2021 Annual Update

Continuing to serve an unexpected need

In 2021, Step Up to Justice (SU2J) delivered a full menu of legal services to help alleviate many of the difficulties faced by Pima County’s low-income community – difficulties that have been exacerbated by the global health crisis. These services were provided remotely, either by secure video-conference or telephone, to protect our staff, volunteers, and clients.

Throughout the year, SU2J staff observed trends regarding community requests for legal assistance. One example is a change in who sought our assistance with end-of-life planning documents such as wills, advanced directives, and health care power of attorneys. Prior to the start of the pandemic, applicants seeking these services tended to be elderly. Covid-19 altered this demographic, causing younger clients, single parents, and those caring for minor children to think about and plan for issues impacting their health.

2021 By the Numbers

• Volunteer attorneys helped 1,542 low-income clients with their civil legal needs
• Impacted the lives of more than 1,300 children
• Held 2,429 individual appointments
• Led 679 legal clinics, coaching clients about their cases
• Volunteered 4620 hours to assist our low-income neighbors
• Drove more than $1.4M of free civil legal services into the community
• Increased clients’ assets collectively by $2,050,383 and decreasing their debt by $855,659

Increased Need | In 2021 we have seen:

8% increase in requests for help with housing matters

28% increase in clients seeking help with employment related issues

127% increase in clients seeking assistance with the preparation of wills and other end of life care documents
In 2021, SU2J continued to diversify our funding base. Despite the ongoing pandemic, which caused a loss of revenue generated by fundraising events, SU2J increased our grants, contracts, and individual donor gifts. With the support of the community, SU2J grew our budget by 8%.

2021 Funding Sources

- Grants / Contracts: 49%
- Private Donations: 46%
- Events: 3%
- Corporate/Foundation Gifts: 2%

Our Clients

- Women: 70%
- Victims of Domestic Abuse: 30%
- Seniors: 17%

Our Services

- Family Law: 39.5%
- Housing: 31%
- Employment/Unemployment: 8.5%
- Wills/Probate: 6.5%
- Consumer: 6%
- Social Security: 1%
- Minor GS: 1.5%
- Other Civil Legal Services: 1.5%

www.StepUptoJustice.org