East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC) is one of the largest providers of free legal services in the Bay Area, serving 4,000 clients annually. We increase economic mobility for families by utilizing a three-pronged approach: (1) holistic legal services, (2) community-centered policy advocacy, and robust clinical education to over 100 law students a year.

MISSION We seek to promote justice and build a community that is more secure, productive, healthy, and hopeful.

VISION We are working to create a California where Black and brown families are positioned to realize thriving, healthy, and dignified lives by:
- Eliminating the racial and gender wealth gap;
- Protecting the stability and security of families; and
- Expanding the public social safety net.

EBCLC’S PROGRAMS
EBCLC was founded in 1988 by Berkeley Law students to provide free legal services for Alameda County residents with low income and clinical education for law and social work students across 8 programs:

CONSUMER JUSTICE PROGRAM Releases clients from untenable debt from student loans, credit cards, and payday lenders, & settlement stakeholders. In FY23, our Consumer Justice Program provided 590 services to 556 unique clients.

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC JUSTICE PROGRAM Builds family wealth through intensive business development and legal services to entrepreneurs and small business owners with low income.

HOUSING PROGRAM Stabilizes housing for families through eviction defense services, rent board petitions, and subsidized housing hearings.

IMMIGRATION PROGRAM Keeps families together by providing services for deportation defense, asylum, naturalization, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), and U and T visas for victims of crime and trafficking.

CLEAN SLATE PROGRAM Removes barriers to employment & immigration for formerly incarcerated people through record remedies and provides legal services to our unhoused community members. In FY23, our Clean Slate Program provided 982 services to 810 unique clients.

EDUCATION DEFENSE & JUSTICE FOR YOUTH PROGRAM Helps children stay in their school and family communities via juvenile defense, school expulsion defense, and special education advocacy.

HEALTH & WELFARE PROGRAM Maximizes family access to public benefits (unemployment, nutrition) and healthcare via Medical-Legal Partnerships at hospitals and community clinics.

SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM Provides families with ongoing case management, crisis intervention, systems navigation, advocacy and referrals.

EBCLC’S CLINICAL PROGRAM
For the past 35+ years, EBCLC has offered one of the most comprehensive and established clinical legal education programs to law students here in the Bay Area. During this time, we have trained thousands of students in movement lawyering and have shaped how they approach and practice legal advocacy in their communities. EBCLC’s law students play a critical role in implementing our holistic legal services, including engaging in movement lawyering to support our clients in each of our eight practices.

“[I] can truly say that EBCLC has shaped me as a future lawyer. My clinic work has given me invaluable knowledge and skills—about the nuts and bolts of community lawyering; about trauma-informed and client-centered services; and about self-care and setting boundaries to make a long-term career in direct services feel sustainable.”

Maya Fegan,
Class of 2023, Health and Welfare Clinic