



2023

Disability Rights Wisconsin

Annual Report

protection and advocacy for people with disabilities

disability**rights**

WISCONSIN

DRW Staff Acknowledgement

Disability Rights Wisconsin is an approximately 75 member team of advocates, attorneys, and specialists who relentlessly execute the mission of Disability Rights Wisconsin.

Mission

DRW challenges systems and society to achieve positive changes in the lives of people with disabilities and their families.

DRW Leadership



Lea Kitz
Executive Director
Jan-May



Jill Jacklitz
Executive Director
Sept-Dec



Kit Kerschensteiner
Interim Executive Director
June-Aug
Director of Legal and Advocacy
Services



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Board President

Amy Gallagher
Director of Finance Jan-July

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Jamie Velvikis
Pewaukee, Wisconsin

Mike Soukup, *DRW*
Supervising Attorney

Kit Kerschensteiner, *DRW*
Director of Legal and Advocacy Services

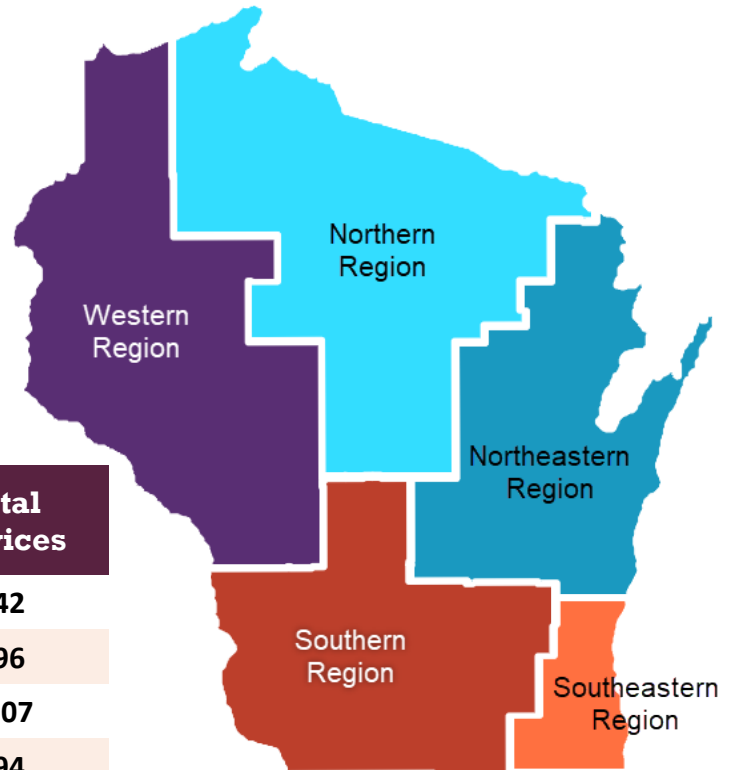
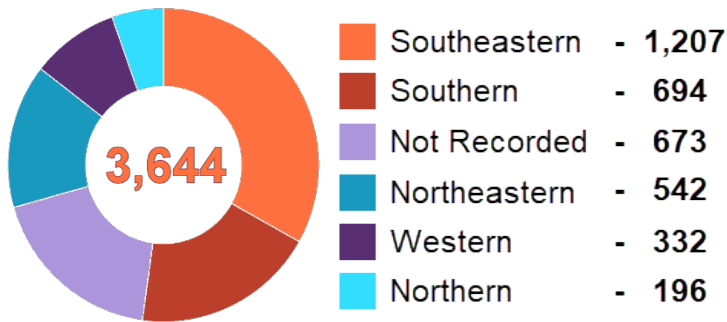
Total Number of Services Provided

By Primary Disability of Client

Type of Disability	Technical Assistance or Individual Representation	Information & Referral	Grand Total
Developmental Disability	244	281	525
Mental Illness	322	639	961
Physical Disability	297	1,640	1,937
Sensory Disability (Hearing or Visual)	53	59	112
Traumatic Brain Injury	33	76	109
Grand Total	949	2,695	3,644

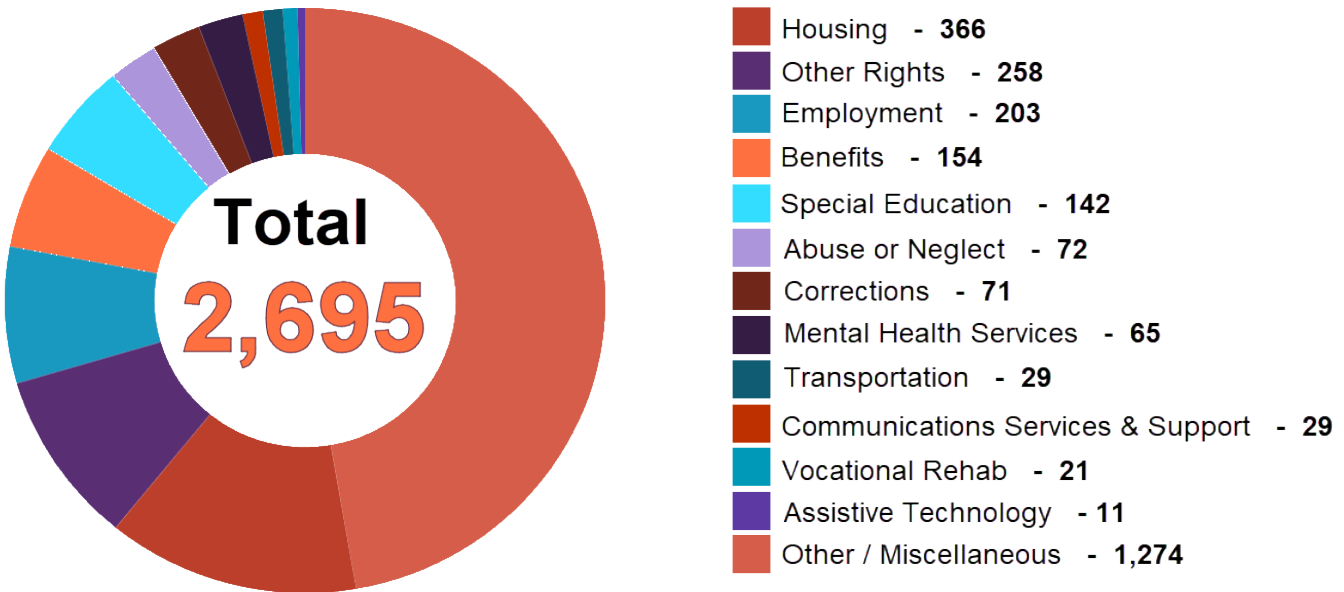
Individual Protection & Advocacy (P&A) Program Data

P&A Services by Region

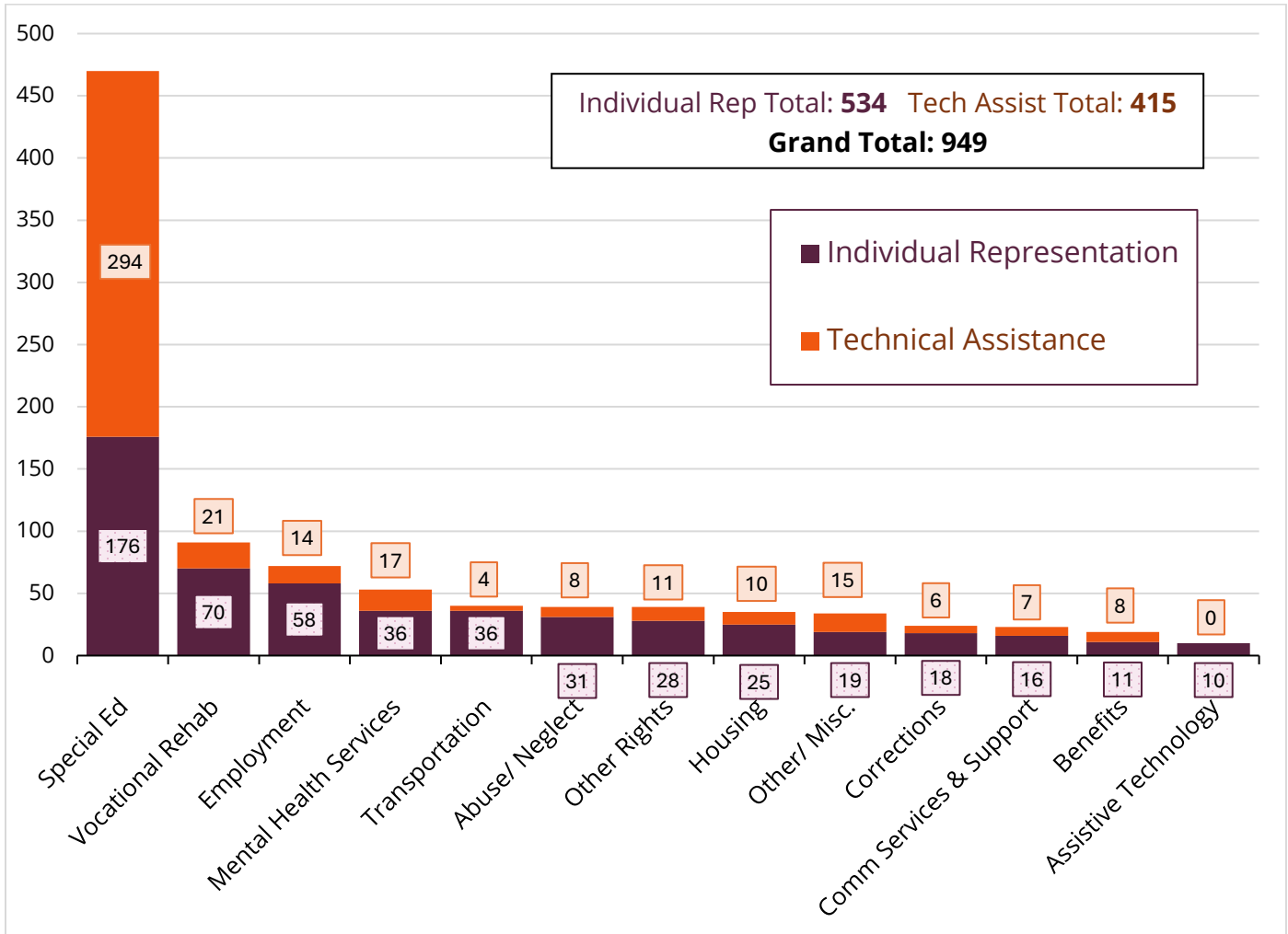


Region	Individual Advocacy	I&Rs	Total Services
Northeastern	181	361	542
Northern	57	139	196
Southeastern	374	833	1207
Southern	216	478	694
Western	116	216	332
Not Recorded	5	668	673
Total	949	2695	3644

P&A Information and Referrals by Topics



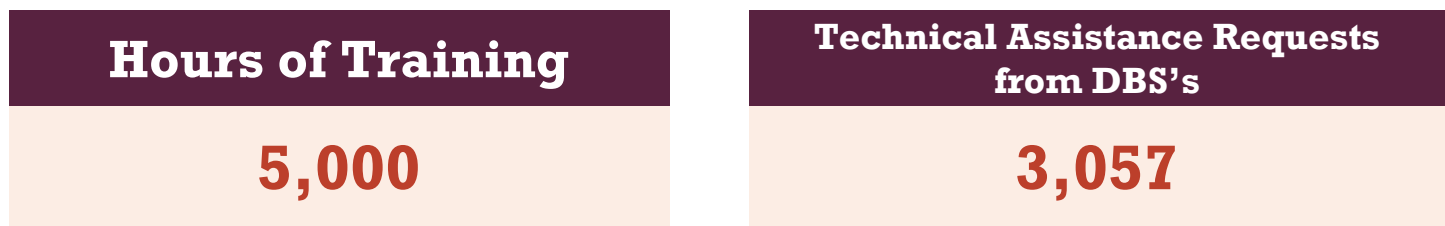
P&A Services Received by Clients by Issue



Technical Assistance and Training for Disability Benefits Specialists

The Department of Health Services contracts with DRW to provide technical assistance support and training for the Disability Benefits Specialists (DBS's) at Aging and Disability Resource Centers. This support ensures that DBSs can best help individuals with disabilities receive the benefits to which they are entitled and that match their needs. When formal legal intervention is required, DBSs can refer their clients to DRW for direct representation.

Disability Benefits



Issue Area	Number of Tech. Assist Requests	Percent of Total Tech. Assist. Requests
Social Security	2084	68.17%
Medicaid or Medicare	731	23.91%
General/Other	242	7.92%
Total	3057	100.00%

Disability Rights Wisconsin Medicare Part D Helpline

Since 2006, through a contract with Wisconsin Department of Health Services, DRW has had a Medicare Part D helpline for the people of Wisconsin with disabilities, their caregivers and professionals who support and work with them. The helpline provides advocacy, technical assistance, training to professionals, and outreach to Wisconsin Medicare beneficiaries.

Disability Drug Benefit Helpline – Medicare Part D



Family Care and IRIS Ombudsman Program (FCIOP)

The Department of Health Services (DHS) contracts with DRW to provide Ombudsman (advocacy) services for people between the ages of 18-59 who participate in or are seeking eligibility for Wisconsin’s Long-Term Care programs: Family Care, Family Care Partnership, Program for All-Inclusive Care of the Elderly (PACE), and IRIS. People who are enrolled in Family Care/Family Care Partnership and PACE (FC/FCP) or IRIS set up care plans that identify what services or supports they will receive and who will provide them.

Family Care and IRIS Ombudsman Program (FCIOP)

Request for Help	Number of People Requesting Help
839	740

Most Common Issues	Number of Service Requests ¹
Denial or delay of new request for service, medication, or equipment	278
Other	507
Relocation	211
Self-directed supports	82
Abuse/Neglect or Safety	73
Reduction or termination of existing services	72

Type of Disability	Number of Clients
Developmental Disability	153
Physical Disability	339
Physical Disability and Developmental Disability	248
Grand Total	740

¹some requests involve multiple issues

SSI Managed Care External Advocacy Project

The Department of Health Services contracts with DRW to provide direct assistance to people with disabilities enrolled in Medicaid HMOs. Information and Advocacy are provided on accessing Medicaid covered services; HMO enrollment, exemption and continuity of care; transportation and billing issues.

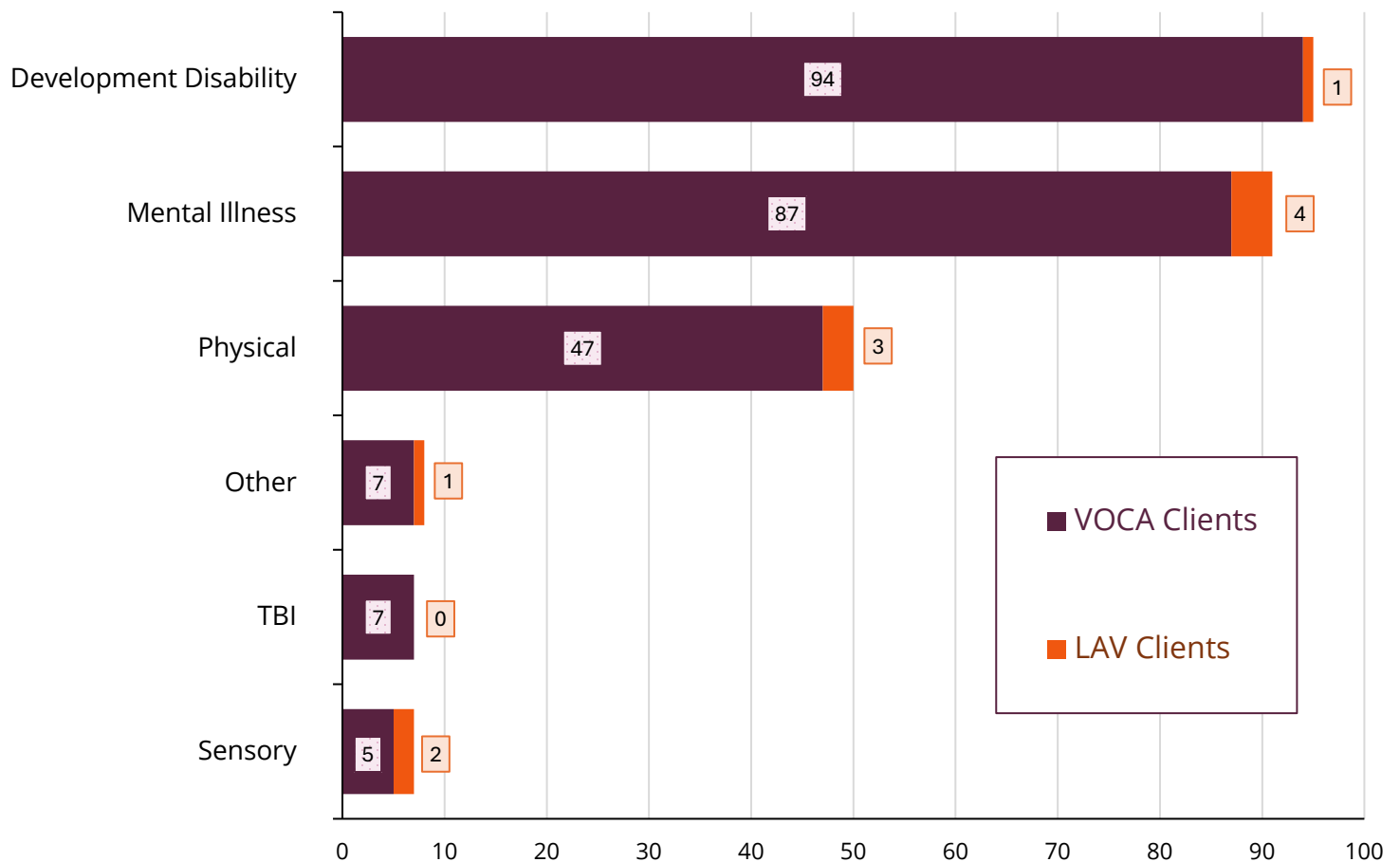
The SSI Managed Care External Advocacy Project (SSI-MC EAP)

In 2023, the SSI-MC EAP provided 85 callers with information and referral and provided advocacy on 219 cases.

Victim Advocacy Program

The Victim Advocacy Program (VAP) of DRW works to ensure that survivors with disabilities receive the advocacy, legal representation, services, and support they desire to move forward, find justice, and obtain safety and stability in whatever form the survivor needs. A main goal of the VAP is to promote self-determination for survivors with disabilities.

Clients by Disability Type

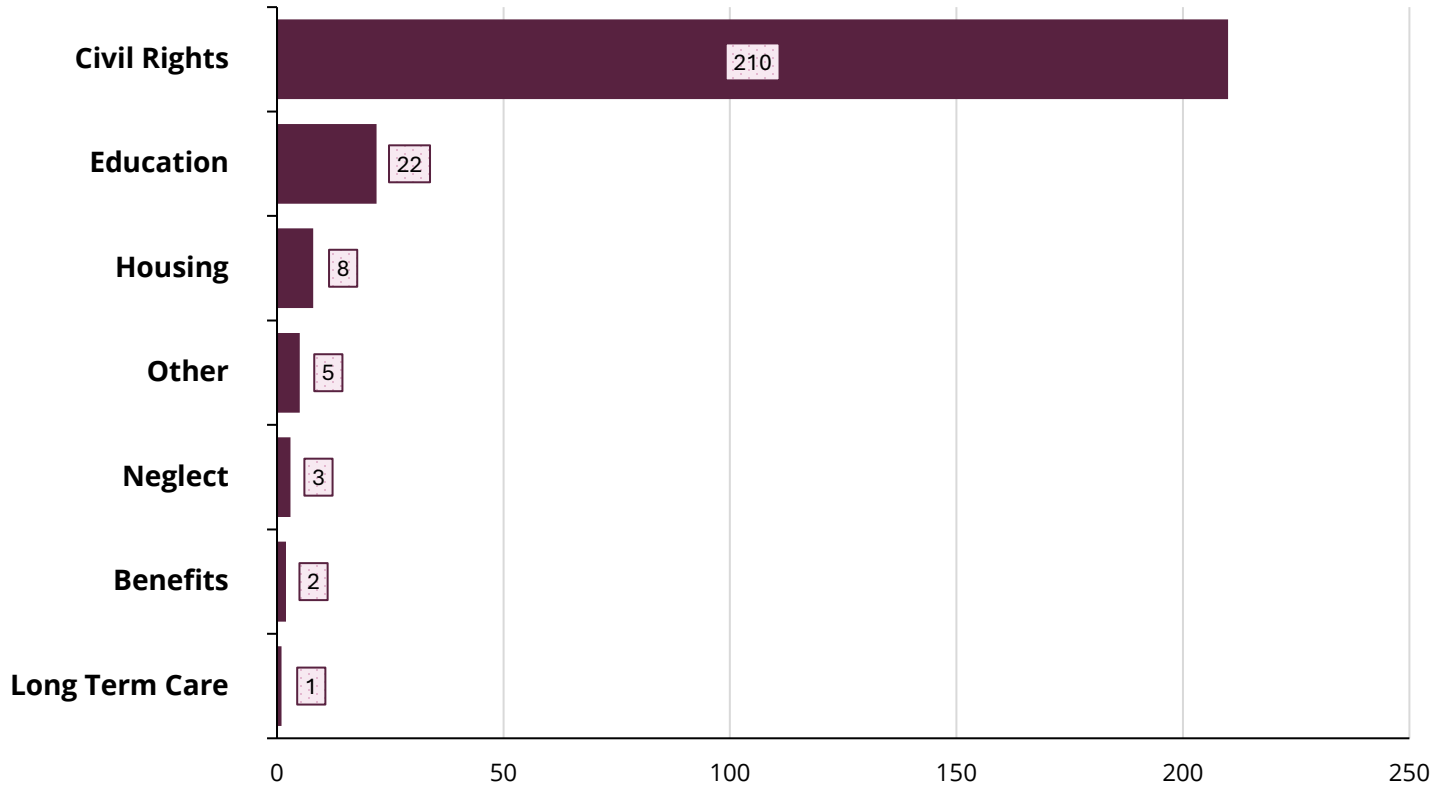


VOCA= Victims of Crime Advocacy
LAV= Legal Assistance for Victims

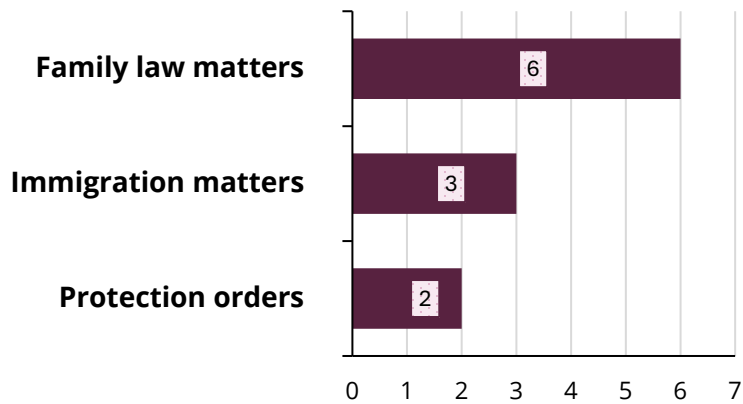
Client Served and Victimization

VOCA Services

*Each client may identify one or more victimization type



LAV Services

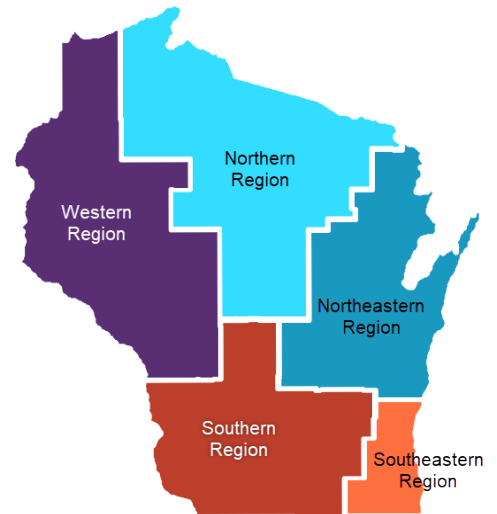


Clients Helped
258

Number of Services
263

Clients Services by Region

Region	VOCA	LAV	Total
Northeastern	112	5	117
Northern	9	3	12
Southeastern	63	3	66
Southern	39	1	40
Western	28	0	28
Total	251	12	263



Victimization Type for Clients Assisted

Client Victimization Type	Total *
Domestic and/or Family Violence	68
Adult Physical Assault	54
Adult Sexual Assault	46
Stalking/Harassment	39
Child Sexual Abuse/Assault	33
Child Physical Abuse or Neglect	33
Identity Theft/Fraud/Financial Crime	24
Bullying (Verbal, Cyber, Physical) – CHILDREN ONLY	19
Robbery	9
Adults Sexually Abused/Assaulted as Children	8
Hate Crime: Racial/Religious/Gender/Sexual Orientation/Other	8
Other	5
Human Trafficking: Sex	5
Other Vehicular Victimization (e.g., Hit and Run)	4
Teen Dating Victimization	3
Human Trafficking: Labor	2
Elder Abuse or Neglect	2
Survivors of Homicide Victims	2
Burglary	2
Kidnapping (non-custodial)	2
Child Pornography	2
DUI/DWI Incidents	1
Legal Assistance-Domestic violence/dating violence	8
Legal Assistance-Sexual Assault	3
Legal Assistance-Stalking	1
Grand Total	383

*Each client may identify one or more victimization type

Summary Statement of Financial Activity

2023 Financial Report

Total Revenues without Donor Restrictions	\$4,081,601
Total Expenses	\$7,196,438
Net Assets without Donor Restrictions, beginning of year	\$585,050
Net Assets without Donor Restrictions, end of year	\$949,527
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions, beginning of year	\$173,948
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions, end of year	\$155,912
Net Assets Released from Restrictions, purpose satisfied	\$171,036
Change in Net Assets with Donor Restrictions	\$(18,036)
Change in Net Assets	\$346,441

Revenue

Federal Awards	\$2,921,425
Contracts	\$2,702,661
Contributions & Foundation Grants	\$616,514
Legal Fees	\$ -
Interest/Other	\$ 7,832
State Awards	\$1,294,447
Total Revenue	\$7,542,879

Expenses

Salaries & Wages	\$4,640,660
Fringe Benefits	\$1,326,293
Fees/Contracts/Dues/Insurance	\$403,788
Occupancy	\$463,229
Travel	\$112,409
Printing & Subscriptions	\$41,278
Training & Conferences	\$102,827
Advertising	\$38,103
Other	\$67,851
Total Expenses	\$7,196,438

Expenditures by Program

Protection & Advocacy	\$2,708,440	35.9%
FC/IRIS Ombudsman	\$1,726,766	22.9%
DBS Program Attorney	\$1,021,826	13.5%
SSI-MC & Med D	\$629,306	8.3%
Victim Advocacy	\$920,486	12.2%
Corporate Activities	\$536,055	7.1%

Donors

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Susan Beil

Teresa Wargo

Terri Johnson

The Bruce & Lisa Drummond Philanthropic Fund

Theresa Zenchenko

Tiffany Stark



Awards and Recognition

2023 Conservation Action Award

Barbara Beckert, our DRW director of External Advocacy for Milwaukee and South-Eastern Wisconsin, received a Conservation Action Award from the Wisconsin Conservation Voters. Wisconsin Conservation Voters host an annual Green Tie Gala to celebrate the people in Madison who inspire their movement.

Disability Rights | Wisconsin

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Contact Us

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This report was made possible in part at taxpayer expense by funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/Administration for Community Living/Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities/Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services/Center for Mental Health Services, and the U.S. Department of Education/Rehabilitation Services Administration. Report contents are solely the responsibility of Disability Rights Wisconsin and do not necessarily represent the official view of any of these agencies.

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