



*Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada's*

# RESILIENCY & JUSTICE

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## Resiliency & Justice Center Year-End Report 2025

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## Executive Summary

Imagine surviving seven years of physical, emotional, and financial abuse at the hands of your trafficker only to escape and find yourself still trapped in a life limited by the legal, emotional, and financial ramifications of your trafficking. You are left with a criminal record, limiting your job and housing options and must learn to live with the impacts of the trauma. You are forever trapped by the abuser. Survivors of violent crime find themselves in untenable situations, dealing with emotional, physical, and financial scars and left to pick up the pieces alone. The Resiliency & Justice Center was established to right these wrongs through a place of healing and support dedicated to serving as a resource and referral center for survivors of violent crime throughout Nevada.

The Resiliency & Justice Center is managed by Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada and is a multi-agency collaborative with knowledgeable and caring professionals from Clark County, the State of Nevada, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, and Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada to help people access resources for building individual and community resiliency in the aftermath of violent crime. Its programs and services are built upon a foundation of trauma-informed principles.

The Resiliency & Justice Center provides survivors with critical support services, all under one roof, including:

- Assistance locating physical and mental health resources to assist with survivors with post-traumatic stress
- Advocacy on victim of crime compensation, case management, and health insurance claims
- Referrals to vetted trauma providers, therapists, and mental health resources such as grief and trauma support groups to promote healing
- Trustworthy legal advice to help with loss of income, medical billing disputes, disability payments, debt collection, eviction, and other issues resulting from trauma
- 24/7 access to support during crime incident anniversaries, feelings of loss during holidays, and triggering events such as new mass shootings or crimes that mirror a victim's experience
- Virtual and in-person support groups and wellness events to foster healthy coping skills
- Small support groups and outreach activities
- A call center and open hours for appointments

## Statistics

<b>Resiliency &amp; Justice Center 2025</b>	
<b>Survivors Served</b>	<b>1,620</b>
<b>Survivors Provided Legal Representation</b>	<b>132</b>
<b>Survivors Attending Group Therapy &amp; Therapeutic Services</b>	<b>1,614</b>

<b>Critical Support Services Provided</b>	<b>4,336</b>
<b>Anti-Human Trafficking Services Provided (number included in other services and cases)</b>	<b>359</b>

### **Most Significant Accomplishments**

The Resiliency & Justice Center strives to create a more trauma-informed system not only through our services, but through system-based policies that impact the benefits and services that help survivors heal and rebuild their lives.

This year, the Resiliency & Justice Center was successful in bringing about statewide changes that will benefit those dealing with the awful impacts of violent crime for generations to come, making our communities more resilient. After years of advocacy throughout the state with other victim service professionals and policy makers. For years victims have been burdened by arbitrary statutory requirements to access needed benefits through Nevada’s Victims of Crime Compensation Program, a valuable resource for any victim seeking to rebuild their life. Victims fitting into marginalized groups are the most vulnerable, yet faced the most hurdles to benefiting from the program. Requirements such as filing a police report or time limits for filing a claim did not consider the many barriers victims often face due to their trauma, fear, immigration status, and lack of financial resources, etc. Through [Assembly Bill 329](#), the Resiliency & Justice Center successfully advocated for the removal of these barriers and other significant changes, making the program more trauma-informed.

Our Human Trafficking team made amazing strides on all fronts, including legislation, community relationship building, raising awareness, and furthering policy work. They are trusted across organizations like Las Vegas Metro Police Department, the District Attorney’s Office, the courts and, even licensing boards and casinos. When a victim of human-trafficking comes into the Resiliency & Justice Center they have a true ally within the system - one that knows where to go, who to call, and what to ask for in such a way that the invisible chains of human trafficking are permanently lifted, allowing clients to finally dream of a future as a survivor.

The following is a perfect illustration of how far the Human Trafficking team has come this year in leveraging their expert skills, established relationships, and stellar reputation within the human trafficking arena to change lives.

### **Most Impactful Client Success Story**

*“In the beginning, I came to Legal Aid Center to get help and protect my child from my trafficker. I wasn’t looking for justice for myself. Then, I met Ellie, Jeni, Jackie, and Kimli at the Resiliency & Justice Center. They helped me feel safe enough to speak up for myself and make a police report. They empowered me and protected me from my trafficker.”*

Christy arrived in a vulnerable position, with her only focus being her child’s safety and protection. Through trauma-informed interviewing, the Resiliency & Justice Center team was able to immediately begin connecting Christy with resources and empowering her to seek justice

for herself. Our legal advocate assisted Christy with her Victims of Crime Program and Confidential Address Program applications helping to secure a safe place for them to live and funding for mental health treatment for her and her child.

*“Jeni connected me and my child with therapists. After a difficult court hearing when my therapist wasn’t available for a session, Jackie kindly stepped in and helped me until I could see my regular therapist.”*

On the legal front, our attorney assisted Christy in making a police report and represented her under Marsy’s Law in criminal proceedings against her trafficker. Our attorney was able to do this because of the relationships she has built with LVMPD’s Vice Unit, who came to the Resiliency & Justice Center to take the report in our comfortable interview room. When the trafficker refused to obey no-contact orders, our attorney obtained a Temporary Protective Order and extension for Christy and her child. Recognizing the need for cross-jurisdiction response to sex trafficking, our attorney synchronized the state and federal prosecutions through a trauma-informed lens. Our attorney continued working with Christy to vacate her victimization-related criminal records to provide better employment opportunities, and helped her seek custody of her child to obtain stability for the family.

*“I am extremely grateful for the care Ellie, Jeni, Jackie, and Kimli have shown me and my child. Because of them, I had the ability to re-enroll in school, get a better job, find a safe place to live, and continued working on my mental health after nearly a decade of being a victim. Now, I’m a survivor, and I couldn’t have done any of this without the Resiliency & Justice Center team.”*

*\*Name changed for confidentiality.*