTH

- Health Fairs
- Flu Shot Clinics
- Healthy Eating Workshops
- Health Care Enrollment Days
- Prescription Medicine Vouchers



ARTS & CULTURE

- Back to School Giveaways
- Loteria
- Art All Day
- Immigrant Heritage Celebration
- Dialogue: Immigrant Justice



LALDEF TEAM

PEOPLE BEHIND THE IMPACT

Adriana Abizadeh, Executive Director
Michelle Allendes, Administrative Assistant
Karina Avila, Legal Services Coordinator
Alexandra Parado, Legal Services Coordinator
Thelma Carrera, Development and Communications Mgr.
Caty Dominguez, Welcome House Manager
Aleksandra Gontaryuk, Supervising Attorney
Kemilola Jahnke, Adult Education Manager
Tulia Jimenez-Vergara, FUTURO Program Manager
Laura Mora, Community Organizer
Liliana Morenilla, FUTURO Program Coordinator
Ana Obika, FUTURO Program Coordinator
Leandra Ovalle, Welcome House Caretaker
Courtney Perales, Online Content Coordinator
Tamara Torres, Bilingual Case Manager
Maya Wahrman, Bilingual Case Manager



LALDEF GOVERNANCE

Patricia Fernández-Kelly, Chair

Reverend Karen Hernández-Granzen, Vice Chair

Anastasia R. Mann, Secretary

John Heilner, Treasurer

Cynthia Weiss

David Anderson

David Long

Francisco Peláez-Díaz

Larry A. Spruill

Lorraine Goodman

Marino Posso

Pete Taft

Dr. Jane Rohlf

Susan Roy, Esq.



Board of Trustees

STRATEGIC PLAN

In June 2019, the organization adopted a new strategic plan, after a yearlong planning process, to guide our work from 2019-2023.

Since its founding in 2004, LALDEF has become a full-blown legal service, educational and advocacy organization, viewed today as an indispensable resource for the immigrant community in Mercer County. LALDEF has grown exponentially since its founding. Its new home, Welcome House, is becoming a focal point for the immigrant community.

Now it is time for LALDEF to catch up to its growth – to add the staff capacity and organizational supports it needs to consolidate its growth, maintain the

quality of its services and conserve its most precious resource – its staff. That is the main message of this strategic plan.

The strategic plan was a highly collaborative effort between staff, Board and stakeholders. It began with a series of interviews with staff and Board and 16 stakeholders, including partners, funders, advisory board members and community leaders. The interviews were summarized in a landscape report. Some of the main findings were:

- LALDEF is highly regarded and considered the primary organization serving the Latino immigrant community in Mercer County;
- LALDEF is a valued partner and has grown its services by working well with others;

THREE STRATEGIC GOALS:

Programmatic Impact:

Focus, streamlined processes and coordination across functions for maximum individual and community impact

Financial Stability:

Expand and diversify financial support through greater board engagement and operational support

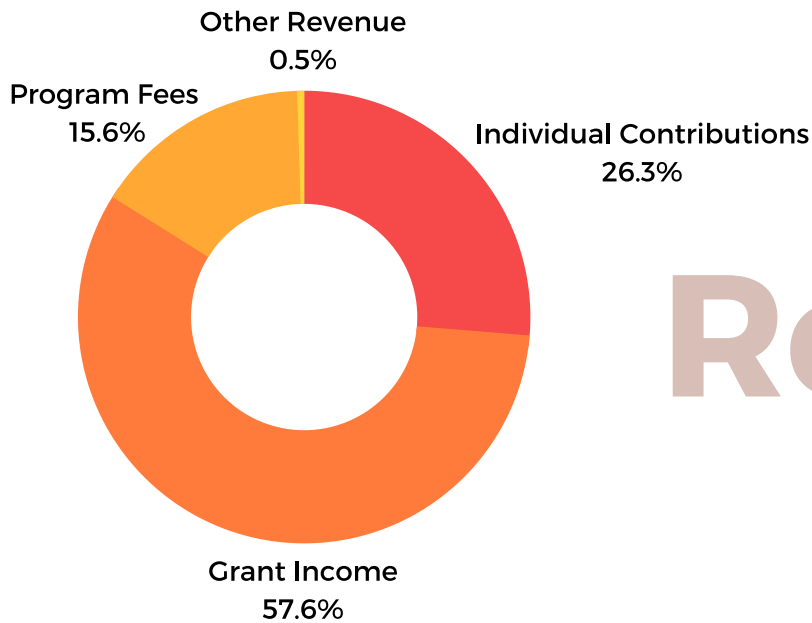
Operational Efficiency:

Build a strong organizational team and organizational infrastructure to support LALDEF's growing work



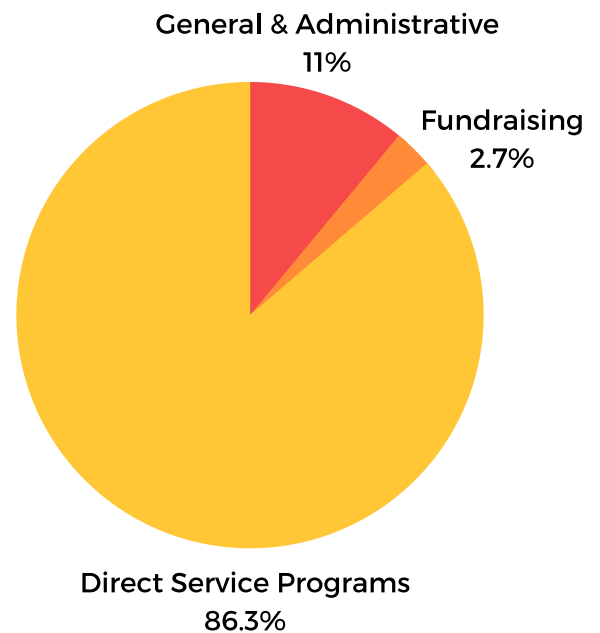
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

2019 Revenue and Expenses*



Revenue

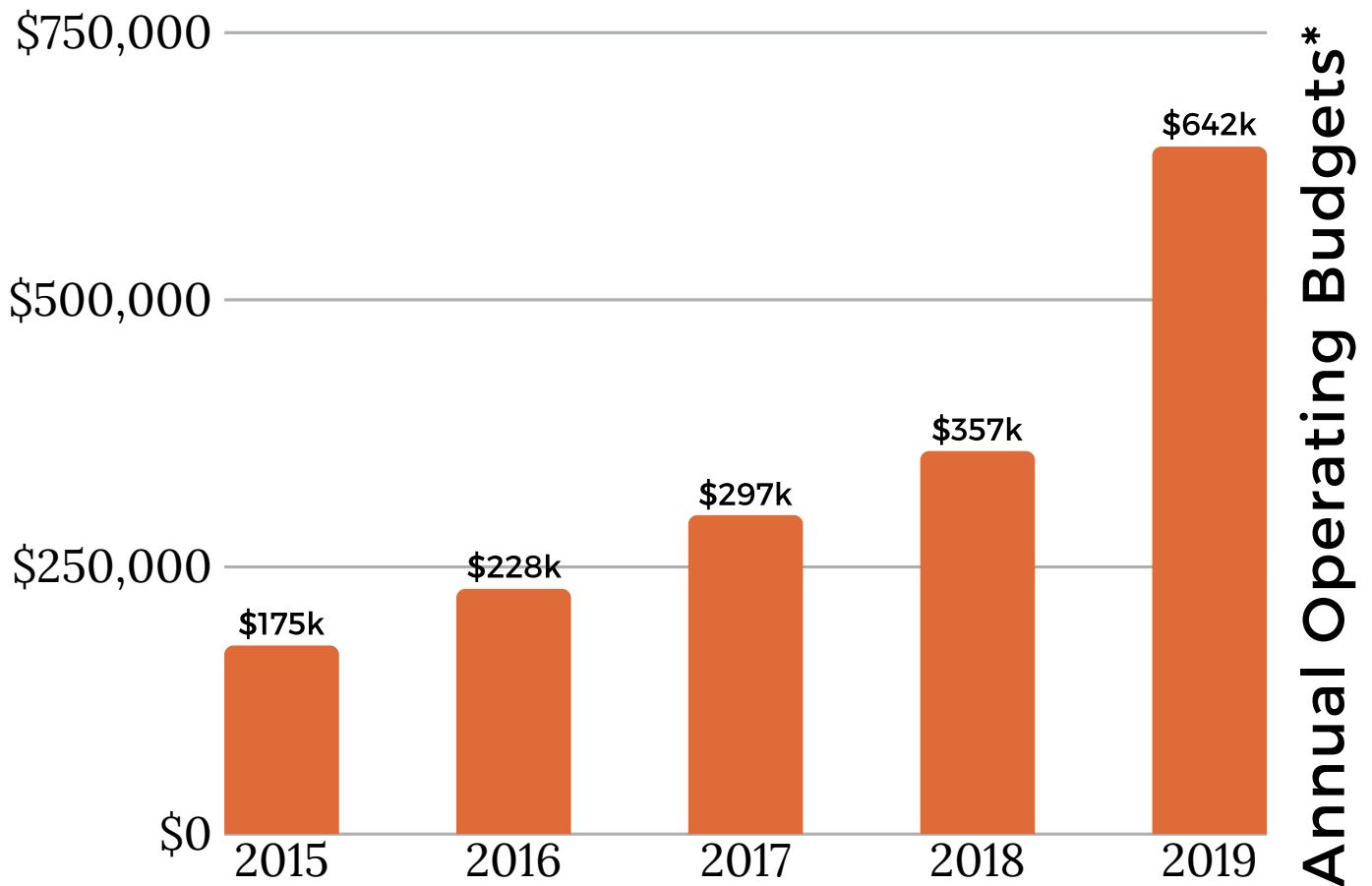
Expenses



*For FY2019 (July 2018 - June 2019)

BUDGET OVERVIEW

Growth: Year After Year



*Annual Operating Budgets reflect a fiscal year from July 1 - June 30



80%

budget growth over
the year prior
(FY 2018 to FY 2019)

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OUR SUPPORTERS
**2019 CORPORATE, GOVERNMENT,
AND FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS**

Community Foundation of NJ

Elias Foundation

I Am Trenton Foundation

Investors Bank

James Kearney Foundation

Janssen Pharmaceuticals

M&T Bank

Mary Own Borden Foundation

Mid Jersey Chamber of Commerce

Nassau Presbyterian Church

New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice

NJ Center for Hispanic Policy, Research and Development

Princeton Area Community Foundation

Roma Bank

Santander Bank

Smith Family Foundation

United Way of Greater Mercer County

Wells Fargo



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