

FAIR: Family Advocacy & Integrated Resources

Weaving a Nest of Family Supports



History of the FAIR project

Maternal Child Nurse Home Visiting

National Nurse-Led Care Consortium (NNCC) serves 800 families annually in Philadelphia, PA via two evidence-based, home visiting models: Nurse-Family Partnership and Parents as Teachers. Nurses provide relationship based care to historically underserved families with children under five. Proven outcomes improve the health and wellbeing of parent and child across the lifespan.

Staff and clients surveyed identified a chronic need for legal aid amongst families served.

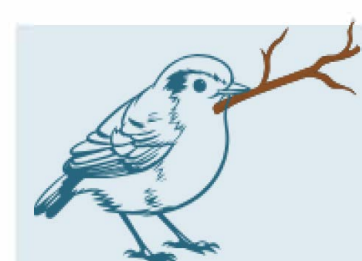
Nursing-Legal Partnership

In 2016, a team of public-interest lawyers began working hand in hand with NNCC nurse home visitors to form the Nursing-Legal Partnership (NLP).

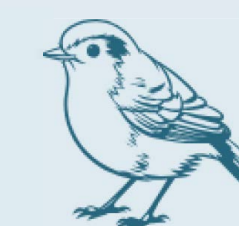
Nurses collaborate with lawyers to provide legal needs screening to all families served and provide legal representation when appropriate. Screenings focused on factors that impact maternal child and family health outcomes. **The partnership shed light on an underlying need: a family's ability to financially handle an unexpected emergency.**

Family Support Fund

Launched in 2020, NNCC designed the Family Support Fund (FSF) to bring critical financial support to families served through low-barrier, rapid response grants to cover necessities related to the health and safety of families, such as housing, utilities, food, and beds. **Supporting family stability frees families up to engage in home visiting services.**



Expansion



In 2022, The William Penn Foundation awarded a \$5.4 million grant for NNCC to expand its NLP and FSF to home visiting programs throughout Philadelphia under the combined name, FAIR: Family Advocacy and Integrated Resources.

This funding enables FAIR to:

- Collaborate with the Philadelphia Department of Public Health and over a dozen other home visiting programs
- Support 2,100 more Philadelphia families:
 - 1,500 families with legal support
 - 600 with funds to support urgent needs that cannot be met with other funding sources.

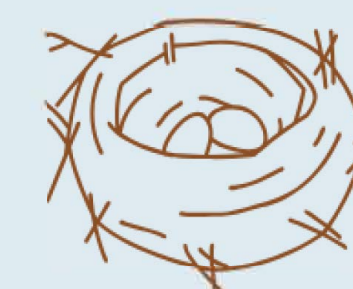
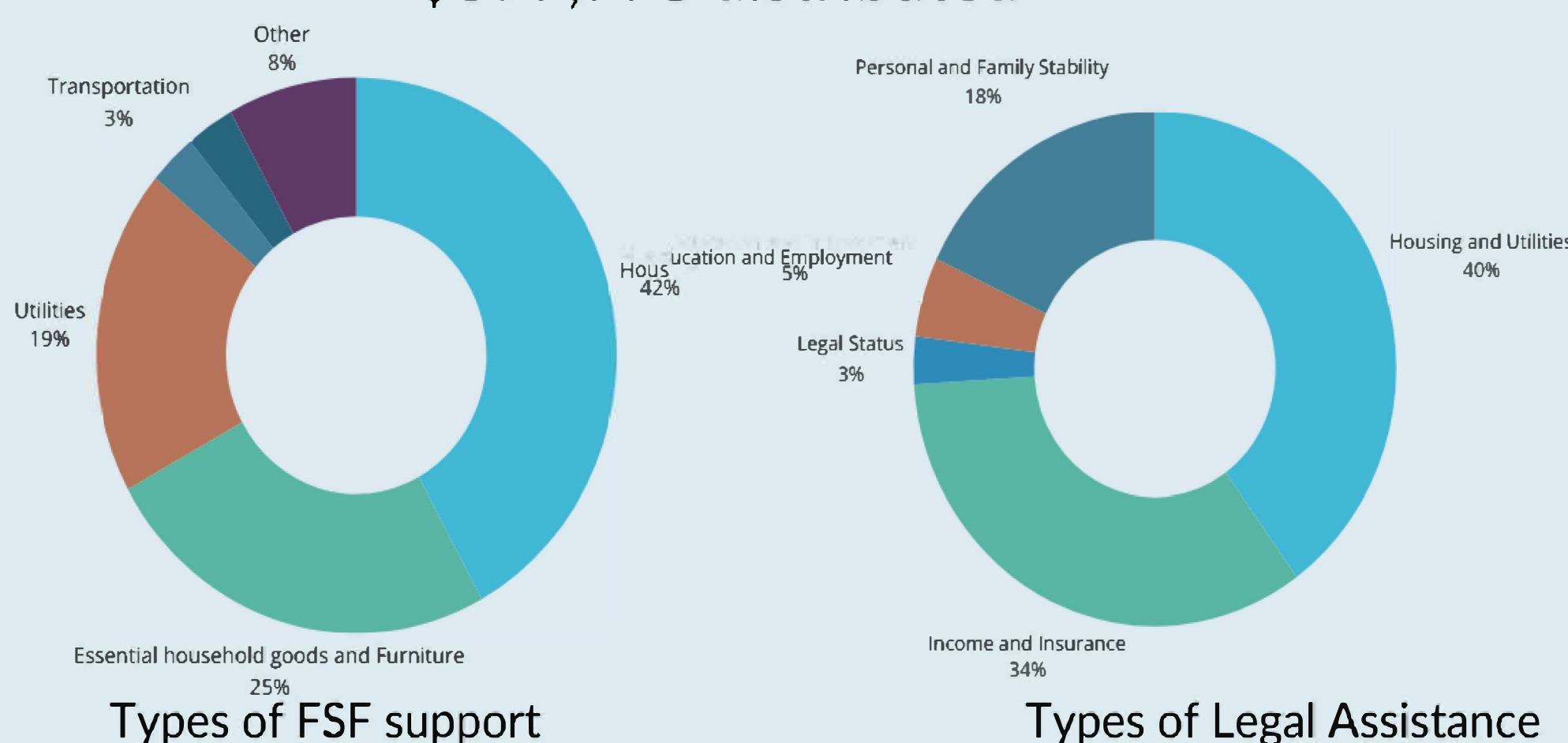


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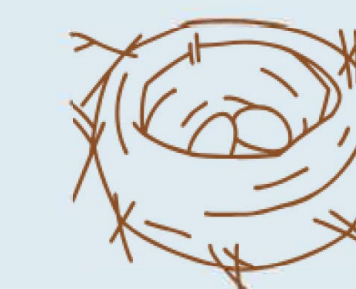
Feb '23-Mar '24



- 880 legal referrals to FAIR
- 1,492 legal cases opened
- 572 clients received FSF assistance
- \$579,998 distributed



Case Example



Client Wendy (name changed) was referred to FAIR by her home visitor for support of a pregnant client wanting to leave her home and abusive partner. The FAIR intake paralegal recognized legal advice was needed to address the intersection of IPV and housing law.

A FAIR attorney provided counsel to Wendy on her right to request the landlord remove her from the shared lease due to domestic violence. Over time, FAIR attorney and Wendy also discussed: advice on seeking a Protection from Abuse order, counseling on eligibility for public benefits as well as custody questions that arose as her pregnancy advanced.

Armed with a new understanding of her legal rights, Wendy took the brave step of leaving her abuser. When the landlord filed for eviction on overdue rent, Wendy was worried how to safely defend her actions with her abuser as a co-defendant.

The FAIR legal team coordinated with the FSF to negotiate a settlement with the landlord and withdraw the eviction case, with respect to Wendy. **This win allowed Wendy to move forward with no negative judgment that would impact her ability to rent in the future and without having to face her abuser in a courtroom.**

Like too many in her situation, Wendy went through several difficult job transitions in this period. Forced to quit her job because her abuser knew the location, she was deemed ineligible for unemployment. Starting a new job, she was treated unfairly and terminated late in pregnancy without being paid up.

Through a new FAIR referral, the team was able to represent her in getting approved for unemployment compensation benefits and referred her for advice from an employment lawyer on pursuing lost income. Wendy received several weeks of unemployment compensation benefits before delivering her baby.

