



Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A

2016 Impact Report

Building Community. Ensuring Opportunity. Achieving Justice.

MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Every day Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A (Brooklyn A) helps improve the lives of people who live in poverty. We are dedicated to the principle that lawyers can open doors and level the playing field for people facing enormous life challenges, as well as partner with community organizations and coalitions that support them and their neighborhoods.

Over the past year, hundreds of people like you have supported our **Mission to advance social and economic justice and community empowerment through innovative, collaborative, neighborhood-based legal representation and advocacy**. Thanks to you, Brooklyn A has been able to help more people in need than ever before. Our staff has tirelessly assisted thousands of people throughout Brooklyn, and New York City, in their fight for social and economic justice.

Through our **Preserving Affordable Housing Program** we prevented 754 evictions, affecting 2,006 low-income people. We represented 98 tenant associations in rent-stabilized housing—through which we have kept in and/or restored tenants to their homes. The **Community & Economic Advocacy Program** provided services to 202 homeowners facing bankruptcy and foreclosure, impacting the lives of an additional 12,000 adults. The **Community & Economic Development Program** represented 58 not-for-profit community-based organizations and community development corporations on over 70 development and operational projects, which impacted the lives of 36,024 individuals and families. Our Community Legal Education and Fair Housing work—including presentations, brochures, and website information, impacted an additional 51,916 people—enabling them to learn about their rights and protect themselves against landlord harassment.

As we continue to grow and expand dramatically this year, our work will become that much more important to the communities we serve, both to those that have been our core communities for decades and the new ones that we are able to assist as a result of our growth.

We are thankful to our clients, partners, and supporters. Without you, we would not be here today. We look forward to serving even more clients in the year to come and continuing to defend and protect those in need; as well as providing critical legal support for the great community-based organizations that serve them and the neighborhoods in which they live.

Sincerely,



Martin S. Needelman, Esq.
Executive Director & Chief Counsel

Building Community. Ensuring Opportunity. Achieving Justice.

ABOUT BROOKLYN A



Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A

Who We Are

Brooklyn A's mission is to **advance** social and economic **justice** and **empower communities** through innovative, collaborative, high-quality neighborhood-based legal representation and **advocacy**.

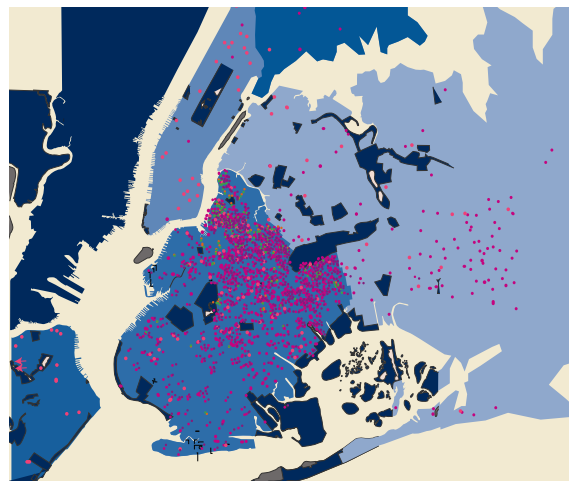
Our Core Programs

CONSUMER & ECONOMIC ADVOCACY: The primary focus of the program is representing consumers victimized by fraudulent, abusive, and predatory business practices and promoting justice for consumers. We represent low-income and other vulnerable homeowners in foreclosure, as well as in state and federal court litigation, challenging predatory lending, abusive mortgage servicing, and fair housing and lending violations.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: We provide in-house and special project legal counsel, which encompasses a full range of transactional legal services, to CBOs/CDCs. We provide our clients with ongoing, comprehensive legal counsel in their daily operation and functioning and at all stages of project and program development.

LOW-INCOME TAXPAYER CLINIC: Brooklyn A's Low Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) provides assistance to low-income taxpayers with federal and New York State income tax controversies, including assisting clients with audits and examinations, innocent spouse relief requests, appeals, and collection issues.

PRESERVING AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Brooklyn A's aggressive housing practice fights to prevent evictions, preserve affordable housing, and ensure that apartments are safe. Through our model of affirmative group representation, we provide legal services, including advice, advocacy, and aggressive litigation, to prevent evictions, both in court and in administrative proceedings; obtain needed repairs in apartments and buildings; obtain benefits to pay rent arrears and future rent; and fight to reduce illegally high rents.



What We do

- **Prevent** and stop illegal evictions and improve living conditions for hundreds of low-to-moderate income tenants and their families.
- **Preserve** and expand affordable housing.
- **Litigate** against predatory mortgage schemes, discriminatory lending practices, and other forms of consumer fraud perpetrated against low-to-moderate income individuals.
- **Support** community and economic development efforts undertaken by CBOs and CDCs.
- **Assist** income-eligible taxpayers with federal and state tax controversies.
- **Develop** strategic, longterm partnerships with other neighborhood-based organizations to advance common objectives.

2016 | A YEAR OF IMPACT



Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A

Consumer & Economic Advocacy Program

12,102 impacted

Community & Economic Development Program

36,082 impacted

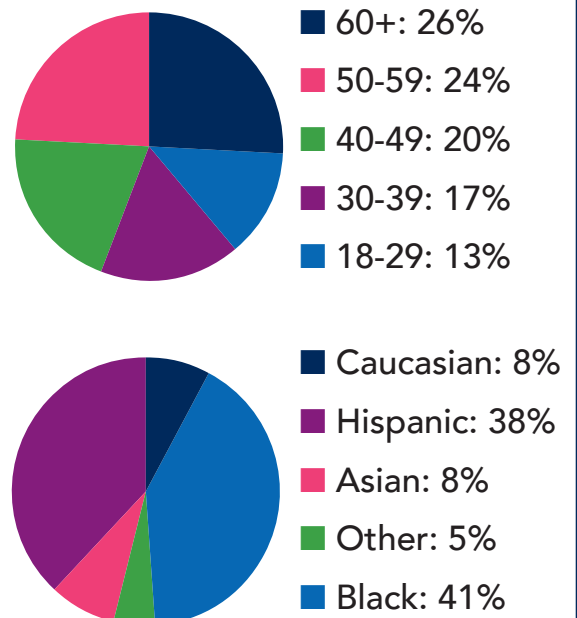
Preserving Affordable Housing Program

46,000 impacted

Prevented **754**
evictions, which
affected **2,006**
low-income members
of the community.

Outreach and Pro Se
efforts including
workshops, presentations,
brochures, and website
information impacted
an additional **51,916**
community members.

Client Demographics

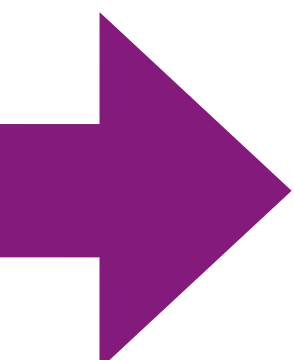


2016 | A YEAR OF IMPACT

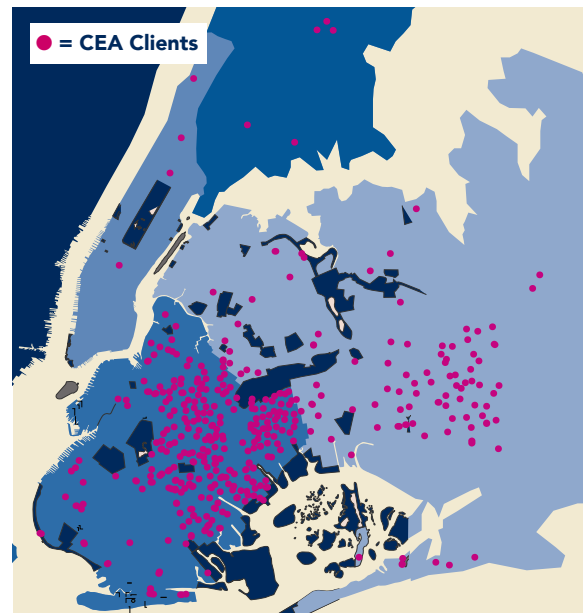


Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A

Consumer & Economic Advocacy Program



In 2016, we represented **102** homeowners facing foreclosure, and impacted an additional **12,000** people through outreach efforts including presentations and trainings on numerous topics, such as racial discrimination in mortgage loan originations.



"Most of what we're doing is simply calling on the banks to do what's right."
— NDUKWE AGWU, *Interim Deputy Director, Consumer & Economic Advocacy Program*

A Client Focus:

TYPICAL CASE: A 92-year-old African-American homeowner came to our office for a reverse mortgage foreclosure for her failure to pay taxes. She was suffering from dementia and was under the impression that she did not have to pay taxes. However, she in fact owed approximately \$30,000 in taxes. Our attorneys were successful in keeping her in her home as well as giving her additional time to pay her back taxes by initiating a Chapter 13 Bankruptcy. Through the bankruptcy, we forced the bank to accept payments toward the back taxes over a 60 month period. This remedy is only available via Chapter 13 Bankruptcy, and it has become harder to facilitate resolution of reverse mortgages in the state context—especially when a homeowner is behind on tax payments. Lenders typically will accept nothing less than the full payoff. Resolution via Chapter 13 Bankruptcies allows us to circumvent this issue.



2016 | A YEAR OF IMPACT

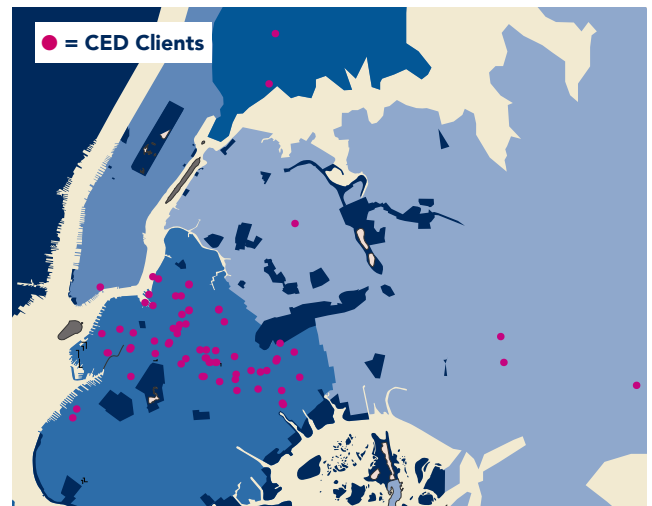


Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A

Community & Economic Development Program



In 2016, we represented **58** not-for-profit clients on over **70** development and operational projects which impacted the lives of **36,024** individuals and families.



“For Brooklyn A, community economic development consists of not only economic, but also social, political, and cultural development in initiatives led by the community and controlled by the community.”

— JESSICA ROSE, *Program Director, Community & Economic Development Program*

A Client Focus:

In 2016, Brooklyn A represented Cypress Hills Child Care Corporation in the acquisition of land which will become the permanent home to its administrative office and enable it to serve approximately 85 additional children ranging from 2½-4 years of age. The acquisition of this new center—a 10,972 sq. ft. building—will provide key benefits to Cypress Hills, including better future academic outcomes for children who attend the center and improved employment rates and job growth for parents who will be better-positioned to seek work with the knowledge that their children are in a safe, affordable child care environment.



2016 | A YEAR OF IMPACT

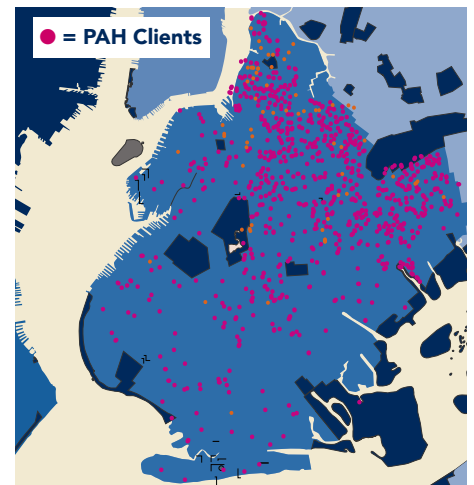


Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A

Preserving Affordable Housing Program



In 2016, we represented **98** tenant associations in rent-stabilized housing and handled over **500** housing, state and federal court proceedings. In total, our Community Legal Education efforts impacted over **46,000** individuals and families.



A Client Focus:

THE PROCESS: We undertake investigations of systemic patterns of discrimination throughout

Brooklyn, caused by landlords harassing and forcing out rent-stabilized tenants. As part of these systemic investigations, which are the preliminary steps before we take any legal action, Brooklyn A advocates and attorneys examine, apartment by apartment, the potential fair housing violations in a building, including disparate treatment by a landlord or practices that have a disparate impact based on a resident's protected class.



"If [development] is done right, then it could help address a lot of the displacement and housing pressures that our communities face. If it's done wrong, it will only further segregate areas that have already suffered extensively from a history of housing discrimination."

— SHEKAR KRISHNAN, *Program Director, Preserving Affordable Housing Program, Group Representation Unit*

"Our representation levels the power inequality inherent to a system in which 95% of landlords are represented and, most tenants are not."

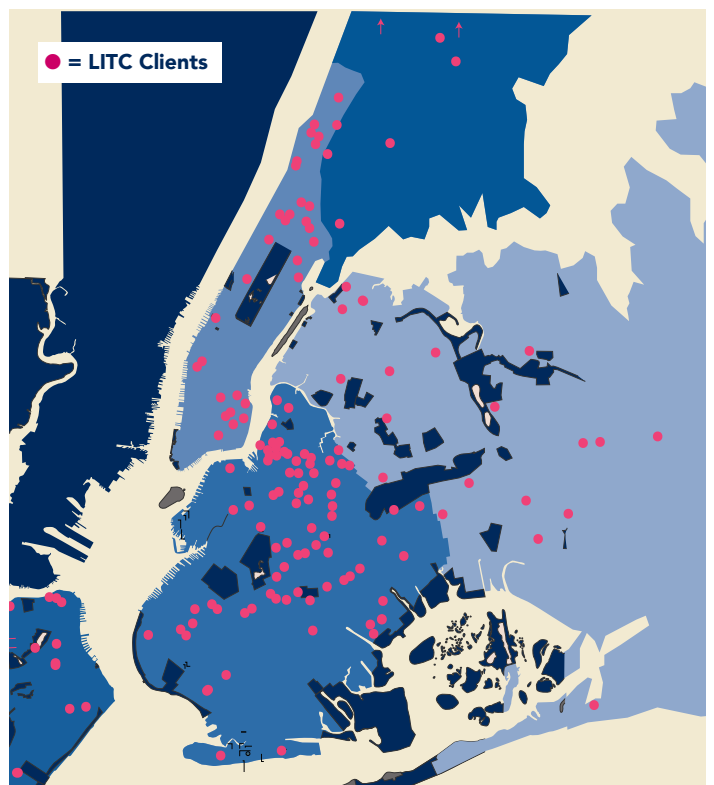
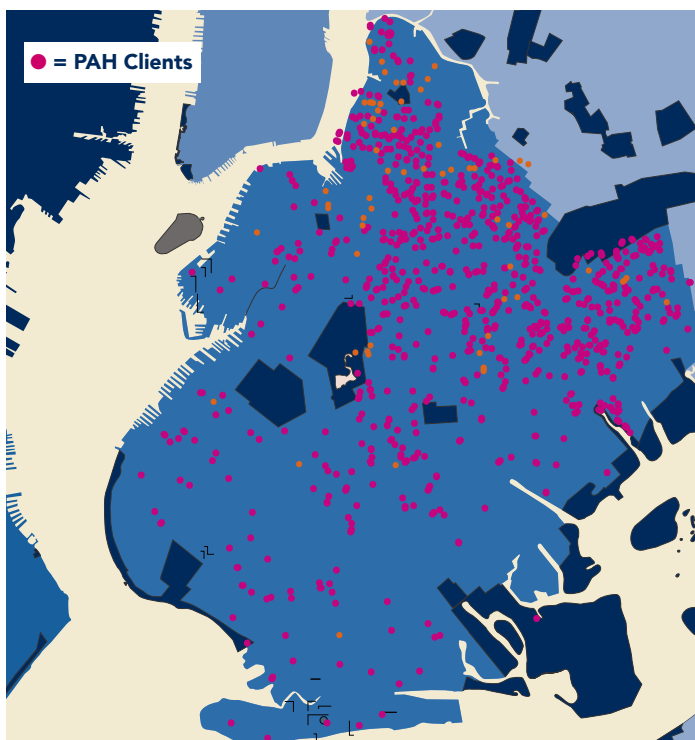
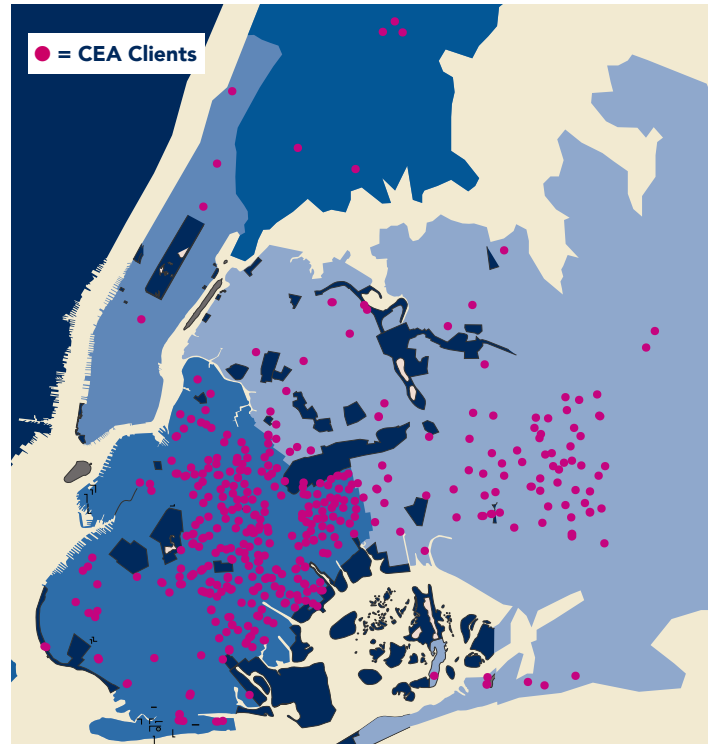
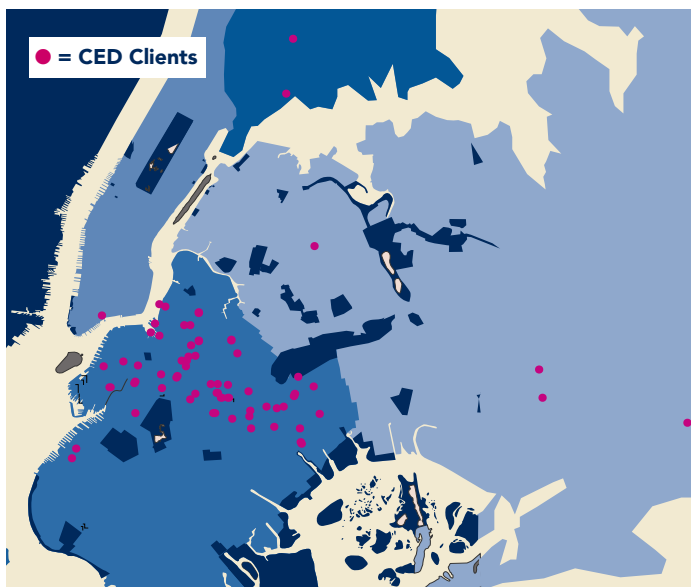
— LEE MCRAE, *Program Director, Preserving Affordable Housing Program, Individual Representation Unit*

2016 | NEW YORK CITY IMPACT



Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A

Brooklyn A represents individuals, community-based organizations, and community development corporations throughout New York City.



**2016 | A YEAR OF
CELEBRATION**



Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A

Annual Partnership Awards Benefit

November 2, 2016 at Weylin B. Seymours in Williamsburg, Brooklyn

JUDGE HAROLD R. TYLER JR.
AWARD

Robert MacCrate

Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

*Posthumously honoring his legacy of
public service*



DENIS BERGER AWARD

William Thompson, Jr.

*Senior Managing Director,
Siebert Brandford Shank
& Co., L.L.C.*



SARGENT SHRIVER AWARD

**Janie C. Whitney
A.B. Whitfield**

*Founders, Trey Whitfield
School*

GUEST SPEAKER

Hon. Jonathan Lippman

*Latham & Watkins LLP, Retired New
York State Chief Judge*



MASTER OF CEREMONIES

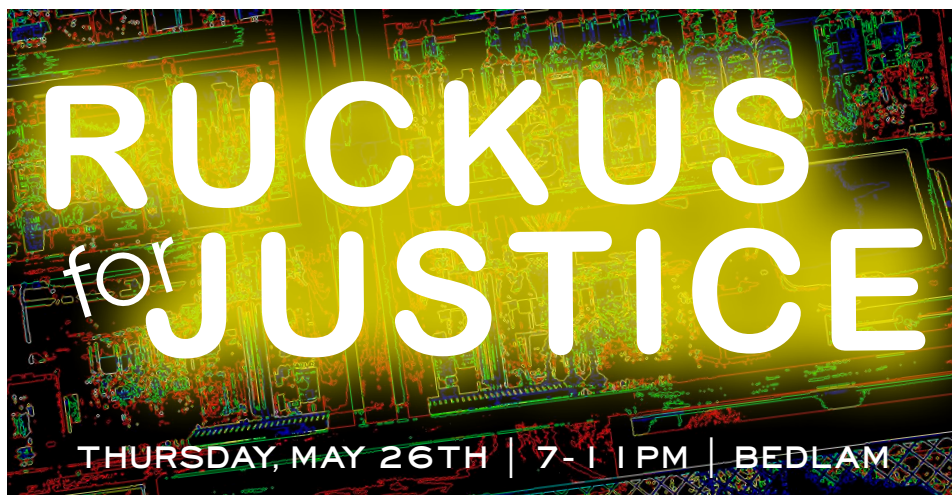
Jeanine Ramirez

NY1 News

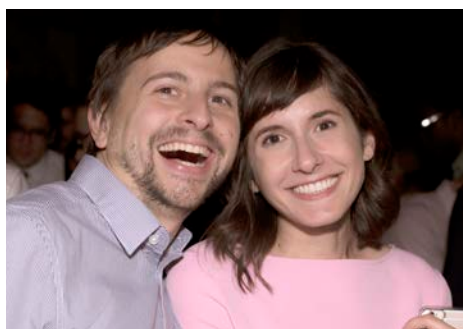
2016 | A YEAR OF
CELEBRATION



Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A



*A benefit to raise
awareness among
young professionals.*



2016 | COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND CLIENTS



Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A

CONSUMER AND ECONOMIC ADVOCACY

Bridge Street Development
Corporation
Center for NYC Neighborhoods
Coalition for Debtor Education
Cypress Hills Local Development
Corporation, Inc.
Kings County Foreclosure Defense
Bar
Mutual Housing Association of NY
(MHANY)
Neighborhood Housing Services
New Yorkers for Responsible Lending
(NYRL)
Pratt Area Community Council
Right to Counsel NYC Coalition

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

African American Planning
Commission, Inc.
Alliance for Healthy Communities
NCB LLC
Arts East New York, Inc.
Beat the Betses, Inc.
The Bedford Stuyvesant Family Health
Center, Inc.
Berry Street Tenants Association
Brevoort Resident Association, Inc.
Borough Development Group
Boulevard Houses Tenant Association
Brooklyn Clergy Action Network 2
Save Our Communities
Brooklyn-West District Council of
Presidents, Inc.
Brownsville Community Development
Corporation (Brownsville Multi-
Service Family Health Center)
Bushwick Houses Resident
Association, Inc.
Churches United For Fair Housing
Community Driven Solutions
Community Services Housing
Development Corporation

Cooper Park Resident Council, Inc.
Cypress Hills Child Care Corporation
Cypress Hills Local Development
Corporation, Inc.
Cypress Hills Tenant Association, Inc.
Foundation for Urban Health & Well
Being, Inc.
Gowanus Resident Council, Inc.
Harvest Life Center, Inc.
Hester Street Collaborative
Ingersoll Resident Association, Inc.
Jamaica Drum Jam, Inc.
John F. Hylan Houses Tenants
Association, Inc.
Lafayette Gardens Residents
Association, Inc.
Living Through Movement, Inc.
Make the Road New York
Museum of Contemporary African
Diasporan Arts
National Congress of Neighborhood
Women
Northeast Brooklyn Housing
Development Corporation
NYC Yoga Project, Inc.
Peoples First Baptist Church
Progressive People Movement, Inc.
Sister Friends Galleria, Supporting
Low Income Women and Their
Children, Inc.
Sisters Building Sisters In Brooklyn,
Inc.
Somos El Futuro
Southside United Housing
Development Fund Corporation
(Los Sures)
St. Stephen Outreach Community
Development Corporation
St. Stephen Outreach, Inc.
The Tenants Association of Marcy
Houses, Inc.
Tompkins Houses Resident
Association, Inc.
Trey Whitfield School
Universal Baptist Church
Urban Health Plan, Inc.

PRESERVING AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAM

Group and Individual Representation Units

Allied Communities Against Buy Outs
(ACABO) Coalition
Broadway Triangle Community
Coalition
Bushwick Housing Independence
Project (BHIP)
Churches United for Fair Housing
Cypress Hills Local Development
Corporation, Inc.
El Puente
Mobilization Against Displacement
(MAD)
Neighbors Allied for Good Growth
(NAG)
North Brooklyn Development
Corporation
Nuestros Niños Day Care Center
Organization United for Trash
Reduction and Garbage Equity
(OUTRAGE)
Save Our Southside (SOS)
Shareholders for the Betterment of
Lindsay Park
Sisters Friends Galleria Supporting
Low Income Women and their
Children
Small World Day Care Center
Southside Community Schools
Coalition (SCSC)
Southside United Housing
Development Fund Corporation
(Los Sures)
St. Nicks Alliance
Swinging Sixties Senior Center
United Neighbors Organization
(UNO)

2016 | PRO BONO PARTNERS, EXTERNS, INTERNS & VOLUNTEERS



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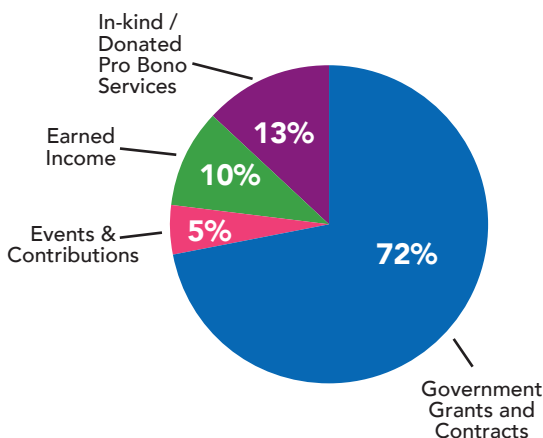
VOLUNTEERS

James Bernard
Clare Beardall



Revenue by Source

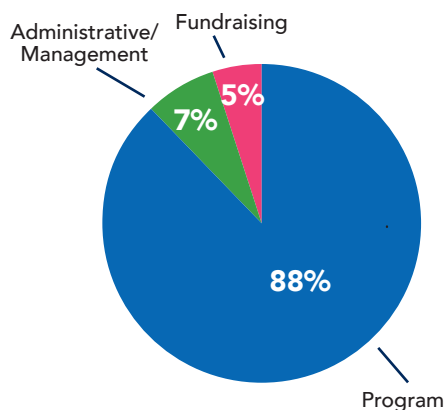
All figures are based on the 2016 audited financial data



Government Grants and Contracts	\$4,622,199	72%
In-kind/Donated Pro Bono Services	810,000	13%
Earned Income	667,378	10%
Events & Contributions	343,404	5%
TOTAL Revenue	\$6,442,981	100%

Expense by Functional Allocation

All figures are based on the 2016 Audited Financial Data.



Program	\$5,600,100	88%
Administrative/Management	472,370	7%
Fundraising	322,146	5%
TOTAL Expense	\$6,394,616	100%

2016 | GRATITUDE



Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A

Brooklyn A is deeply grateful to those individuals, corporations, foundations, law firms, and government supporters that have sustained us over this past year. You provide the critical financial support we need to accomplish our work and achieve lasting change in our communities.

100,000+

New York City Department
of Housing Preservation &
Development
New York City Human Resources
Administration
New York State Division of Criminal
Justice Services
New York State Office of the
Attorney General
New York State Office of Court
Administration
U.S. Department of Housing and
Urban Development

\$50,000 – \$99,999

Dime Community Bank

\$25,000 – \$49,999

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Representation Unit

Kevin Worthington
Legal Advocate, Group
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