Our Strategic Priorities

Affordable Homes
Creating and preserving affordable and stable housing for all Pennsylvanians.

Healthy Homes
Recognizing safe, accessible, and healthy homes are key to thriving Pennsylvania families.

Equitable Communities
Addressing racial inequity to support equitable community development.
“RHLS has been vital in achieving our goals of developing affordable rental housing. The project we just closed was particularly complicated. In addition to moving us through a successful closing, RHLS offered innovative solutions to the complex issues that arose.”

Suzanne O’Grady Laurito
Catholic Housing and Community Services

“RHLS helped us through a legal maze when purchasing LIHTC properties with the goal of keeping the units available for low-income tenants for the long term. RHLS is a valuable resource in meeting our goals.”

Neal Nevitt
Berks Housing Opportunities, Inc.

“We develop affordable housing for seniors, adults with disabilities and people transitioning out of homelessness. We have done some really important work and have housed a lot of vulnerable people. It would be very difficult to close our deals without RHLS.”

Kimberly Krauter
Advanced Living Communities
As part of a statewide network, RHLS helped secure funding to assist those at risk of losing their homes due to the COVID-19 pandemic. RHLS also played a key role in advocating for the statewide eviction and foreclosure moratoriums.

RHLS Associate Director, Rachel Blake, co-authored the most viewed article on Shelterforce, "What an Effective Eviction Moratorium Must Include."

RHLS advocated to increase the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit affordability period from 35 to 40 years.

Received training on fair tenant screening practices for citizens returning from incarceration.
In 2017, RHLS received a grant to aid communities in Pennsylvania hardest hit by the foreclosure crisis of 2008, known as Community Redevelopment Legal Assistance (CRLA). RHLS selected five “Justice Zones” in which to focus our work.

Within each Justice Zone RHLS offers development services to local nonprofit organizations, seeks policy solutions to systemic problems, and contracts with local legal aid programs to strengthen their presence in the Zone through community education and outreach, direct client work, and in some cases opening an auxiliary office. CRLA assists with the initiation of new program ideas, working on systemic problems, and building community partnerships.

In its first three years, CRLA work resulted in:

13 non-profit organizations receiving legal representation

576 low-income households have received local legal aid assistance

109 community education and service provider trainings by local legal aid programs

On legal topics related to housing stabilization or increasing household income.
The Pennsylvania Utility Law Project (PULP) is a specialized project within the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network that is administratively housed within Regional Housing Legal Services. PULP provides legal representation, information, technical assistance, and advice to low-income households, community-based organizations, and PLAN, Inc. programs concerning residential utility and energy matters.

320 CASES FOR INDIVIDUAL CLIENTS ACROSS 34 COUNTIES
- Prevented termination or helped restore service to 195 clients.
- Obtained $148,991 in direct benefits to individual clients through reduced debts or direct grants.

1,046 ADVOCATES AND ATTORNEYS
Attended PULP trainings on utility programs and laws statewide.

30 IMPACT CASES WITH SIGNIFICANT POLICY WINS
- Increased annual funding for utility assistance and energy efficiency by $1.85 million and preserved $200,000 in annual efficiency programming.
- Obtained $23 million in rate credits and $2.7 million in annual charitable giving in the Pittsburgh region.
- Defeated proposal for “prepaid” electric service.
- Reduced proposed utility rate increases from $117.9 million to $56 million.
Financial Information

Expenses
- Other $80,217 (2%)
- Equipment $8,663 (.24%)
- Supplies $56,431 (2%)
- Space $111,419 (3%)
- Travel $33,109 (1%)
- Consultants $897,004 (25%)
- Benefits $551,355 (15%)
- Salaries $1,858,570 (52%)

Total Expenses: $3,596,768

Revenue
- Coronavirus Aid, Relief, & Economic Securities Act (CARES) $328,400 (10%)
- Interest Income & Other Revenue $2,685 (.08%)
- Individuals & In-Kind Contributions $235,638 (7%)
- Foundations $545,232 (16%)
- Corporations $55,000 (2%)
- Governments $242,000 (7%)
- Nonprofits $2,295,627 (67%)
- Other $3,348 (.1%)

Total Revenue: $3,652,930
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