



FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER

Family and Children's Law Center Provides High Quality, Low-Cost Civil Legal Services to Low-Income Residents of Marin County and Secures Millions of Dollars Each Year in Economic Benefits for Local Communities¹

At a Glance:

Family and Children's Law Center

Location: San Rafael

Cases & Clients: About 1,200 cases handled a year for low-income residents a year and 110 cases handled for domestic violence victims (regardless of income level)

Legal Needs Addressed:

- Custody/visitation
- Divorce/separation/annulment
- Child support
- Domestic violence
- Children's needs

Staffing: A total of 4.6 staff, including:

- 2.6 attorneys

Services:

- Legal advice and brief service
- Full service legal representation
- Educational materials and outreach
- Referrals to other providers

Budget: \$500,000 in 2012

Web: www.FACL.org

Economic Impact, 2009-2012:

- \$10.5 million in economic benefits & savings for clients and communities

Founded in 1986, Family and Children's Law Center (FACLC) serves low-income families and children in Marin County on legal matters ranging from child abuse and domestic violence to child custody and support.

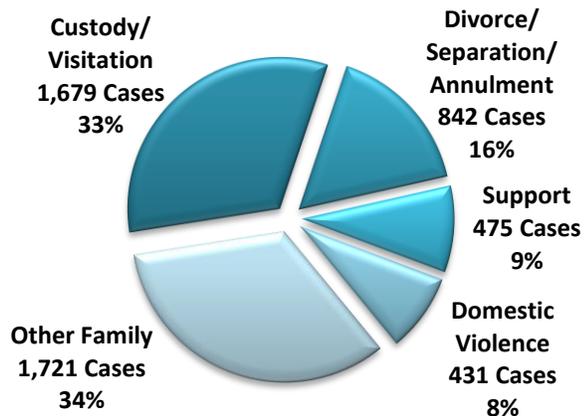
This fact sheet, based on a recent study of FACLC's impacts over the four-year period 2009-2012, summarizes the legal assistance provided by FACLC, the benefits received by clients seeking to stabilize their lives, and the economic impacts that FACLC is having on its clients and the Marin community as a whole.

FACLC's Goals:

- **Help children and families resolve legal issues related to divorce and paternity**, including custody, visitation, support, uncontested guardianship, and stepparent adoptions, with minimal disruption to the well-being of family members.
- **Represent the best interests of children in the legal system.** Children benefit from advocacy that puts their interests above all else, especially stability related to custody, visitation, housing, income, medical care, and education.
- **Work collaboratively with other community-based providers** to assure that families and children have access to services aimed at stabilizing their family situations. FACLC routinely provides and receives referrals related to families and children with a variety of legal and socio-economic needs.



Numbers of Cases Handled from 2009 through 2012, by Legal Problem Area



Legal Assistance Provided and Impacts on Clients – As shown in the chart at right, Family and Children's Law Center handled 5,148 legal cases in the four-year study period from 2009 to 2012. One-third (1,679) of the cases related to helping low-income residents with custody and visitation issues; 16 percent (842) aimed at helping residents without children deal with divorce, separation, and annulment; and about one-third (1,721) of the cases related to other family matters. →

Family and Children's Law Center Produced \$10.5 Million in Economic Benefits and Savings for Low-Income Clients and the Larger Marin County Community in 2009-2012

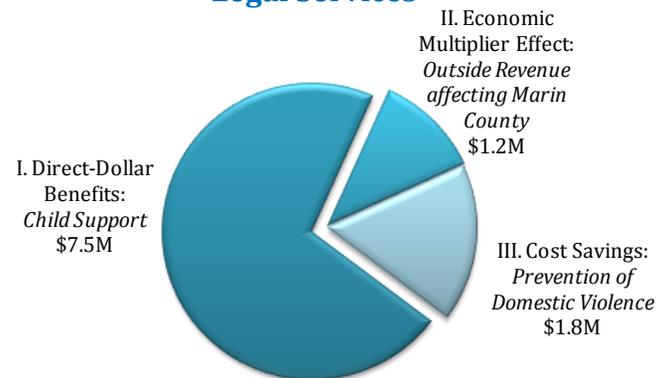
These impacts are summarized in the chart at right and include:

- I. **Direct-dollar Benefits for Clients: \$7.5 million.** Child support payments obtained through FACLC's successful legal assistance promote economic stability for children and reduce the need for public assistance to their families.
- II. **The Economic Multiplier Effect: \$1.2 million.** Revenue brought into Marin County by FACLC's services and operations circulates in the local economy, supporting businesses and providing jobs for working families.
- III. **Cost Savings for the Community: \$1.8 million.** FACLC's legal assistance reduces the incidence and cost of domestic violence.

➤ **Other Economic Impacts:** The non-quantifiable results of FACLC's work may be even more significant than the figures above suggest. Examples of non-quantifiable, but important, results include the following:

- **FACLC contributes to a more stable workforce** for employers through prevention of domestic violence and other challenges that can lead to absenteeism and poor job performance.
- **FACLC helps children stay in school.** Domestic violence and divorce can cause children to struggle with attendance and school performance. By helping parents to manage their legal crises, FACLC helps their children get an education and continue with their development toward adulthood.

Economic Impacts of FACLC's Legal Services



Family and Children's Law Center's Impact on the Court System

Locally and nationally, congestion in the courts due to the flood of self-represented litigants is reaching crisis proportions. For example, 85 percent of the people showing up in Family Court in Marin County do so at least initially without lawyers.

Family and Children's Laws Center eases the strain on court resources by providing representation to low-income clients and by educating and preparing people who represent themselves in court. In 2012, FACLC provided legal services in 1,964 cases and also delivered other assistance, including:

- Legal advice and brief service for \$30 on a drop-in basis,
- Guidance to clients who represent themselves in court,
- Full service legal representation for a fixed fee, based on income limits,
- Educational materials and outreach, and
- Referrals to other providers of legal and other services.

FACLC attorneys also regularly volunteered at family law hearings at the Marin County Superior Court to answer the legal questions of self-represented residents and help them complete legal paperwork.

For more information, contact Family and Children's Law Center:

30 North San Pedro Road #245 | San Rafael, CA 94903

Telephone: 415-492-9230. Fax: 415-479-2553. | Email: info@faclc.org | Website: www.FACLC.org

¹ This fact sheet is excerpted from the 2013 report, *An Assessment of the Economic and Societal Impacts of Three Legal Services Programs Funded by the Marin Community Foundation – 2009 to 2012*, available on the MCF website at www.marincf.org.



MARIN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

HOW CHANGE HAPPENS