



Stories of Hope and Triumph

2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT



MISSION

Our Mission is to meet the unique and changing needs of New Yorkers experiencing critical life problems with substance use disorder, mental illness, and associated homelessness, with a person-centered, strengths-based, and trauma-responsive approach to care. Using a wide-ranging health and human services network, we support their well-being and empower them to make healthy life choices.

VISION

We aim to help at-risk New Yorkers fully benefit from the social and economic life in their communities. We aspire to provide unsurpassed integrated, person-centered, trauma-responsive behavioral health and social services to transform lives, especially those impacted by substance use disorder, mental illness, and homelessness. Our dream is to serve with the passion and professionalism that generates enduring outcomes, rewarding recovery, and lasting hope.

VALUES

We are committed to ensuring recovery and well-being.
We harness the power of resilience.
We respect every person we serve.
We recognize health disparity and trauma in the community we serve.
We believe each person to be inherently good.

Building Trust, Building Lives: A Year of Growth at LESC

As we close the book on another successful year at LESC, I'm filled with immense pride for our dedicated staff and the incredible trust they've built with the individuals we serve on their path to recovery. This year's annual report not only reflects our positive financial performance but also shines a light on the heart of LESC – our team members who make a difference every single day.

Throughout the past year, we've faced so many challenges head-on. As we navigate the complexities of supporting individuals in recovery who are still using, our counselors find that this presents unique challenges. However, our staff's commitment to staying up to date on the latest research and treatment approaches has ensured we continue providing the most effective support possible for everyone who walks through our doors.

All of our challenges, however, have not overshadowed the incredible successes we've shared this year. The relationships our staff has built with clients is evident from the increased number of clients we've supported effectively, a direct result of the strong foundation of trust laid by our dedicated LESC team members.

We've also encountered communication hurdles with partners who lack a full understanding of the non-profit landscape. Yet, through it all, our staff has remained a constant source of strength, compassion, and unwavering dedication for both LESC clients and our external partners.

The confidence clients have in our staff is the foundation of LESC's success. This year, we've seen a significant increase in the number of clients served, a testament to the powerful impact of our team's dedication and our expanding services. Our mission aligns perfectly with the growth we have seen these past few years. We strive to meet the special and changing needs of individuals facing substance use disorder, mental illness, and homelessness, employing a person-centered, strengths-based, and trauma-responsive approach to care. We want every individual at LESC to feel the Love, Energy, Safety, and Compassion that drives our efforts.

In the pages that follow, you'll find more detailed information about our achievements and the many inspiring stories of our clients' journeys. But at the core of it all lies the unwavering dedication of our staff. They are the unsung heroes who build trust, empower individuals, and ultimately, help save lives.

I'd like to personally thank our dedicated staff, members of the Board of Trustees, stakeholders, and donors for their continued contributions and support of our mission.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Valerie" followed by a horizontal line.

VALERIE WALTERS, MBA
President & Chief Executive Officer

*“Love, Energy, Safety,
and Compassion.
I think those four
words are what drive
what we do and how
we do it.”*

- VALERIE -

2023 Highlights & Events

OCT
10

2023 SU CASA GRADUATION

We celebrated a beautiful moment as our clients advanced in their transformative journeys, equipped with newfound skills and empowered mindsets. Each graduate's dedication and resilience shone brightly, marking not just the end of a chapter but the beginning of new possibilities.



2023 Su Casa Graduates

2023 ANNUAL BREAKFAST

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us at our recent Breakfast Fundraiser. Your presence and generous contributions made the event a resounding success.



Valerie Walters and the LESCE Team



Keynote speaker, Jumaane D. Williams, recognizing Valerie Walters for serving diverse communities in NYC

OCT
31



Howard Leifman (Member of LESCE Board of Trustees), Dr. Felecia Pullen, and Valerie Walters

PENCER HOUSE

Pencer House has made significant strides in its renovation efforts, with 17 out of 40 units already transformed, marking a completion rate of 42.5%. In May 2024, the transformation reached an impressive milestone, with 65% of the units fully renovated.

DEC
10

DEC
18

Valerie Walters Honored with MLK Lifetime Achievement Award



JAN
12

UPCOMING HIGHLIGHTS

820 Program

LESC is making even more effort to enhance its substance use disorder treatment services through the 820 model.

Problem Gambling Program

LESC's Dual Recovery Services (DRS) program has recently been approved by OASAS to provide treatment services for Problem Gambling.

Transitional Safety Units

With a capacity for 14 apartments, the Transitional Housing Program has accommodated 24 individuals, with 14 successfully transitioned to independent living.

HOLIDAY EVENTS

In 2023, the holiday season brought warmth and joy as LESC staff and clients came together, sharing laughter and creating cherished memories.



ORS III Team



Dual Recovery Services Team



linda

Transformation From Despair To Hope

Meet Linda, a remarkable woman who has experienced life's roller coaster of ups and downs despite coming from a respectable background. Linda's life took a tumultuous turn when she was introduced to drugs at the age of 23.

Linda's drug of choice was crack cocaine, and she spiraled into homelessness, sleeping in a van, selling her body, and getting entangled in prostitution. Her life became a never-ending cycle of arrests, possession of drugs, and prostitution charges. She spent over 30 years in the clutches of addiction and homelessness.

"I got tired of being used. I got tired of using myself. I got tired of dogging myself. I knew I was better than that," Linda explained. That's when she sought refuge in a shelter and eventually transitioned to a Common Ground program. "I finally opened my eyes and decided to love myself," Linda added.

The Turning Point: The LESC Connection

When Linda moved into a single-person occupancy studio at LESC Franklin Avenue Residence, her life started to change.

Linda's remarkable transformation can be attributed to her recovery journey that began at LESC. Her case managers, relapse prevention groups, and harm reduction programs played a pivotal role in helping Linda rebuild her life. The organization's supportive staff encouraged her to access critical services, including dentistry



and mental health care. With confidence, Linda asserted, "Because of LESC, I'm alive today. I finally opened my eyes and decided to love myself." Linda joined various support groups and actively participated in relapse prevention programs offered by LESC.

Today, Linda treasures the stability and safety that she's found at LESC. Her future is filled with promise, she's working on computer skills and furthering her self-improvement. And she has been dedicated to giving back.

Linda hasn't stopped with her own recovery. She reaches out to others who are going through similar challenges, extending a hand of support and encouragement. Linda has this advice, "It's never too late. For those out there that are still suffering, come in from the cold."

virginia

Finding Hope At LESC Su Casa: Virginia's Story

Virginia is a testament to the transformative power of LESC. "I am living proof that any addict can find a new way of life and survive the horrors of addiction," she said.

Nine months pregnant and desperate for change, she stumbled upon Su Casa through an unexpected connection with a friend in recovery. At the time, Virginia was living in an abandoned building and kept everything she owned in a trash bag. LESC became the turning point in her life.

The Unwavering Support of Su Casa's Community

Two weeks after arriving at Su Casa, Virginia gave birth to her daughter. Su Casa became a haven for Virginia, offering a safe space to rebuild her life from the ground up. Though Virginia was separated from her newborn daughter initially, she defied the odds and regained custody within four months—a feat unheard of in the system.

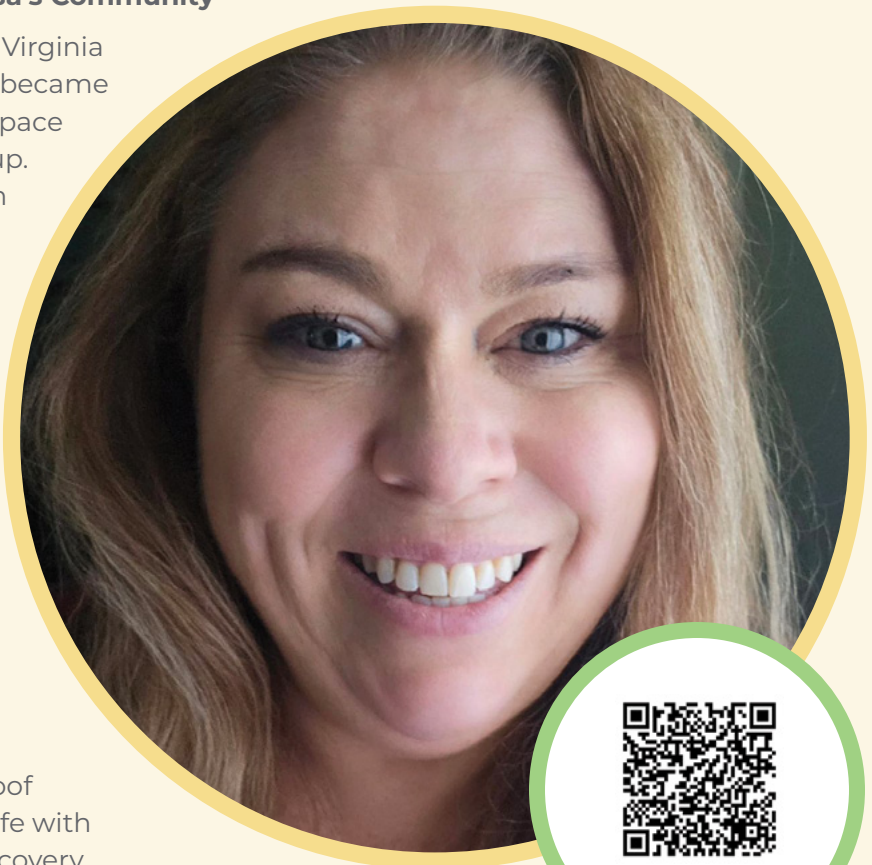
Today, she's still in awe of her own transformation. "Fast forward twelve years later, I make a six-figure income. I am in a career that I love," she reported. "I'll be at work and think, if these people really knew who I was, would I be here?"

Investing in Hope

Virginia's journey serves as living proof that anyone can find a new way of life with the right support. She credits the recovery professionals at Su Casa and the network of care available at LESC.

"Fast forward twelve years later, I make a six-figure income and I am in a career that I love."

- VIRGINIA -



[READ FULL STORY](#)

xiara

From Darkness to Hope: Xiara's Inspiring Recovery Journey

Xiara's life was a tumultuous journey from the very beginning. Raised by a single mother who harbored resentment towards her due to her father's abandonment, Xiara's childhood was marked by a lack of emotional support, self-esteem, and confidence.

Early Struggles and Coping Mechanisms

As she grew older, Xiara sought refuge in substances. By the age of 12, she was experimenting with drugs and alcohol, leading her down a perilous path. The substances provided temporary relief from her inner turmoil, but they also pushed her further into the abyss of addiction.

Xiara's addiction escalated when she was introduced to opioids like Percocet and later heroin and Fentanyl. She described the euphoria these drugs provided as a hug she had always longed for but never received from her mother. Eventually, Xiara realized she couldn't function without the drugs, that they no longer provided the same relief, and she found herself stealing money from her family to sustain her habit. Her life had crumbled, and her addiction had taken control.

A Moment of Clarity and Pivotal Change

One moment of clarity changed Xiara's life. She realized she had to surrender to the grip of addiction. She took a courageous step and sought help at LESC. Xiara entered a detox program and later transitioned to long-term



treatment. LESC played a vital role in her recovery journey, providing her with support, structure, therapy, parenting classes, and assistance finding work and supportive housing. LESC Su Casa provided a positive and supportive environment where Xiara could heal and thrive.

During her time at LESC, Xiara underwent a profound transformation. She explained that she discovered the strength and purpose within herself, "Today, I finally know my worth," Xiara asserted.

Finding Purpose

Xiara recently graduated from LESC Su Casa, marking a significant milestone in her recovery. "LESC is one thing I'm very grateful for," she explained. "Because of LESC, I am a year and three months in sobriety." Now, Xiara is determined to help other addicts, especially mothers, on their journey to recovery.

lorenzo

Lorenzo's Redemption Story: From New York's Streets to LESC Advocate

Lorenzo's connection to New York runs deep, tracing back through his family's history. He shares, "I love New York. It's where my mother and father met, where I was conceived, and where I was born." They settled in Flatbush, Brooklyn, where Lorenzo's journey began.

Lorenzo's life was far from easy. He grew up in a non-traditional household where his mother was a single parent, and he faced challenges that led to a troubled youth. He struggled with traditional education and became a truant from school at an early age. Lorenzo opened up about the difficulties he faced growing up, describing a period when he desperately sought an identity. He shared regrets concerning poor choices he made in order to be accepted – even when it meant resorting to lies. His story took a darker turn when he got in trouble with the law, beginning with his first arrest at 15 years old. "Starting about 1983, my criminal history escalated from robbery to gun possession to attempted murders," Lorenzo related.

Lorenzo explained that when his mother decided to enroll him in Job Corps, it became a real turning point in his life. This experience proved transformative as he gained an education and a fresh perspective on life. He began taking steps toward self-improvement, but his journey wasn't without challenges. As Lorenzo continued to grow and evolve, he also found himself caught

up in the allure of negative influences and illegal activities. Despite his initial progress, he faced a series of arrests and setbacks. Lorenzo's own story offers a glimpse into the complexity of escaping the cycle of crime and addiction. He aptly described craving as, "The euphoria of heroin, combined with going through whatever issues of life, it's like you're always trying to chase that first high."

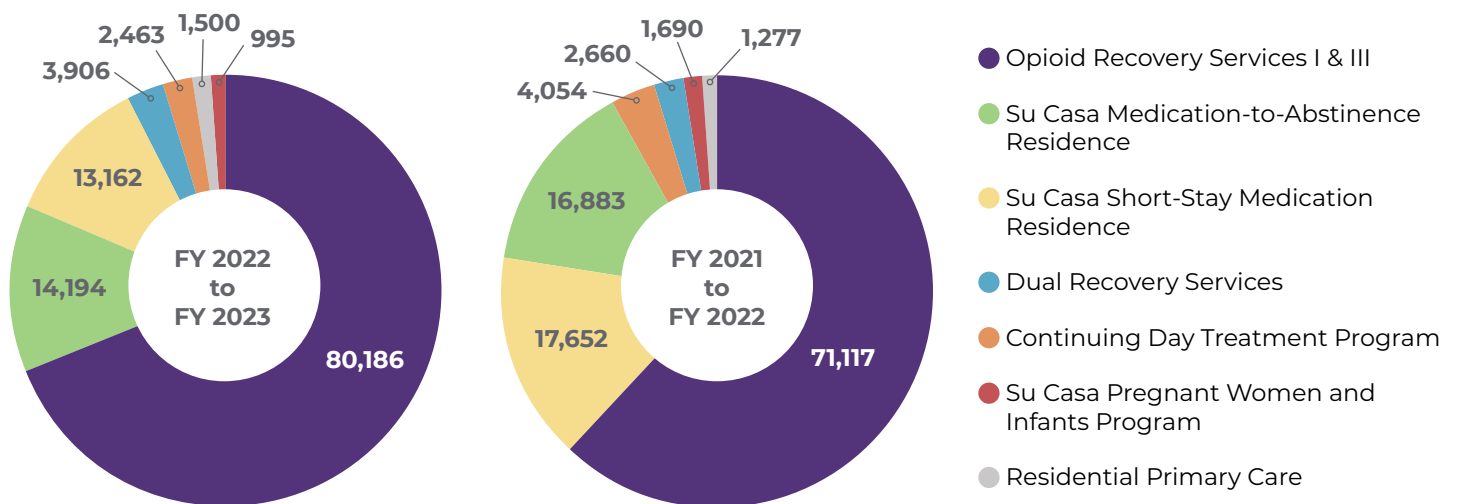


WATCH STORY

What We Do

PROGRAMS AND SUPPORTIVE HOUSING	DESCRIPTION
LESC Outpatient Opioid Recovery Services (ORS) - Medication for Opioid Use	Outpatient medication assisted treatment program.
LESC Dual Recovery Services (DRS) - Integrated Substance Use Treatment & Mild Mental Health Services	Outpatient treatment that addresses both substance use disorder and mild mental health issues for clients, families, significant others, and household members.
LESC Continuing Day Treatment Program (CDT) - Services in Cantonese	A professional, structured refuge for Cantonese-speaking clients who struggle with mental and emotional illnesses.
LESC Su Casa Medication-to-Abstinence Residence	18-24 month program designed to help adults with sustained histories of substance use disorder taper to abstinence.
LESC Su Casa Short-Stay Medication Residence	6-9 month medication assisted treatment program in a supportive residential environment.
LESC Su Casa Pregnant Women and Infants Program	Residential program focused on aiding expectant mothers and mothers with children aged 0-9 months facing substance use disorder.
LESC Residential Primary Care	Addresses full range of physical health needs for our residential clients, including prevention, immunizations, treatment of acute illness and injuries, and chronic disease management.
LESC HIV and Hepatitis C Education, Testing & Counseling and Referral Services	Residential and Outpatient programs to raise awareness of HIV and hepatitis and educate individuals on risk behavior and options.
LESC Education (GED), Job Training and Placement Assistance	Vocational programs designed to help clients obtain employment.
LESC Supportive Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · LESC Individual & Family Supportive Housing · LESC Scattersite Housing · LESC Transitional Safety Housing · LESC Transitional Housing

LESC Episodes of Care

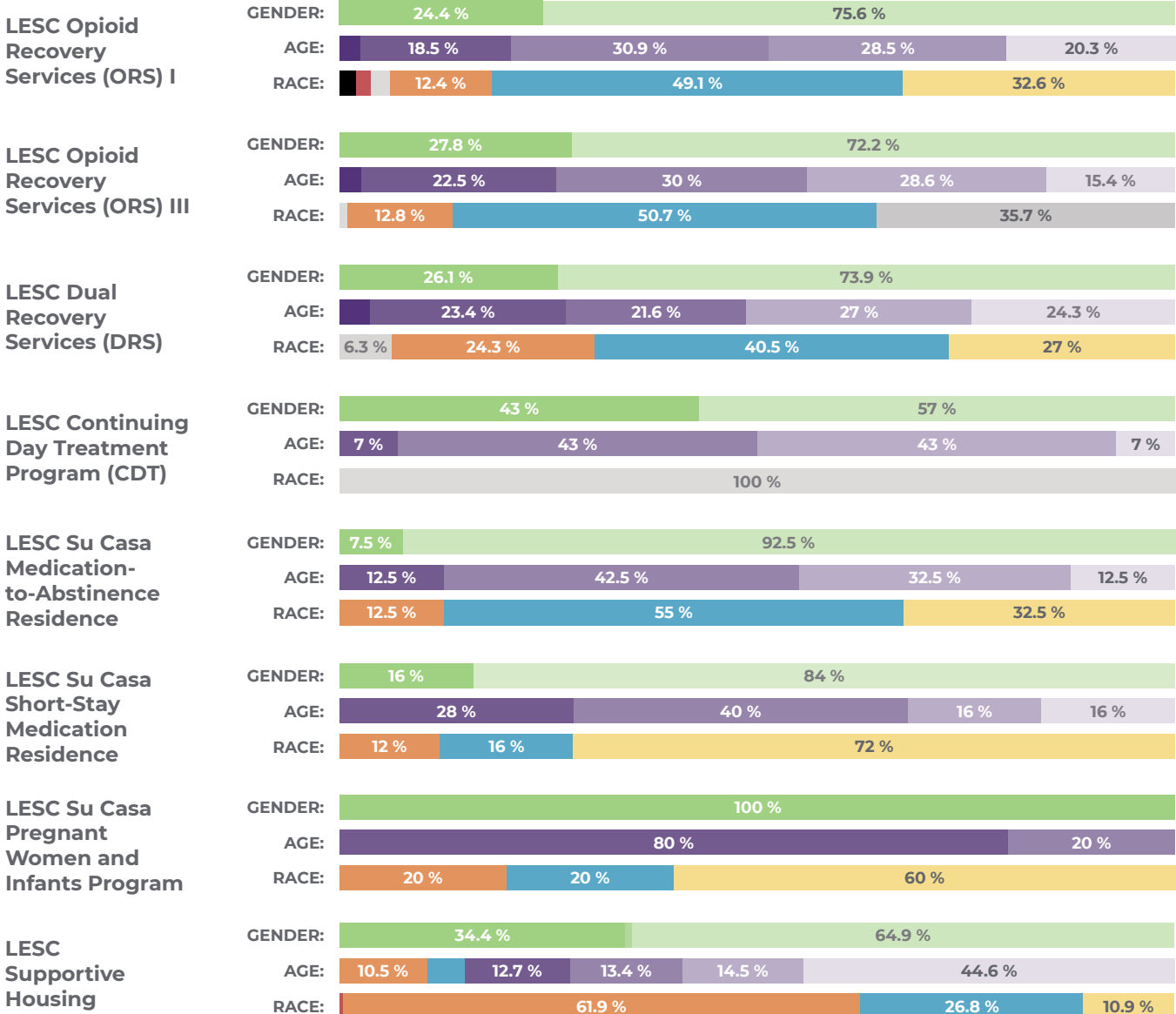


Who We Serve

Individuals Served: 1,035

RACE	% of Clients	AGE	% of Clients	GENDER	% of Clients
Alaskan Native	0.3 %	22-25	2.2 %	Female	24.7 %
American Indian	0.4 %	26-35	19.8 %	Male	75.3 %
Asian or Pacific Islander	3.4 %	36-45	28.3 %	OUTPATIENT	82 %
Black or African American	14.4 %	46-55	29.7 %	RESIDENTIAL	18 %
Hispanic Origin	47.7 %	56+	20.1 %		
White	33.9 %				

Demographics by Program





Thank You, Donors!

AAD Construction Corp.

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Ace Endico Foods

Sandy Trimarchi/
Christine Federico

Amy Larovere Consultant

AM&G Waterproofing, LLC.

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Strada Ventures, LLC

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Christine Bannon

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Susan Camarata

Weiss Plumbing

Tim Donahue

W&M Fire/Island Fire

Todd Corcoran

Xeron Clinical Laboratories

Jack Jacobi

Individuals:

Robert Bittar

Gooi Seong Chneh

Cindy Harden

Alexis Kuerbis

Howard Leifman

Eliot Locitzer

Donald Manning

Anthony Michaels

Farhad Mirzada

Elizabeth Montgomery

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Debra Pantin

Orlando Perez

Carolyn Rainer

Blanca Ramirez

Gail Reid

Peggy Shen

Lolita Silva-Vazquez

Jan Van Arnam

Jacqueline Vargas

Stanley Zareff

Sandra Zhao

Theresa Zuniga

LESC
Board of Directors

Patricia Hoffman | Chairperson

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Dr. Nasir H. Naqvi

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LESC
Executive Team



Valerie Walters
President &
Chief Executive Officer



Cargil Bernard
VP, Chief Financial Officer



Lolita Silva-Vazquez
VP, Chief Program Officer



Jacqueline Vargas
VP, Human Resources

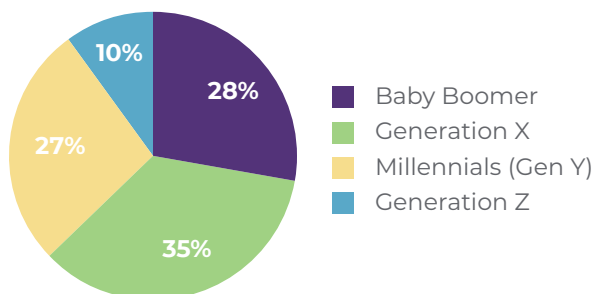


Gail Reid
VP, Corporate
Compliance Officer

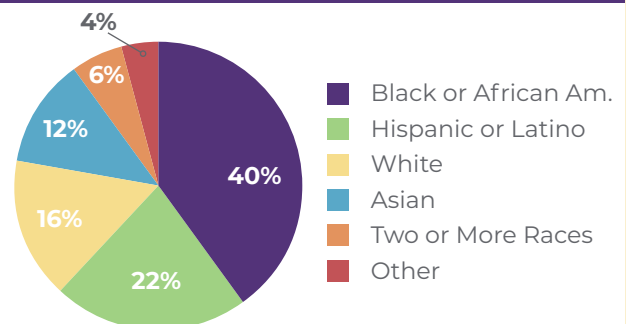
Our Staff

We are proud to support diversity in our workforce. At LESC, diversity in our staff plays a vital role in creating an inclusive and welcoming environment.

AGE / GENERATION



RACE



Client Outcomes

What types of services are provided?

Assessments, individual counseling, group counseling, family counseling, psychiatric services, medication administration, care coordination, physical health services, peer support services, early intervention services for HIV and hepatitis C, vocational services, assistance with housing, assistance with obtaining insurance coverage.

What are the Evidence-Based Practices?

Motivational Interviewing; Cognitive Behavioral Therapy; Medications for Opioid Use Disorder, Alcohol Use Disorder, Tobacco Use Disorder and Mental Illness; Psychoeducation; Trauma-Informed Care; Relapse Prevention; Solution-Focused Therapy; Harm Reduction.

RESIDENTIAL

28,351

Residential Treatment services provided

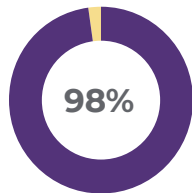
58.5%

of clients were homeless upon admission

Primary Substance Used Upon Admission to Treatment Program

MTAR, SSMR, PWIP

100% Heroin or other opiate



98% of individuals reduced daily drug use at discharge

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

■ Residential ■ Outpatient

107 clients obtained employment.



28 clients participated in educational services.



45 clients participated in job training.



OUTPATIENT

86,555

Outpatient Treatment services provided

11%

of clients were homeless upon admission

Primary Substance Used Upon Admission to Treatment Program

ORS I & ORS III

100% Heroin

DRS

30.1% Heroin*

21.9% Alcohol

17.8% Cocaine

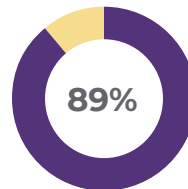
15.1% Marijuana/Hashish

11% Crack

2.7% Benzodiazepines

1.4% Ketamine

*Heroin or other opiates



89% of individuals reduced daily drug use at discharge

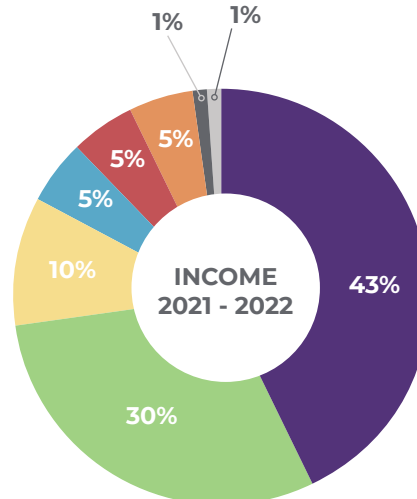
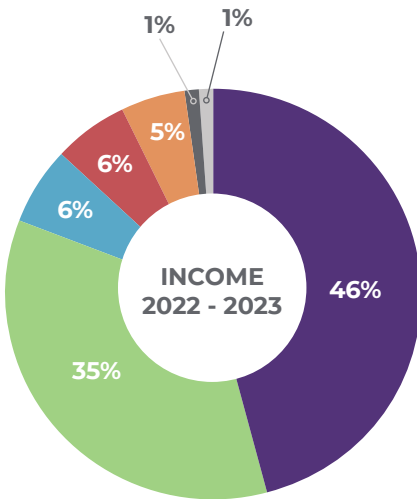
CONTINUING DAY TREATMENT

92% of individuals receiving mental health treatment in the CDT program **had zero hospitalizations for mental illness.**

Statement of Revenue and Expenses

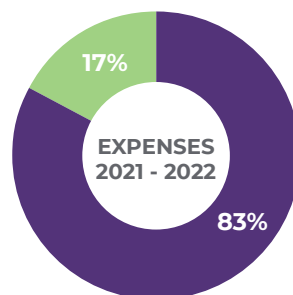
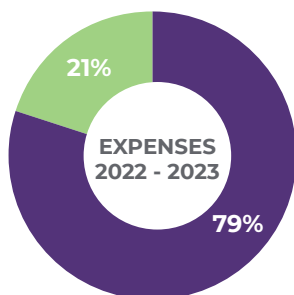
REVENUE	FY 2023	FY 2022
Patient Service Revenue	\$ 6,086,731.00	\$ 6,058,556.00
Client Fees	201,757.00	210,420.00
Program Fees	901,002.00	965,843.00
Government Grants and Contracts	8,038,069.00	8,477,945.00
Contributions	48,883.00	23,328.00
Forgiveness of Debt	-	2,000,000.00
CARES ACT Employee Retention Credit	1,106,785.00	1,149,209.00
Other	1,090,596.00	1,025,217.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 17,473,823.00	\$ 19,910,518.00

EXPENSES	FY 2023	FY 2022
Program Services	14,722,867.00	15,250,001.00
Management & General	3,853,462.00	3,096,070.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	18,576,329.00	18,346,071.00
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$ 1,102,506.00	\$ 1,564,447.00



LEESC Income

- Government Grants and Contracts
- Patient Service Revenue
- Forgiveness of Debt
- CARES ACT Employee Retention
- Other
- Program Fees
- Client Fees
- Contributions



LEESC Expenses

- Program Services
- Management and General



LESC Locations

- 1 LESC Headquarters**
 80 Maiden Lane
 3rd Floor, Suite #305
 New York, NY 10038
- 2 Opioid Recovery Services
 Dual Recovery Services
 Continuing Day Treatment Program
 HIV Early Intervention Program**
 46 East Broadway
 New York, NY 10002
- 3 Opioid Recovery Services**
 62 East Broadway
 New York, NY 10002
- 4 LESC Su Casa**
 7 Gouverneur Slip E
 New York, NY 10002

LESC Housing Locations

- 5 Pencer House**
 630 E 6th St,
 New York, NY 10009
- 6 Franklin Avenue Residence**
 1341 Franklin Avenue
 Bronx, NY 10456
- 7 Diversity Works
 Scattersite Housing Office**
 1932 Crotona Parkway
 Bronx, NY 10460



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