



Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:
Eastside Legal Assistance Program

Address:
1239 120th Ave NE, Suite J
Bellevue, WA 98005

Contact:
(425) 747-7274
<https://www.elap.org>

Organization's General Goals:
ELAP's mission is to empower people in King County to achieve fair and equal justice through free civil legal aid and community education. We work with people facing crises that need a legal solution. We also educate communities about their legal rights. We work for free to solve legal issues and provide resources for our community members.

Date of Award:	Level:
2021 Q3	\$2,501 to \$5,000

For more information, please read the attached report from Eastside Legal Assistance Program.

8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip, WA 98271

TulipCares.org



**Pursuing Fair
and Equal Justice**

November 17, 2022

Dear Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund,

We thank you again for your continued support of our Domestic Violence Legal Program (DVLP) through a Q3 2021 14.2 grant. The past almost three years have been challenging years for our organization. Still, I am happy to report that we were able to pivot our services, add to our specialty legal departments, and continue to provide legal services to our community. Our programs are almost all operating remotely, so we do not have any program photos. We hope to get back to holding in-person clinics and legal workshops in 2023.

Our grant proposal's identified goal was to serve 2,000 people in our programs with over 900 clinic appointments. We also expected to help more than 200 survivors of DV in the DVLP. The primary goal of the DVLP is to provide brief and extensive legal services to domestic violence survivors. Since October 2021, the DVLP has provided 321 DV survivors with legal services and supported them through the legal processes to battle for custody, obtain protective orders, and counsel them through their legal options. Throughout ELAP's programs, over 1,546 individuals have received legal help.

The greatest challenge in the DVLP is balancing our workload to aid as many survivors as possible while still having the resources to offer our full range of support to every client. ELAP has shrunk to two full-time staff attorneys working in the DVLP, and utilizing support from outside attorneys through our Contract Attorney Program and on a pro bono basis. With the reduction in DVLP staff attorneys, our capacity has been stretched thin, and we have not been able to serve as many clients as we had hoped. We also continue to partner with other area organizations to receive client referrals and connect clients with support beyond legal aid, such as mental health and housing. We also serve DV survivors in our Housing Stability Program to address their housing issues and within our Medical-Legal Partnership with Healthpoint to address other legal issues they may have as medical clinic patients. This additional legal help adds to the security and stability of a survivor and her family when they eliminate other legal problems that can occur simultaneously.

Legal help in protection order cases is one of the priorities for the DVLP. King County's official reports show that with attorney representation, protective orders are far more likely to be granted, but only 9% of parties in these proceedings receive counsel. ELAP aims to increase these numbers dramatically by representing as many clients as possible within our limited capacity. The DVLP has been at maximum capacity for clients for the past two years, to the point where we have had to limit new intake to ensure full support for all current clients. We are still emerging from the crisis caused by

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COVID-19 shutdowns, wherein DV calls increased by nearly 40% and were often of greater severity than in previous years. Many of these cases required increased time, partly because of the level of crisis and partly because court procedures were constantly in flux as health directives evolved with the pandemic. Several years later, we are in a more stable state and are beginning to be able to take on more clients and expand our services again.

ELAP and our DVLP have done their best to meet our clients where they are. We use interpreter services over the phone and have all our materials translated into other languages for the greatest possible accessibility. Additionally, attorneys have been flexible in client meetings, including meeting in community centers, public spaces, courts, churches, or wherever the client is comfortable, in addition to virtual meetings. We hope to continue our previous success and expand to meet the needs of all our clients in the future, and we are grateful for your support in our endeavors for the Eastside community.

If you have any questions or would like further information, you can find stories and videos on our website: www.elap.org or I would be happy to share some directly with the Fund.

With gratitude,

Alexandra Comstock
Development Director
Eastside Legal Assistance Program