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HELPFUL TIPS



Personal Finance for Paralegals: Knowing Your Numbers

by Raja Gonzalez – LAPA Reporter Editor

The first step to becoming financially literate is getting familiar with your situation. Here are some questions that you should be able to answer: What is your gross salary, gross monthly income, net monthly income after taxes and paycheck deductions, and take home pay with each paycheck? What are your total monthly expenses? Do you have any debt? If you are in debt, then what is the total amount of all of your debt and what are the interest rates for each of your loans? Do you know your net worth? If not, then you can use an app called Personal Capital to track it for you. Your net worth is the sum total of all of your assets minus all of your liabilities. Once you can answer these questions off the top of your head, then you can consider yourself financially sophisticated.

Why is it important to know these things? First and foremost, you want to make sure that your paychecks are accurate. I once received an email notifying me that I would be receiving a larger paycheck than normal because of an error that was made several months before. Had I not received that email, I would never have known any different. Now, I review each paycheck carefully. Thankfully, someone was there to catch that mistake and they had

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



A Message of Struggles

by Samantha Burns – LAPA President

Many generations of women have endured a long fight to achieve equal footing with men. According to Payscale, women earn an average of \$0.82 for every dollar earned by men in 2022. The exact number varies by race. Despite these struggles, many women have gone on to have successful careers as paralegals. For Women's History Month, LAPA would like to highlight a few of the incredible women that have enriched the paralegal profession.

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the integrity to correct it, but this may not always be the case. If you are salaried, then you should know what your gross pay and net pay will be for each paycheck. Obviously, things are a little different for those of you whose income depends largely on commissions or tips since the amounts will vary from month to month.

To fully answer each of these questions, you will need to create a budget. Your budget should account for all of your monthly expenses including rent/mortgage, utilities, car payments, car insurance, gas, phone bill, education, debt payments, Internet bill, cable bill, groceries, food, clothing, entertainment, fitness memberships, and any subscriptions that you have (Netflix, Hulu, Disney+, HBO Max, Amazon, Hello Fresh, etc.). If you are like most people, then you may have an aversion to the word “budget”. Let’s be honest—budgets are not sexy—but they are necessary. Rather than seeing budgets as restrictive, try reframing your thought process to view budgets as wealth building tools that enable you to achieve

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LAPA REPORTER

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THE ADVERTISING AND EDITORIAL DEADLINE IS THE 5TH OF THE MONTH PRIOR TO PUBLICATION.

Articles and news items should be directed to LAPA at editor@lapa.org. Inquiries about making a submission should be directed to LAPA at info@lapa.org.

Inquiries about advertising placement, applications, membership materials and address changes should be directed to LAPA at admin@lapa.org.


Articles will be published as space permits. The Newsletter Committee reserves approval and edit rights on any article submitted.

The Los Angeles Paralegal Association is a non-profit, mutual benefit corporation and is tax exempt within the meaning of section 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code. Membership dues and donations to LAPA are not tax deductible as charitable gifts, but may be deductible as related business expenses. LAPA suggests that you consult your tax advisor in this regard.

your goals and become financially independent. After carefully reviewing your budget, you may even discover that you have several thousand dollars left over at the end of each month after all of your bills have been paid.

Once you create a budget, you can set goals for your savings, investments, retirement, and debt payoff journey. For example, you can determine how much money you should set aside in an emergency fund. Many experts recommend saving three to six months’ worth of expenses in an emergency fund if you have high job security, or nine to twelve months of expenses if you have dependents and you work in a field with less job security. Additionally, you can decide whether you want to just get the company match on your 401(k) or if you want to max it out for the year. Moreover, you can mitigate risks by setting aside enough money to make sure that you are properly insured with the right kinds of insurance to fit your needs (e.g. homeowners/renters, auto, health, dental, vision, term life, long term disability, short term disability, etc.). You can also decide if you would like to tithe to your local church or donate to your favorite non-profit. Finally, you can evaluate your current spending habits and make adjustments as you see fit.

Knowledge is power. Imagine what you could accomplish once you are equipped with the right information. Are you financially sophisticated? Do you want to be?

In 2019, Raja graduated with a B.A. in Political Science from Pepperdine University, where she was involved in Model United Nations and Latino Student Association. In March 2020, Raja graduated from UCLA Extension’s Paralegal Training Program with a Certificate in Paralegal Studies. Currently, Raja works as a Litigation Paralegal for Jacoby & Meyers Attorneys LLP in Westwood, CA. Raja also serves on LAPA’s Board of Directors as Co-Chair of the Litigation Section and Editor of The Reporter. In her spare time, Raja enjoys running and hiking in the Santa Monica Mountains. 



Join one of the nation’s premier paralegal associations:
The Los Angeles Paralegal Association
Please visit www.lapa.org for detailed information about LAPA membership benefits.

MARCH

- 2- **LAPA Executive Board Meeting** – Conf. Call; Contact Samantha Burns at president@lapa.org.
- 4- **LAPA Tutoring Session** – Online via Zoom; 7-8PM.; Go to <https://www.lapa.org/event-4501712> for more information & to register.
- 9- **LAPA Board Meeting** – Contact Samantha Burns at president@lapa.org
- 9- **Employment Law: Bias & Assumption** – Online via Zoom; 6:00PM.; *Featuring: Angel Horacek, Esq.*, Go to <https://www.lapa.org/event-4696447> for more information & to register.
- 19- **Public Counsel's Run For Justice** – Dodger Stadium; 8:00AM.; Go to <https://www.justgiving.com/team/team-lapa> for more information & to donate.
- 24- **SFPA & LAPA Virtual Hapy Hour** – Online via Zoom; 6-8PM.; *Hosted by: Brian Klunk*, Go to <https://www.sfpa.com/event-4727969> for more information & to register.
- 31- **Elimination Bias: A Transgender Perspective** – Online via Zoom; 6:00PM.; *Featuring: Jessie McGrath, Esq.*, Go to <https://www.lapa.org/event-4705376> for more information & to register.

APRIL

- 1- **LAPA Tutoring Session** – Online via Zoom; 7-8PM.; Go to <https://www.lapa.org/event-4501712> for more information & to register.
- 6- **LAPA Executive Board Meeting** – Conf. Call; Contact Samantha Burns at president@lapa.org.
- 13- **LAPA Board Meeting** – Contact Samantha Burns at president@lapa.org


NALA The Paralegal Association Certification Corner


CP Examinees
Effective February 1, 2022, the Knowledge Exam was paused as our testing delivery method is changing. At that point, no one will be able to schedule or take the Knowledge Exam. Our expected date to reopen scheduling for the Knowledge Exam is February 23, 2022. Candidates will be able to begin taking the Knowledge Exam again starting March 16, 2022.

- The February 2022 Skills Exam testing window is open from February 1-28, 2022. If you are eligible to take it, schedule your appointment for February now!
- Be on the lookout for information about Remote Proctoring! You will be able to take the Knowledge Exam in the comfort of your home.

Certification
February certificants! Don't let your **CERTIFICATION** and **DIGITAL BADGE** expire! Enter your CLE and submit the online [Recertification Affidavit and fee](#) or the [PDF Recertification form](#) to cle@nala.org by February 28, 2022.

- Just in case you missed it, last month we sent all Certified Paralegals and Advanced Certified Paralegals an email with [Certification Reminders for 2022](#).
- Not sure about how to earn CLE? Here are a few ways that should help you:
 - **NALA's online education courses** (live webinars, on-demand webinars, self-study courses, and our annual Conference)
 - If you are an Active-type member, you have access to an \$80 gift certificate that may be applied to the online education courses!
 - **Facts & Findings magazines** - Read select articles with the red book icon
 - **Your local NALA Affiliate** – Contact them to find out when their next CLE session is ([click here](#) and scroll down to the List of Current Affiliated Associations for a list).
 - May also review the [Affiliate Sponsored events!](#)
 - **College courses** - CLE credit may be awarded for completion of a college course offered by a college or university that is regionally accredited so long as a grade of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale, or a grade C or above, is achieved.
 - **YouTube** – Enter "continuing legal education" into the search bar and earn your CLE by watching videos. (The presenter(s) must have relevant education, experience, certification, or license(s)).
 - **Your local bar association** may have some continuing legal education sessions that might interest you.






www.nala.org

For more information contact:
Michelle Tabb, ACP,
Terry Wright, ACP, LAPA Board Director
Doug Kuhn, CP
LAPA Paralegal Certification Committee Members

One of the first women who comes to mind is Erin Brockovich, who helped build a multi-million dollar case against the Pacific Gas & Electric Company in 1993. Erin's efforts were immortalized in a movie named after her starring Julia Roberts. Another notable paralegal is Vicki Voisin, who hosts "The Paralegal Voice Podcast", which covers the latest trends in the legal field. Barbara Haubrich-Hass developed a calendaring program called Deadline Direct and created "The California Litigator", which serves as a valuable resource to all who work in the personal injury field. Jaime Collins founded another well-known blog called "The Paralegal Society", which offers readers valuable career advice as well as a sense of camaraderie. Jeannie S. Johnston created a job site known as Paralegal Gateway, Inc. Several famous celebrities also began their careers as paralegals, including Ellen DeGeneres.

We are in awe at what these women have accomplished in such a short amount of time as this is still a relatively new profession. They have helped us navigate every step of our careers by overseeing paralegal training programs, advertising job openings, providing legal resources, and serving as role models. We honor them by continuing to better ourselves and our profession. We are excited to see what advances the next generation of women will make in our profession.

Samantha Burns earned her Paralegal Studies degree from Mt. San Antonio College. She is currently working as a litigation paralegal at Marjija Law Office. Though born totally deaf, Samantha effectively navigates the hearing world. Samantha is also a commissioned Notary Public. She is attempting to take her CP exam next year and aiming to specialize in litigation, discovery, e-discovery, and trial preparation. She does almost every field of law but focuses on civil litigation and personal injury. 



Please join LAPA for its first Pro Bono and Community Services event of 2022,
live and in-person!

BIG 5K RUN FOR JUSTICE with Public Counsel



LAPA is excited to collaborate with Public Counsel, as the organization prepares for its “Run for Justice” in conjunction with the LA Marathon and LA Big 5k. The Big 5K Run for Justice will take place on **Saturday, March 19, 2022** at 8:00 am at Dodger Stadium, with the LA Marathon and Charity Challenge Half Marathon following on March 20, 2022.

Please join Team LAPA by registering at: <https://runforjustice2022.blackbaud-sites.com/>.

If you are unable to attend the Run for Justice, but would like to make a donation to Team LAPA, please visit: https://www.justgiving.com/team/team-lapa?utm_source=Sharethis&utm_medium=team&utm_content=team-lapa&utm_campaign=pfp-email&utm_term=8dbbb1c775224ebba7b6f657f96de1e3 to make a donation today!

Thank you in advance for your consideration.
LAPA looks forward to seeing you at the Big 5K Run for Justice!

Employers, Find Quality Talent **TODAY!**



The Los Angeles Paralegal Association's Career Center
is the leading source for attracting top talent

- > POST JOBS
- > RECEIVE RESUMES VIA EMAIL
- > SCREEN RESUMES
- > HIRE QUALIFIED TALENT

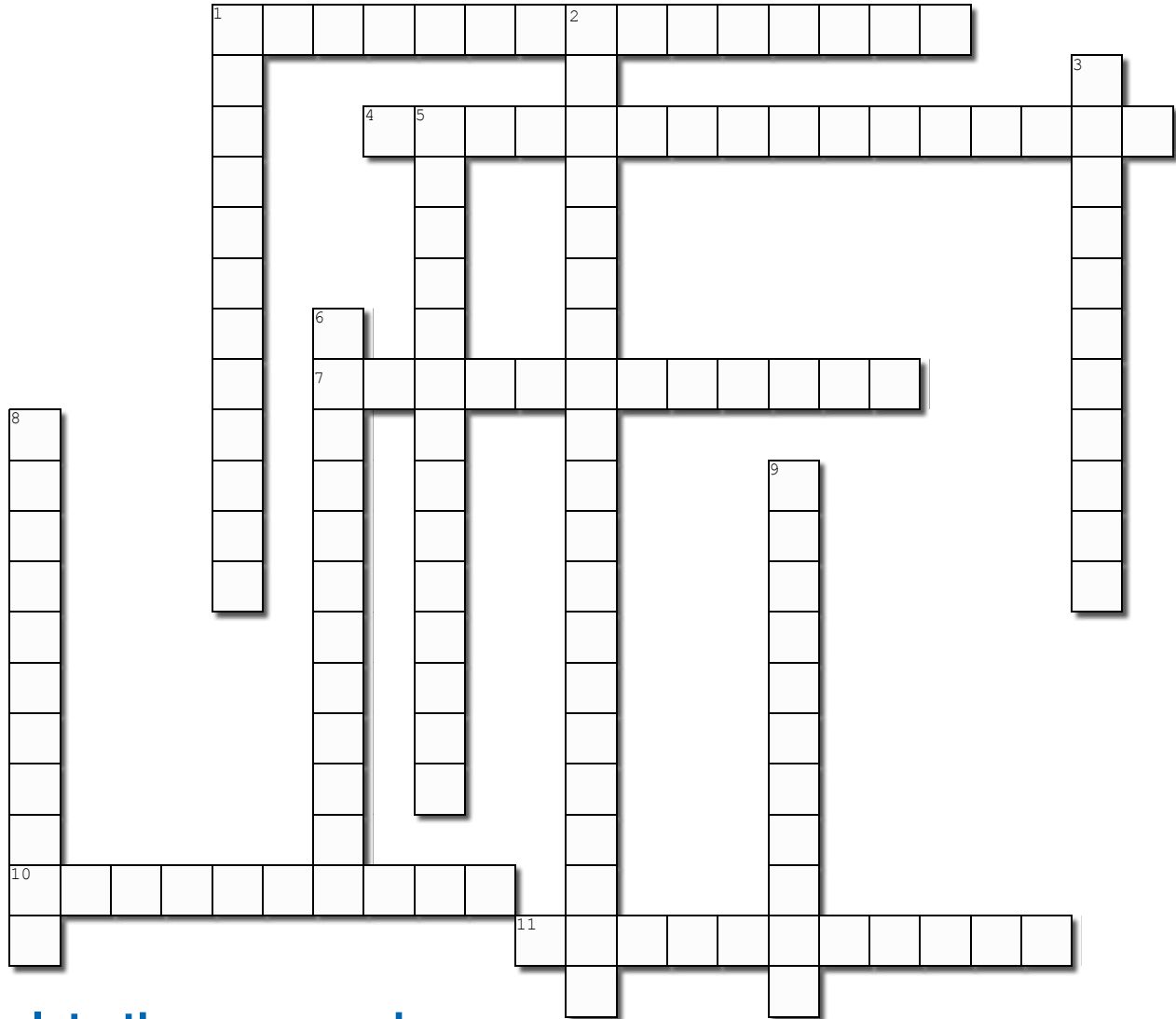


www.lapa.org



ASSOCIATION
CAREER NETWORK

March : Women's History Month Crossword Puzzle



Complete the crossword puzzle below and meet some amazing women!

ACROSS:

- Advocate for the rights of women and African Americans in the late 1840's.
- In 2012, at the age of 15, she publicly spoke out on women's rights to education in Pakistan.
- The first person ever to publish an algorithm intended for a computer.
- Teenage memoirist who had her diary published after World War II.
- Writer of now classic novels, such as *Pride and Prejudice*.

DOWN:

- Iranian lawyer, human rights activist, and the first female judge in Iran.
- The first elected woman head of state in Africa, when she became president of Liberia.
- She coined the term radioactivity and developed a portable x-ray machine.
- An American aviator who became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic.
- The first woman of color appointed to a tenured professorship at Harvard Law School.
- The first person to speak on human trafficking to the United Nations Security Council.
- Australia's first ever female member of parliament and a fierce women's rights activist.

ANSWER KEY FOUND ON PAGE 8



Looking Forward During COVID-19

by Deena Bowman

With the third year of the pandemic upon us, our means of enjoying recreational pursuits have undoubtedly been altered. Yet, simple pleasures can still be experienced with a few pivots and planning.



CHECK OUT SOME CRAFTY WOMEN AT THE RENEGADE CRAFT FAIR

On Saturday, March 26 and Sunday, March 27, from 11 am - 5 pm, visit the Renegade Craft fair at the Los Angeles State Historic Park. Held two times a year, this craft show features makers both local and out of state. For more information, see <https://www.renegadecraft.com/>.

DISCLAIMER

We have had reports of phishing emails being sent by a scammer posing as various members from our Board of Directors. The emails are not actually from any of our board members and you can verify this by looking at the sender's email address. If you receive an email from someone and they ask you to complete a task discretely or they ask you to send a gift card to them, please block the contact and report the email as spam. Our board members will never solicit you for gift cards. 🏠



WOMEN HELPING WOMEN DURING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Women for Women International was created in 1993 with the goal of investing where inequality is the greatest by helping women who are forgotten—the women survivors of war and conflict. The non-profit helps them learn the skills they need to rebuild their families and communities. To make a donation, especially during this time of war in the Ukraine, go to <https://www.womenforwomen.org/> and give a gift of hope.



DINE AMIDST A CREATIVE PLANT-FILLED CAFE

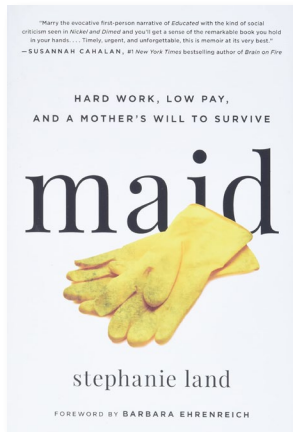
Enjoy her unique approach to Japanese comfort food at one of L.A. chef Yuko Watanabe's three restaurants: Yuko Kitchen (<http://www.yukokitchen.com/menu-3>) in Mid-Wilshire, Yuko Curry (<http://www.yukokitchen.com/soup-bar-menu>) in downtown L.A., and Yuko Kitchen: DTLA (<http://www.yukokitchen.com/wilshire-menu>), a few doors down. All three locations feature her colorful handpainted murals amidst a jungle oasis. Try the homebaked matcha chocolate chip cookies washed down with Watanabe's famous mint lemonade and marvel at the peaceful profusion of surrounding greenery.

Deena Bowman is currently a Senior Legal Analyst at the State Compensation Insurance Fund in Monterey Park, California. Deena earned her paralegal certificate from the University of West Los Angeles. She was a former Director at Large with LAPA. 🏠

LAPA READING CORNER

A recurring column that reviews books focusing on voices and subjects that reflect the diversity of the human experience

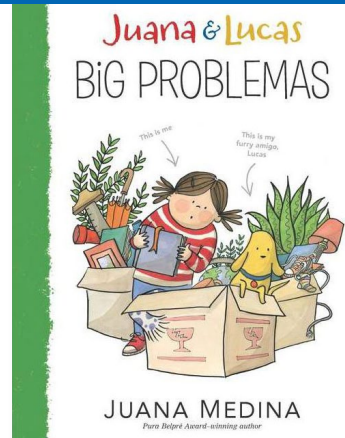
by Deena Bowman



Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive by Stephanie Land

Stephanie Land's memoir *Maid* is many things. It is a testimony to a mother's creative and resilient spirit while raising her daughter at the poverty line. Land's story also reveals how elusive the American Dream is to the working poor who must contend with government bureaucracy more inclined to hinder than help our less fortunate citizens. In the end, *Maid* lets us into the lives of America's overburdened and underpaid domestic workers, who provide a vital service that many of us take for granted.

2019, 273 Pages. Hachette Books. \$17.99 Paperback. Also available for checkout from the Los Angeles Public Library in book and book on CD.



Juana & Lucas Big Problemas by Juana Medina

Juana Medina's charming children's book, *Big Problemas*, portrays a common family dilemma:

how does a child navigate changes in his or her life? In this story, Juana and her doggy *amigo*, Lucas, are living a life that according to Juana, "is just about perfect." Then one day, Juana's *Mami* changes her hair and starts singing more *canciones*. Without giving away the "big problem, *Mami* has a new friend and Juana isn't so sure how feels about him.

2019, 90 Pages. Candlewick Press. \$14.99 Hardcover. Also available for checkout from the Los Angeles Public Library in book form.

Deena Bowman is currently a Senior Legal Analyst at the State Compensation Insurance Fund in Monterey Park, California. Deena earned her paralegal certificate from the University of West Los Angeles. She was a former Director at Large with LAPA.

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteer for LAPA!

Have you been thinking of getting involved with your local paralegal association? Do you want to help shape the future the Los Angeles Paralegal Association (LAPA)? If so, then start by joining a LAPA committee! Participating in or leading a LAPA committee is the best way to create meaningful change in our association. When you volunteer with us, you can make an impact on your community by brainstorming new events to add and fostering relationships between LAPA and local schools and paralegal programs.

If you want to learn more about the different committees LAPA has, please go to this link: <https://www.lapa.org/committees>. If you are interested in becoming a committee member for one or more committees, please email admin@lapa.org or president@lapa.org.

Volunteer for

October Conference Committee

School Liaison Committee

Bylaw and Policy Committee

Marketing Committee

...and more!

Join LAPA's Mentorship Program

by Francisco Gutierrez – LAPA VP Membership & Policy

Here at LAPA, we are kicking off 2022 by jump starting our new Mentorship Program! Any active LAPA member can apply to serve as a mentor. LAPA's mentorship program will start this month and will be accepting applications until **March 31st, 2022**. This one year commitment will help paralegal students, graduates, and working paralegals gain career guidance, advice, and skills to help them reach their full potential.

If you are an active LAPA member that is interested in being part of LAPA's first cohort, please email Francisco Gutierrez, LAPA VP of Membership and Policy, for an application and more details at fgutierrez0731@gmail.com or LAPA Admin, Tracey Booth, at admin@lapa.org.

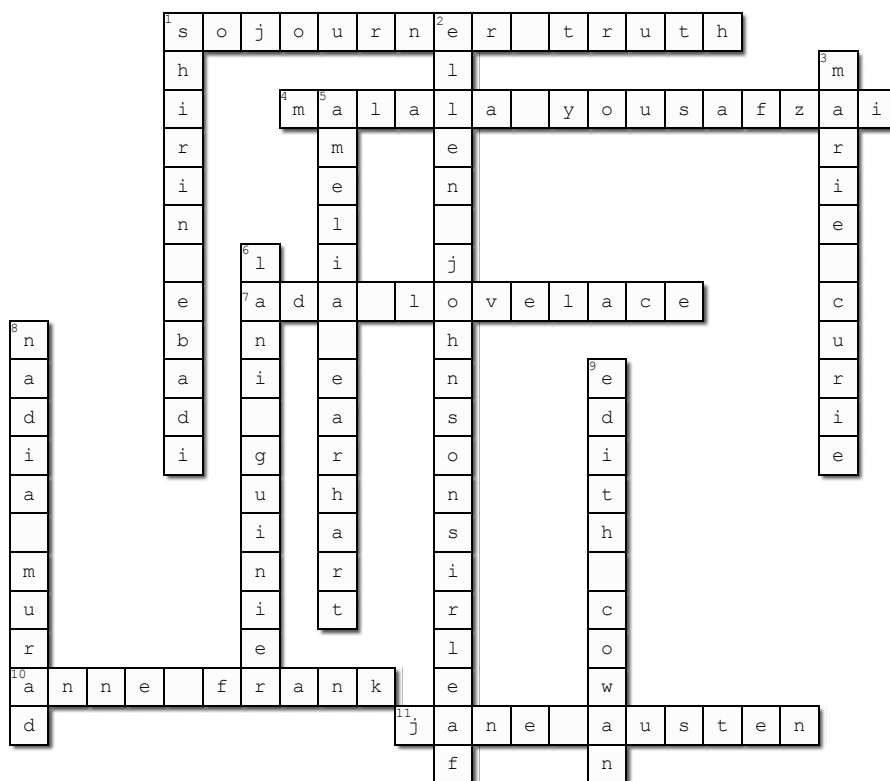
Are you an experienced working paralegal and active LAPA member that wants to give back to your profession? If so, we are excited to have you join LAPA's Mentorship Program as a mentor! Help the next generation of paralegals become the best



they can be through partnership and guidance. Applications are due **March 31st, 2022**.

If interested in becoming a mentor, please email either Tracey Booth at admin@lapa.org or Francisco Gutierrez at fgutierrez0731@gmail.com for an application and more details. [📧](#)

LAPA'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE - cont. from page 5



ANSWER KEY

ACROSS

1. Sojourner Truth
4. Malala Yousafzai
7. Ada Lovelace
10. Anne Frank
11. Jane Austen

DOWN

1. Shirin Ebadi
2. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf
3. Marie Curie
5. Amelia Earhart
6. Lani Guinier
8. Nadia Murad
9. Edith Cowan



Be a Part of the LAPA Newsletter

- Book Reviews • Write Legal Articles
- Advertise Your Business • New Legal World Trends
- Tell Us About Recent Events and More!

Visit: <https://www.lapa.org/news> to see previous publications
 Questions or Submissions please send to Raja Gonzalez • rajagonzalez1@gmail.com
 Deadline to submit Articles or Ads is 03/02/2022 by 9pm

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Jackie Van Dyke, MPS, CP®
Certified Paralegal®
Professor of Paralegal Studies



LAPA TUTORING

The First Friday of Month at 7pm

Register now via www.lapa.org

Get the homework help you need for your paralegal courses!

GO TO LAPA.ORG FOR INFO

LAPA MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Seeking mentors to up and coming legal students, paralegals, and more!

PARALEGALS ON FIRE!

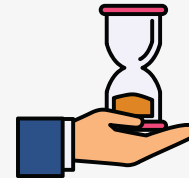


WITH ANN PEARSON

Child Welfare in Los Angeles County



As of January 2021, there are 38,243 children/youth in the Los Angeles Child Welfare System.



Most children are in the child welfare system for about 2+ years.

Black & Hispanic children encompass

81.5%

of children/youth in care.

High turnover rates in child welfare professions create gaps in knowledge and care, and limit youths' access to consistent and appropriate supports.



In an overwhelmed system, L.A. County professionals face the daunting task of making complex, life-changing decisions about a child/youth's overall well-being.

The Solution? The Essential History Program!

The Essential History Program aims to help social workers, attorneys and judges make trauma-informed decisions about the young people they serve. Through this program, a CASA volunteer reviews the entirety of a child/youth's case file and produces an objective and comprehensive report that highlights key historical events for the young person while in the system.



Program Goals

- Reduce time youth is in the child welfare system
- Improve outcomes for youth in the areas such as: permanency, mental health, education and social supports
- Ease changes/transitions for service providers
- Reduce burnout and compassion fatigue for child welfare professionals
- Consolidate information to observe data trends in the child welfare system
- Create systematic change towards healthier and equitable systems

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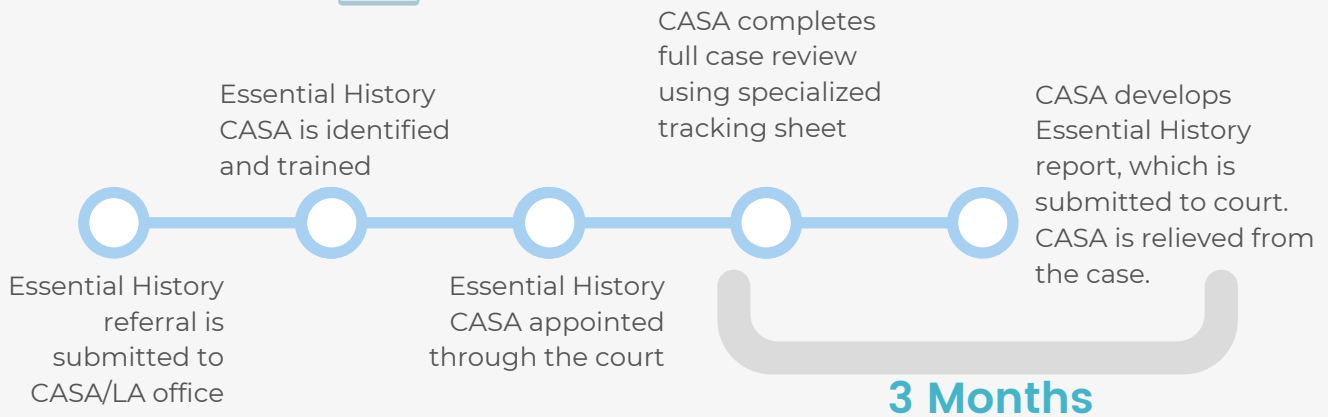
Essential History Program



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Process & Timeline



The Report

Objective & Neutral Language

Information is retrieved from case documents with no additional bias/interpretation.

Strengths-Based

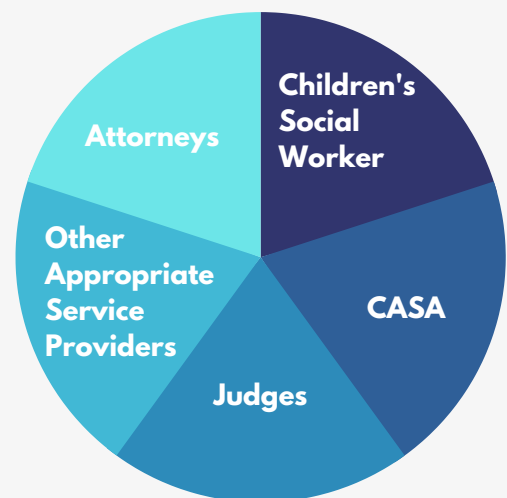
Focus is kept on not creating a negative perception of the youth

Report Content

Report Covers Risk & Protective Factors in the areas of:

- Permanency
- Physical Health
- Mental Health
- Education
- Family & Social Supports

Who Can Access the Report?



Questions?

essentialhistory@casala.org
Visit Us! www.casala.org



The Los Angeles Paralegal Association (LAPA) reflects the diverse nature of Southern California, and we strive to be as inclusive as possible. As an organization of legal professionals, we hold the ideals of equality and justice in the highest regard. The injustices experienced by the communities of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color are a stark reminder that equality and justice are ideas that have yet to reach fruition in this country. We, as a nation, must do better. LAPA stands in solidarity with the families and friends of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery. It is our sincerest desire to see justice is done as the law requires for their tragic deaths.

Diversity and inclusion are LAPA's initiative for 2020. We hold firm in striving to be more inclusive and diverse to reflect the community that we serve and represent. Moreover, LAPA will continue to steadfastly advocate and create initiatives to prepare and support our paralegals.



Housing + Community Investment Department

Attention: City of L.A. Tenants & Landlords

**Coronavirus: What You Need to Know
about L.A.'s *Eviction Protections*
visit: hcidla.lacity.org**





FREE COVID-19 TESTING

Now available to all Los Angeles residents.
Get more information and sign up:
Coronavirus.LACity.org/Testing

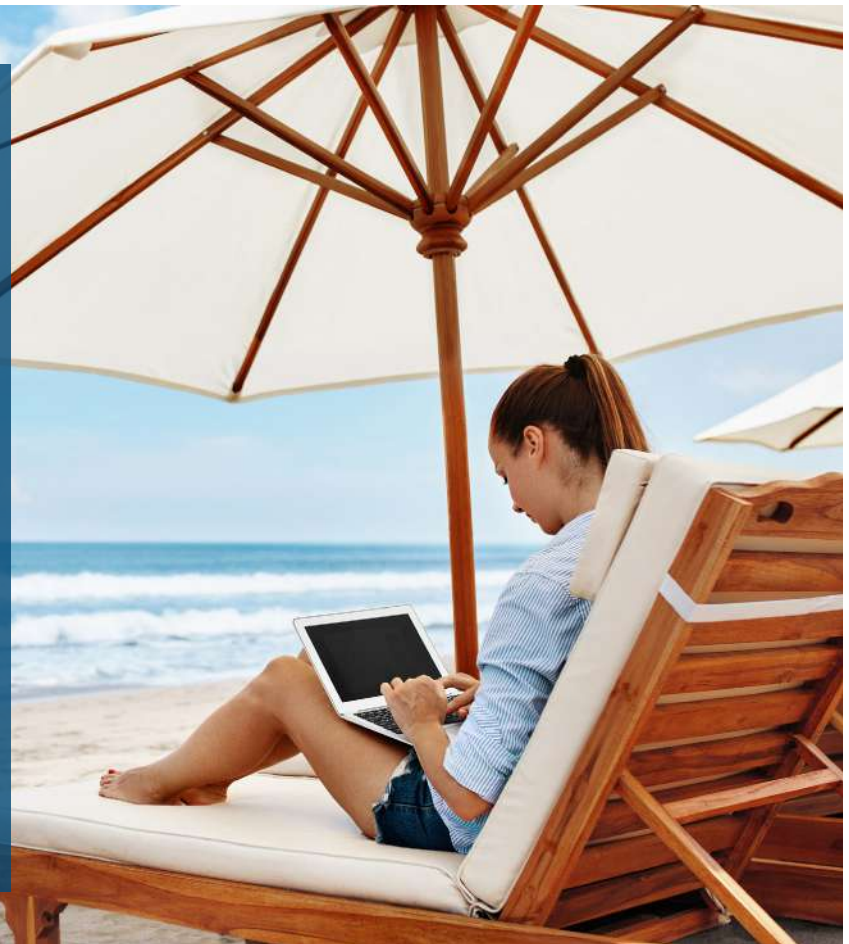
L.A. CARES Corps

Connecting L.A. Businesses to Federal SBA Loans during COVID-19

Attention
LAPA Voting Members

FREELANCE PARALEGAL LISTING

Available Online Now
for Voting Members Only
\$60.00 for Six Months



Coping with Stress During Infectious Disease Outbreaks that require social distancing

The Department of Mental Health supports the wellbeing of our County family, friends and colleagues. When you hear, read, or watch news about an outbreak of an infectious disease, you may feel anxious and show signs of stress. These signs of stress are normal. During an infectious disease outbreak, care for your own physical and mental health and reach out in kindness to those affected by the situation.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP COPE WITH EMOTIONAL DISTRESS

1. Manage Your Stress

- Stay informed. Refer to credible sources for updates on the local situation.
- Stay focused on your personal strengths.
- Maintain a routine.
- Make time to relax and rest.

2. Be Informed and Inform Your Family

- Become familiar with local medical and mental health resources in your community.
- Avoid sharing unconfirmed news about the infectious disease to avoid creating unnecessary fear and panic.
- Give honest age-appropriate information to children and remember to stay calm; children often feel what you feel.

3. Connect with Your Community online or through the phone

- Keep contact with family and friends through social messaging or through phone calls
- Join community and/or faith group online chat groups
- Accept help from family, friends, co-workers and clergy.
- Reach out to neighbors and friends with special needs who may need your help.

4. Reach Out and Help while maintaining necessary social distancing guidelines

- If you know someone affected by the outbreak, call them to see how they are doing, and remember to keep their confidentiality.
- Consider an act of kindness for those who have been asked to practice social distancing, such as having a meal delivered

5. Be Sensitive

- Avoid blaming anyone or assuming someone has the disease because of the way they look or where they or their families come from.
- An infectious disease is not connected to any racial or ethnic group; speak up in kindness when you hear false rumors or negative stereotypes that foster racism and xenophobia.

Consider seeking professional help if you or a loved one is having difficulty coping.



Be Proactive!

1. Stay informed with information from credible sources.
2. Stay connected with friends, family, and community groups.
3. Keep a positive attitude and outlook.

Resources

Los Angeles County
Department of Mental Health
Access Center 24/7 Helpline
(800) 854-7771
(562) 651-2549 TDD/TTY
<https://dmh.lacounty.gov>

Los Angeles County
Department of Public Health:
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/>
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MEMORANDUM

Date

March 2, 2022

Action Requested

Please Review

To

Presiding Judges of the Superior Courts
Court Executive Officers of the Superior
Courts

Deadline

N/A

From

Hon. Marsha G. Slough, Chair, Executive and
Planning Committee
Hon. David M. Rubin, Chair, Judicial Branch
Budget Committee and Litigation
Management Committee
Hon. Kyle S. Brodie, Chair, Technology
Committee
Hon. Marla O. Anderson, Chair, Legislation
Committee
Hon. Carin Fujisaki, Chair, Rules Committee

Contact

Ms. Shelley Curran
Chief Policy and Research Officer
415-865-4013 phone
Shelley.Curran@jud.ca.gov

Subject

Sunsetting of Emergency Rules Related to
COVID-19

We write to inform you of important changes to statewide emergency rules and statewide emergency orders that will go into effect in the coming months. At the March 11, 2022, meeting, we will recommend that the Judicial Council amend all statewide emergency rules to sunset on June 30, 2022. Furthermore, Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye has informed us that she intends to rescind all the provisions in her statewide emergency orders effective April 30, 2022.

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Court Executive Officers of the Superior Courts
March 2, 2022
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On March 4, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency in response to the spread of COVID-19 in California. Continuing to respond to the crisis and assist the courts, Governor Newsom on March 27, 2020, issued Executive Order N-38-20, which, among other things, gave the Judicial Council of California and its Chairperson, the Chief Justice of California, the authority to take actions necessary to maintain access to the essential operations of California's court system while protecting the health and safety of California residents.

Over the course of several months in 2020, the Judicial Council adopted 13 emergency rules and the Chief Justice signed four statewide emergency orders under her constitutional and other legal authority, including the authority granted in the executive order. This was in addition to the approximately 700 individual court emergency orders she signed under Government Code section 68115.

The Judicial Council and its Chairperson have already repealed, sunsetted, or rescinded many of these actions as the courts and public adapted to changes resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and consistent with the intent that they were temporary and intended to address the impact of the pandemic.

On February 17, 2022, Governor Newsom announced a new plan for the state as we move from the pandemic phase of COVID-19 to a new endemic phase. The next week, on February 25, 2022, Governor Newsom signed Executive Order N-04-22, which states that many executive orders that Governor Newsom issued in response to the COVID-19 pandemic will expire between February 25, 2022 and June 30, 2022. Some expired that day, others will expire on March 31, 2022, and still others will expire on June 30, 2022. Executive Order N-38-20 is among the last group of these executive orders, which will expire on June 30, 2022. These events mark an important and hopeful change as the residents and government of our state transition to a semblance of pre-COVID-19 California.

To ensure timely access to justice for all Californians, and in alignment with the Governor's recent actions, we write to inform you that we will recommend to the Judicial Council that it act at its March 11, 2022, meeting to sunset the emergency rules that are still in effect. This action responds to the request by the Chief Justice that we develop and propose to the Judicial Council a plan for retiring any emergency rules that are still in effect.

Specifically, our recommendation will be that the following rules sunset on June 30, 2022:

- Emergency rule 3 (Remote technology in criminal proceedings)
- Emergency rule 5 (Criminal appearance waivers)
- Emergency rule 6 (Juvenile dependency proceedings)

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- Emergency rule 7 (Juvenile delinquency proceedings)
- Emergency rule 8 (Temporary restraining or protective orders)
- Emergency rule 9 (Tolling of statutes of limitations for civil causes of action)
- Emergency rule 10 (Extensions of time in which to bring a civil action to trial)
- Emergency rule 13 (Effective date for requests to modify support)

We believe it is important to continue addressing the criminal case backlog, maintaining continuity of operations, and improving efficiencies in criminal cases. Accordingly, we will pursue legislation that authorizes remote appearances in criminal matters with the consent of the defendant.

Additionally, the Chief Justice has informed us that she intends to rescind all the provisions in her statewide emergency orders that still remain in effect. The following orders will be rescinded as of April 30, 2022:

- The extension of time for holding preliminary examinations;
- The extension of time to bring a civil action to trial;
- The waiver of certain requirements to adopt local rules related to the pandemic; and
- The suspension of any California Rules of Court to the extent the rules prevented a court from using technology to conduct proceedings and operations remotely.

We write to you now understanding that it will take time for the courts to respond and adjust to these changes. Thank you again for your tireless commitment to providing Californians access to justice during these extraordinary times.

cc: Hon. Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye, Chief Justice of California
Mr. Martin Hoshino, Administrative Director, Judicial Council
Ms. Millicent Tidwell, Chief Deputy Director, Judicial Council
Mr. Robert Oyung, Chief Operating Officer, Judicial Council
Mr. John Wordlaw, Chief Administrative Officer, Judicial Council
Mr. Cory Jaspersen, Director, Governmental Affairs
Ms. Deborah Brown, Director, Legal Services, Judicial Council
Ms. Laura Speed, Director, Leadership Support Services

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LAPA has many opportunities for meeting and connecting with your paralegal colleagues and other legal industry professionals. Such opportunities include seminar and networking events based on geographical locations such as Downtown (Los Angeles), South Bay, West L.A., the San Fernando Valley, Santa Clarita, and more. LAPA also provides educational seminars in various legal specialties, including, but not limited to, Litigation, Probate Law, Intellectual Property Law, Corporate Law, Immigration Law, and Ethics. Additionally, with the support of our legal industry partners, LAPA also hosts other networking and charitable events and mixers. Your participation in LAPA is encouraged, so be sure to reach out to a LAPA Section or Committee Chair, develop your leadership and networking skills, and make LAPA an even better association.

Vital Savings

This benefit provides LAPA members a discount program for dental and vision services, long term care, as well as many pharmaceuticals. LAPA has been able to obtain special pricing of Vital Savings discount cards through Aetna. By using the discount cards and Aetna approved providers, LAPA members can save dramatically on the services provided by these professionals. For more information, please visit LAPA's website, www.lapa.org.

Working Advantage

LAPA members may join a program that offers discounts up to 60% on tickets, travel, shopping, and more. LAPA helps you save money on items from clothing to theater tickets to flowers. This benefit is available by logging onto the LAPA website "Members Only" section.

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LAPA has teamed with UIP - United Insurance Partners - to bring LAPA members the opportunity to purchase health, dental, and/or vision insurance. When you access UIP through the link provided on the Benefits webpage, you will find an array of insurance products available for you to purchase with companies such as Blue Cross, Aetna, and many other top insurance companies. Please visit LAPA's website, www.lapa.org, for more information.

NALA Affiliation

LAPA is an affiliated member of the National Association of Legal Assistants. NALA is the nation's leading professional association for paralegals. As a member of an affiliated association, the initiation fee for individual membership in NALA is waived for LAPA members. NALA boasts some of its own benefits. Access its NALA Campus Live for online continuing legal education, self-study courses, and preparation for the CLA/CP Exam. Its annual educational convention in July allows you to expand your network beyond your state's borders as you network with other paralegals from around the country, attend educational institutes and member related activities.

Freelance/Contract Paralegal Listing

LAPA provides a "Freelance Paralegals" section on its website to assist LAPA members who are freelance, contract, or independent paralegals, as defined by California Business and Professions Code Section 6450. For a nominal fee of \$60, you can post your contact information on LAPA's website for six months. You can sign up online through the Members Only section of the website.

Membership Database

Available only to LAPA members, the Membership Database is a valuable tool in locating other paralegals or legal professionals with whom you have worked or networked. The Membership Database also provides up-to-date contact information as well as members' legal specialties and geographical areas.

Credit Union

LAPA members are eligible to join Southland Credit Union. Southland Credit Union, with over \$435 million in assets, offers an online presence, a new full-service branch in downtown Los Angeles, an upgraded ATM network and five new proprietary ATMs. Southland Credit Union has expanded its product line by introducing a new high-yielding certificate of deposit, a Rewards Plus program and a market-leading high interest yielding checking account. Southland Credit Union prides itself on outstanding service to its members and has recently earned a 95 percent Member Service satisfaction rating.

Lorman Education

LAPA is dedicated to providing efficient and readily-available continuing education opportunities that meet the needs of our members and enhance their skills, knowledge, and competencies. LAPA has partnered with Lorman Education to provide continuing education in a variety of topic areas. LAPA members receive a 20% discount on all orders.





Bet Tzedek Needs **YOUR** Help!

Intake Services Volunteers Sought

Bet Tzedek's Intake Services volunteers conduct pre-screening assessments in order to determine the appropriate course of action for individuals who call seeking legal assistance. Our volunteers are often the first contact our community has with our organization, and we rely on our volunteers to handle a high volume of calls from a diverse population of individuals with a broad range of needs.

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Under attorney supervision, volunteers develop foundational legal skills, including learning to spot legal issues; to conduct telephone interviews with potential clients dealing with challenging, stressful situations; determining what information provided by the caller is relevant; and to begin to develop judgment of potential cases in a wide array of legal areas. Volunteering with Intake Services also provides first-hand knowledge of the landscape of legal services available in Los Angeles County and exposure to and understanding of the issues faced by the communities we serve.

Commitment: 40+ hours. During the school year, we ask that volunteers commit to working in the Intake Center for 8-10 hours/week for 8-10 weeks. During certain periods, such as winter break, we may be able to accommodate schedules that include a higher number of hours per week for fewer weeks. Work must be completed during normal business hours (M-F, 9am-5pm).

To Apply: Email volunteer@bettzedek.org or call (323) 549-5839 with any questions. Spanish language skills are highly preferred, but not required.

WELCOME NEW & RENEWING LAPA MEMBERS

The following is a listing of legal professionals and paralegal students who joined or renewed their membership in Los Angeles Paralegal Association within the last 30 days. The employer and work telephone number also are included when available. If any information is incorrect, please fax corrections to 866-460-0506, call LAPA at 866-626-LAPA or e-mail updates to info@lapa.org.

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Discount program information is subject to change.

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