



IMPACT REPORT

Disability Rights Maryland
2024 - 2025

DRM Disability
Rights
Maryland ●●●●

Mission and Vision

Disability Rights Maryland (DRM) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that protects and advances the rights of people with disabilities in Maryland by providing free legal services.

We envision a world where people with disabilities are fully included in the workplace, neighborhoods and all aspects of community life.

Photo Caption: Two young men sharing headphones.



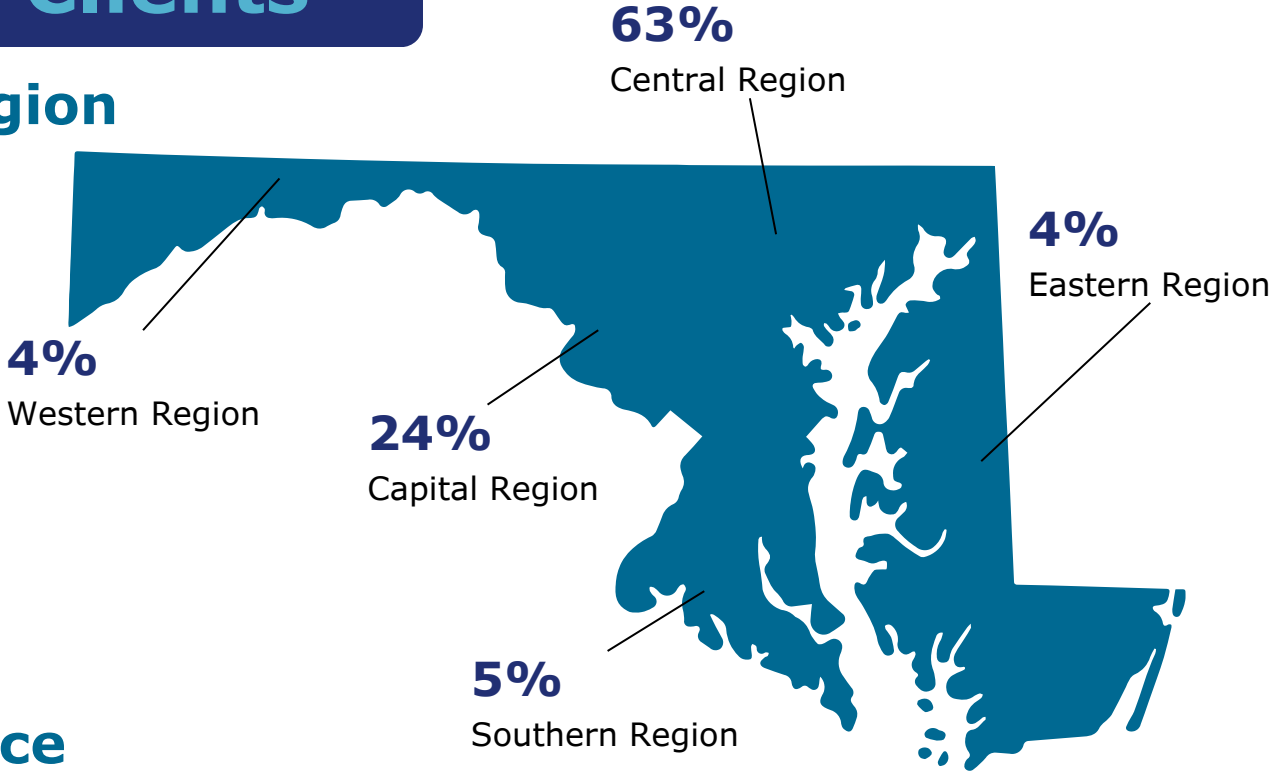
Focus Areas

Our work spans different levels of service including individual casework, legislative advocacy, systemic litigation, and resource sharing. From 2024 - 2025, we targeted the following focus areas:

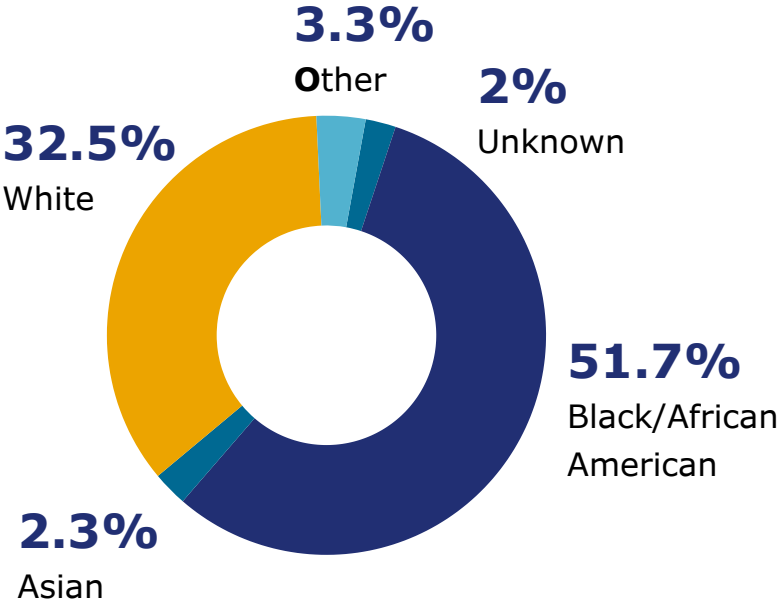
- Mental Health
- Housing
- Education
- Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities and Medicaid
- Assistive Technology
- Transportation
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Voting
- Advocacy for Social Security Beneficiaries

Our Clients

By Region



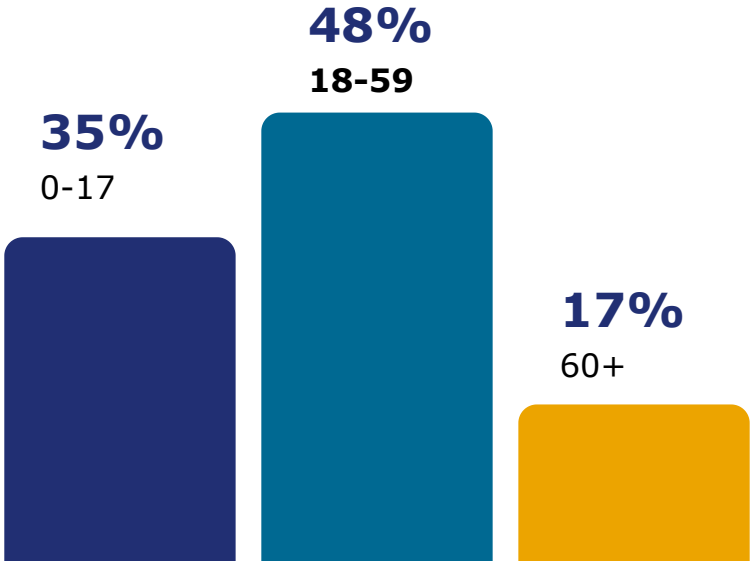
By Race



Client Review

“DRM is extremely responsive to ADA concerns. DRM has assisted me a few times when I needed help addressing ADA and accessible communication for Deaf and Hard of Hearing residents in Baltimore City.”

By Age



By the Numbers

96

Coalitions participated in, to increase broad range advocacy

55

Community events attended by DRM staff, providing information and resources

600+

Cases closed for people dealing with housing, health, and educational challenges

13,444+

People received need-to-know legal information

200+

Hours DRM staff invested in professional development

267,114

Visits to our website



DRM hosted a networking day for interns from civil legal service organizations. The event included a panel discussion, advice and tip sharing, and presentations on their summer roles.



DRM presented dozens of trainings including “Navigating Mental Health in Family Law”, for judges handling custody and dependency cases.

1390
 People received greater access to the electoral process

\$198k
 Saved or costs avoided for DRM clients

50,000
 People received access to accessible sidewalks, ramps, and curb cuts

1671
 Service providers trained on various disability related topics

11
 Facilities monitored to ensure their
400+
 residents were safe and treated with dignity and respect.



DRM hosted voter registration at various events including DD Day in Annapolis.

Transportation

DRM believes that transportation is directly connected to quality of life. Among other transportation initiatives, DRM participated in the yearly national campaign, Week Without Driving. The initiative challenges drivers to go without driving for one week to better understand the barriers faced by people who cannot or do not drive. Using a grant from Nondrivers Alliance, we created a digital campaign that documented the commute of 2 Baltimore residents. We also requested participation of lawmakers; eleven agreed to participate in the initiative.

\$44M

Agreement Made with Baltimore City to Improve Accessibility of Sidewalks and Curb Ramps



DRM and CARS helped plan and attended the Transit Riders Rally.

Photo Caption: Social media posts from the campaign.



Client Review

I had the best team... It was everything I hoped for. You know, she's intelligent... I couldn't have asked for anything better. Thank you.

Housing

DRM works to ensure accessible, affordable housing for people with disabilities, allowing them to live safely and independently in the community.

227

Housing Cases Closed

Story Highlight

Imagine not being able to freely move around your home because the poor condition of the flooring is incompatible with your wheelchair. Marky requested his flooring be fixed and management said he would have to relocate. DRM persuaded the landlord to pay for Marky to stay in a hotel while the flooring was repaired. After the repairs, Marky then returned to his accessible unit.



Photo Caption: Erin Esterson, Attorney Fellow, Equal Justice Works, Housing Justice Program

Equal Justice Works, Housing Justice Program

During a two-year term, Fellows work collaboratively to provide legal advice, referrals, and full representation for tenants in eviction proceedings; engage in outreach and education activities; and work with community partners to address systematic barriers that contribute to housing instability.

Community Living

One of DRM's initiatives to promote community living is SunShine Folk (SSF), a DRM organized group of volunteers who help nursing home residents move back into the community.

350

Nursing House Residents Attended Presentations on the Right to Live in the Community



Photo Caption: Three older women holding yoga mats and smiling.

Mental Health

DRM works to ensure Marylanders with psychiatric disabilities can make their own choices and receive safe, voluntary services. We conduct monitoring visits to protect individuals in psychiatric facilities and residential treatment centers from abuse and neglect. We advocate for the limitation of segregation and isolation of incarcerated persons and stop the overuse of psychotropic medications for children in foster care.



Client Review

"She took the time to thoroughly understand our unique needs and worked diligently to ensure that his voice and ours were heard and respected."

Advocacy for Social Security Beneficiaries

Representative Payees manage Social Security benefits for people who need assistance with money management. DRM ensures payees follow Social Security regulations and use the funds to meet the needs of the person with a disability. We conduct home visits and interviews to make sure there is no financial exploitation, abuse, or neglect.

465

Social Security Recipients Interviewed to Ensure They are Free From Financial Abuse

Assistive Technology

DRM ensures people with disabilities have access to assistive technology devices and services that increase their independence and ability to communicate with others.



Story Highlight

Tonya, an individual with cerebral palsy, needed a power wheelchair. For over a year, her requests for one were denied. Tonya worked with DRM to coordinate with all essential parties. Tonya finally received her power wheelchair and is able to fully engage in her community, work without interruption, attend appointments, and enjoy social activities, improving her independence and quality of life.

Special Education

DRM helps students with disabilities receive the support they need to thrive in public schools alongside their peers without disabilities.



198

Students Obtained an Appropriate Educational Services

Photo Caption: Two students in graduation attire posing for a photo.

I am very grateful for DRM’s help; they arranged an excellent lawyer to assist me with my child’s school case.

Client Review



Story Highlight

Imagine your child developing PTSD due to other students physically assaulting them and the school failing to provide the appropriate supports. Mariah made several requests for a school transfer for her son, Jamie, and received several denials. DRM worked with the family and the school system to secure a school transfer on the basis of his PTSD diagnosis. The student not only was able to make progress at his new school, but also gained the school credits needed to graduate with his high school diploma and has begun employment.

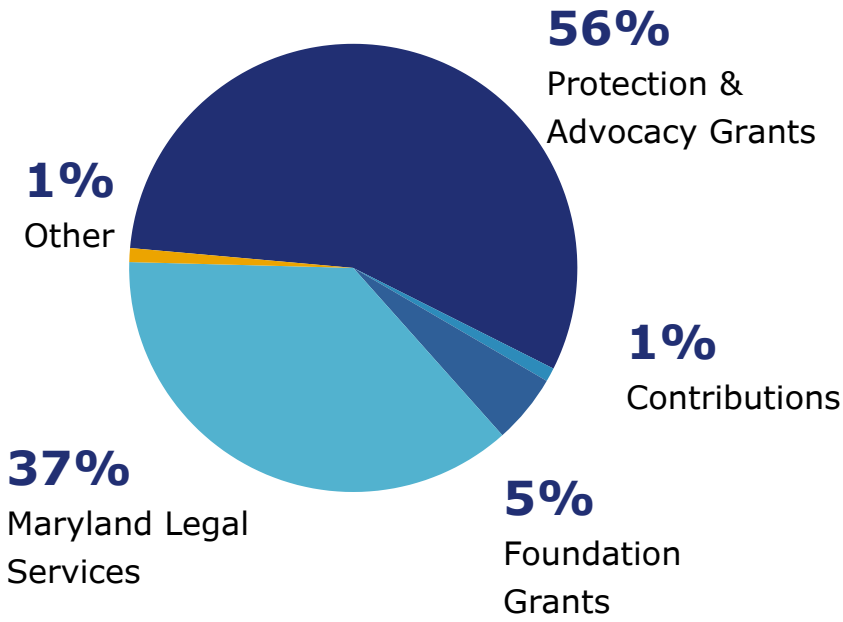
65+

Pro Bono Attorneys Who Represented Students

Financial Information

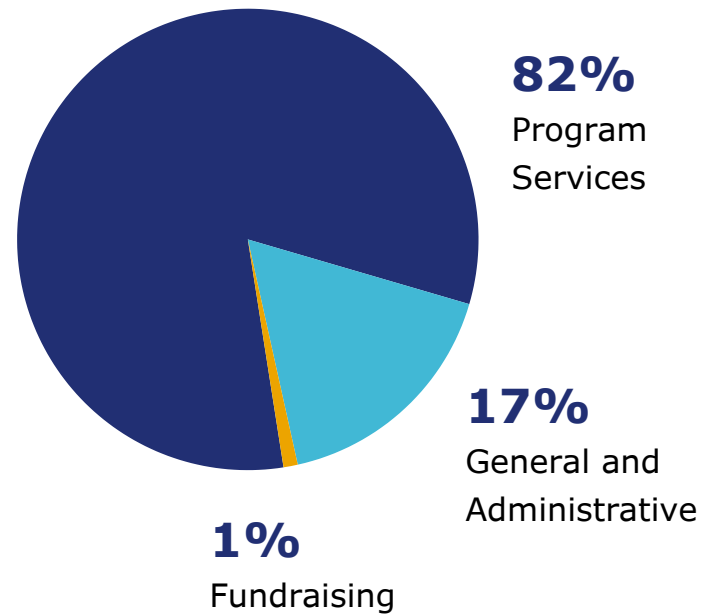
Revenue

(Oct 2024 – Sep 2025)



Expenses

(Oct 2024 – Sep 2025)



Leadership Team

as of June 30, 2025

Meghan Marsh
Executive Director

Connie Kratovil-Lavelle
Deputy Director

Philisa Rogers
Finance Director

Megan Berger
Legal Director

Luciene Parsley
Litigation Counsel

Leslie Seid Margolis
Policy Counsel and Managing Attorney

Board of Directors

as of June 30, 2025

Jessie Weber, Esq., President
Deanna McCray-James, Vice-President
Suzanne Sangree, Esq., Secretary
Kimberly Jackson, Treasurer
Ryan Perlin, Esq., Immediate Past President

Emily Greene, Esq.
Steve Manekin
Susan Kadis
JaMar S. Mancano, Esq.
Ebony Martin
Andrew Petrie
Matthew Reeds
Nelly Sai-Palm



Disability Rights Maryland
1500 Union Avenue, Suite 2000
Baltimore, MD 21211

Phone: 410.727.6352 | TTY: 410.235.5387
Toll Free: 800.233.7201 | Fax: 410.727.6389
www.DisabilityRightsMD.org

This document was produced and published in part at U.S. taxpayer expense. Disability Rights Maryland receives grant funds from Social Security Administration, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Administration for Community Living, and U.S. Department of Education. This document is not an official U.S. government communication, and the contents are the sole responsibility of the authors.