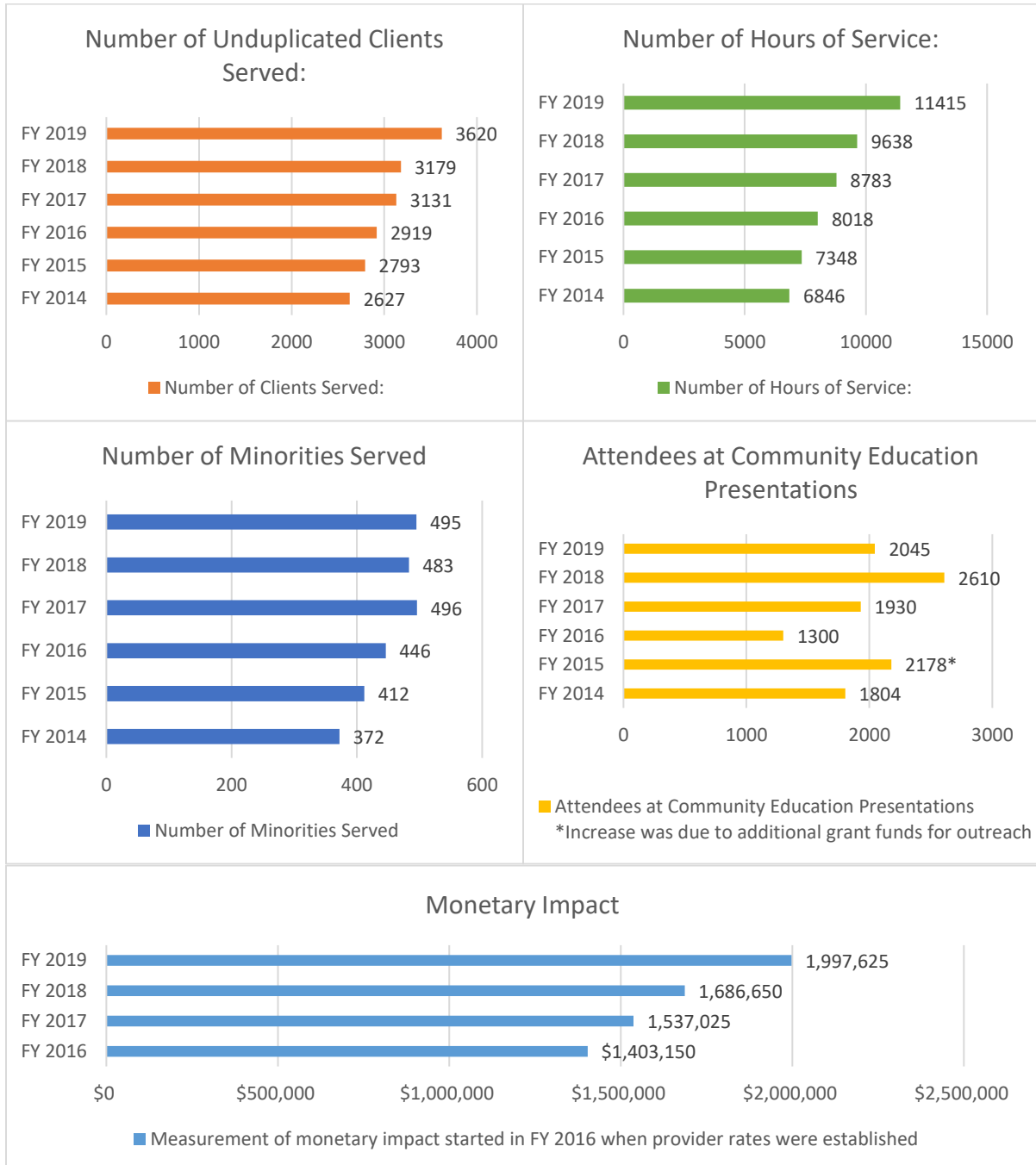


**NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
STATE UNIT ON AGING
STATE FY 2019 ANNUAL REPORT ON LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM
July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019**

COMPARATIVE SUMMARY REPORT



Top Case Types in FY 2019: Advance Directives, Wills and Estates, Consumer/Finance, Housing, Health and Family.

Monetary Impact: FY 2019 – Savings of **\$1,997,625** in legal fees to Nebraskans age 60 and over (11,415 hours x \$175/hour rate for legal services providers). In addition, money was saved for older Nebraskans on some individual cases.

FY 2018 – Savings were \$1,686,650 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. Full report is available upon request. Contact us at dhhs.aging@nebraska.gov or call 402-471-2307.

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

	<u>FY 2019</u>	<u>Five-Year Total</u>
Number of Clinics	4	23
Number of Clients Served	70	240
Number of Advance Directive Documents Executed	240	1,752

Best Practices

1. The Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging continued to contract with Legal Aid of Nebraska separately to represent clients in courts. The extended representation cases have provided an added service to the Omaha area.
2. The State Unit on Aging has developed a new reporting system for Legal Assistance to comply with the Administration on Aging’s (ACL) revised State Program Report. Although the ACL has not finalized all aspects of the new reporting and the data collection for the new reporting by states was pushed back to October 2020, Nebraska stands prepared to tweak its report to fully comply with the new requirements.
3. The Legal Assistance Developer led efforts to develop a Nebraska-specific guide on the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau’s Managing Someone Else’s Money, Help for Agents under a power of attorney. Members of the Elder Rights Coalition served on a work group to develop the guide. Visit our website to download a copy www.dhhs.ne.gov/aging. A link to the

guide is also available on the CFPB website

<https://www.consumerfinance.gov/consumer-tools/managing-someone-elses-money/power-attorney-guides/>.

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. The development of a new statewide reporting system to comply with the Administration for Community Living's new reporting requirements, the utilization of low cost mechanisms such as the Elder Access Line and law school clinics, availability of extended representation services in a large metropolitan area, enhanced outreach efforts and innovative best practices outlined in this summary report all demonstrate the impact of the Legal Assistance Program on the independence, health, and financial security of older Nebraskans.