



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

IN PURSUIT OF

Justice

FOR ALL



Dear friends and supporters,

Thank you for partnering with us in 2018. The support we receive from our funders is essential to our mission of using the civil justice system to relieve and prevent poverty in Maine.

Our dedicated staff and volunteers work hard to ensure all Mainers have a voice in the legal system and to ensure laws affecting poor people are upheld. This report highlights the incredible impact your investment had in our state. Thanks to you, we provided individual legal aid to 17,887 people and reached over two million people through our websites in 2018.

I hope you will continue to partner with us as we work together to help our communities prosper!



Very Truly Yours,

Nan Heald
Executive Director

In pursuit of

Empowerment

for all

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17,887

People served in 2018

Our staff and volunteers worked on 7,215 cases, providing direct legal aid to 17,887 people in Maine, including 6,880 children.



2,537

Court cases in 2018

Our advocacy ranges from legal advice to representation in court. We handled 2,537 court cases and our success rate was 96%.



\$6,407,554

For our clients in 2018

Our advocacy resulted in more than \$6 million in income and savings for our clients—almost a \$1 for \$1 return on investment.



2,081,915

Website visitors in 2018

Our websites contain hundreds of self-help materials on topics such as “Do Your Own Divorce” & “How Do I Get My Security Deposit Back?”



Imagine falling a month behind on rent. Maybe you lost your job or had an unexpected expense last month. Now you receive an eviction notice from your landlord.

You are unable to afford to pay this month's rent and last month's rent all at once. Nor can you afford first month's rent and a security deposit for a new apartment. If you are evicted, you will become homeless.

Now imagine that you are represented by a legal aid attorney. Your attorney negotiates a re-payment arrangement with your landlord that will allow you to get caught up on the rent you owed and stay in your home.

That is the impact of civil legal aid.

More than 2,000 Maine families sought our help with an eviction in 2018.

Imagine what would happen without access to legal aid.

In pursuit of

Safe & Affordable Housing for all

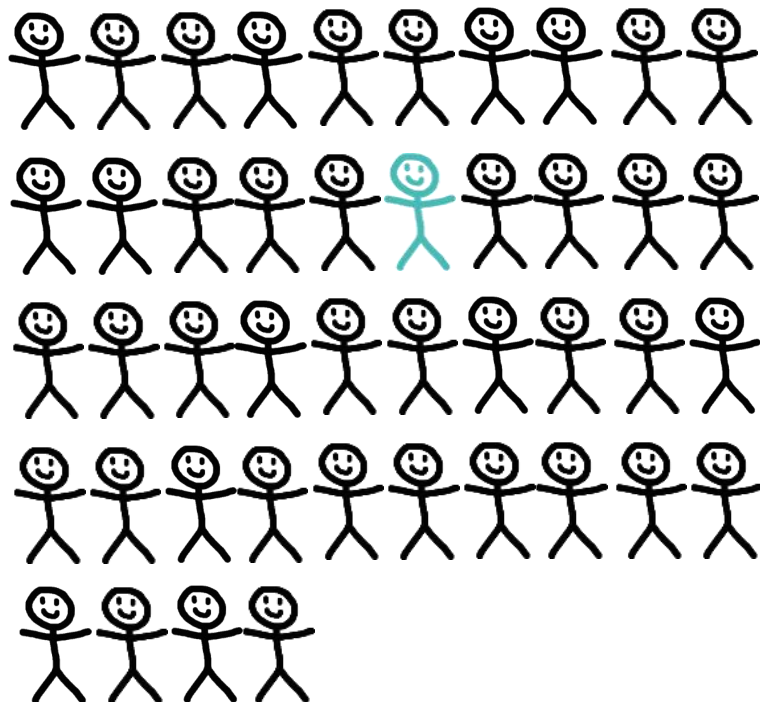
Everyone deserves a safe place to call home

Housing is one of the most basic human rights. More than half our work is focused on advocating for Maine people to have access to safe and affordable housing.

One in Forty-four

Maine tenants are evicted each year

Source: Eviction Lab



Eviction Defense

More than 2,000 families sought our help with an eviction and we represented nearly half of them. We **won 97%** of those cases, preventing homelessness for many families.

Preserving Subsidies

By helping people who were at-risk of losing their housing subsidies, we saved our clients **over half a million dollars**.

Advocating for Safe Housing

We helped more than **400 families** who contacted us about unsafe housing conditions such as no heat, unsafe water, mold, faulty wiring, pests, or lead hazards.

Foreclosure Prevention

By enforcing protections for homeowners, we saved our clients **more than two million dollars** in fees and debt and preserved the American dream of home ownership.



Most people don't immediately associate anti-poverty advocacy with consumer finance protections, but the two are inextricably connected.

For the segment of the population that we serve, consumer credit products—which in theory can help lift people out of poverty—often prevent attainment of financial stability through abusive practices and misaligned economic incentives.

Over the past decade, Pine Tree has taken a leadership role in addressing the legal needs of Maine consumers. Increasingly, we are seeing clients struggling with student loans, many of whom are targeted by predatory, for-profit institutions.

The need for consumer legal advocacy will continue to be an increasingly important component in the fight to improve the financial well-being of our clients and the many Mainers who have not felt the benefits of an improved economy.

In pursuit of

Financial Stability for all

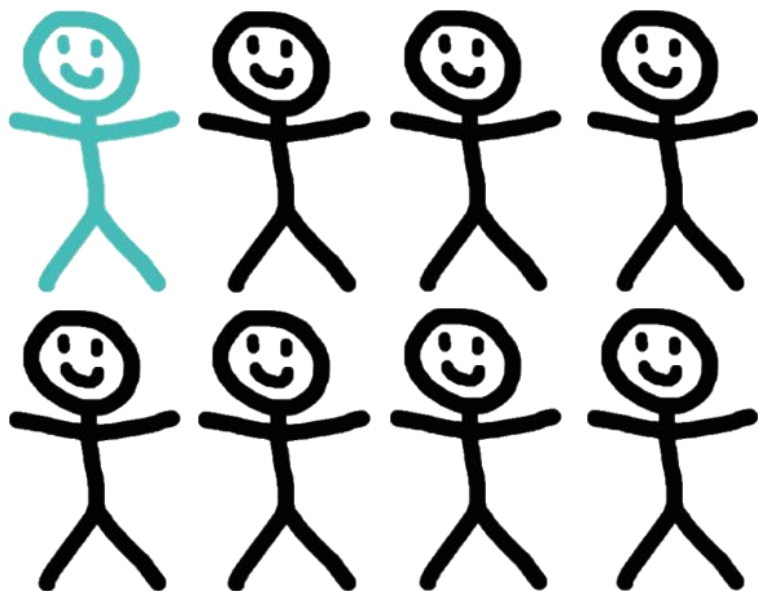
Legal aid can lift families out of poverty and prevent families from falling further into poverty

Whether it is access public benefits or a tax refund, having a lawyer to wade through bureaucratic systems helps people access income so they can feed their families and pay their bills.

One in Eight

Maine people live in poverty

Source: US Census Bureau



Public Benefits

We helped our client households access **\$122,686** in public benefits that will enable them to afford their basic necessities.

Consumer Credit

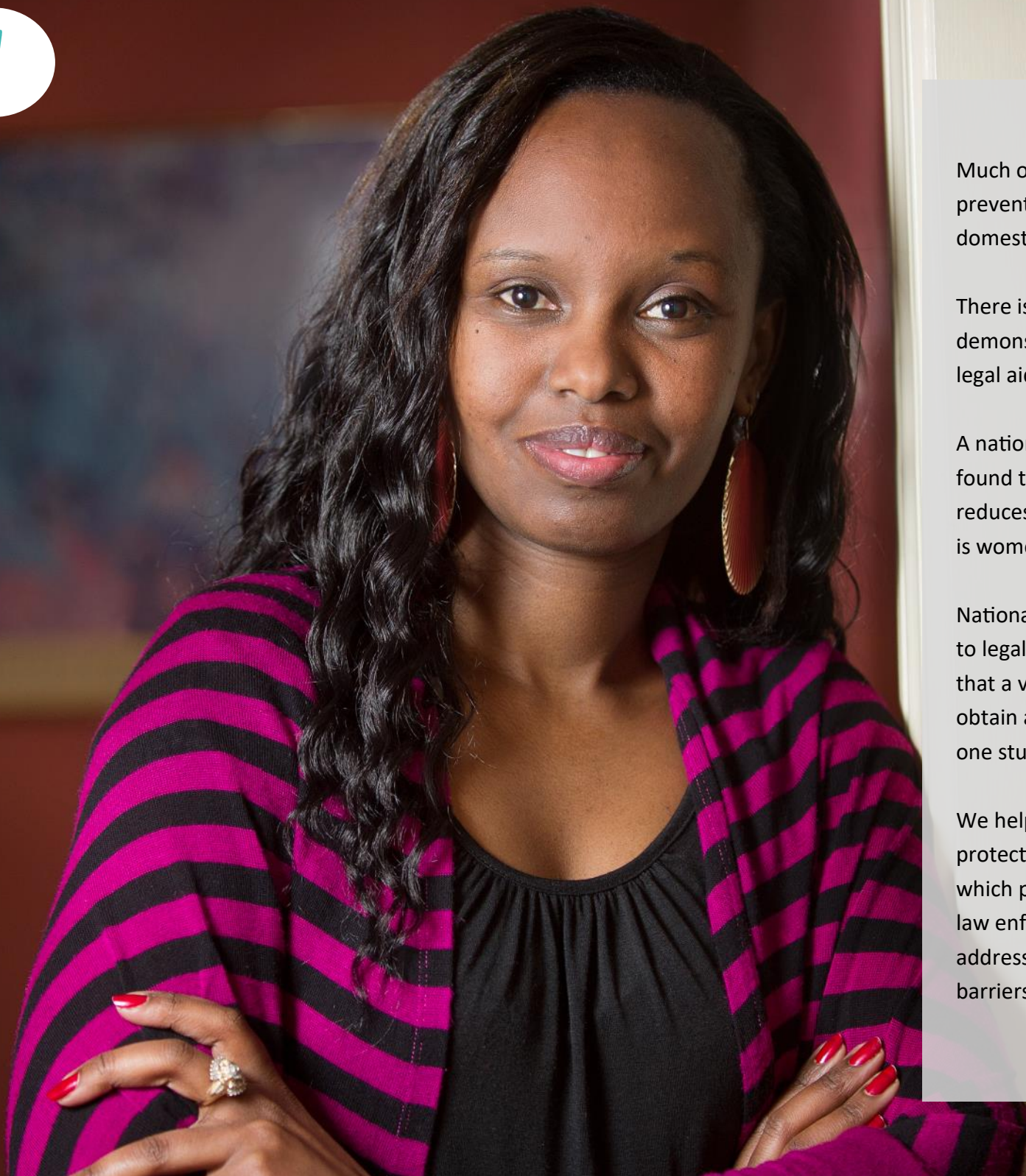
We saved Maine consumers nearly **two million dollars** in unlawful or excessive debt by providing legal help in consumer debt cases.

Employment

Pine Tree's staff met with **131 agricultural workers** to educate them on their legal rights and provide access to free legal help.

Tax

Low income Mainers are audited by the IRS at higher rates than wealthy taxpayers. Pine Tree helped Mainers access **\$291,964** in tax savings and refunds.



Much of our work is focused on preventing and reducing sexual and domestic violence.

There is a significant body of research demonstrating the effectiveness of civil legal aid in reducing violence.

A national study on domestic abuse found that “the only public service that reduces domestic abuse in the long term is women’s access to legal aid .”

National research also shows that access to legal services increases the likelihood that a victim will successfully be able to obtain a protective order—according to one study by as much as 50%.

We help victims obtain important legal protections, such as a protection order, which provides safety (enforceable by law enforcement). Our advocacy also addresses economic, housing, and social barriers to safety and well-being.

In pursuit of

Freedom from Abuse **for all**

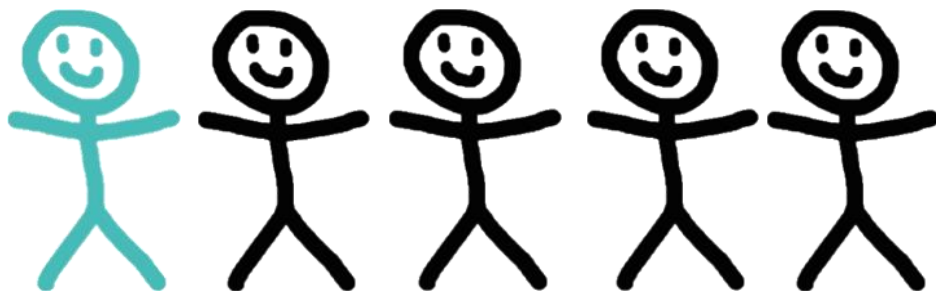
No one should live in fear of abuse

Although many of our clients are victims of criminal acts, it is difficult to prosecute domestic violence and sexual assault cases, meaning that civil legal is often the only recourse available to victims.

One in Five

Mainers will experience sexual assault in their life

Source: Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault



Interpersonal Violence

We worked on **1,822 cases** for survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking and human trafficking.

Sexual Assault

Our advocacy is focused on the needs of survivors of sexual assault, including complex issues such as the Title IX process on college campuses.

Human Trafficking

Our attorneys are part of community-wide and statewide collaborations to combat human trafficking in Maine.

Stalking

We are recognized as experts on legal protections for victims of stalking. In addition to our casework, we provided training to advocates and pro-bono attorneys.

The quality of a child's education has far-reaching ramifications.

For children with disabilities, keeping up with their peers in school can be very challenging.

Early intervention in the form of special education services can help a student thrive at school. But when a student does not receive the services they need, they often fall further behind, which can lead to higher dropout rates and lower earning potential later in life.

KIDS LEGAL, the children's rights project within Pine Tree Legal Assistance, uses legal advocacy to ensure access to a meaningful education and to work against educational inequity.

Through KIDS LEGAL, we work with children, youth, parents, and caregivers to support the unique legal needs of Maine children and youth.



In pursuit of

Access to Education for all

An injustice against a child lasts a lifetime

Legal aid has a significant impact on our clients' ability to succeed in the future, especially in cases where we help students access a meaningful education.

Three in Five

Economically disadvantaged 4th graders in Maine
are reading below proficiency levels

Source: Maine Kids Count



Homeless Youth

We staff a drop-in legal clinic at Preble Street's Teen Center in Portland twice a month, where we talked to **hundreds of youth** in 2018.

Students with Disabilities

We secured needed educational services for **73 students with disabilities**. Services such as literacy instruction and speech language therapy help students thrive.

Keeping kids in school

We helped **55 students** stay in school or return to school. In these cases, legal advocacy resolved truancy issues, prevented or resolved expulsions, and resolved other issues keeping students out of school.

kidslegal.org

Our website dedicated to educating parents and youth about the legal rights of children was used by **246,487 people**.



For every person we are able to help, we turn away at least one person due to a lack of resources.

Since we know we can't represent everyone who needs our help, we've intentionally designed our program to include services that will educate our communities and reach people we are unable to represent.

Our goal is to empower all Mainers to advocate for themselves by providing them with information about their civil legal rights and responsibilities.

We use innovations in technology as well as personal connections to help us reach Mainers throughout the state.

Our websites are nationally recognized for their high-quality legal information and innovative developments of new technology.

In 2018, we went live newly redesigned statesidelegal.org.

In pursuit of

Knowledge for all

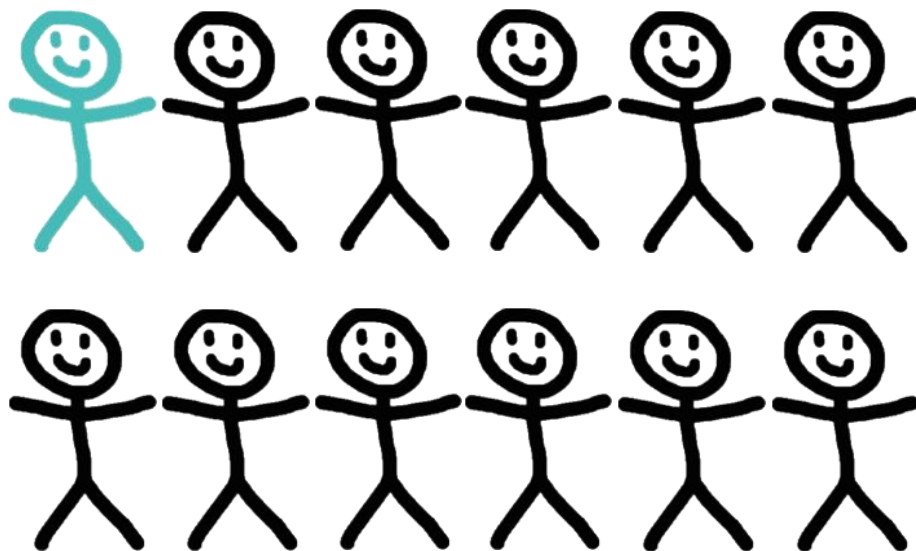
As the saying goes, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure

We want to empower all Mainers to advocate for themselves by providing them with information about their civil legal rights and responsibilities.

One in Twelve

Maine people use ptla.org

Source: Google Analytics



Self-Help Guides

We maintain a comprehensive library of self-help tools, legal information, and resources which are available to everyone online at no charge. Our self-help guides cover a wide range of legal topics.

Websites

Our three websites—ptla.org, kidslegal.org, and statesidelegal.org—were visited more than **two million** times in 2018.

Community Engagement

Pine Tree staff are valued trainers for client groups, social service providers, members of the private bar, court personnel, landlords, and others.

Professional Consultations

Our staff work with social service providers, medical providers, private attorneys, and others in the community by providing professional consultations.

Thank you

for your support

Ellen Umphrey and Mohammed Ahmed
David and Patricia Alexander
Justin and Rachel Alfond
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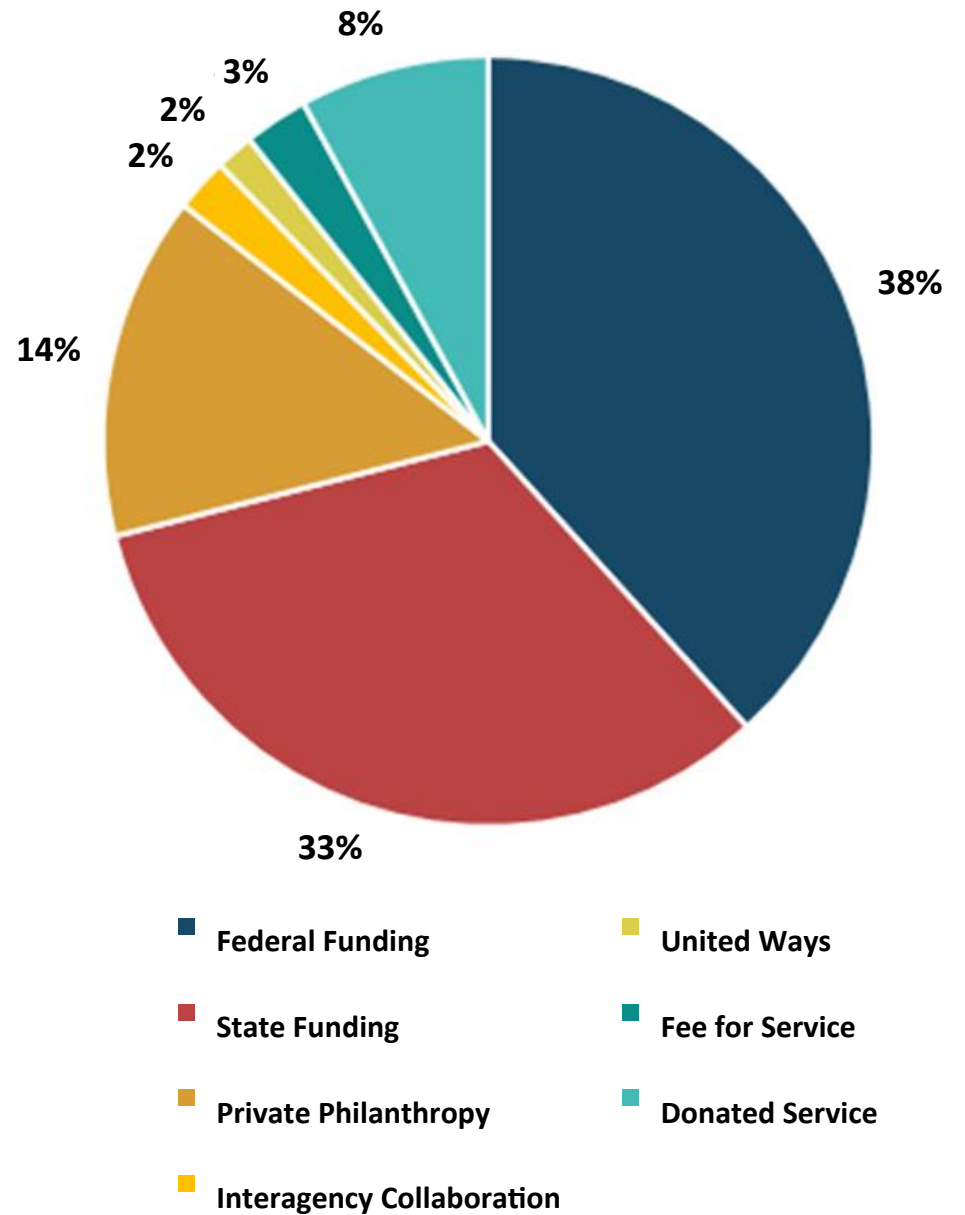
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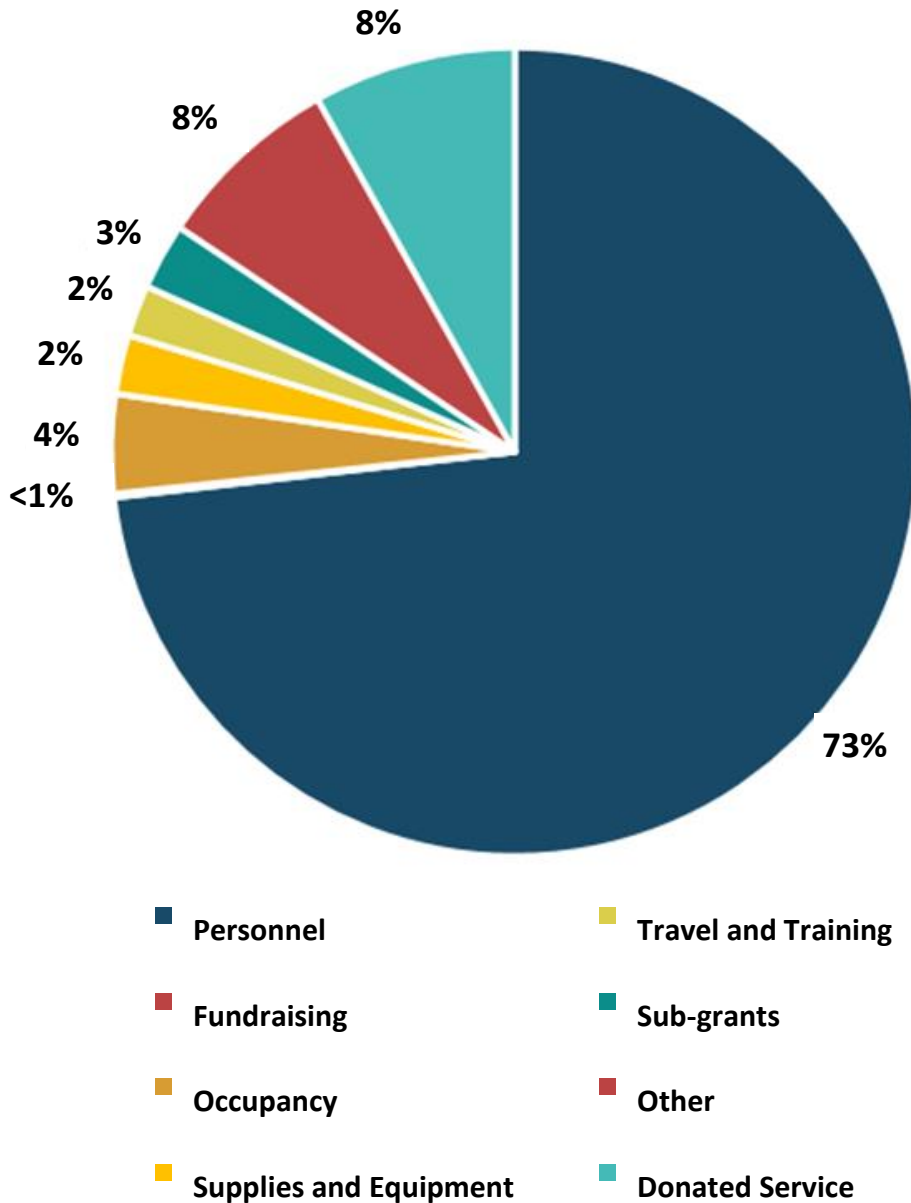
Pine Tree Legal Assistance is a grantee of the Legal Services Corporation, the single largest funder of civil legal aid for low-income Americans. As a condition of the funding received from LSC, Pine Tree Legal Assistance may not expend any funds for any activity prohibited by the Legal Services Corporation Act, 42 U.S.C. §2996 et. seq. or by Public Law 104-134. Public Law 104—234 §504(d) required that notice of these restrictions be given to all funders or programs funded by the Legal Services Corporation.

2018 Revenue Report

Federal Funding	\$2,727,531
State Funding	\$2,333,603
Private Philanthropy	\$1,029,811
Interagency Collaborations	\$160,277
United Ways	\$114,139
Fee for Service	\$191,664
Donated Services	\$567,449
Total Revenue and Donated Services	\$7,124,474



2018 Expense Report



Personnel	\$5,110,223
Occupancy	\$276,779
Supplies and Equipment	\$164,720
Travel and Training	\$143,189
Fundraising	\$10,068
Sub-grants	\$185,820
Other	\$523,458
Donated Services	\$567,449
Total Expenses and Donated Services	\$6,981,706

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