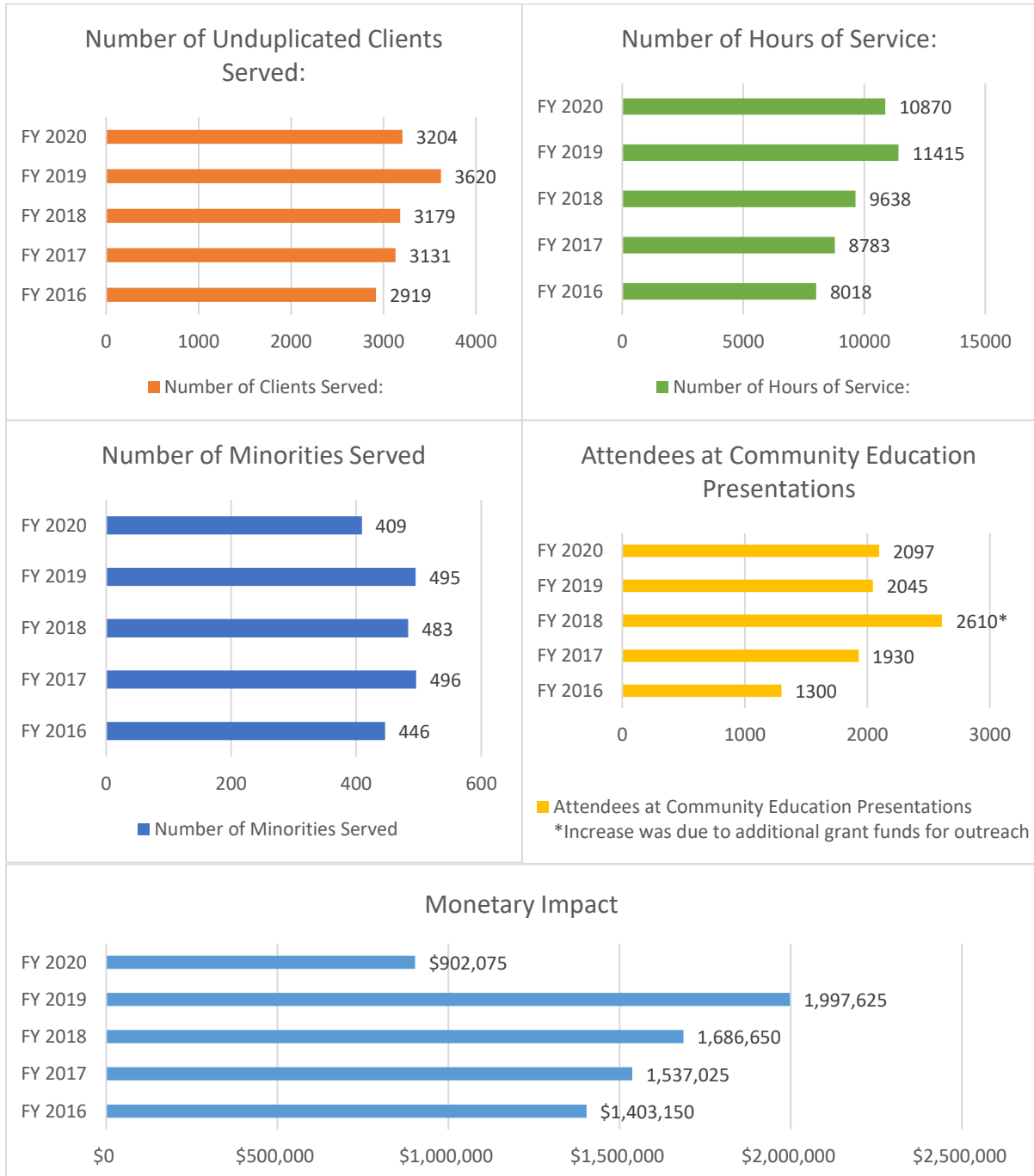


**NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
STATE UNIT ON AGING
STATE FY 2020 ANNUAL REPORT ON LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM
July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020**

COMPARATIVE SUMMARY REPORT



Top Case Types in FY 2020: Advance Directives, Wills and Estates, Consumer/Finance, Housing, Health and Family.

Monetary Impact: **FY 2020** – Savings of **\$902,075** in legal fees to Nebraskans age 60 and over (10,869 hours x \$175/hour rate for legal services providers). In addition, money was saved for older Nebraskans on some individual cases.

FY 2019 – Savings were \$1,997,625 in legal fees to Nebraskans age 60 and over. The reduction in the monetary impact in FY 2020 is attributable to the reduction in services due to the pandemic from March – June 2020.

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 six years is listed below.

	<u>FY 2020</u>	<u>Six-Year Total</u>
Number of Clinics	4*	27
Number of Clients Served	80	320
Number of Advance Directive Documents Executed	340	2,092

*Two clinics were held virtually due to COVID-19

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. This report is based on the new reporting format used by the legal services providers. The ACL will finalize all aspects of the new reporting and the data collection for the new reporting by states in the coming months and changes to the national reporting system will go into effect starting October 2021.

3. The Nebraska-specific guide on the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's Managing Someone Else's Money, Help for Agents under a power of attorney has been in use for over a year and has been well received. Visit our website to download a copy www.dhhs.ne.gov/aging. A link to the Nebraska guide is also available on the CFPB website. <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/consumer-tools/managing-someone-elses-money/power-attorney-guides/>. The SUA is currently working on the second guide on Managing Someone Else's Money, Help for Representative Payees and VA Fiduciaries.
4. The SUA, AARP Nebraska, University of Nebraska at Omaha Department of Gerontology and the Nebraska Bankers Association co-sponsored the 2020 Elder Justice Training which was attended by over 450 professionals in the aging network across the nation, attorneys, bankers and staff in long-term care facilities. The training was streamed live from NET in Lincoln and very well received by the participants. Nursing CEUs and Continuing Legal Education Credits were offered at no to the participants.
5. The State Unit on Aging (SUA) and the Department of Health and Human Services Long-Term Care Ombudsman Office (LTCO) have a Memorandum of Understanding in place 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.