

# LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

## State Planning Report

### OREGON

September 2001

Contact person: Thomas J. Matsuda, Executive Director  
Legal Aid Services of Oregon  
700 S.W. Taylor St., Suite 310  
Portland, Oregon 97205  
Tel. (503) 224-4094

## 1. Introduction

This report responds to Legal Services Corporation (LSC) Program letter 2000-7 on behalf of the legal services programs in Oregon. In addition to our responses to the questions presented, this report also updates the progress of the Oregon programs in implementing the plan described in previous planning reports to LSC.<sup>1[1]</sup>

The key to Oregon's successes to date is a strong commitment to access to justice demonstrated by all of the legal services programs and the stakeholders in Oregon's legal system. Evidence of this overall commitment has been provided in previous reports. It continues to be demonstrated in the wide variety of collaborative activities described below. Some of the most significant new examples include: (1) a coordinated effort by leaders of the stakeholders in the legal community, to seek state general funds from the Oregon Legislature for the first time, (2) the formation of an Access to Justice Foundation as a joint collaboration of the Oregon State Bar, the Oregon Law Foundation, and the Campaign for Equal Justice, and (3) the reinforcement of existing planning and ongoing collaboration between programs and stakeholders during a period of leadership transition, with new Executive Directors being appointed in the past 9 months for Legal Aid Services of Oregon and the Oregon Law Center, two of the largest programs in the state.

As explained in further detail below, Oregon continues to make substantial improvements to its comprehensive, integrated and client-centered legal services delivery system.

## 2. Analysis of the current statewide delivery system, including assessment mechanisms.

The current statewide low income legal services delivery system includes 24 offices or programs located throughout Oregon, each serving a specified region or specialty. 15 general field offices serve all 36 counties. There are separately funded specialty programs for farm worker, Native American, disabled, immigrant and juvenile clients and for low-income housing development. Two programs without LSC funding provide services to clients statewide that cannot be provided by restricted LSC-funded programs.

The Legal Needs Study published in March 2000 continues to inform our understanding of important legal issues facing low income people within Oregon and our planning to address those issues. The study concluded that low income people obtain

---

legal assistance for their legal problems less than 18% of the time. The most serious needs were identified in the areas of family law (particularly victims of domestic violence), public services and benefits, housing, employment, consumer law, and services to vulnerable populations such as the disabled, elderly, farm workers, immigrants, Native Americans, the non-English speaking, and youth. The study further identified the need to provide a full range of legal assistance to all low income persons in the state regardless of legal status or remote geographic location.

Given the results of the study, the most fundamental challenges for the entire Oregon delivery system are to increase the resources available to deliver needed services, and, while that effort is in progress, to increase the effectiveness of existing programs through statewide collaboration that leads to informed decisions about allocation of limited resources. These are the primary objectives of Oregon's statewide planning.

The statewide planning to address these objectives continues in three interrelated groups within the delivery system, (1) funding and institutional support<sup>2[2]</sup>, (2) the legal services programs<sup>3[3]</sup>, and (3) specialized legal services providers<sup>4[4]</sup>. Each component is addressed below.

#### (1) Funding and Institutional Support.

As a result of the Legal Needs Study, the Consortium and its fundraising partner, the Campaign for Equal Justice, continue to develop and implement the plan to increase total funding for legal services programs by a total of \$10 million annually in the next five years. The plan includes increased funding from Congress (\$4 million), federal grants and contracts (\$1 million), the Oregon Legislature (\$3 million in general funds), additional state fees and other sources (\$1 million) and increased giving to the Campaign for Equal Justice (\$1 million in annual giving, endowment, and foundation grants). Measurable results include the following new initiatives to implement the plan:

1. An ad hoc group of leaders in the Campaign for Equal Justice, the Oregon State Bar, the Oregon Legislature, the Department of Justice, and the Consortium (nicknamed the Lindauer Group) established a plan to obtain an annual General Fund appropriation of \$3 million from the 2001 Oregon Legislature.<sup>5[5]</sup> With logistical support from the Campaign for Equal Justice and the Oregon State Bar, Lindauer Group members met with the Governor and key legislators in the House and Senate, and worked diligently throughout the session to build support. Unfortunately, the economic downturn in 2001 caused the state to suffer a substantial drop in revenues which prevented an appropriation this year. In spite of this result, there was nearly universal support among legislators for the concept of state funding for legal services. The Lindauer Group is already planning to
-

build grass roots support for another effort leading up to the next biennial legislative session in 2003.

2. In conjunction with the state general fund initiative, the Oregon State Bar proposed a new state statute authorizing the Oregon Supreme Court to promulgate rules creating a new *pro hac vice* fee for out-of-state lawyers making limited appearances in Oregon courts. The proposal had the dual benefit of providing the state courts with the means to track *pro hac vice* appearances for enforcement of professional liability and licensing concerns while providing a modest new source of funding for legal services. The proposal is now law in Oregon and the new program will be effective as of January 1, 2002. The State Bar plans to direct all generated revenue to the Consortium. Estimates of first year revenues range from \$50,000 to \$200,000.
3. The Campaign for Equal Justice coordinated an effort to generate support within Oregon's congressional delegation for increased federal funding for LSC. The first highlight was a speech by Senator Gordon Smith (R-Oregon) at the Campaign's Annual Awards Luncheon in February, 2001 in which he made a commitment to lead a bipartisan effort to restore the LSC appropriation to 1995 levels. Later in the spring at the American Bar Association Lobbying Day, Senator Smith and Senator Ron Wyden (D-Oregon) made a joint public announcement seeking an increase in the LSC appropriation to \$440 million. During the Senate Appropriations Committee's deliberations, Senators Smith and Wyden issued a joint letter to their colleagues requesting the increase to \$440 million. Although Congress appears to be approving flat funding for LSC this term, substantial support has been generated for an increase next year.
4. Beginning in late 2000, the Oregon State Bar, the Oregon Law Foundation, and the Campaign for Equal Justice joined forces to establish an endowment fund for legal services programs to be administered by a new entity called the Access to Justice Foundation. Each of the participating partners has contributed from \$30,000 - 50,000 to support the creation of the Foundation. A study commissioned to assess feasibility has determined that the Foundation can expect to generate roughly \$2 million in endowment contributions within the first two years of operation. Establishment of the Foundation is under way.
5. The Campaign for Equal Justice also has increased its grant writing capacity in order to assist legal services programs with the search for major new grant sources to respond to identified client needs. In 2001 the Campaign assisted with grant applications for federal Department of Justice funding to support legal assistance to domestic violence victims in rural areas; for matching funds to support the Community Development Law Center's new low income housing development project; for a foundation grant to create a special outreach program for non-Spanish speaking indigenous Mexican migrant farm workers in Oregon; and for a foundation grant to provide needed attorneys in two rural legal services offices. The Campaign is now planning with legal services advocates for the next round of grant writing to support identified statewide client needs.

The legal services community and the stakeholders in Oregon's legal system recognize that the shortage of financial resources is the single greatest obstacle to achieving a comprehensive, integrated and client centered delivery system. The foregoing list of initiatives to substantially increase funding represents one of the best and strongest aspects of Oregon's statewide delivery system. Working from a plan based on the Legal Needs Study, the fundraising effort is directly linked to specific identified needs of the legal services providers operating in local offices throughout the state. Those local communities are the constituencies of state decision makers. The natural linkage between local legal services work and the constituencies of the state's leaders creates a tremendous opportunity to educate those leaders in very concrete ways about the importance of access to justice to our community as a whole. To enhance these natural linkages and increase local support for more funding, the Campaign for Equal Justice, the Consortium and the Oregon State Bar have begun preparation for the next statewide Access to Justice conference in March, 2002. Similarly, the Campaign for Equal Justice is organizing the next round of Legal Aid Open Houses in the field offices next fall.

The parties recognize that this is part of a prolonged effort guided by the fundraising plan. To date, the best measure of outcomes is the enthusiastic participation of stakeholders in the legal community, including the commitment of financial and staff resources. Ultimately, the best measure of outcomes for this part of the state plan will be the degree to which fundraising efforts achieve targeted funding goals within the planned schedule.

## (2) Legal Services Programs

Two of Oregon's largest legal services programs have experienced significant changes in leadership during the past year. The former Executive Director of LASO left last October after 25 years with the program. His successor was selected from outside the program and began his new position in January, 2001. The former Executive Director of OLC left in February, 2001 after leading the organization since its creation in 1996. The Director of Litigation for LASO was selected as the new Executive Director for OLC and started in June, 2001. LASO appointed an interim Director of Litigation last month who will continue while planning decisions are made about the configuration of the Litigation Support Unit. The chief financial officers for both programs also left within a few months of each other in early 2001 and their successors were hired this spring.

These significant changes in leadership have created new opportunities to assess the plan and bring new ideas and energy to its implementation. The leadership of the Consortium, now including the new Executive Directors for LASO and OLC, is pursuing the following joint initiatives related to State Planning:

1. A statewide strategic planning process, focusing particularly on evaluation of the existing staffing patterns to meet client needs identified in the Legal Needs Study. The evaluation includes the configuration of offices and programs throughout the service area, as well as the methods of service

delivery (intake, outreach, pro se, hotlines, pro bono, etc.) The goal of the process, as in similar past efforts, is to determine whether there are any significant imbalances in the existing staffing patterns relative to client need, and if so, to develop a plan to correct the imbalances. The desired outcome is improvement in the relative equity of access to services by all sectors of the client community, including vulnerable and underserved populations.

2. Investigating the possibility of creating a unified Litigation Support Unit to enhance the delivery of support and co-counseling services for advocates statewide in restricted and unrestricted programs. This continues earlier assessments of possible new configurations of central administrative support to make them more effective in light of resource limitations.
3. Meeting with leaders of stakeholders in the legal system and other specialized programs not within the Consortium to establish new relationships and continue expanding the statewide collaboration.

Along with these initiatives, the programs in the Consortium have continued to implement the statewide plan. The following is a summary of implementation that has occurred since the last State Planning Report to LSC on matters that improve the integrated statewide delivery system. The purpose of this summary is to address the areas of exploration requested in the first two categories of Program Letter 2000-7 by describing current activity and outcomes.

Substantive law coordination within the Consortium continues primarily through quarterly Housing, Family, Public Benefits, and Farm Worker task forces. Elder law advocates in the Consortium are engaged in planning discussions to form a statewide Senior Law Task Force. St. Andrew/ St. Matthew Legal Clinic attorneys have been invited to attend the Family Law Task Forces. The Task Forces are among the Consortium's most important sources of creative energy and substantive knowledge supporting overall state planning.

The Consortium has closely coordinated statewide funding in support of advocacy for victims of domestic violence, identified as a high priority client need in the Legal Needs Study. This summer, the Oregon Department of Justice awarded Consortium programs a new grant totaling about \$300,000 from proceeds of a national class action, directing the funds to support assistance to DV victims and other priority family law matters. The DOJ also awarded substantial funding to LCLAS to expand its domestic violence project to include outreach and services to Latino and rural communities. LASO has applied for a grant to perform a statewide assessment and planning of a coordinated civil legal response to low income victims of sexual assault. If approved, the project will involve all members of the Consortium in assessment and planning.

One of the most promising new areas of statewide service delivery since 1998 is the Community Development Law Center (CDLC). This project is a response to the

finding of the Legal Needs Study that affordable housing is a high priority need in Oregon. The Campaign for Equal Justice and the Consortium developed a plan to seek foundation and government grants to fund a legal services project to provide legal advice and representation to non-profit housing development corporations that serve low income populations. A major matching grant for CDLC was awarded to the Campaign in 2000 by the Meyer Memorial Trust, the same foundation that awarded a substantial matching grant to initiate the Campaign itself 10 years ago.<sup>6[6]</sup> CDLC opened for business in late 2000 as a separate program within LASO's Portland office, to serve all areas of the state. It currently employs two part-time co-directors, both attorneys, with over 30 years of community and housing development experience between them, and a full time staff attorney. The first year matching requirement of the three year grant already has been fulfilled primarily with new funds from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development to assist with rural affordable housing. CDLC is now directly involved in several development projects in both rural and urban communities.

The Consortium continued to investigate alternative forms of statewide intake, advice and referral. A report on site visits to the Northwest Justice Project's CLEAR system was submitted to the Consortium in September, 2000. We are collecting information on intake from other low income specialty providers such as the Oregon Advocacy Center, Juvenile Rights Project, the Coalition of Immigration Programs. The Saint Andrew / St. Matthew Legal Clinics have provided information on their intake and billing systems. Within the current evaluation of statewide staffing pattern, members of the Public Benefits Task Force have developed a proposal to establish a statewide welfare hotline.

Technology development continues to be an active area statewide. All offices of the Consortium programs are now able to communicate effectively with e-mail, which greatly enhances statewide coordination. MPLAS has launched its website with links to websites for LCLAS, LSC, and the Oregon State Bar. OLC and CNPLS have established a e-mail, Internet access and computerized legal research capacity. The LCLAS website's expanded community education materials are being used extensively by clients and human service agencies. LASO was awarded an LSC technology initiative grant to develop a website linked to the State Court Administrator's website to provide *pro se* forms and explanations for routine family law matters. Recently, LASO also received another LSC technology grant to assist with development of a statewide website for use by both clients and advocates. LASO completed an 18-month Department of Justice grant including pilot projects using video conferencing technology to serve victims of domestic violence in rural areas through partnerships with local women's shelters. A renewal application to continue that grant was recently approved. When that pilot project is fully operational it can serve as a model for rural outreach and service in appropriate cases in other remote areas served by the Consortium.

---

The administrators of the Consortium programs met to review potential phone routing and database services provided by Tele-Lawyer. They continue to coordinate common elements of the statewide website under construction by LASO.

The Oregon State Bar has contributed Internet-ready computers to various offices of Consortium programs for client use through its "Legal Links" program. In addition, the Bar has developed high quality video production capacity with access to a fully equipped production studio. This spring, LASO's Executive Director and the President of the State Bar taped a half hour information program on legal services statewide and the Bar's lawyer referral service. Family law experts in the Consortium also prepared a *pro se* information program. Both programs have aired numerous times on local access cable television in many areas of the state. The Bar has indicated a willingness to assist legal services programs in the state with production of more client education programs for broadcast.

The Family Law Facilitation Program continues to grow across the state. Now at least 19 of 36 counties have received funding to implement programs and have opened courthouse facilitation offices for *pro se* family law litigants. There is much close coordination between courthouse facilitators, family law advocates in local offices of the Consortium, and with family law experts in the Litigation Support Unit regarding *pro se* forms and referrals of income-eligible clients with legal issues. Many legal services advocates sit on the local Family Law Advisory Councils which give guidance and support to family courts and facilitators throughout the state.

Among the wide range of Private Attorney involvement activities listed in the prior planning report to LSC, there have been significant advances in several areas. The LASO and OLC survey and evaluation of pro bono projects in Multnomah County has been completed and published. The recommendations of the report have been approved by the Boards of LASO, OLC, and the Multnomah Bar Association. The primary recommendations are: (1) build a culture of support for pro bono in the County bar and in all of the Portland firms, (2) offer the legal community a varied means of participating in pro bono, and (3) improve and institutionalize the management of LASO and OLC pro bono projects. The report includes a specific action plan and timetable to accomplish these goals and the plan is being implemented. The Multnomah Bar Association has been actively supportive and encouraging in this effort, and has made the recognition of outstanding pro bono volunteers a major aspect of its annual awards dinner. Building on the lessons learned from the effort in Multnomah County, the Consortium members in the larger tri-county metropolitan area have started to coordinate pro bono referral mechanisms since many private attorneys work within all three counties. Also, the Marion County Bar Association has reactivated its pro bono committee and is developing with MPLAS a county-wide plan to increase pro bono resources.

The Oregon State Bar Board of Governors has formed an "Access to Justice Conference Committee" to plan for the next statewide Access to Justice Conference scheduled for next March, 2002. The Campaign for Equal Justice and members of the Consortium participate in the Committee. The Campaign for Equal Justice also is in the

early planning stages for the next Legal Aid Open House in legal aid field offices throughout the state next October, 2002.

The entire service delivery effort by the Consortium programs, including the foregoing planning and implementation activities, are subject to several forms of assessment. The Oregon State Bar established a 1998 policy entitled "Legal Services Program Standards and Guidelines".<sup>7[7]</sup> The policy is intended to provide a review and accountability process for recipients of state filing fee revenue administered by the Oregon State Bar. The policy applies equally to all programs in the Consortium. It established procedures for annual reporting and a peer review mechanism. The peer review process requires visits at least once every three years to programs receiving filing fee funds to assess performance against the Standards and Guidelines. These procedures are implemented by the Legal Services Program Director of the Oregon State Bar.

Many grants and contracts awarded to Consortium programs have assessment mechanisms built into their audit and compliance requirements. These mechanisms vary as much as the terms of the award contracts, ranging from tracking hours of service and type of case for year-end reports to monthly or quarterly case reports accompanying contract billing. The assessment mechanisms serve the dual purpose of providing the funder and the program with compliance information on the contracted service. Since many contracts renew, there is direct accountability for performance of intended outcomes.

The Consortium programs themselves have internal policies and procedures to assess performance of individual advocates and field offices. These range from daily mentoring and quality control by the managing attorneys and the Litigation Support Unit to performance evaluations. In addition, our periodic statewide strategic planning initiatives are based on an overall assessment of client need measured against existing staffing pattern and resource allocations. Most recently, the statewide assessment of client need has been provided by Legal Needs Study.

The existing statewide staffing pattern is being evaluated using detailed assessment criteria that were updated from previous planning processes. The criteria include both measurable and intangible elements such as client access, effectiveness and quality of service, community presence, distribution of funds per office, and so on. At this stage of the process, planners have compiled measurable data for each office's service area such as poverty population, geographic area, staffing, and funding from various sources. Intangible criteria will be assessed next. By this method the planners will be able to compare relative equity of client access and identify major imbalances in addressing unmet need that require a shift of resources.

### (3) Specialized legal services providers.

---

Since the last State Planning Report to LSC, there has been increased effort to include specialized legal services programs in overall statewide coordination and planning. The programs contacted to date include the Oregon Advocacy Center (rights of the disabled), Juvenile Rights Project (juvenile court and youth issues), Coalition of Immigration Programs (immigrant rights), and the St. Andrew and St. Matthew Legal Clinics (family law for persons of modest means). The Coalition also hopes to develop greater statewide coordination with the Lewis and Clark Legal Clinic (consumer law) and the University of Oregon School of Law Legal Clinics (civil cases and domestic violence restraining orders). These specialty programs do not receive LSC funds and have had varying degrees of informal collaboration with programs in the Consortium, but none of them have engaged directly in the state planning effort to date for a variety of reasons. Most of the specialty programs have similar or identical income eligibility guidelines, so there seem to be many potentially fruitful areas for collaboration. The Consortium is particularly interested in coordinating efforts with these programs because they serve particularly vulnerable or underserved elements of the community.

The Oregon Advocacy Center and Juvenile Rights Project occasionally participate in our Task Forces on “cross-over” issues occurring in their specialties. Co-counseling with attorneys in the Consortium programs occurs regularly. The two programs also were founding members of a new Special Education Task Force formed to provide training, identify issues and co-counsel on special education cases. They have expressed interest in supporting and participating in the statewide Litigation Support Unit in the future.

In 2000, the Oregon Advocacy Center became the first of the specialty programs to participate directly in the Campaign for Equal Justice, in part because it recognized the difficulty of competing for funds in a limited donor pool. There have been preliminary discussions about similar participation by the Juvenile Rights Project. The ultimate goal is to have coordinated fundraising rather than competition for the same dollars.

The Oregon Advocacy Center and the Juvenile Rights Project have their offices in Portland but desire to be accessible to the entire state. Both have expressed interest in coordinating outreach and services through some of the rural offices in the Consortium programs to maximize the effect of their limited resources. The Advocacy Center recently took the significant step of placing a staff attorney in rented space of a Consortium program, the Grants Pass office of the Oregon Law Center, to increase access in Southern Oregon. Similar concepts have been discussed with the Juvenile Rights Project.

The St. Andrew and St. Matthew Legal Clinics, which currently serve Multnomah and Washington Counties in the metropolitan Portland area, have a short term goal of expanding into the third of the tri-county urban areas, Clackamas County. Their long term goal is to expand presence into other areas of the state, perhaps in collaboration with legal services offices. All of these are very preliminary discussions and have not addressed the very significant issue of resources, but the common motivating factors are

effective delivery of service with limited resources and access to clients in more areas of the state.

### III Organization and Management Configurations.

LSC's statewide planning initiatives have led Oregon to reconsider many aspects of the delivery system. After much discussion, the goals of the system are: 1) to increase the relative equity of access for clients statewide; 2) to achieve geographic coverage of as many counties in the state as possible; 3) to provide the full range of legal services necessary to be effective for our clients; and (4) to provide more services to vulnerable populations in the state. In accordance with those goals, the basic statewide configuration model in Oregon and the reasons for the model are as follows:

1. Achieve geographic coverage of as many counties in the state as possible with programs receiving LSC general field grants to perform work that is consistent with LSC restrictions through strategically located offices serving designated regions. LASO, LCLAS and MPLAS contribute to this configuration, but currently are able to serve only 26 of 36 counties with the available funds. The configuration is supplemented by funding from local grants and bar associations.
2. Geographic coverage of remaining counties through a coordinated combination of locally funded programs. CNPLS, LCLAC, and rural offices of OLC receive no LSC funds and contribute to this part of the configuration. Since these programs are not subject to federal restrictions, they can cover the full range of civil legal services for clients in their respective regions.
3. In regions covered by the LSC-funded (restricted) offices, provide the full range of legal services through the network of unrestricted non-LSC funded offices while striving to avoid duplication. OLC, LCLAC and CNPLS contribute to this part of the configuration.
4. Coverage of vulnerable populations statewide. LSC funding for farm worker and Native American programs in Oregon are administered by LASO. Additional coverage for farm worker issues is provided by OLC. Additional coverage for Native American issues is provided through grants to LASO from certain tribes. Other vulnerable populations are covered by the specialty non-LSC programs mentioned previously, the Oregon Advocacy Center, the Juvenile Rights Project, and the Coalition of Immigration Programs.

The model is significantly complicated by the combined effect of inadequate resources and the restrictions on LSC funding. All of the ongoing configuration efforts are affected by these external realities, so much of the effort is focused on minimizing duplication between the LSC and non-LSC funded entities while observing strict adherence to the requirements of the restrictions.

This effort must be balanced against important local funding considerations to protect and increase resources. The local programs and offices have financial and institutional support from county bar associations, local foundations, or other funding sources based on many years of collaborative effort. Examples of such support have been provided in previous planning reports to LSC, but they range from county grants for domestic violence advocacy, pro bono coordination, and fair housing enforcement to regional tribal contracts, various state grants, and participation in court-sponsored family law advisory councils. Consortium programs have an aggregate of over 70 separate grants and contracts to supplement statewide funding like LSC, filing fees, IOLTA and the Campaign for Equal Justice. Protection of the relationships with these crucial sources of support must be carefully considered in any configuration discussions.

Given all of these considerations, there has been continuous progress on statewide configuration since 1998 to improve the model. In mid-1998 two LSC-funded programs, Multnomah County Legal Aid Service and Oregon Legal Services, merged to become Legal Aid Services of Oregon. The merger agreement included a planned sequence of actions to fully implement the merger. We are approaching the final phases of that implementation, including the blending of two separate collective bargaining agreements that were in effect at the time of the merger through current bargaining for a new, unified contract expected by the end of this year.

In Oregon's earlier examination of possible reconfiguration, the lack of resources was identified as a major issue. For example, the programs in the Consortium have substantially different pay and benefit policies for staff. Any attempt to provide standardized pay and benefits across all programs will cause large increases in personnel costs on an annualized basis when no significant new annualized resources are available. This analysis has proven to be correct in the LASO merger mentioned above. The cost of standardization of pay and benefits is one of the most difficult issues in the current bargaining.

Another important reconfiguration occurred in early 1999 when LASO closed three rural offices in Ontario, Grants Pass and Coos Bay and OLC opened new offices in the same locations to serve the same regions. Since that reconfiguration the new OLC offices struggled for some time because of insufficient staffing caused either by resource shortages or difficulties filling open positions. The planned staffing pattern in those offices was partially implemented only this year.

One of the major consequences of funding reductions in 1996 was the closure of the OLS office in Klamath Falls serving Klamath and Lake Counties, two remote rural counties in southern Oregon. In terms of client access and community presence, this remains one of the most serious gaps in the statewide staffing pattern. Since the closure, the Consortium has attempted to provide some coverage through a coordinated effort by the LASO office in Bend and the OLC offices in Ontario, Grants Pass and Coos Bay using 800 numbers, circuit riding, targeted grant funds, and bilingual staff for the rural farm worker population. However, this is an inadequate response because although the

participating offices are the closest to Klamath Falls, all are at least 4 to 6 hours away by car and the staffing in each office is already inadequate for the office's own service area.

Since the cause of this gap is fundamentally a resource shortage, much of the fundraising activity described earlier in this report was targeted to address the Klamath Falls question. In the Oregon legislature, the Oregon congressional delegation, and the Oregon State Bar there was much progress in gaining recognition of the need. Members of the Ways and Means Committee of the Oregon Legislature and the staff of U.S. Senator Gordon Smith specifically requested information about re-opening the Klamath Falls office as part of their efforts to secure funding for legal services. The Consortium will continue to work with community and legal stakeholders to obtain the resources necessary to re-open the Klamath Falls office.

The CDLC housing development project (described earlier) is a good example of a statewide configuration decision developed in conjunction with the availability of local funding. Another recent example is the establishment of the **Indigenous Farm Worker Education Project**, a new outreach and education project for non-Spanish speaking indigenous Mexican farm workers, who have become one of the fastest growing sub-groups within the widely scattered farm worker population in Oregon. Due to language and cultural barriers, this population is particularly vulnerable and underserved in the legal system. One position has been funded by a national innovation grant. Another grant application pending with an Oregon Native American tribe that itself has a history of migrant work in Oregon farm country. OLC will be opening a small new office in Woodburn later this year for this project.

These statewide configuration efforts are proceeding with the knowledge and participation of the legal services stakeholders, especially the Campaign for Equal Justice, the Oregon State Bar, the Oregon Law Foundation, the Multnomah Bar Association, and the State of Oregon (including the Judiciary and the Department of Justice). A major benefit of the multi-faceted collaboration in Oregon is the increasing strength of the relationship between planning, funding, delivery of services, and support by the legal system. For the Consortium, this is a precious resource that must be carefully nurtured and increased through continued careful planning and coordination.

<sup>8[1]</sup> To avoid unnecessary repetition, this report assumes the reader's familiarity with the State Planning Reports for Oregon submitted in early 2000 and the update submitted in August 2000.

---

<sup>9</sup>[2] The Campaign for Equal Justice, the Oregon State Bar, the Oregon Law Foundation, the Multnomah Bar Association, and the State of Oregon (including the Judiciary and the Department of Justice).

<sup>10</sup>[3] The federally funded programs are Legal Aid Services of Oregon (**LASO**), Lane County Legal Aid Services (**LCLAS**), and Marion-Polk Legal Aid Services (**MPLAS**). The locally funded unrestricted programs are the Center for Non-Profit Legal Services (**CNPLS**), the Oregon Law Center (**OLC**), and the Lane County Law and Advocacy Center (**LCLAC**). Collectively, all of these programs are referred to as the “**Consortium**”.

<sup>11</sup>[4] Oregon Advocacy Center (disabled), Juvenile Rights Project (youth), Coalition of Immigration Programs (immigrant rights), Lewis and Clark Legal Clinic (consumer), University of Oregon School of Law Legal Clinics (civil cases and domestic violence restraining orders), and the St. Andrew and St. Matthew Legal Clinics (family law for clients of modest means). These programs receive no LSC funding.

<sup>12</sup>[5] Oregon currently provides no general fund support to legal services. By state statute a portion of state court filing fees are distributed by the Oregon State Bar to legal services programs.

<sup>13</sup>[6] The Meyer Memorial Trust received the 2001 Award of the Campaign for Equal Justice at its annual awards luncheon this past February. In his remarks, the President of the Trust stated that its matching grant to the Campaign was the single most effective grant in the history of the Trust because of the exponential growth in fundraising for low income legal services in Oregon directly resulting from their decision.

<sup>14</sup>[7] A copy of the policy can be provided upon request.

---