



**Transforming  
Legal Aid Ontario**

**Advisory Committee Intro**

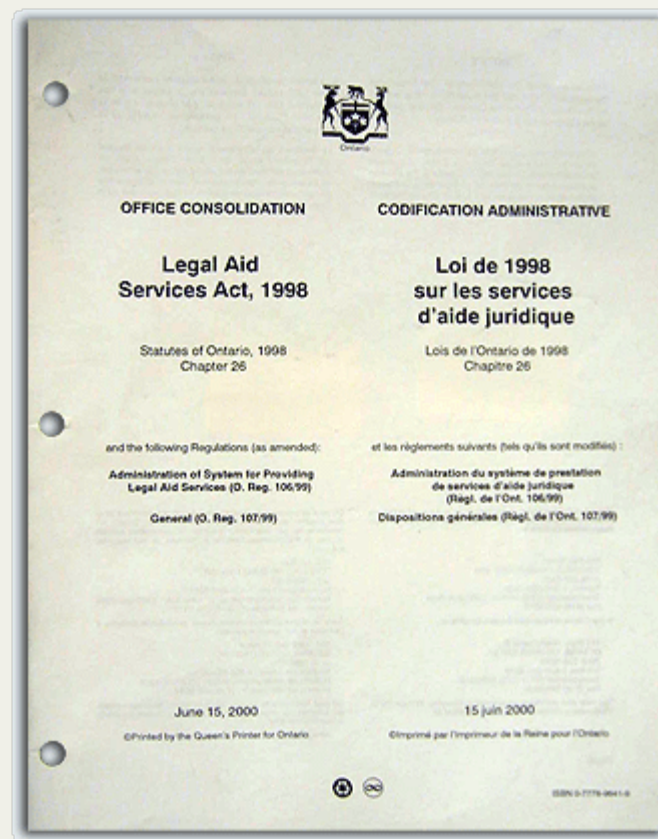
# LAO at a Glance

- **Provided more than 1 million assists to Ontarians**
- **51 legal aid offices and 79 community legal clinics operated across Ontario**
- **Legal Aid Ontario is the second largest justice agency in the province**
- **Revenues for 2009 were \$337 million**

# LAO Mandate

## *Legal Aid Services Act, 1998*

“...promote access to justice throughout Ontario for low-income individuals by means of providing consistently high quality legal aid services in a cost-effective and efficient manner.”



# Funding

- The Ontario government provides the majority of legal aid funding.
- Funding is also provided by the Federal government, the Law Foundation of Ontario and recovered from client contributions.

Operating Budget (in millions)	2007-08	2008-09
	Province of Ontario*	283,888
The Law Foundation of Ontario	56,419	26,198
Client Contributions	18,950	21,500
Other Income	3,393	3,444
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$362,650</b>	<b>\$336,953</b>

\* Included in contributions from the Province of Ontario is an allocation of funds from a lump transfer by the Federal government to the province. 2009: \$50.1 million; 2008: \$50.4 million

# Client Legal Services

- Legal Aid Ontario's programs provide low-income people with access to a variety of services tailored to their legal needs.

## Types of services:

- Assistance for eligible clients appearing in court without a lawyer
- Referrals to private lawyers for specific cases
- Poverty law services – community legal clinics
- Expert legal resources

# Duty Counsel

- Duty counsel lawyers provide front-line advice, information and representation in every courthouse in Ontario including 33 remote and fly in locations.
- Duty counsel services are provided by staff and private lawyers for people appearing without representation in criminal, family or youth courts.
- In 2009, duty counsel lawyers assisted with 854,146 matters

Aid Category	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09
Criminal	661,438	673,926	687,420
Civil	170,889	159,015	166,726
<b>Total</b>	<b>832,327</b>	<b>832,941</b>	<b>854,146</b>

# Referrals to Private Lawyers - Certificates

LAO refers eligible low-income clients with specific cases to private lawyers for representation in proceedings before criminal or family courts and administrative tribunals.

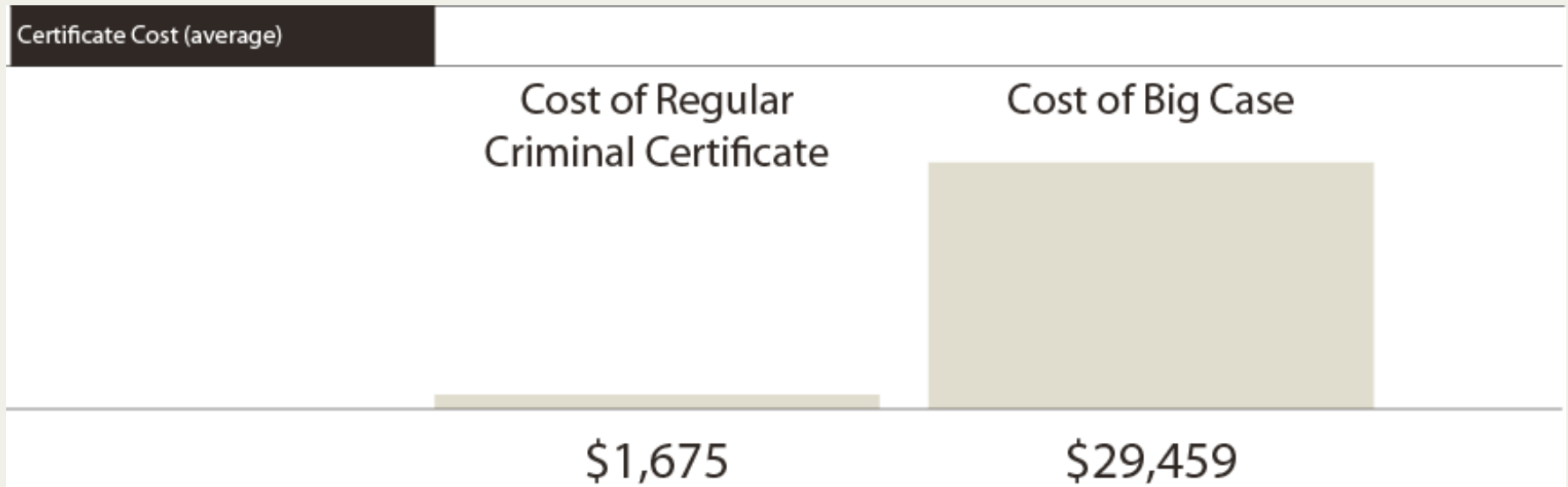
Certificates Issued					
Budget Fiscal Year 2008/09					
	Criminal	Family	Immigration & Refugee	Other Civil	Total
Actual	68,453	30,107	12,706	5,903	117,169
Target	67,258	27,700	11,060	5,807	111,825
Difference	(1,195)	(2,407)	(1,646)	(96)	5,344

Actual, Prior Years					
	Criminal	Family	Immigration & Refugee	Other Civil	Total
2005-06	65,510	28,704	10,992	5,812	111,018
2006-07	65,784	26,450	11,060	5,807	109,101
2007-08	64,335	25,599	11,401	5,964	107,299

# Big Case Management Case Costs

- Expenditures for big cases averaged \$23.4 million over the last three years.
- Big cases generally represent about 2% of criminal certificates and 22% of criminal certificate costs.



# Poverty Law Services

- 79 independent community legal clinics in Ontario, including 17 specialty clinics
- In 2008, community legal clinics assisted 156,588 Ontarians

## Types of services:

- Landlord/Tenant
- Ontario Works
- Ontario Disability Support Program
- Government pensions
- Immigration & Refugee
- Employment Insurance
- Workplace Safety and Insurance
- Employment issues
- Criminal injuries compensation

# Poverty Law Funding & Services

## Clinic Funding

(in millions)

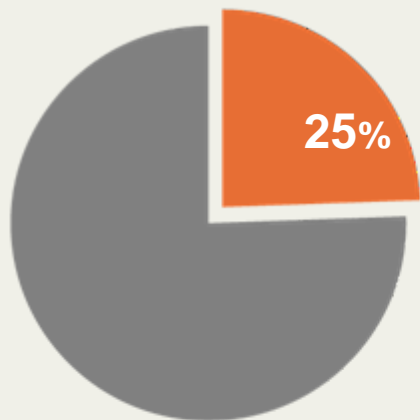
2008-09	67,539
2007-08	65,325
2006-07	61,733
2005-06	62,157

## Client Services

Year	Cases	Brief Services	Advice	Outreach	Total
2008-09	18,000	30,421	104,393	3,598	156,412
2007-08	17,781	29,304	100,420	9,083	156,588
2006-07	17,628	28,795	101,515	7,902	155,840
2005-06	15,966	29,170	100,951	7,323	153,410

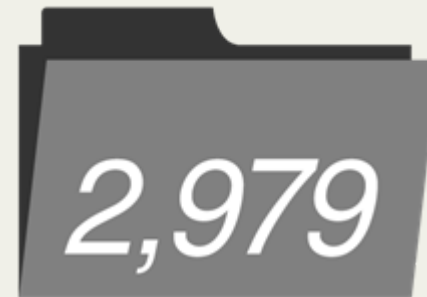
# Student Legal Aid Services Societies (SLASS)

- SLASSs are located at each of the six Ontario law schools and are staffed by law students working under the close supervision of experienced lawyers.
- Represent clients in cases such as: minor crimes; landlord and tenant; immigration; tribunals, including the Ontario Human Rights Commission



## Participation

933 of nearly 3,800 law students participate in the SLASS program (2007)



2,979  
Client case files  
(2008)

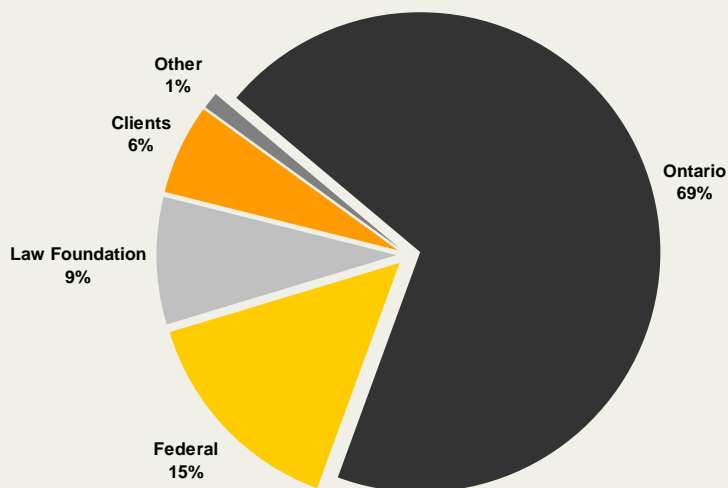
# Forecasted Financial Position

- LAO's financial situation has changed over the past two years from a surplus of \$29.8 million in 2007/08 to a deficit of \$19.1 million for 2008/09 and a projected deficit of \$46.7 million for 2009/10.
- The decline in the Law Foundation revenues has been the primary reason for this dramatic change in LAO's financial situation. Law Foundation revenue has dropped from \$56.4 million in 2007/08 to \$4.5 million for 2009/10.

# LAO's Financial Position 2009/10

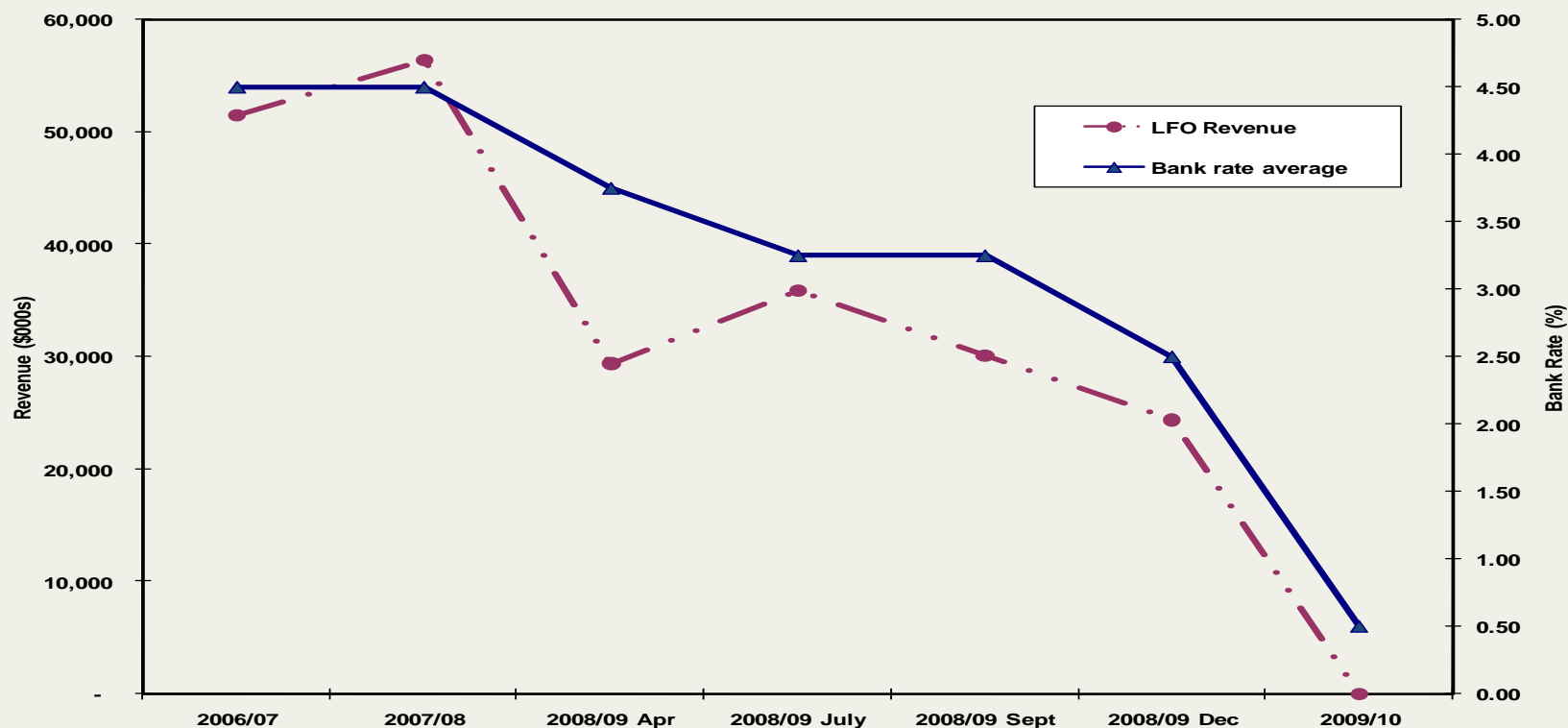
	\$ (000's)
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 314,614</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>\$ 361,344</b>
<b>Deficit</b>	<b>-\$ 46,730</b>

LAO's Revenue 2008/09 Totaled \$340 million from the following sources:



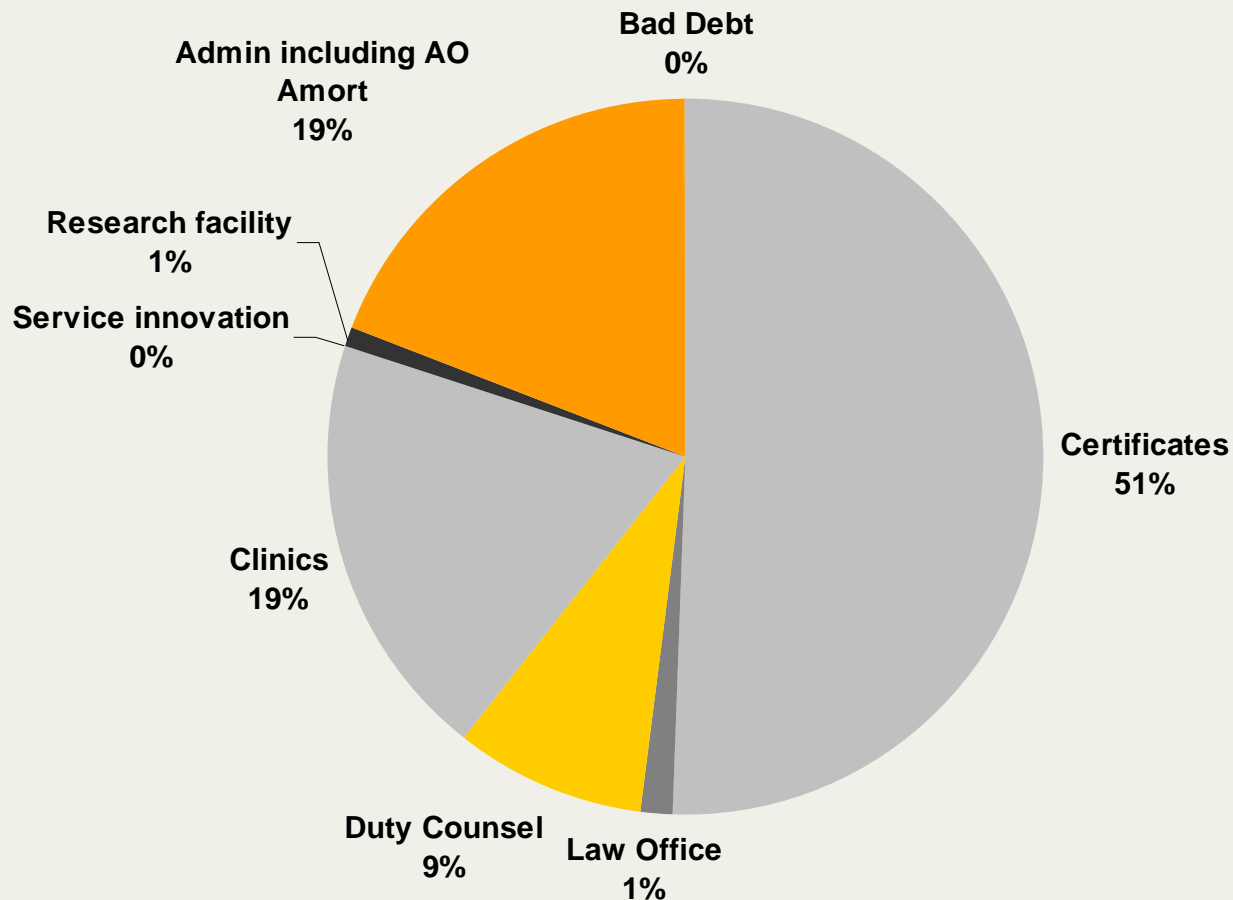
# Law Foundation of Ontario Revenues

Law Foundation revenues have fallen in the past three years and are dependent on the bank of Canada rate. Given the current trends revenue from the Law Foundation are likely to be low over the next several years.



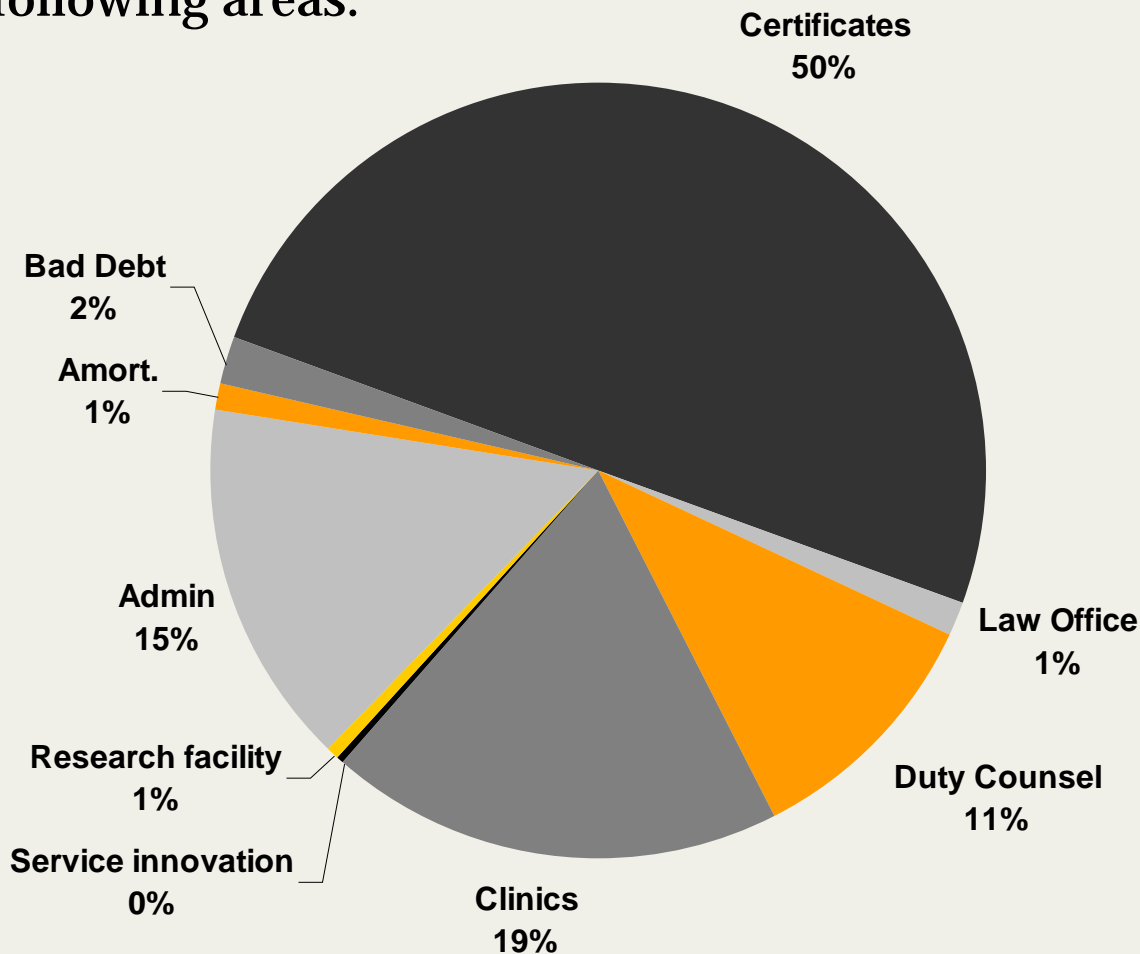
# Expenditures 1999-2000

LAO's Expenditures 1999/00 Totaled \$220.6 million in the following areas.



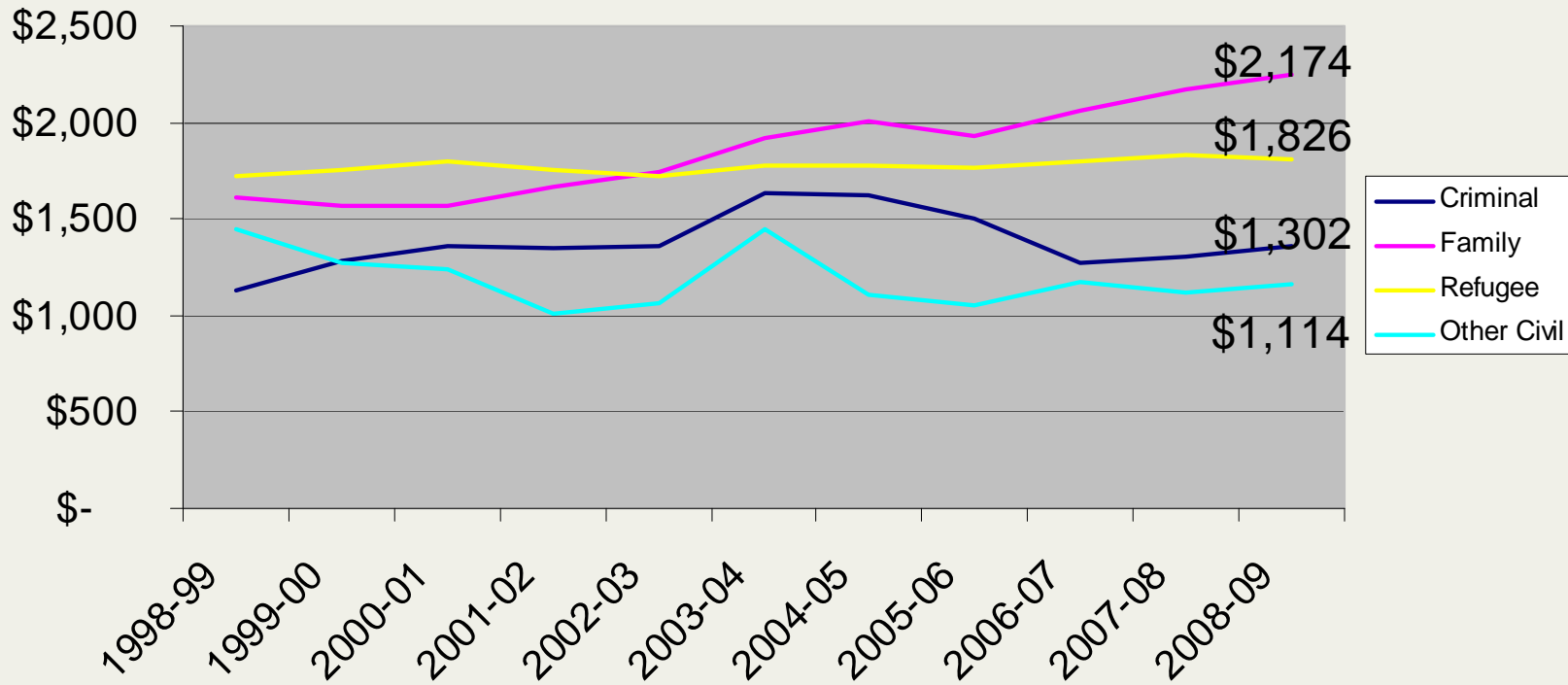
# Expenditures 2008-2009

LAO's Expenditures 2008/09 Totaled \$356.1 million in the following areas.

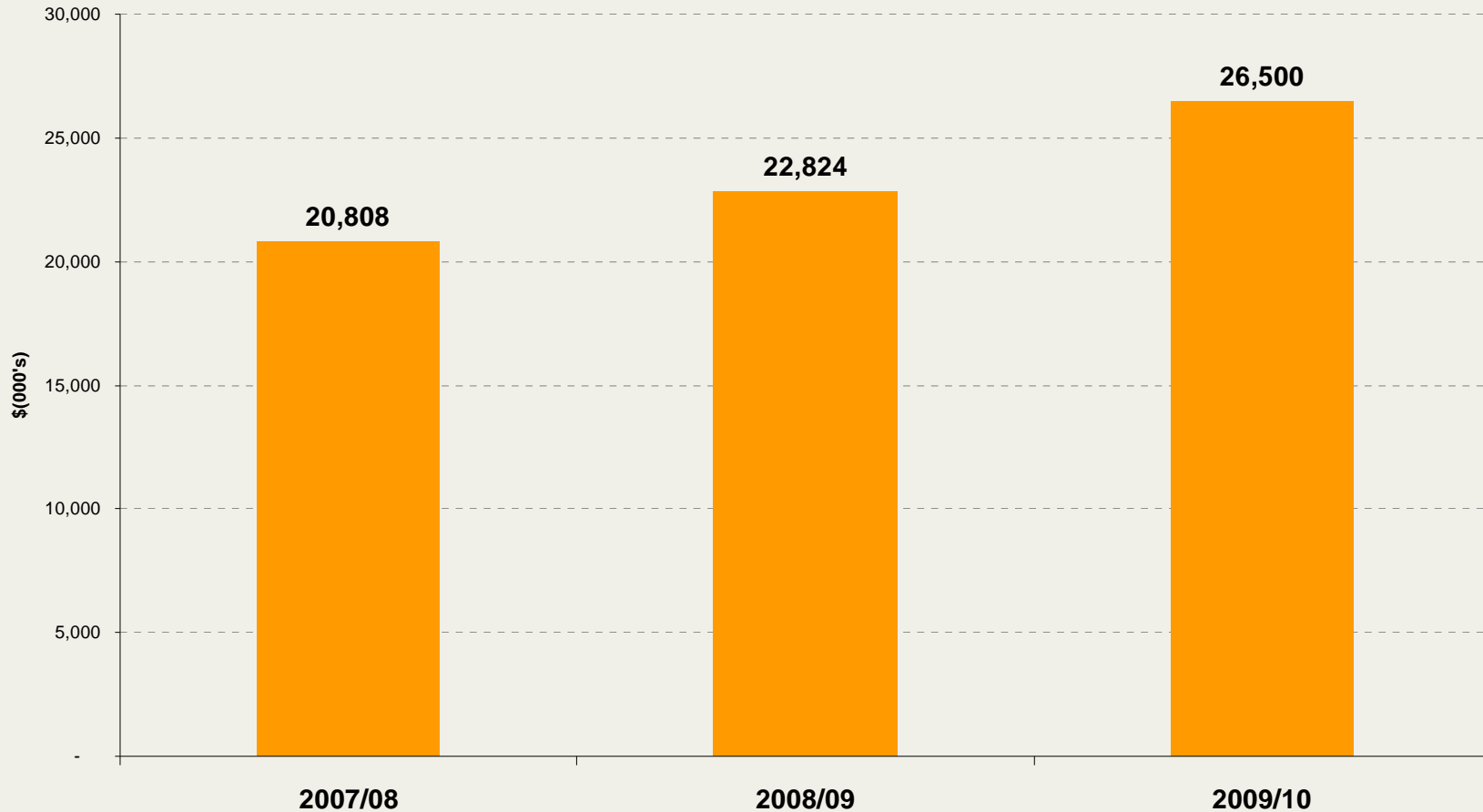


LAO's expenditure mix has remained constant for the past ten years.

# Average Certificate Case Cost

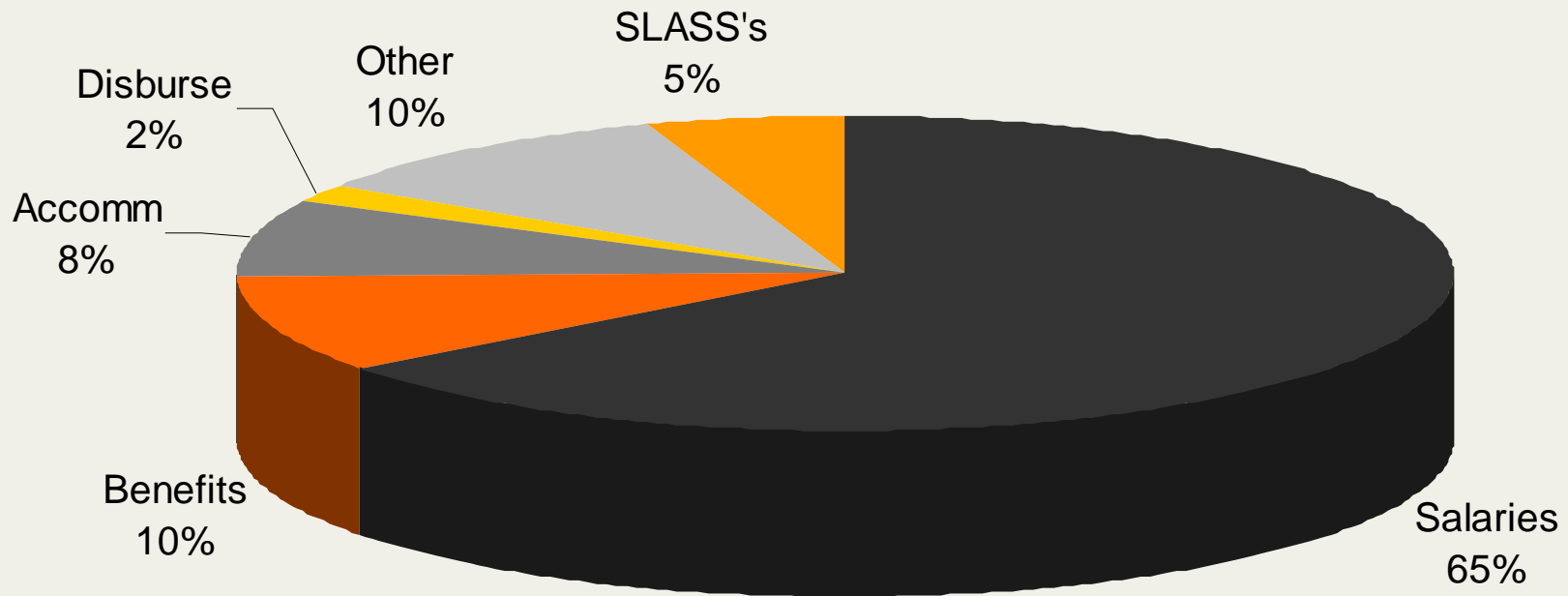


# Big Case Management Expenditures



BCM costs have increased by 27% over the past two years.

# Clinic Expenditures by Category 2008-09

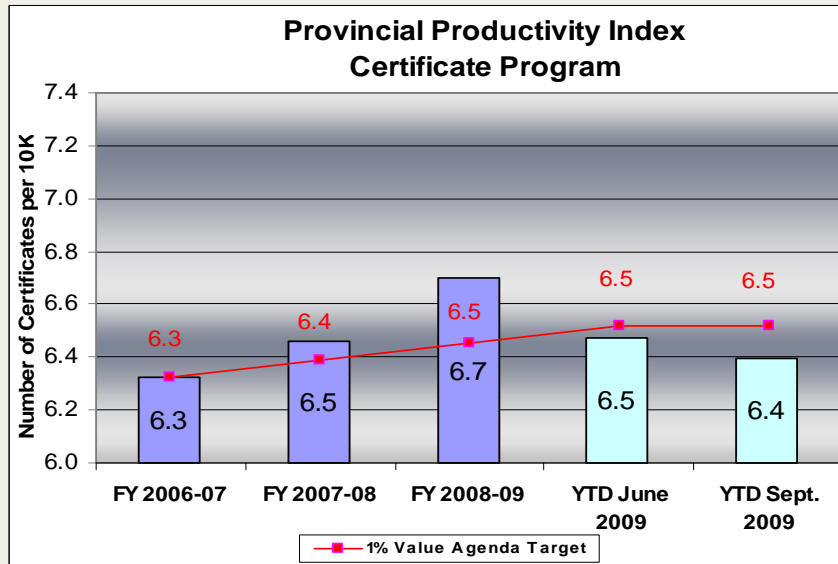


Grants to clinics and SLASS - \$63 million

# Certificates Issued 2005/06 and 2008/09

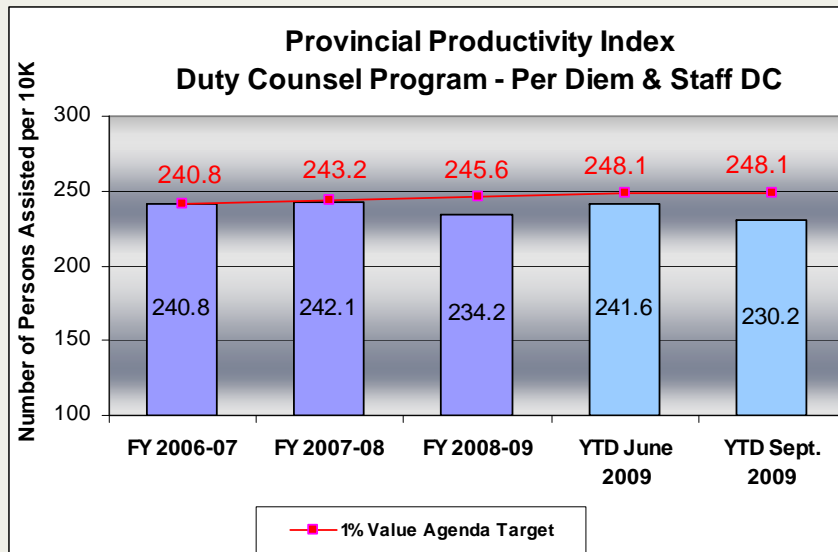
Category	2005-06 actual	2005-06 %	2008-09	2008-09 %	% change in past 4 years
Crim	65,510	59	68,453	58	4.5
Family	28,704	26	30,107	23	4.9
I&R	10,992	10	12,706	10	15.6
Other	5,812	5	5,903	5	1.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>111,018</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>117,169</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>5.5</b>

# Productivity Certificates and DC



The productivity index measures the number of services provided per \$10 thousand of cost. This is a standard measure that can be used across all programs.

After exceeding LAO's productivity targets for certificates for 2008-09 LAO is slightly below target for 2009-10.



# Clinic Services

Region	2007-08			2008-09			2009-10 Forecast			
	Funding Received	Active Files	Cost/Active File	Funding Received	Active Files	Cost/Active File	Funding Received	Active Files	Cost/Active File	% Change Cost/Active
Specialty	\$11,422,714	24,508	\$ 466	\$11,916,864	26,008	\$ 458	\$12,326,523	27,571	\$ 447	-2.40%
Southwest	10,766,666	37,637	286	11,130,999	39,287	283	11,211,737	40,040	280	-1.06%
Northern	6,196,544	14,931	415	6,543,445	15,943	410	6,602,513	16,465	401	-2.20%
GTA	16,132,132	52,589	307	17,043,493	56,209	303	17,140,345	59,108	290	-4.29%
Central & East	10,707,344	46,003	233	10,993,282	47,696	230	10,986,056	50,603	217	-5.65%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$55,225,400</b>	<b>175,668</b>	<b>\$ 314</b>	<b>\$57,628,083</b>	<b>185,143</b>	<b>\$ 311</b>	<b>\$58,267,174</b>	<b>193,787</b>	<b>\$ 301</b>	<b>-3.22%</b>

LAO has not utilized productivity measure for clinics but as the above table indicates, the cost per active file has been decreasing since 2007/08.