

h. Alaska Legal Services Corporation – Q3 Grant Report

TRANSMITTAL MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Mayor & City Council

Initials:



FROM: Delilah A. Walsh, City Manager

File #: MGR24-689

DATE: October 29, 2024

Mtg. #: 11/07/24 FYIh

RE: **Alaska Legal Services Corporation – Q3 Grant Report**

Attached for the City Council's information is the quarter-three grant report from Alaska Legal Services Corporation, a 2024 community agency grant recipient.

October 29, 2024

Via Email

City of Ketchikan
Attn: Community Agency Grant Committee
334 Front Street
Ketchikan, AK 99901
Email: Myrnaj@city.ketchikan.ak.us

Re: Community Agency Grant
Q3 Reports

Dear Grant Committee:

Enclosed please find Alaska Legal Services Corporation's quarterly activity and financial reports for July to September 2024.

Please feel free to call or email with any questions. I can be reached at (907) 222-4503 or mhummm@alsc-law.org and our Southeast Supervising Attorney, Heather Parker, can be contacted at (907)586-5963 or hparker@alsc-law.org.

Sincerely yours,



Maggie Humm
Executive Director

Enclosures: as stated

Cc: Tracey Janssen, ALSC CFO
Heather Parker, ALSC Supervising Attorney
Linda Keizer, ALSC Paralegal
Chelsea Gregersen, ALSC Deputy Director

ALASKA LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION
KETCHIKAN OFFICE

**Alaska Legal Services Corporation
Elder and Family Advocacy Project
3rd Quarter Report
(July - September 2024)**

ALSC thanks the City of Ketchikan for its continued support of our Elder & Family Law Advocacy Project. We are pleased to report that we are continuing to meet our goals and objectives for this project, and we have once again exceeded our client service numbers.

This quarter, ALSC provided Ketchikan residents with assistance in a wide variety of matters, with housing, income security, and food security at the forefront.

Summary of Total Served

Between July and September 2024:

- ALSC received 24 new applications for services. Due to a lack of staff resources, conflicts, or other eligibility reasons, 8 cases from City households were rejected during this time;
- ALSC served a total of 22 individual clients in 25 separate cases and had a total reach of 52 individuals this quarter;
- All 22 of the individual clients served were at or below 200% of federal poverty guidelines (FPG), with 19 clients below 125% of the FPG;
- Thirteen (13) clients self-identified as having a disability; and
- Eight (8) clients were age 60 or older and 6 were age 65 or older.

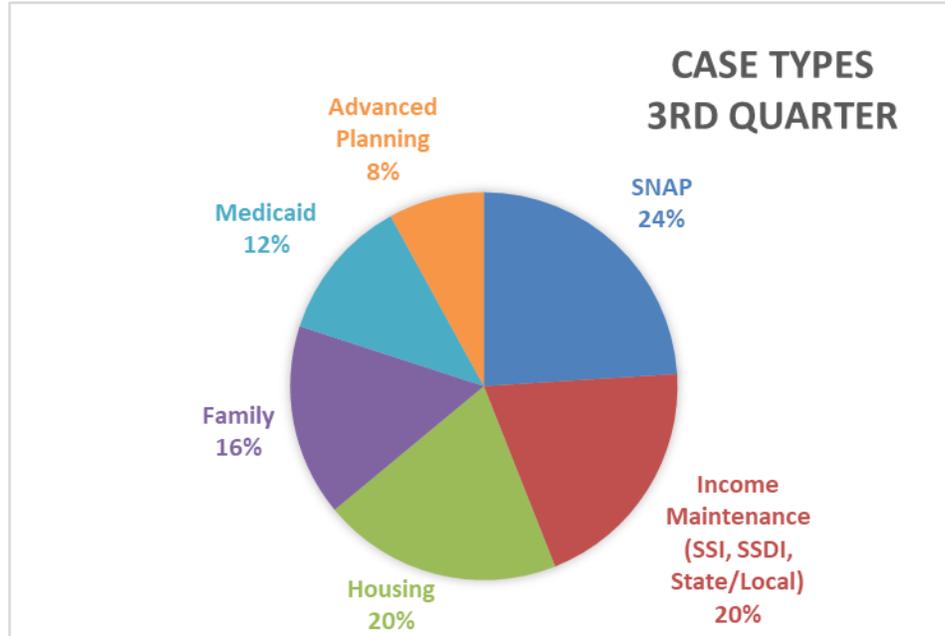
ALSC continues to give priority to elders, individuals with disabilities, and those at risk of homelessness, facing domestic violence, or struggling with reductions of critical medical care.

Goals & Objectives

Goal #1: Program participants will avoid domestic violence, homelessness, and poverty through civil legal representation.

Objective #1: Over the grant year, 35 City households will receive legal advice, assistance with legal forms, representation in court, or other forms of direct representation to help maintain family safety, housing, disability rights and benefits, income maintenance, or legal protections for seniors.

During this quarter, we nearly met our annual goal. Our total caseload of 25 cases had a wide range of case types as indicated in the chart below.



As seen above, this quarter there was a high demand for assistance with SNAP, housing, income maintenance, (including Supplemental Security Insurance (SSI)/Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) issues) and housing issues. Families throughout Alaska continue to experience difficulties with SNAP benefit applications and re-certifications. ALSC has continued its telephonic Family Law Clinic, which has allowed us to expand our services throughout Southeast Alaska. Through this clinic, individuals sign up for 30-minute slots to meet with an attorney for individual advice over the phone.

Objective #2: ALSC will track specific outcomes, including financial benefits, for Social Security, debt collection, income maintenance, landlord tenant, and foreclosure cases.

This objective was met during the first quarter. Between July – September 2024, ALSC closed **16** cases with the following outcomes:

- In 5 cases clients received assistance related to SNAP/food stamps;
- In 3 cases clients received assistance related to a housing issue;
- In 3 cases clients received assistance relating to SSI, SSDI, or other income maintenance issues;
- In 2 cases clients received assistance related to family matters;
- In 2 cases clients received assistance related to advanced planning; and
- In 1 case a client received assistance related to Medicaid.

Some highlights of our work in these cases include:

Family Safety

In one case, a client sought help from ALSC with child support and received advice. ALSC also referred the client to a specific child support agency in another state and provided contact information and other direction to the client.

Housing

In another case, a client sought help from ALSC because they were facing eviction. ALSC represented the client in court and negotiated a settlement on his behalf. The settlement allowed the client an additional seven weeks in the home, which enabled him to find safe, alternative housing while avoiding an eviction on his record.

Access to Public Benefits

Six Ketchikan City clients received assistance this quarter accessing public benefits through the State of Alaska. Collectively, ALSC helped five of these clients obtain \$7,232 in back food benefits. ALSC also helped these clients obtain an increase of \$2,384 in ongoing monthly benefits. These funds directly impact the clients' food security and have a positive impact on the community as the funds are spent at local grocery stores.

Goal #2: Program participants will resolve non-legal issues that put them at risk of domestic violence, homelessness and poverty, and work toward self-sufficiency.

Objective #1: ALSC will work in coordination with other social service agencies so that clients get a wrap-around team when needed to help resolve a combination of legal and other issues.

During this quarter, ALSC continued to partner with other social service agencies to provide clients a wrap-around team approach. ALSC also continues to partner with Ketchikan Indian Community, Southeast Alaska Independent Living, Community Connections, and other local service providers to answer questions and resolve other, non-legal issues. This quarter, ALSC also offered 3 in-person sessions at the Southeast Eldercare Coalition Summit in Juneau, October 1-2, 2024. Elders, social services providers, and community leaders from all over Southeast Alaska (including Ketchikan) attended the presentations. Alaska Legal Services offered sessions on elder fraud, Medicaid eligibility, and on Power of Attorney/ Advanced Care Directives.

Objective #2: ALSC will attend regular community meetings with partner agencies to stay updated on other program information and collaborate on team approaches to resolving individual client issues.

ALSC staff continue to collaborate with partner agencies both to keep them updated on programming and also to take a team approach to resolving clients' issues. This quarter, ALSC staff attended monthly SEANET meetings with several community partners.

Objective #3: ALSC will work with partner agencies to ensure that their staff is informed of the scope of our services and make appropriate referrals.

ALSC's paralegal has connected with other agency and government staff to ensure that appropriate referrals are being made to ALSC, that we are able to respond to referrals quickly, and that

appropriate releases of information are in place to allow agencies to work together efficiently to serve our mutual clients.

Goal #3: Increase knowledge in the target population re: the existence of civil legal rights and remedies.

Objective #1: ALSC will engage in at least four community legal education events in 2024, including outreach activities, legal presentations, clinics, and hosting information tables at community fairs.

ALSC has met this objective in previous reporting periods, but has also engaged in the following additional outreach this past quarter:

August 2, 2024: ALSC presented at an in-person session at the Alaska Library Association and Pacific Northwest Library Association joint conference in Juneau. This presentation, done in partnership with BC Libraries and the Juneau Public Library Association, discussed public access to legal resources at libraries in the Pacific Northwest, and possible partnerships with legal aid organizations.

October 1 & 2, 2024: ALSC offered 3 in-person sessions at the Southeast Eldercare Coalition Summit in Juneau. Elders, social services providers, and community leaders from all over Southeast Alaska (including Ketchikan) attended the presentations. ALSC offered sessions on elder fraud, Medicaid eligibility, and on Power of Attorney/ Advanced Care Directives.

Objective #2: ALSC will maintain an updated library of civil legal resources on its alaskalawhelp.org website, and offer educational materials through handouts and brochures available in our office, partner agencies offices, and at community resource fairs.

ALSC continually updates information on alaskalawhelp.org, an online legal resource library. ALSC staff keep this website updated with the latest information regarding legal issues including housing, domestic violence, workers' rights, debt issues, public benefits, and more.

ALASKA LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION			
EXPENSE REPORT FOR THE FY 2024 GRANT FROM THE CITY OF KETCHIKAN			
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED: SEPTEMBER 30, 2024			
	CURRENT PERIOD	PREVIOUSLY REPORTED	CUMULATIVE TOTAL
INCOME:			
GRANT INCOME	\$ -	\$ 32,809.05	\$ 32,809.05
GRANT INCOME RECEIVABLE	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
LITIGATION INCOME	\$ 4,999.68	\$ -	\$ 4,999.68
INTEREST INCOME	\$ 175.27	\$ -	\$ 175.27
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 5,174.95	\$ 32,809.05	\$ 37,984.00
EXPENSES:			
SALARIES	\$ 3,745.81	\$ 9,705.60	\$ 13,451.41
FRINGE BENEFITS	\$ 1,301.64	\$ 3,476.38	\$ 4,778.02
TRAVEL EXPENSES	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FACILITY EXPENSES	\$ 214.04	\$ 546.63	\$ 760.67
SUPPLIES EXPENSE	\$ -	\$ 11.47	\$ 11.47
EQUIPMENT EXPENSES	\$ -	\$ 14.80	\$ 14.80
OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 418.61	\$ 1,858.46	\$ 2,277.07
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 5,680.10	\$ 15,613.34	\$ 21,293.44
INCOME IN EXCESS OF EXPENSES	\$ (505.15)	\$ 17,195.71	\$ 16,690.56