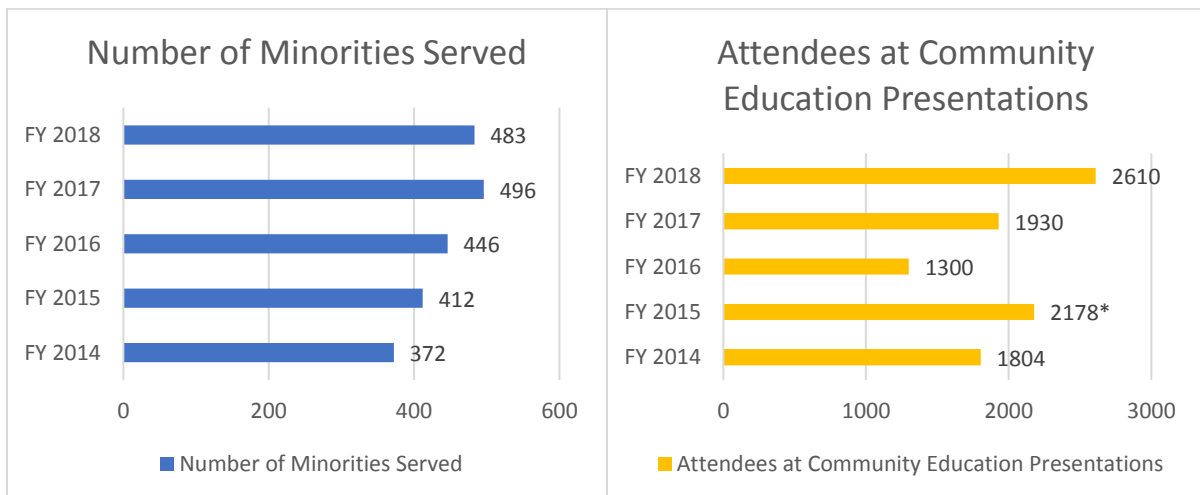
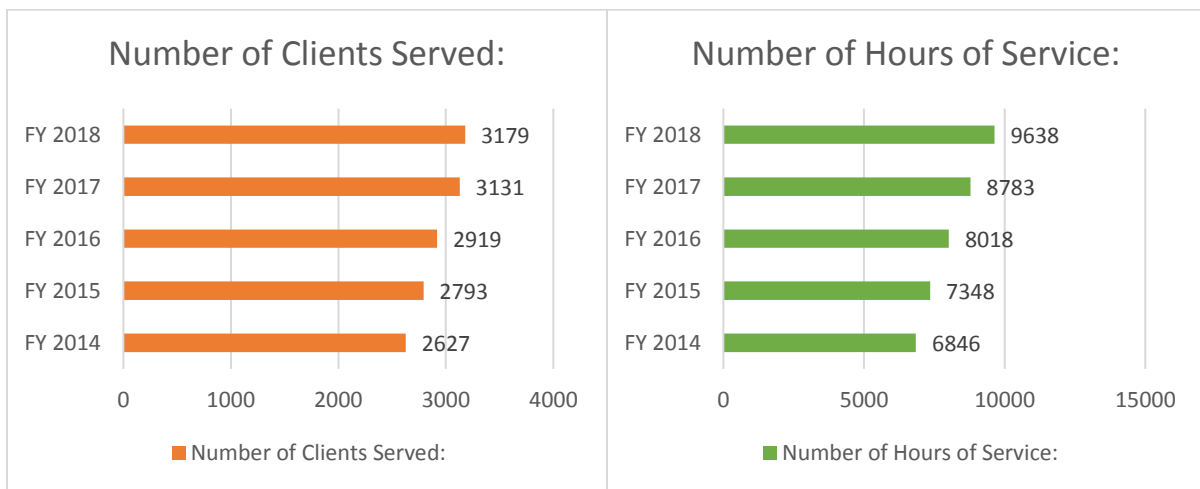


NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES STATE UNIT ON AGING STATE FY 2018 ANNUAL REPORT ON LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018

COMPARATIVE SUMMARY REPORT



*Increase was due to additional grant funds for outreach

Top Case Types in FY 2018: Advance Directives, Wills and Estates, Consumer/Finance, Housing, Health and Family

Monetary Impact: FY 2018 – Savings of **\$1,686,650** in legal fees to Nebraskans age 60 and over (9,638 hours x \$175/hour rate for legal services providers). In addition, money was saved for older Nebraskans on some individual cases.

FY 2017 – Savings of \$1,537,025 in legal fees to Nebraskans age 60 and over.

Legal Services Providers reported several “Good stories” including elder abuse and financial exploitation cases that are outlined in the full report.

Law School Clinics: The data since inception on law school clinics over four years is listed below.

	<u>FY 2018</u>	<u>Four-Year Total</u>
Number of Clinics	4	19
Number of Clients Served	77	170
Number of Advance Directive Documents Executed	264	1,512

Best Practices

1. A 30-minute television presentation was produced in June 2017 on frauds and scams, elder abuse case investigations by law enforcement and Adult Protective Services, a medical expert presenting on a person’s vulnerability for financial exploitation and a legal expert speaking on the roles and responsibilities of the agents of power of attorney. *“Protecting Senior and Vulnerable Nebraskans from Fraud, Abuse and Exploitation”* was aired several times on Nebraska public television, promoted on DHHS Facebook, Area Agencies on Aging Facebook and websites and posted at <http://netnebraska.org/basic-page/television/protecting-senior-and-vulnerable-nebraskans-fraud-abuse-and-exploitation>.
2. The 2018 Elder Justice Training was held in June 2018 with over 300 attending representing state and national staff from the aging network, attorneys, bankers, long-term care facility staff, APS and volunteers in the aging network. Visit the training page for details on the training, www.dhhs.ne.gov/agingtraining.

3. Nebraska is one of the leading states in the nation on Medical-Legal Partnerships. Legal Aid of Nebraska has a **Health Education & Law Project (HELP)** that collaborates with CHI Health, Nebraska Medicine, Methodist Health System and Children’s Hospital and Medical Center in Omaha. The services have expanded to Columbus Community Hospital, Good Neighbor Community Health Center in Columbus, Bryan West Hospital in Lincoln and Bryan East Hospital, Health 360 and Bluestem Health in Lincoln. According to the program manager, Legal Aid of Nebraska addresses “health-harming legal needs” through this program. Legal Aid of Nebraska has been awarded a United Way grant to provide education and Supplemental Security Income (SSI)/Medicaid representation to children with developmental and/or intellectual disabilities. Legal Aid of Nebraska also has a grant through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to study the effects of Medical Legal Partnership services on super-utilizers of the Emergency Department. Recruitment is underway for the study grant. The Legal Assistance Developer coordinates with Ann Mangiameli who is the Manager of the HELP project to share information about the project at statewide trainings and nationally.
4. The State Unit on Aging (SUA) and the Department of Health and Human Services Long-Term Care Ombudsman Office (LTCO) have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to improve cooperation and information sharing between the LTCO Program and the Legal Assistance Program and the SUA in general.

Conclusion: This summary report depicts a well-integrated system of legal assistance to older Nebraskans. With the help of the Model Approaches to Statewide Legal Services Phase II Grant, Nebraska’s Legal Assistance Program has enhanced capacity and promoted greater accessibility to address priority legal issues including those emerging from elder abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation. The development of the Statewide Legal Standards, a Uniform Statewide Reporting System, the utilization of low cost mechanisms such as the Elder Access Line and law school clinics, enhanced outreach efforts and innovative best practices outlined in this summary report demonstrate the impact of the Legal Assistance Program on the independence, health, and financial security of older Nebraskans.