



2022

Asian Family Support Services of Austin Impact Report

Celebrating our 30th Anniversary



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24-Hour Hotline
877-281-8371

Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

In 2022, we celebrated AFSSA's 30th year serving Asian and immigrant communities. A generation has grown up with AFSSA, and we have grown with them. Our founders called their organization to help Asian survivors of violence SAHELI – a Hindi word meaning female friend – as that is what the community needed. These women created a legacy of meaningful work that has developed into a trusted resource for Central Texas survivors of violence. They asked the question, what would happen if Asian women were centered in conversations of rights and liberation? In doing so, they raised the bar for and took the first steps towards ending violence for Asian and immigrant people in Central Texas.

Today, we honor their legacy by continuing to raise that bar. AFSSA now serves a 10 county area, and we strive to uplift the voices of those who are still marginalized. From the beginning, our purpose has remained the same – to break the cycle of violence in Asian communities. Why? Because we believe in a world where everyone is free to create the life they dream, free from abuse and the fear of psychological and physical harm. We believe in a world where power and control are shared and negotiated, where we are truly free to have our bodies, hearts, and minds safe and autonomous.

Together, we create this world. You are doing your part. The walls of AFSSA are you; you hold up our house. When we look back on 30 years of our three core actions - Educate, Advocate, Empower - I am truly grateful for all the support and hope you have given. You are leaving a legacy as we look forward to all the things we can do together. Here's to 30 more years!

Thank you,



Darlene Lanham
Executive Director
Asian Family Support Services of Austin



Celebrating our 30th Anniversary

In 2022, Asian Family Support Services of Austin (formerly Saheli) celebrated 30 years of service. Here are some highlights from this monumental year!



1. 30th Anniversary Founders Event

In September, supporters from across three decades shared their memories, naturally, over chai and samosas. Veena Gondhalekar and Kalpana Sutaria were honored with Lifetime Achievement awards for their foundational work in the movement to end domestic violence in Asian and immigrant communities.

2. Unveiled our 30 Year Logo

This logo includes the original Saheli logo, as well as the AFSSA lotus. It represents the progress we have made from a volunteer run organization serving South Asian survivors to a pan-Asian organization that provides professional social services and essential community supports in a 10-county area.



30
years



3. Honored our Past and Looked to the Future at the Silk Road Gala

What a joy it was to celebrate with everyone this past November at the 2022 Silk Road Gala! We are grateful for Lesley Varghese and Dr. Harry Thomas for their unparalleled leadership, as well as the entire gala committee. Thanks goes out as well to Hema Muller and Vyasara Ganesan, our two emcees who made the evening as outstanding as they are. We are eternally grateful to have a community so dedicated to supporting the movement to end domestic and sexual violence.

2022 Silk Road Committee

Lesley Varghese and
Dr. Harry Thomas | Co-Chairs

Vandana Agarawal · Zeena Angadicheril ·
Joy Authur · Ashley Cheng · Ronald Cheng ·
Heidi Gerbracht · Samira Ghosh · Suchitra
Gururaj · Shaillee Juneja · Ketan Kharod ·
Anita Lakshman · Charles Lu · Shaku
Selvakumar · Pooja Sethi · Geeta Shah ·
Jinny Suh · Jocelyn Tau · Sherine Thomas ·
Jolsna John Thomas · Marshall Thompson ·
Helen Wormington · Alice Yi · Paul Yin



24-Hour Hotline
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2022 Impact Report

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The AFSSA Difference

Our Mission

is to promote abuse-free Asian communities through advocacy, support, awareness, and access to social services.

Our Vision

is a world where every Asian and immigrant person is free from fear of physical or psychological harm.

What?

Prevention, Education, and Services for Survivors of Violence.

How?

Educate, Advocate, Empower.

Free, Confidential, Culturally Informed Services

AFSSA's direct services and community education teams provide an array of services to our clients and community to meet their diverse needs. Here are some of our highlights.



24/7 In-Language Hotline



"Know Your Rights" Sessions



Crisis and Safety Planning



In-Language Services Navigation



Culturally Relevant Case Advocacy



School Based Prevention Programs



Transitional Housing



Trainings for Law Enforcement and Social Service Providers

Our Values

Prevent

We help each other, our clients, and the community act proactively to prevent violence by challenging and changing norms.

Advocate

Empower self-advocacy by providing access to services and resources.

Respond

Act as a stabilizing force in our ever-evolving environment

Transform

Challenge ourselves and others to change the way we feel, think, and act.

"Are we doing our **PART?**" is not a slogan at AFSSA — it is our measure of success in everything we do.

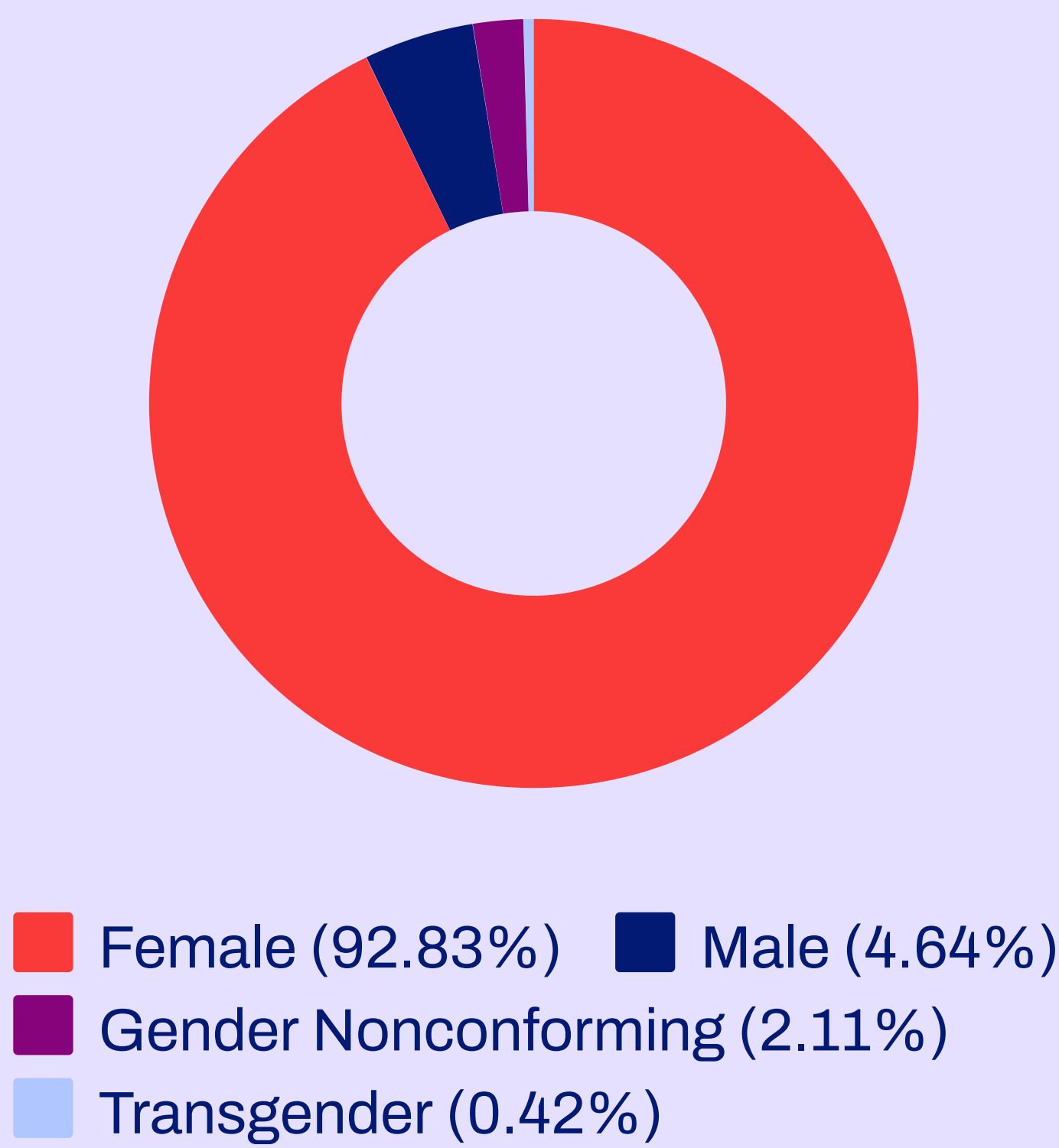
Empowerment

AFSSA's direct services team proudly serves clients pursuing an array of needs. Whether a client is seeking emotional support during a crisis or requesting referrals to attorneys to represent them in a divorce, our client advocates are fiercely advocating for their clients in the community. AFSSA is survivor-led and survivor-centered. Our staff speak 15 different languages and many come from our local Asian community. For survivors of violence, AFSSA is a place that can be trusted to understand their lives and their situations.

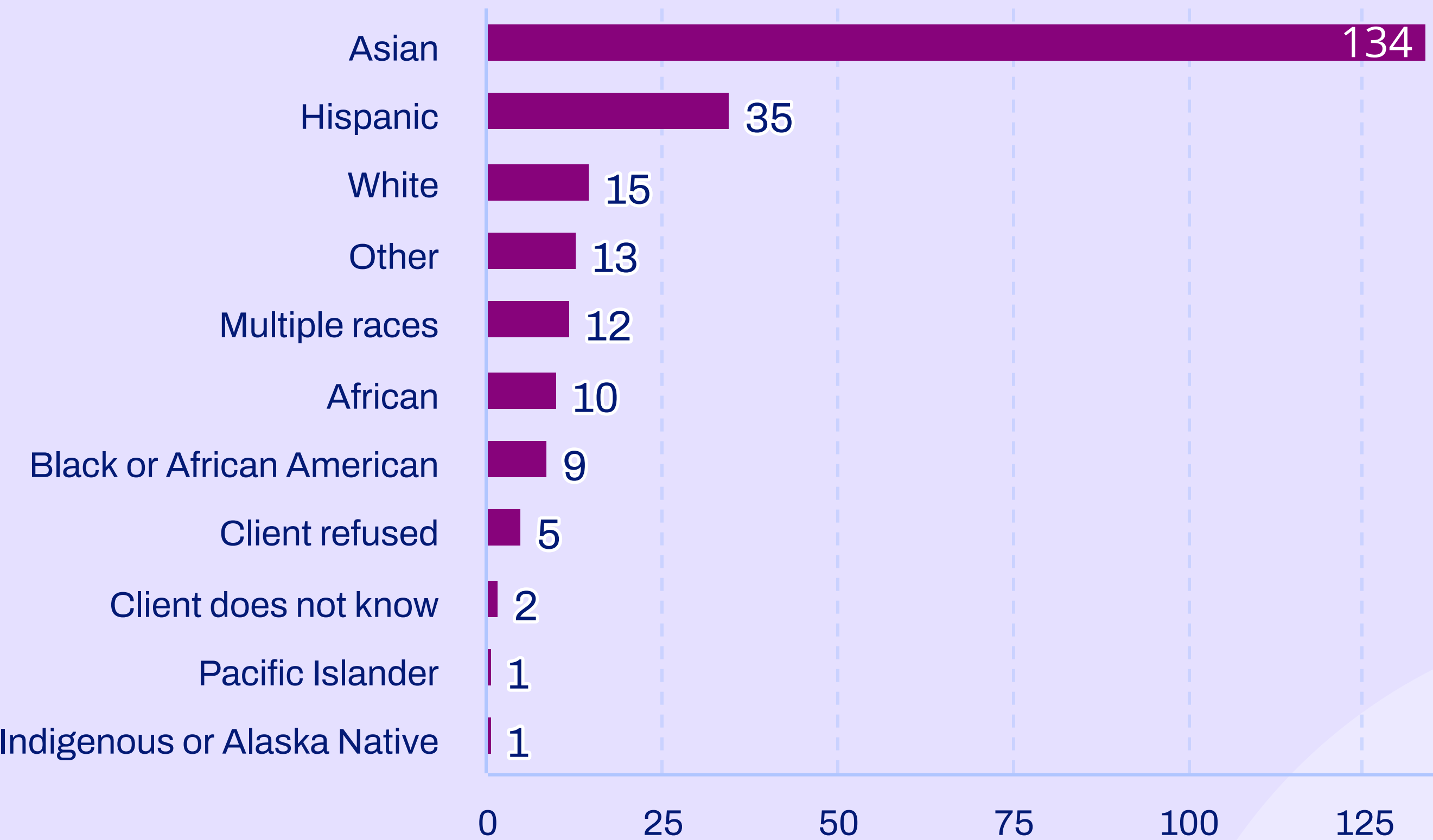
We strive to create an inclusive environment for our clients at AFSSA, and we are constantly evaluating what the community needs from our team to ensure they can live a life free of violence. With the aim of support and tools that lead to a survivor's liberation, autonomy, and financial sustainability, AFSSA's direct services include: legal advocacy and legal service accompaniment; 24/7 hotline with interpretation services; hospital accompaniment; individual and group counseling; supportive transitional housing; basic needs assistance; and economic empowerment services. **AFSSA distinguishes itself from other domestic violence providers by offering culturally relevant long-term case management in the client's preferred language and where a client's heritage and customs are normalized.**

The following demographic data was collected to provide insight on who we serve and how we can expand our reach to those who need us most.

Client-Identified Gender



Client-Identified Race



Most Common Primary Languages

Spoken By AFSSA Clients Other Than English

1.

Spanish
2.

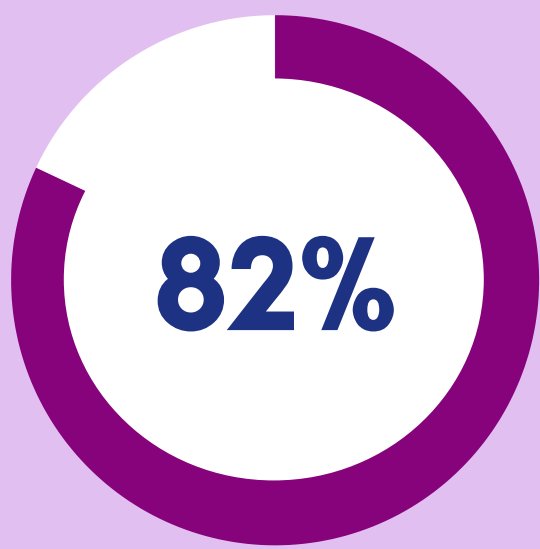
Arabic
3.

Vietnamese
4.

Urdu
5.

Hindi
6.

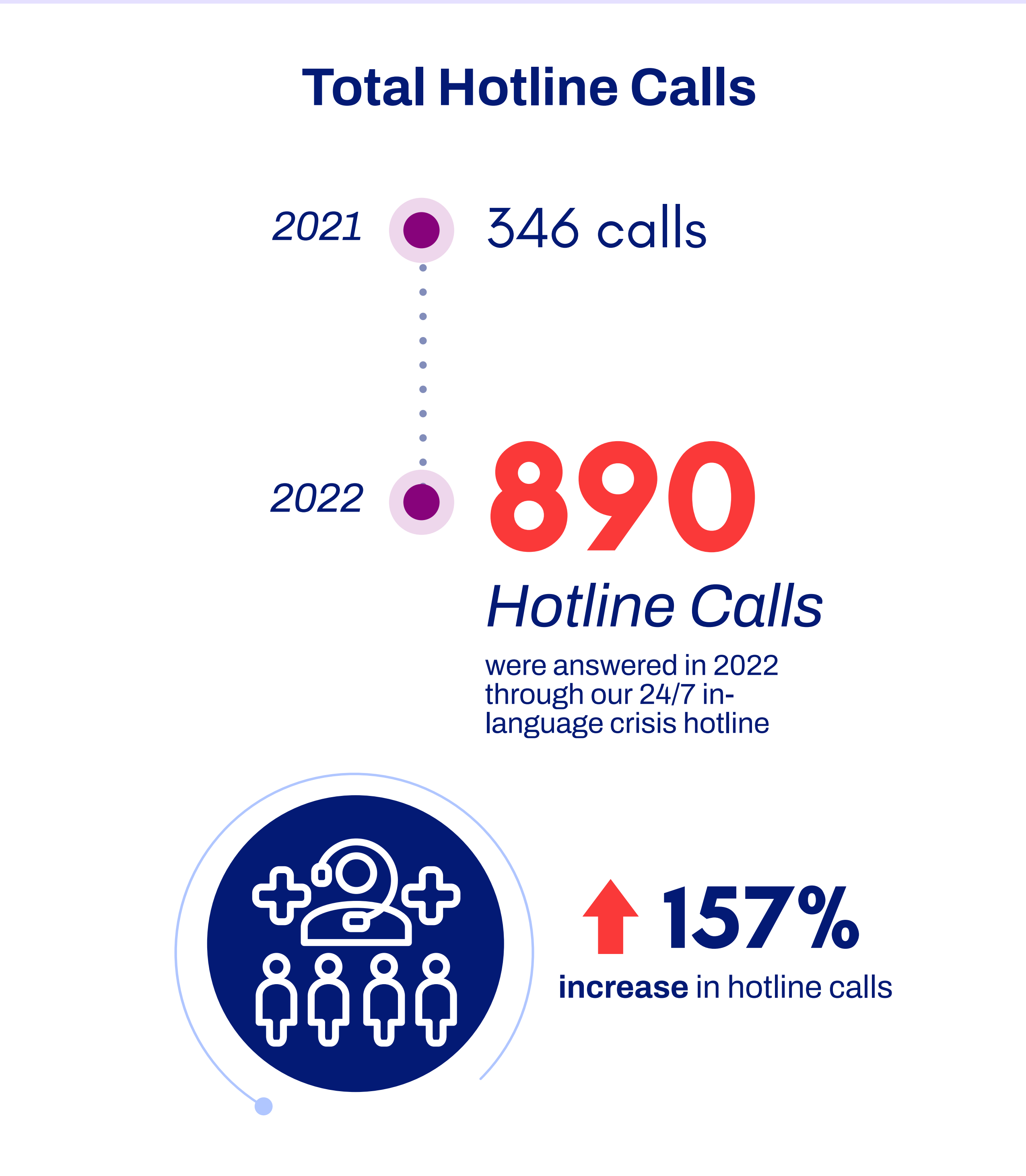
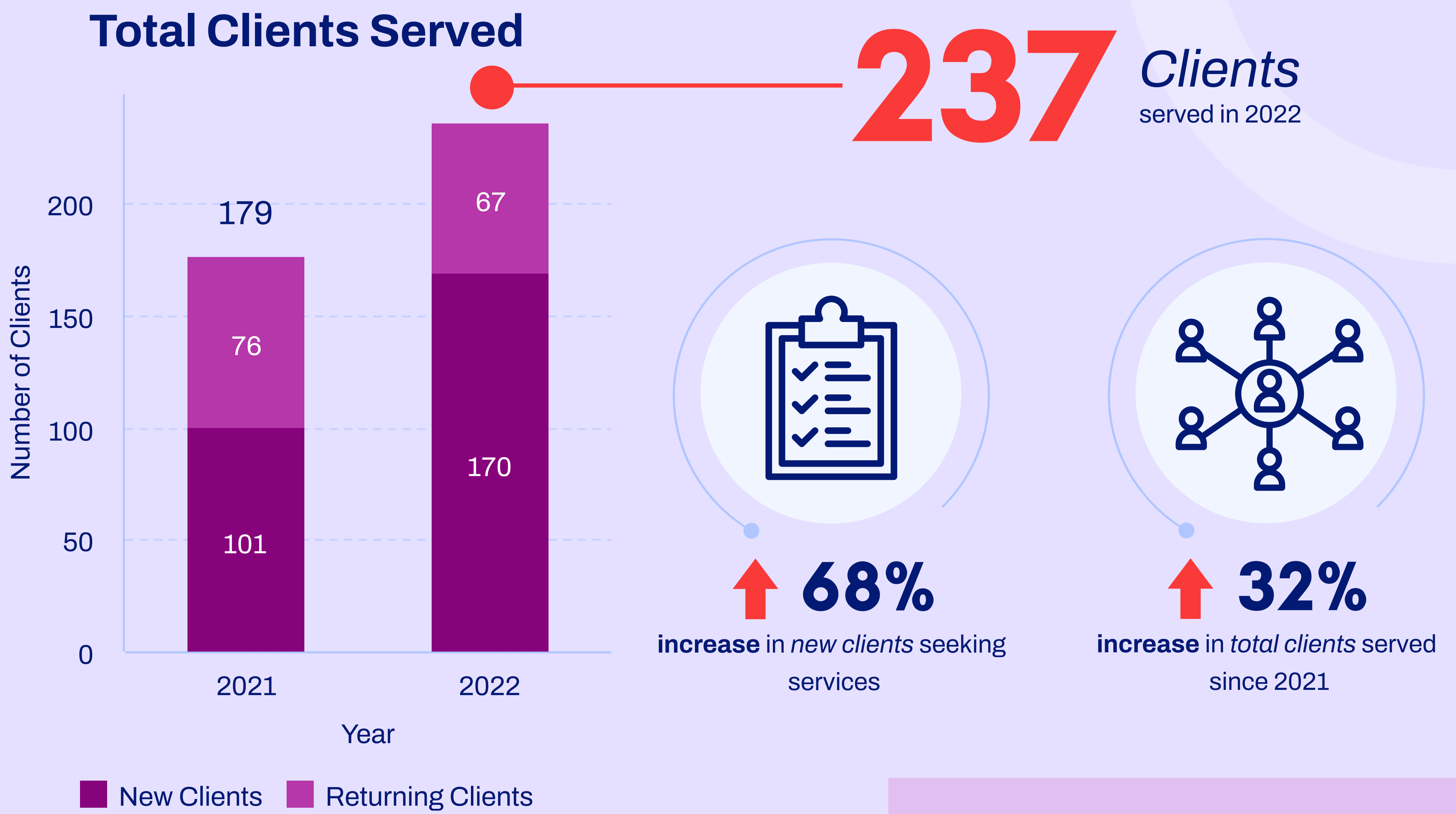
Chinese



Of Asian American adults in Texas speak a language other than English at home.

Source: aapidata.com

Our Impact




Domestic Violence in Texas

Statewide data sourced from the Texas Council on Family Violence

75% Homicides perpetrated with a firearm in 2021



12 LGBTQIA+ Texans killed by their current or former intimate partners in 2021



1 out of 3 Texans will experience domestic violence at some point in their lifetime



Our Impact

Ming's Story

Ming became a client of Asian Family Support Services of Austin in February of 2022. Ming came from China to Austin with her former husband and son. She experienced emotional, financial, and physical abuse from her husband for several years. She depended on her husband for everything. If Ming did not listen to every command from him, he would verbally harass and belittle her until his requests were fulfilled. One day, Ming's former husband physically abused her which led to Ming fleeing the relationship. While Ming was able to leave the relationship, she still has safety concerns because her husband currently lives in the same city as her.

I first spoke to Ming in May of 2022. When I met Ming, she was very reserved and quiet. I had reached out to assist her with long term goals, specifically job assistance. She had beautiful dreams for her life and for her son's life but was not too sure where to start. We began with creating resumes and cover letters and went on to apply for a few jobs. Ming was able to quickly obtain a job at her son's school which allowed her to receive income to assist with daily needs.

As time went on, Ming began to feel more comfortable around me. She would call or text just to check in and update me on all the positive things happening in her life. Ming would even call just to see how I was doing. Her kindness and joy were never taken for granted. No matter the crisis she was in, she always was thankful to have AFSSA in her life. Ming joined a peer support group at AFFSA which allowed her to process her past and make connections with other survivors in our organization. Soon after finding a job at her son's school, she was able to find a more permanent and fulfilling job at a Montessori school. Ming is also currently working on mediation with her primary advocate and attorney to finalize her divorce and child custody.

While Ming still has big goals that she wants to fulfill, her journey has been beautiful to watch. One of the first goals Ming mentioned to me was being able to create her own art business. Now that Ming has gained security, she has been able to find time to create an online digital art website that she is beginning to make a profit on. In the short time that I have been able to work with Ming, I have been lucky enough to see her confidence and self-sufficiency flourish. AFSSA hopes to one day have Ming in transitional housing which would help her to gain even more financial security and would allow her to focus on her dreams as an artist.

— Emily Hataway,
Economic Justice Advocate

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Clients

received transitional housing
through AFSSA in 2022

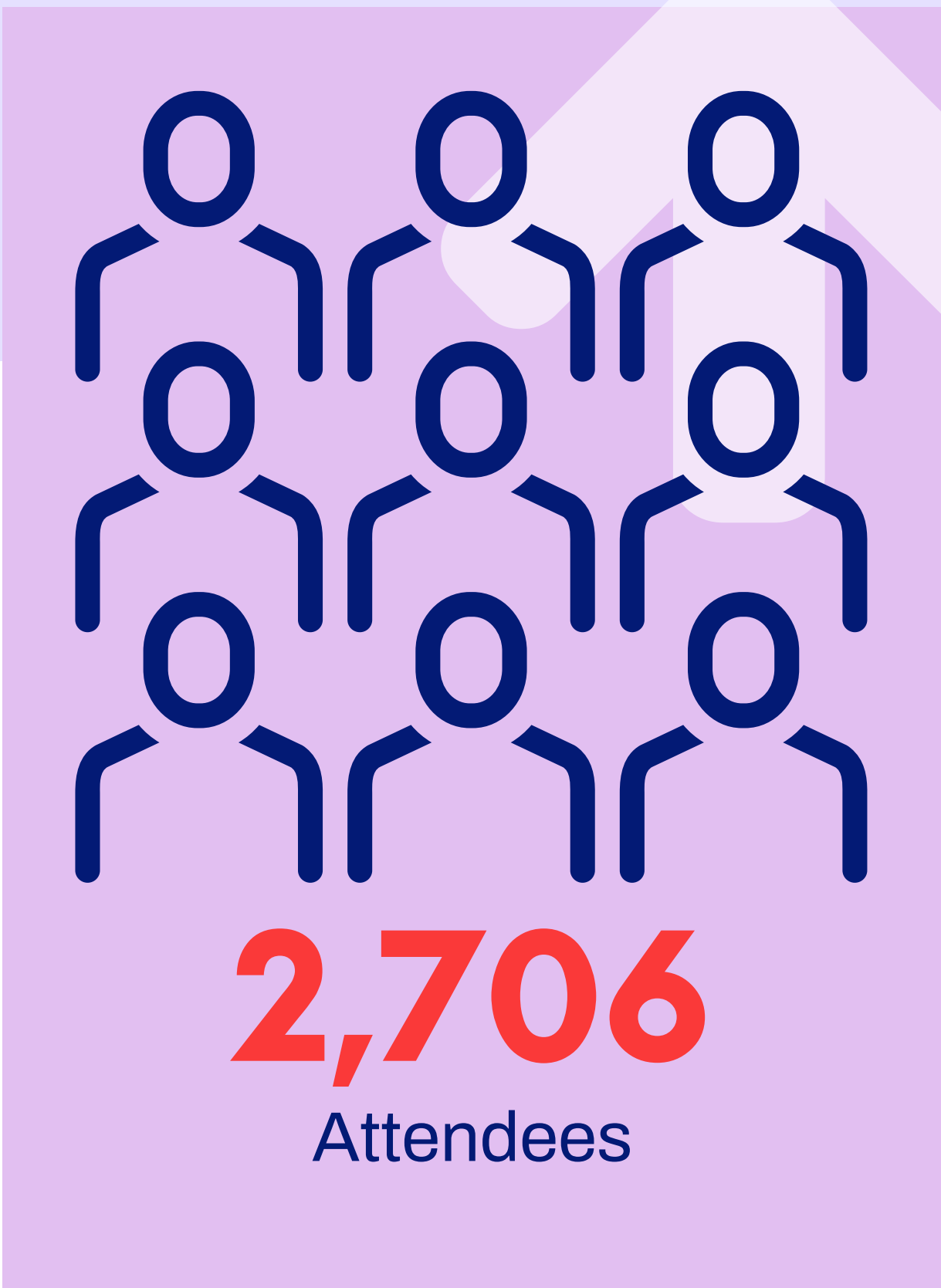
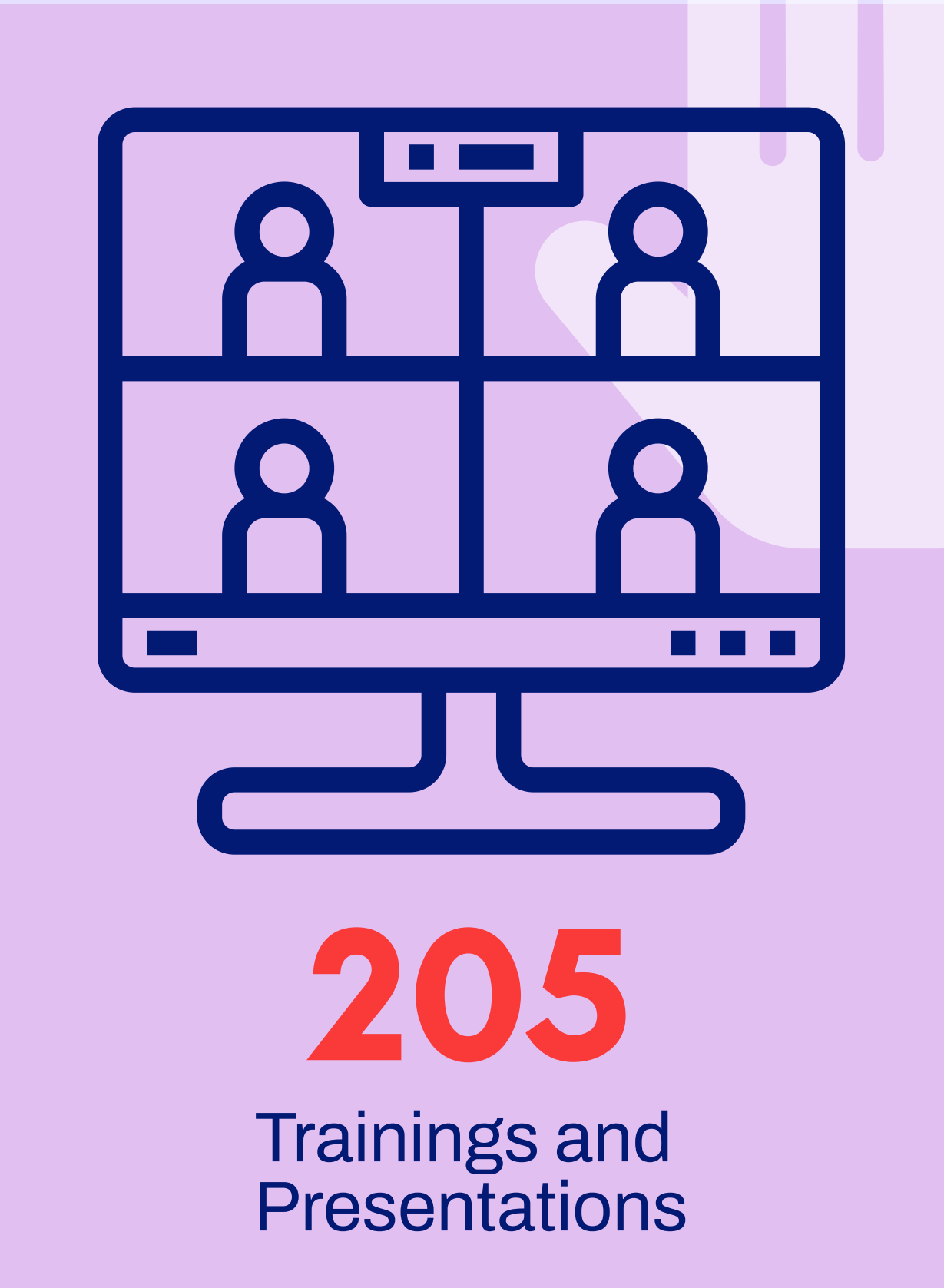
Our Impact

Education

AFSSA's Community Education, Prevention and Outreach team breaks cycles of violence through in-person and digital outreach; bi-lingual prevention programming in schools; and culturally grounded trainings and presentations to community groups, school administrators, congregational leadership and members, law enforcement officers, and health care providers.

Our programming is available in home language and is always designed with an eye to meeting the various cultural needs and the myriad of barriers that impact Asian and immigrant clients and communities. Our prevention and community education advocates work in both in-person and digital spaces to not only connect survivors to essential life-saving services, but also to engage in conversations around healthy relationships and help communities and families build shared vocabulary around interpersonal violence. Our goal is to prevent violence and harm from occurring in the first place.

You can find the AFSSA outreach staff at community and cultural events all year round.



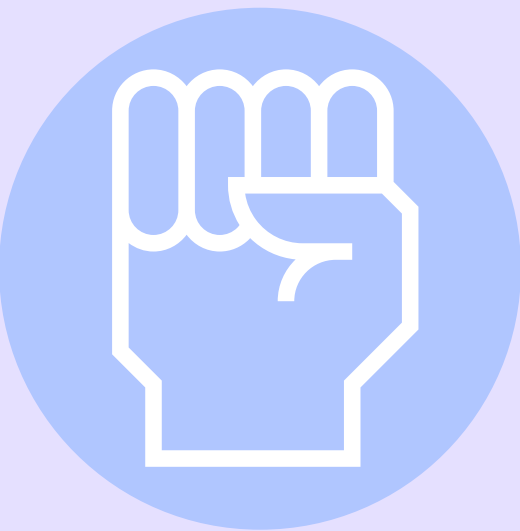
[The] course was great. Very informative, and [I] am now more aware of the challenges people face who don't understand English. So thank you for coming in and informing us.

- APD Cadet after AFSSA Training

Previous Prevention Education Sessions



Growing Love - a discussion pulling in teachings from All About Love by bell hooks to reflect on the definition of love.



Advocating for Black Survivors - session on the unique needs of Black/African-American/African Heritage survivors and how organizations can respond meaningfully to their needs.



Building Community Power: Grassroots Leadership for Change - series focusing on the roots of Asian/Black social justice movements and what we can learn for today's efforts toward equity

Asians are the fastest growing demographic in Austin, TX.

Source: Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce



Our Impact

Social Media



30,000+

Individuals Reached
Through Social Media

Follow us:
@afssaustin



*** GREEN FLAGS TO LOOK FOR**

They take the time and effort to understand and share their feelings and needs.

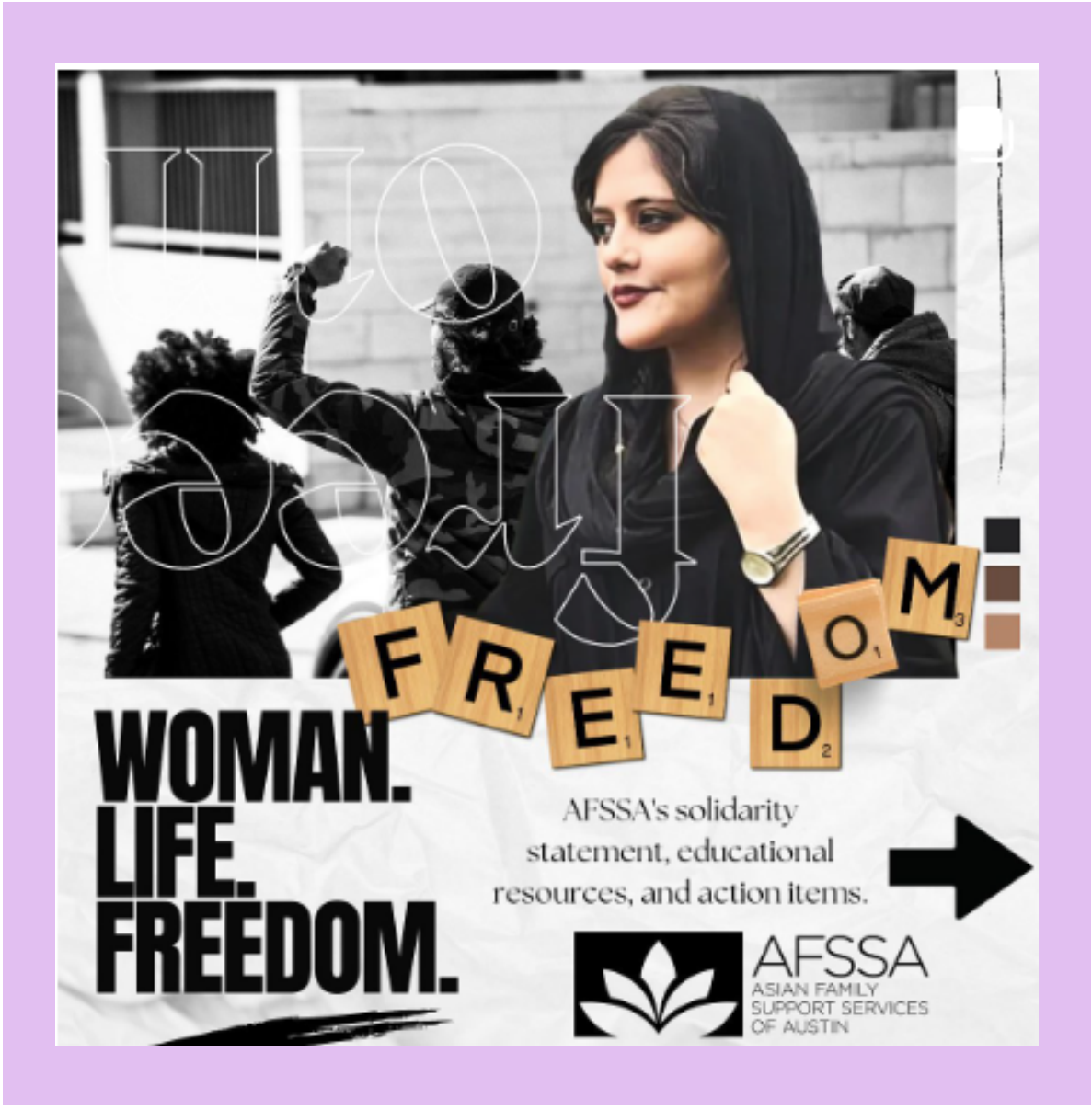
The relationship moves at a pace you are both comfortable and excited about.

They take responsibility for their actions and follow through on their word.

@afssaustin

You feel a sense of belonging and acceptance when you're with them.

They support your personal growth and interest in hobbies and other friendships.



WOMAN. LIFE. FREEDOM.

AFSSA's solidarity statement, educational resources, and action items.

AFSSA
ASIAN FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES OF AUSTIN

@AFSSAUSTIN

Abuse and neglect negate *love.*

bell hooks

CARE AND AFFIRMATION, THE OPPOSITE OF ABUSE AND HUMILIATION, ARE THE FOUNDATION OF LOVE.

AFSSA
ASIAN FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES OF AUSTIN



Come see us at:
<https://www.afssaustin.org/events/>

24-Hour Hotline
877-281-8371

Advocacy

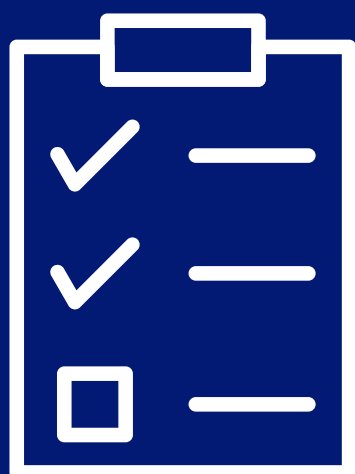
Asian Family Support Services of Austin, Awaaz San Antonio, Daya Houston, Mosaic Family Services and Texas Muslim Women’s Foundation are joining together to improve outcomes and conditions for Texas’s Asian and Muslim survivors of abuse. The organizations met together for the first time in 2019 in Austin, and recently reconvened several weeks ago to share best practices and discuss how we can combine efforts to end violence in our communities. With the upcoming legislative session in 2023, the organizations will work together to stay informed on bills filed and progress made. We look forward to a year full of collaboration with each other, Texas Council on Family Violence, and Texas Association Against Sexual Assault!

AFSSA’s Response to Violence within our Communities



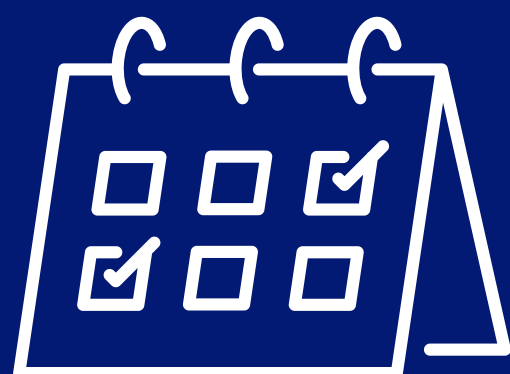
Culturally Grounded Services

AFSSA provides unique services based on individual needs of clients of all backgrounds



Prevention

We educate and empower our communities to end the cycle of violence



Long-term Support

We don’t put time limits on healing; we support our clients throughout their journey.

339%

increase in anti-Asian hate crimes

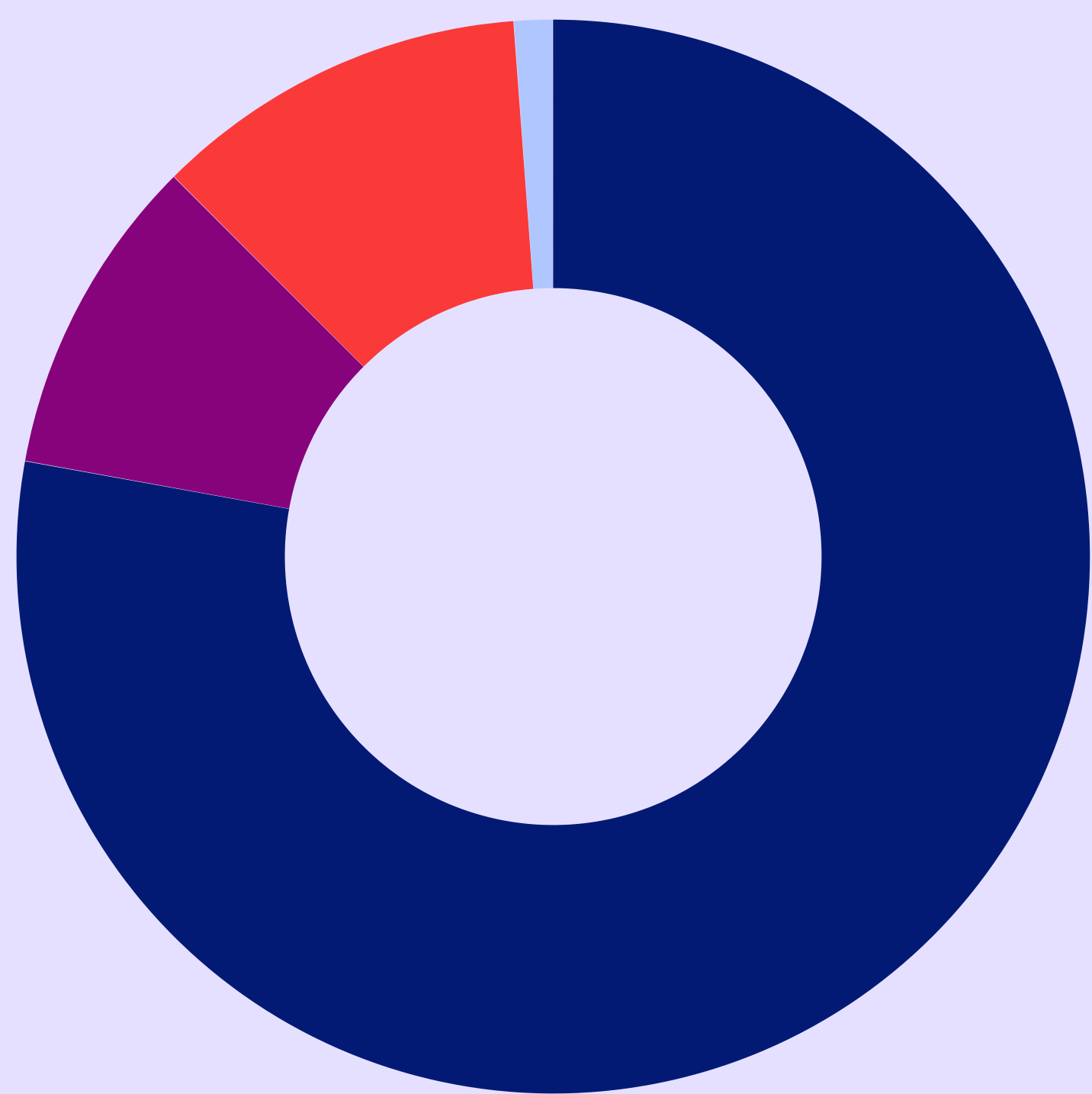
in 2021 compared to 2020, according to a study published by the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism.

In 2022, AFSSA welcomed Clarice Cross as a Hogg Foundation Policy Fellow. Started in 2010, the Hogg Foundation Policy Academy and Fellows program awards ten organizations a two-year grant to employ a mental health Policy Fellow (a recent graduate of law, social work, public policy, public health or related field) or a Peer Policy Fellow (an individual with lived experience of mental health and/or substance use conditions). Clarice and the Public Policy Fellow position have been instrumental in building our Statewide Coalition.

Following the Covid-19 pandemic, it is important now, more than ever, to break the stigma of mental health in Asian culture and address the needs for access to mental health services in the Central Texas region. I look forward to finding ways to overcome the cultural and systemic barriers Asian survivors face and continue to build resilience in the community.

- Clarice Cross, AFSSA Public Policy Fellow

Funding Sources



- Government Grants (77.85%)
- Philanthropic Grants (9.66%)
- Development Income (11.33%)
- Other Income/In Kind (1.17%)

Government Grants \$2,486,955

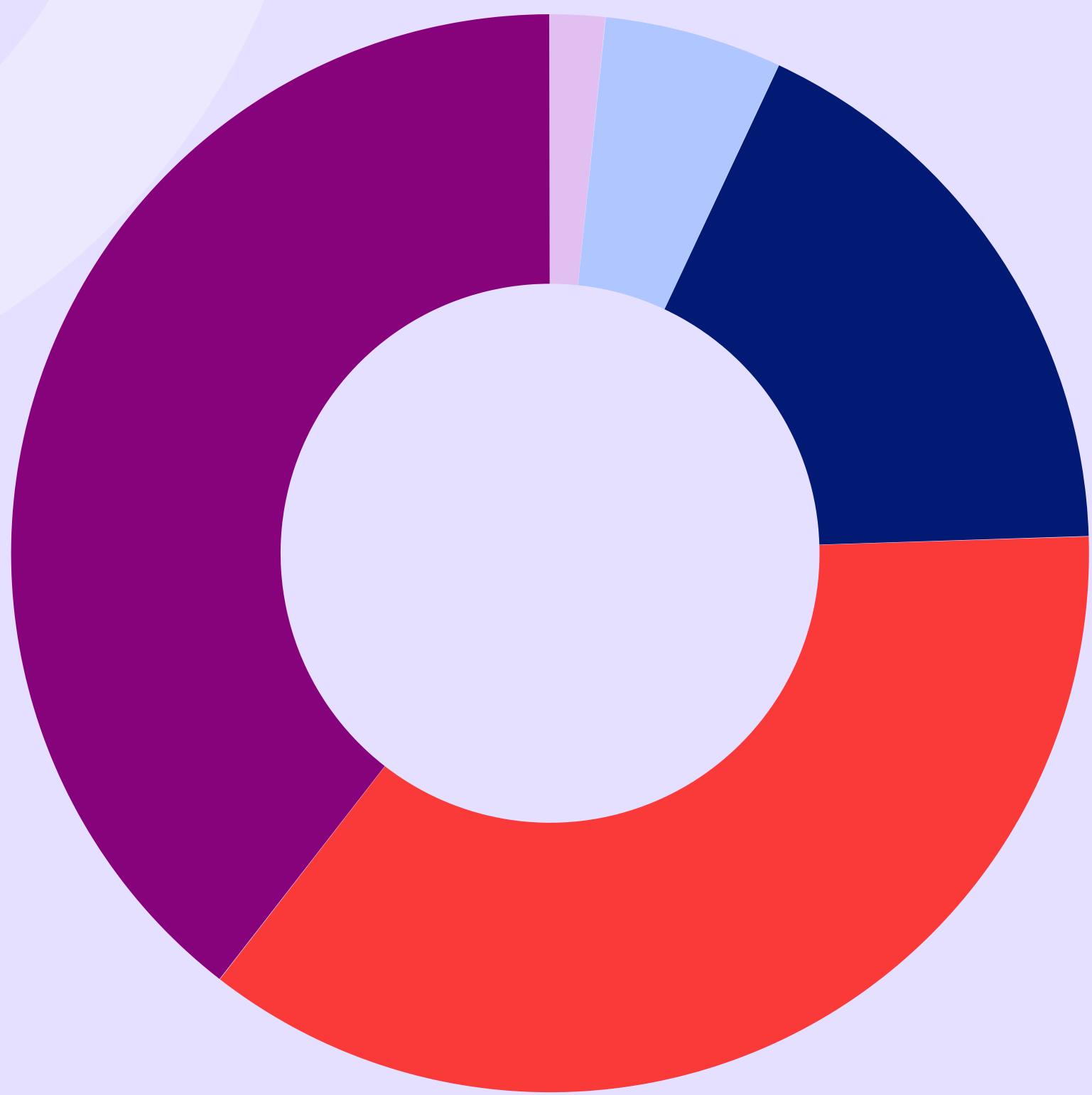
Philanthropic Grants \$308,627

Development Income \$361,819

Other Income/In Kind \$37,246

Total Agency Funding \$3,194,647

Means of Community Support



Monthly Giving Circle 2%

Corporate and Employee 5%

Individual 18%

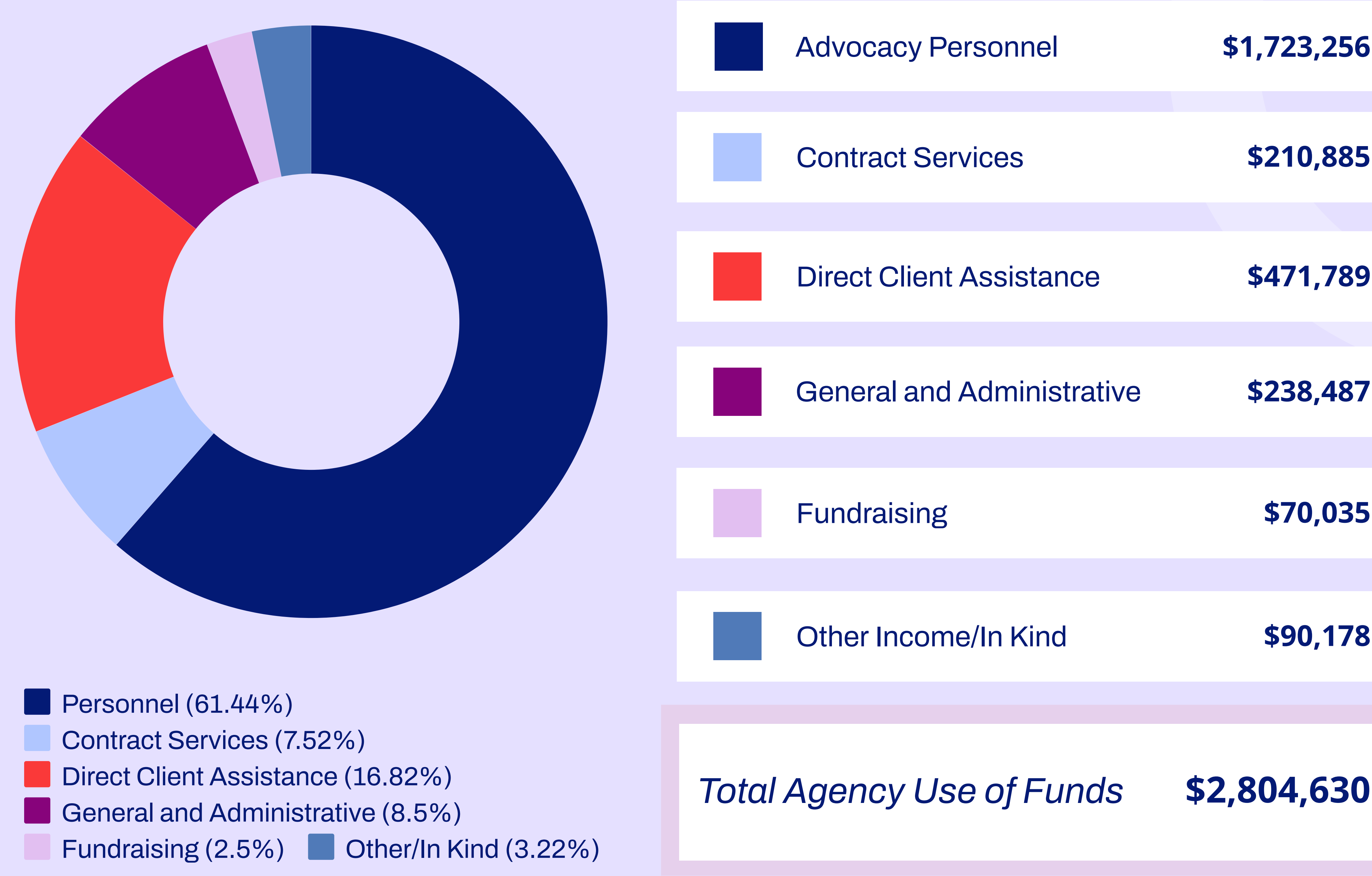
Silk Road Gala 36%

Philanthropic Foundation 39%

Thank You

to the 358 individuals, foundations, and community partners who generously supported us in 2022 and gave a total of \$707,693.

Use of Funds



Financial Summary and Balance Sheet

Revenue and Other Support		
Competitive Government Service Contracts		\$2,486,954.68
Other Revenue		\$707,692.24
Total Revenue		\$3,194,646.92
Expenses		
Direct Program Services		\$2,524,167.33
Support Services (Administration and Development)		\$280,463.04
Total Expenses		\$2,804,630.37
Revenues less Expenses		\$390,016.55
Total Assets	Total Liabilities	Net Assets
\$2,002,689.13	\$56,445.54	\$1,946,243.59

*All financial statement numbers are unaudited.

Board and Staff Members

2023 Board of Directors

Helen Wormington Co-President	Michelle Arishita
Charles Lu Co-President	Kirtana Banksota
Lorrayne Ward Treasurer	Alan Bovik
Rajina Pradhan Secretary	Adrián Rizo
	Geeta Shah
	Jinny Suh
	Paul Yin



AFSSA Staff

Darlene Lanham, *Executive Director*
Samira Ghosh, *Director of Advocacy*
Nirmala Krishnamurthy, *Director of Finance*
Jordan Lueker, *Director of Operations*
Zahra Shakur Jamal, *Director of Ed, Prev & Outreach*
Loida Bustamante, *Financial Data & Grant Mgr*
Clarice Cross, *Public Policy Fellow*
Jasmine Di Diego, *SV Client Advocate*
Em Gallegos, *DV Client Advocate*
Friday Genung, *Fund Development Coordinator*
Stacie Gutierrez, *Mgr of Economic Justice Services*
Emily Hataway, *EJ Client Advocate*
Anukriti Kunwar, *Prevention Advocate*
Christina Langa, *Mgr of Community Access*
Kristi Le, *Mgr of Volunteers & Community Ed*
Priya Maharaj, *DV Client Advocate*
Caprice Nyen, *Mgr of Sexual Violence Prog*
Roz Pillay, *Mgr of Domestic Violence Prog*
Mars Quinones, *EJ Client Advocate*
Dani Ramos, *SV Client Advocate*
Shelby Smith, *Mgr of Data & Program Planning*
Bryan Trinh, *CE & Outreach Advocate*
Alicia Willson, *EJ Client Advocate*
Jenn Xia, *CE & Digital Outreach Advocate*



2022

Impact Report

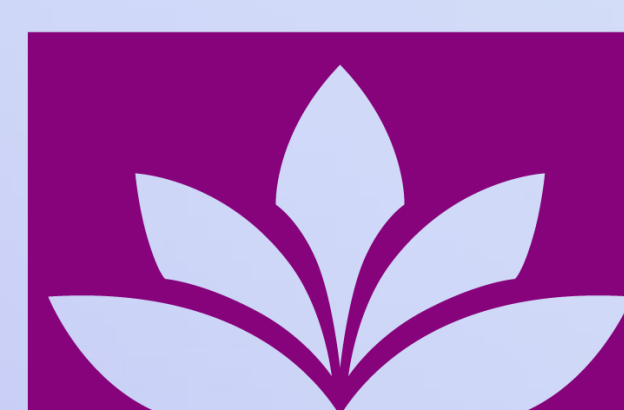
Celebrating our 30th Anniversary



Report prepared by:
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ASIAN FAMILY
SUPPORT SERVICES
OF AUSTIN