



2025

Asian Family Support Services of Austin Impact Report



AFSSA
ASIAN FAMILY
SUPPORT SERVICES
OF AUSTIN

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24/7 Crisis Line
877-281-8371



Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends of AFSSA,

There's a theory that an invisible red thread connects those who are destined to meet, regardless of time, place, or circumstance. The thread may stretch or tangle, but it will never break.

When we talk about survivor experiences, we often speak of **the unbroken thread**, the bond that ties us all together—to each other and to our community. It is as strong in times of good fortune as it is in times of hardship. It spans cities, states, and continents, faiths, ages, genders, sexualities, national origins, economic statuses. It lives in our hearts wherever we may be. The unbroken thread connects us and our stories together and reminds us that, though we each hold unique experiences, **we are not alone**.

We belong to each other, regardless of time, place, or circumstance. **AFSSA belongs to you.**

2025 was full of challenges for survivors in our community, and yet we did more than ever before. The reality is that times are even harder still. It takes more time and more resources to plan for safety—and we've been called to serve more survivors than ever in our history.

Seven years ago (the year I started), we served 167 survivors of abuse with a \$1.5MM operating budget. In 2025, we served 692 survivors with a \$5MM operating budget. That's a 314% growth in clients served, but only 233% growth in resources. Fully 1/3 of our clients used our economic justice services. This means that 1/3 of survivor clients are starting over from scratch, needing intensive support to start bank accounts, prepare a resume, learn how to interview and seek work, learn how to qualify for a rental property. Clients are persevering in a time of heightened safety risk, when key partners have reduced services or closed, and when cost of living is more expensive.

Despite this, even because of it, we didn't stop being a community. **We didn't stop connecting, feeding, clothing, and nurturing each other** when things got lean and the world got scarier. This is cause for gratitude, celebration, and a hundred thanks. Our thread was strong enough to reach every person who needed us because...**You are holding the other end**. Together, we are an unbroken thread, one strong enough to reach from my heart to yours, from your heart to survivors, from safe adults to the youth at risk of abuse in our community... From danger to safety, to the place and space that is co-created by us—to AFSSA.

In our 34th year, we're able to stay and respond because YOU are with us. Your hand holds the unbroken thread, ensuring that survivors on one end can follow it to a place of support, safety, sustenance, and protective, healing community.

Don't let go!

Warmest regards,



Darlene Lanham,
Executive Director



2025 Highlights

2025 was a momentous year for AFSSA! Here are a few of the things that impacted us and our community the most.

1. Record Level of Community Needs Served

This year AFSSA staff, volunteers, and supporters have continued to respond to a record-breaking level of survivors and community members. We lowered barriers to safety and provided immediate crisis response for underserved and rural survivors, helping them out of danger and into services where they can build supports and work toward a life free from violence.

We strengthened our in-language peer support groups to build long-term communities for survivors. We offered, and continue to offer, new and stronger pathways to sustained safety and independence through workforce development and entrepreneur classes centered on the specific language and access needs of our community. Our clients have shown great interest in these programs, which tells us we're fulfilling the needs of our community.

2. Three Years of Our Legal Resource Fair for Survivors



AFSSA staff at the 3rd Legal Resource Fair for Survivors.

AFSSA's third annual Legal and Community Resource Fair, sponsored by the Texas Bar Foundation, welcomed 75 attendees and featured 25 legal and community resource partners offering culturally competent, trauma-informed, and language-accessible services to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and trafficking. In addition to legal clinics and presentations, attendees benefited from free interpretation, on-site childcare, transportation assistance, and multilingual materials.

3. Our Most Impactful Silk Road Gala Ever

In November, we hosted our most impactful Silk Road Gala, where our community raised over \$300,000! Thank you to all of our supporters who joined us at the Renaissance Austin for a night of community and heartfelt connection. Our gala co-chairs, Kirtana Banskota and Caroline Tang, along with our emcee, Pooja Kumar, the gala committee, and all of our amazing sponsors made the evening one for the books.

2025 Silk Road Gala Host Committee

Co-Chairs Kirtana Banskota
Caroline Tang

Vandana & Harish Agarawal · Zeena Angadicheril & Jerry Philips
Michelle Arishita · Ronald Cheng · Samira Ghosh
Hon. Sean Hassan · Lily Huang · Liane & Mark Noble
Justin Ong & Dr. Han Ren · Jocelyn & Andy Tau
Kristina Tipton · Alice Yi



Celebrating H-E-B's \$25,000 donation at the 2025 Silk Road Gala.

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 person is free from fear of physical and psychological harm.

By empowering survivors of abuse through community-based advocacy and providing education on how to prevent and end violence, we create a healthier and safer future for our community.

Free, Confidential, Community Based Services

AFSSA distinguishes itself by meeting high standards of safe and confidential care, and offering community-based long-term case management in the client's preferred language and while normalizing their heritage and customs.



Culturally Relevant Advocacy



Crisis and Safety Planning



"Know Your Rights" Sessions



School Based Prevention Programs



24/7 In-Language Hotline



Transitional Housing



In-Language Services Navigation



Trainings for Law Enforcement and Social Service Providers

Our Values are to do our **P.A.R.T.** to help our community.

Prevent We proactively prevent violence by challenging and changing norms that hold abuse in place.

Advocate We encourage self-advocacy and individual empowerment for survivors of abuse by providing access to community-based services and resources.

Respond As we serve people and communities in crisis, we act as a stabilizing force in our ever-evolving environment.

Transform We continually challenge ourselves and others to change the ways we feel, think, and act, advancing community safety and wellness.

"Are we doing our **P.A.R.T.?**" is not just a slogan at AFSSA; it is our measure of success in everything we do.

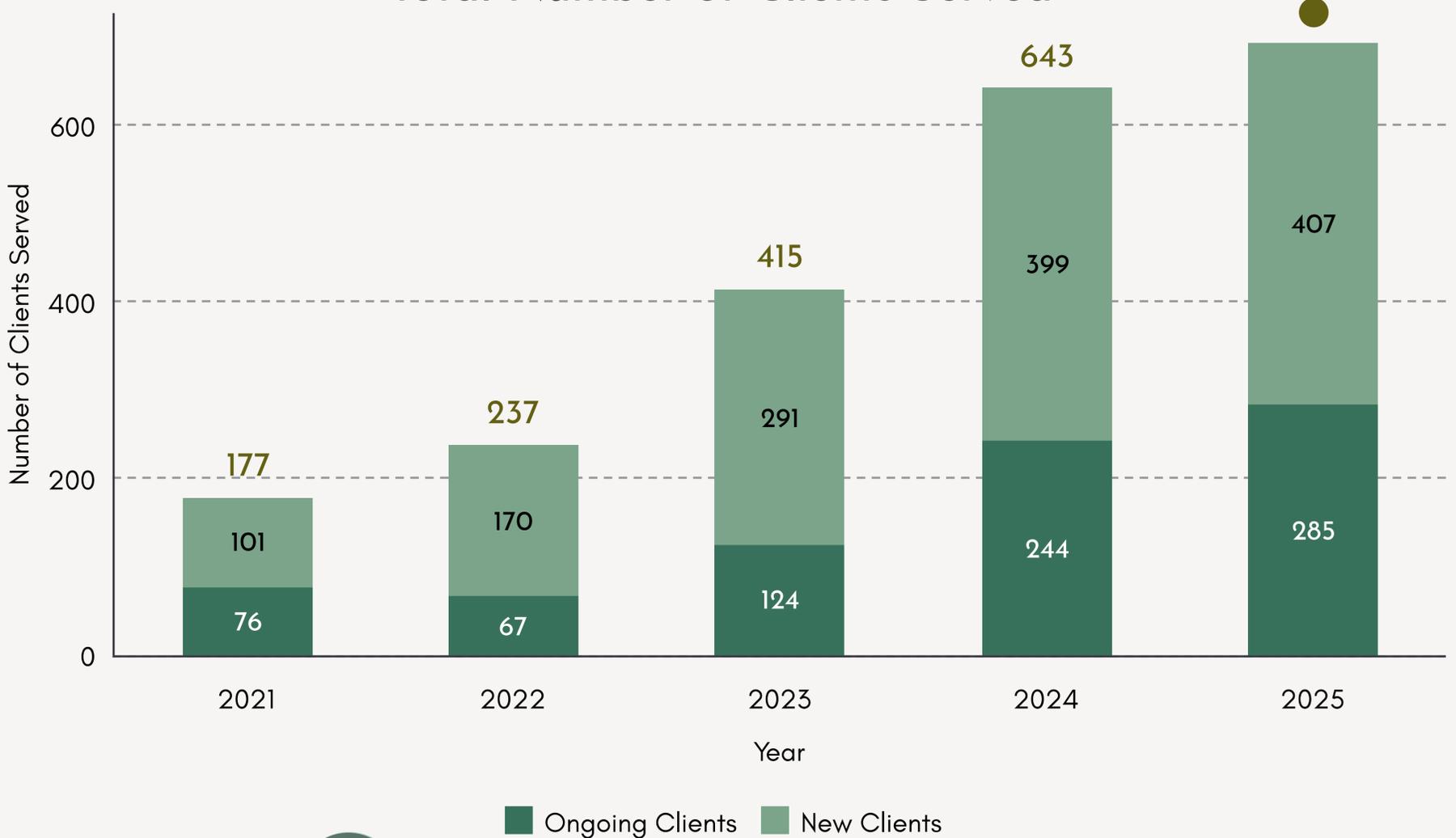
Our Impact

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 18 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 served
692 Clients
in 2025.

Total Number of Clients Served



In 2025,
we answered
1,140 Hotline Calls
through our 24/7
crisis line.

Most clients begin their journey with AFSSA by calling our **24/7, confidential crisis support hotline**, but can also be referred to us through crisis shelters, legal aid organizations, national crisis hotlines, our outreach program, or by word of mouth. Advocates are available around the clock to respond to crisis calls and calls from referring agencies. Immediate access to interpreters is always available.

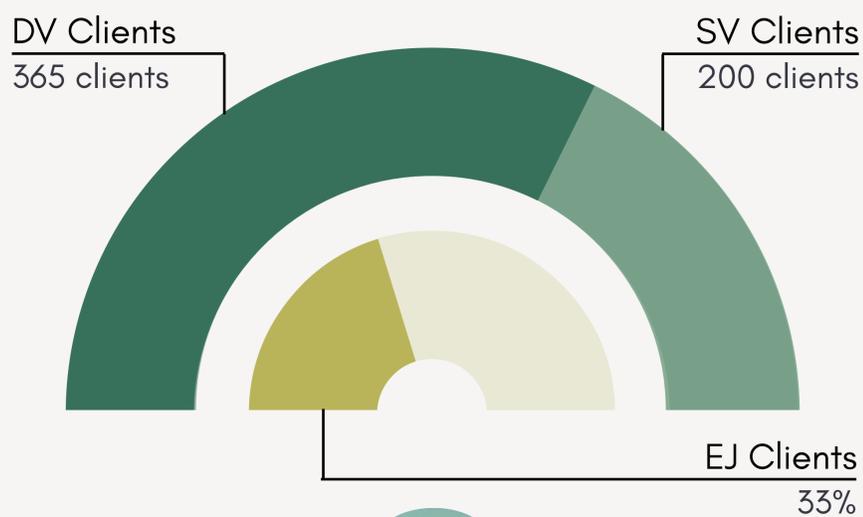
Clients are empowered to determine the services that they want to access as they know best what their priorities are and how to rebuild their lives.

Our Impact

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: **safety planning**; **24/7 hotline** with interpretation services; **legal advocacy** and legal service accompaniment; **hospital accompaniment**; **individual and group counseling**; supportive **transitional housing**; **basic needs assistance**; and **economic empowerment** services.

Once a survivor decides to become an AFSSA client, they are placed with an advocate who will provide **trauma-informed, culturally relevant, survivor-led support services**. Survivors may be placed with a Domestic Violence (DV) Survivor Advocate or a Sexual Violence (SV) Survivor Advocate, depending on their individual situation. Clients who request Economic Justice or Transitional Housing services are also matched with an Economic Justice (EJ) Advocate.

Client Advocacy Type

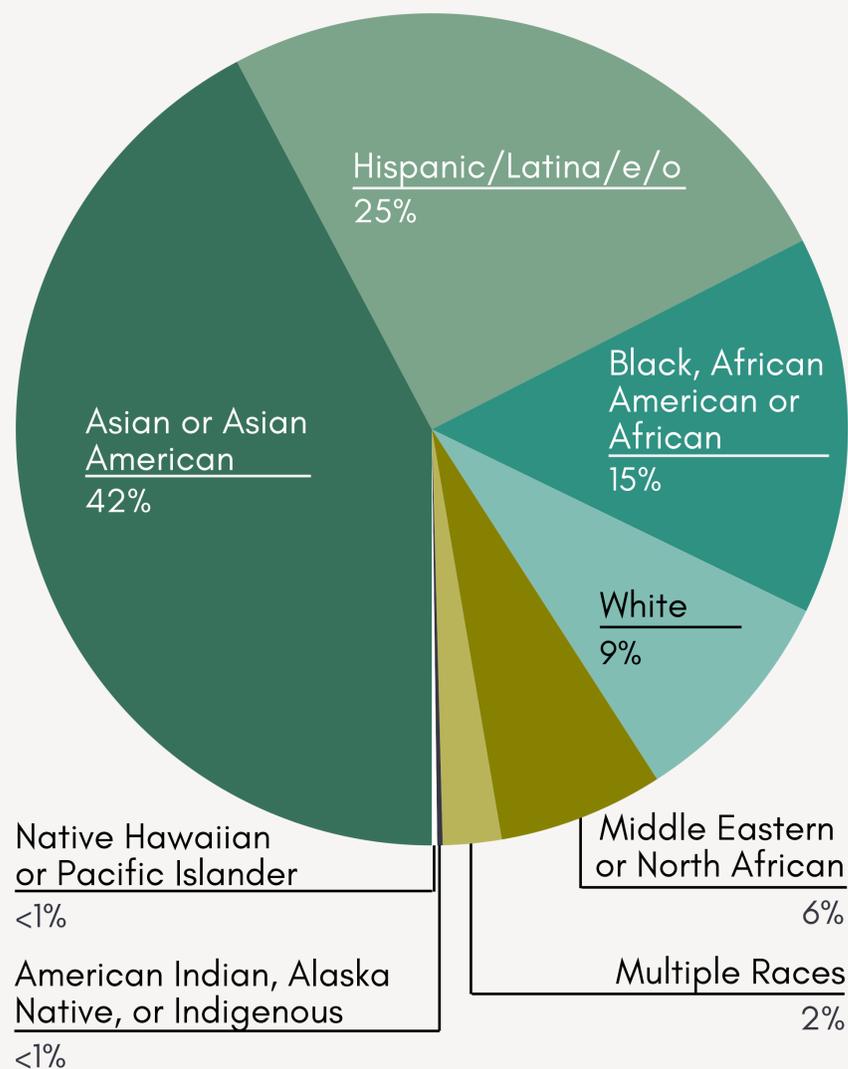


33%
of clients received Economic Justice services in 2025.

*Demographic totals reflect extant data. Responses in which the data for the relevant fields was not collected or was intentionally left blank were omitted from this graph.

Empowerment

Client-Identified Race*



Our **Economic Justice and Transitional Housing Program (EJ/TH)** helps survivors prepare for and navigate the U.S. financial, economic, and employment systems to **find employment, education/training, and permanent housing** so they can gain independence and become self-sufficient. The EJ Program provides comprehensive, tailored support for clients to attain self-sufficiency, including:

- Job-readiness services
- Financial literacy counseling
- Medical and transportation advocacy
- Housing support
- Childcare access
- Education information
- English languages classes
- Life skill trainings
- Workforce development and entrepreneur classes

One out of three (1/3) AFSSA clients chooses to access EJ services. This reflects the reality that many survivors of abuse, especially those who have suffered financial abuse, leave with nothing, and must start their lives over.

Number of Services Delivered for Most Requested Advocacy Types

Legal Advocacy

Provided to 260 clients
Legal Advocacy services support clients with legal resources related to their status as a survivor. This may include finding a divorce attorney, attending court with the survivor, and assistance with protective orders.



Crisis Intervention

Provided to 315 clients
Crisis Intervention services are provided when a client is in immediate crisis, which may be life threatening. Advocates assist with immediate safety planning.



Peer Support Groups

Provided to 25 clients
Peer Support Groups connect survivors to each other in small, language specific groups. These groups are survivor-led and help survivors build community through shared experiences.



Counseling and Healing

Provided to 155 clients
Professional Counseling services connect survivors with trauma informed mental health support. In addition to clinical resources, AFSSA also connects survivors with cultural healing modalities, such as tai chi, acupuncture, and dance.



Accompaniments

Provided to 132 clients
Accompaniments include medical and other appointments related to the client's victimization. Advocates assist survivors to assert their rights to gain safety, healing, justice, and sustained independence.



We speak your language!

Through our translation and interpretation practices, we have the ability to serve in **over 300 languages**. All AFSSA services are offered in the client's preferred language. Here are the ones we used for service delivery in 2025. The languages our staff also speak are indicated in bold.

- Amharic
- **Arabic**
- Burmese
- Cantonese
- Chinese
- **Dari**
- **English**
- **Farsi**
- French
- French Canadian
- French Creole
- **Hindi**
- **Japanese**
- **Korean**
- **Mandarin**
- **Nepali**
- **Pashto**
- **Persian**
- Portuguese
- Russian
- **Spanish**
- **Tagalog**
- **Tamil**
- Thai
- Tigrinya
- Turkish
- **Urdu**
- **Vietnamese**

In 2025,
we used
28 Languages
for service delivery, and
25%
of our services were
delivered in a
non-English
language.

The following is a survivor story written by the client's AFSSA Advocate. The client has given her permission for the story to be shared in this report. Her name has been changed to protect her anonymity.

This story pertains to a survivor's time in one of our language specific Peer Support Groups, where survivors gather with one another to share experiences and find community with other survivors who speak their language. These groups, held during Fall and Spring, are designed to build emotional resilience and help survivors nurture their mental health. Since these groups started in 2024, we have seen incredible positive outcomes from clients who participate in them. When clients are given a trauma-informed and culturally relevant space to build a healthy community, they are able to make fantastic strides in their mental health. After participating in a language specific Peer Support Group, clients have reported increased confidence and greater feelings of safety and support. Community and connection are the greatest protective factors against experiencing further abuse.

Li's Story

Li joined the Domestic Violence Support Group for the first time in the fall of 2025. Initially, Li was quiet, reserved, and appeared sullen. When it was her time to introduce herself and share her expectations for the group, Li simply stated, "I only want to observe and prefer not to say or share anything." As the weeks progressed, Li slowly opened up and spoke more about her experiences as a survivor. She shared additional details about her culture, her upbringing, and how trauma has played a role throughout her life.

As the weeks passed, Li continued to attend. She not only listened and learned about topics including intergenerational trauma, healing, self-compassion, forgiveness, and other participants' perspectives, but she also contributed to those discussions. Slowly, Li began to let her guard down.

After the Fall support group ended and the Spring group began in January 2026, Li joined again. Now, four weeks into her second support group, Li has had a noticeable change in perspective and in how she utilizes the sessions to rebuild her life through healing and maintain her mental health. She now shows up smiling and is honest in admitting that, although her circumstances have not changed much, she finds herself pausing to notice, becoming more aware of her emotions, and reframing her negative thoughts to be kinder to herself. She has taken these tools and is applying them to her daily life as an individual and as a mom.

In a recent meeting, the topic of navigating through heavy emotions was discussed. Participants, including Li, had the opportunity to lean into their feelings through the Feelings Wheel, tapping deeper into their emotions and how they have been received in their trauma and cultural communities. As Li intently listened and was inspired by the session. She developed a Feelings Wheel app where she translated the wheel into different languages so other survivors could utilize it and tap into and learn about their emotions.

Oftentimes, clients like Li feel isolated in their journeys as survivors of trauma and abuse. Li has mentioned many times, "I have no interest in making friends; it's hard for me to trust anyone after my abuse and emotional abandonment growing up, but this group makes me feel safe and heard." Although Li initially joined with reservations, it has been wonderful to notice the positive impact the support group has had on Li's life, her outlook on healing, and her dedication to work on herself and her mental health needs.



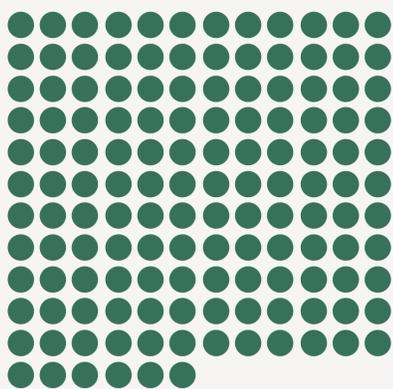
"It's hard for me to trust anyone after my abuse and emotional abandonment growing up, but this group makes me feel safe and heard."

- Li, AFSSA Client

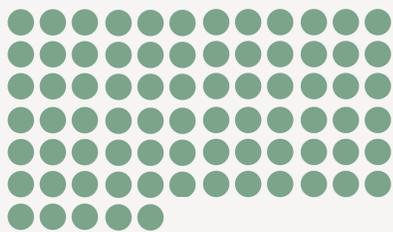
AFSSA's Community Outreach, Education, and Prevention Team breaks cycles of violence through in-person and digital outreach; bi-lingual prevention programming in schools; and culturally grounded trainings and presentations to community groups, school administrators, congregational leadership and members, law enforcement officers, and health care providers. **Our programming is available in home language and always designed with an eye to meeting the various social needs and myriad of barriers that impact our 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.

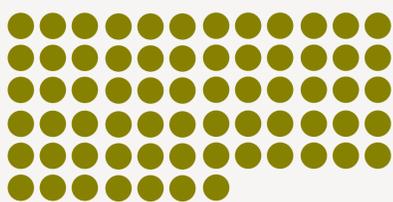
Outreach Events



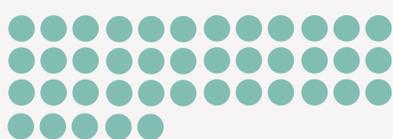
Community Outreach and Education Presentations
138 Events



Informational Booths and Community Events
77 Events



Prevention Education Sessions
67 Events



Professional Training and Technical Assistance
41 Events

The **Community Education and Outreach Program** delivers outreach, education, and prevention services to Asian and immigrant communities across our ten-county service area. Topics include:

- Sexual Violence Dynamics in Asian Communities
- Know Your Rights
- Healthy Parenting
- Healthy Relationships
- Cultural Dynamics of Abuse
- Debunking the Model Minority Myth

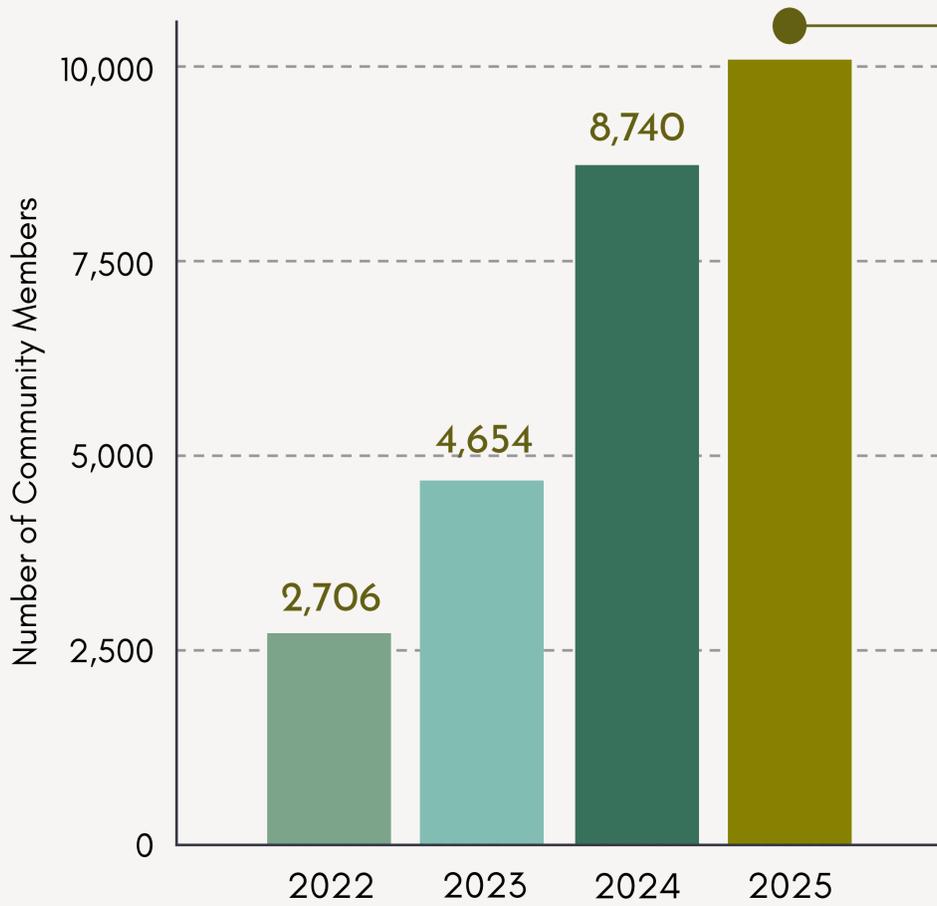


AFSSA Outreach Staff at the Asian American Resource Center's CelebrASIA event.

AFSSA's **Prevention Program** serves young people, parents and caregivers, and survivors of violence. The Prevention team engages newly arrived immigrants and refugees in programming that builds self-esteem, strengthens protective factors, and increases participants' capacity for self-advocacy. A central component of this work is connecting individuals and families to essential systems—such as schools, healthcare providers, and other community resources—that they may be unfamiliar with or face barriers navigating. By building knowledge, confidence, and the skills needed to access support, the program works to **interrupt cycles of violence before they escalate and promote long-term safety, stability, and resilience.**



Community Members Reached Through Events



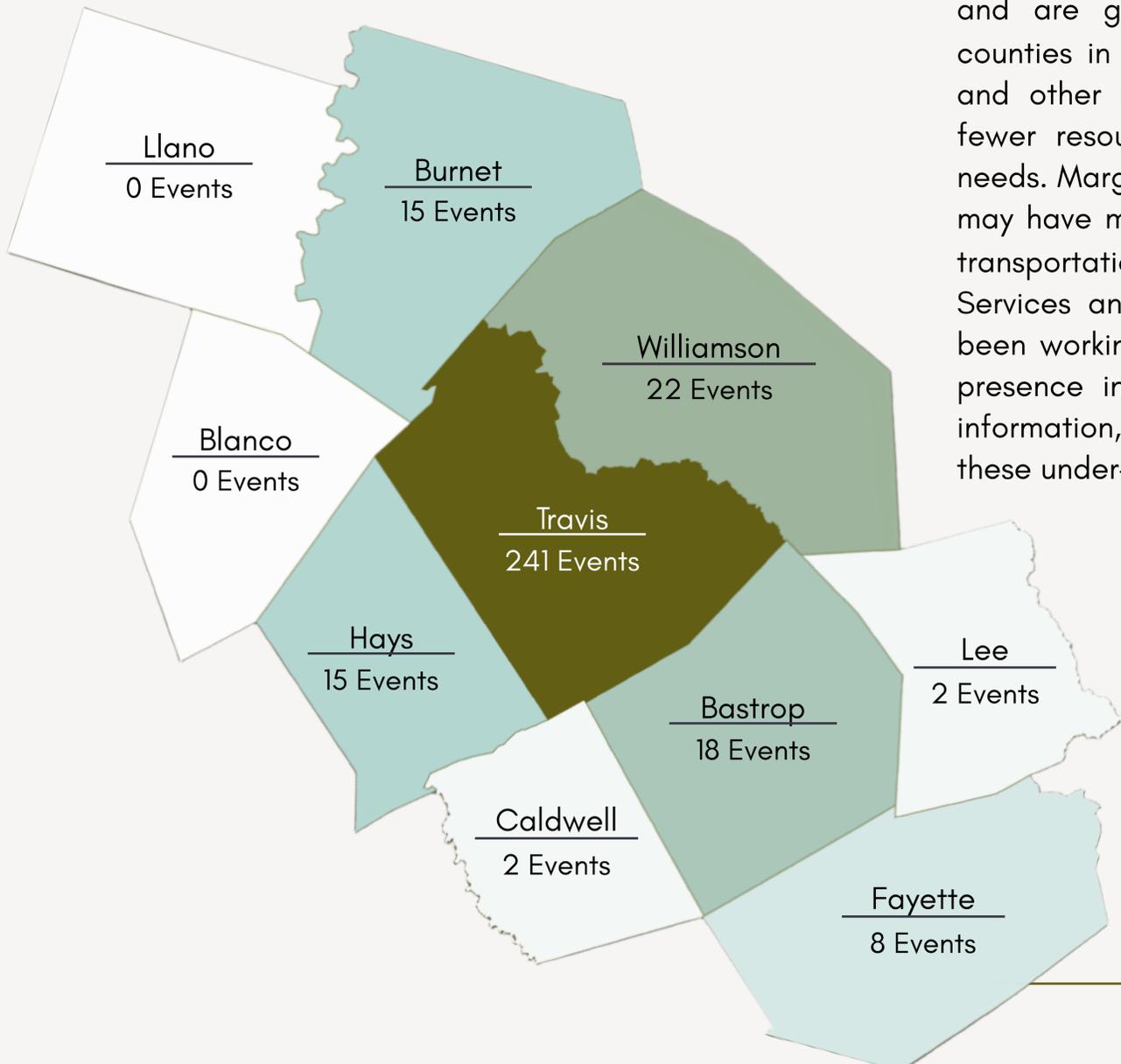
In 2025,
we reached

10,089

Community Members

through all in-person
and virtual
events.

2025 Outreach Events by County



AFSSA's service area encompasses 10 counties in Central Texas. These counties are very diverse, and are growing rapidly. Many of the rural counties in Central Texas have increasing Asian and other minority populations, but they have fewer resources to address these populations' needs. Marginalized communities in rural counties may have more trouble accessing interpretation, transportation, or other social services. Our Direct Services and Community Outreach teams have been working over several years to increase our presence in rural counties, providing outreach, information, and language accessible support in these under-resourced areas.

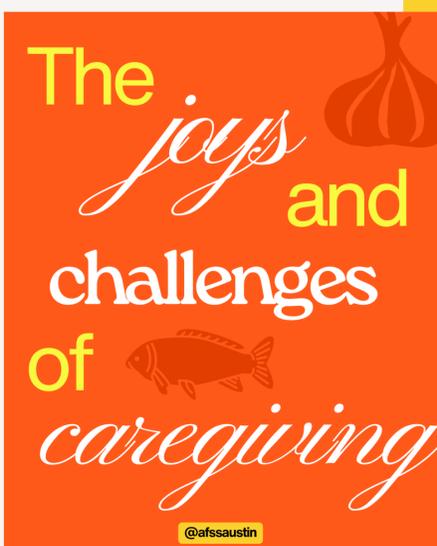
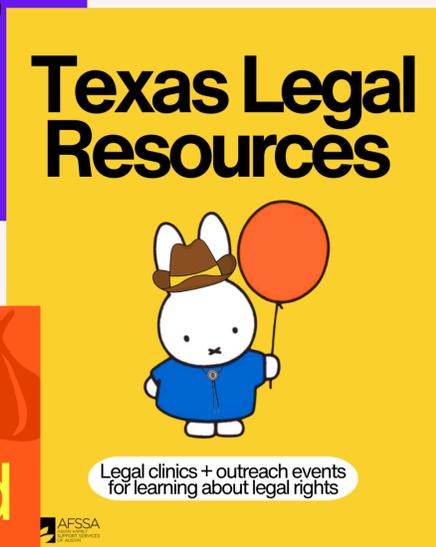
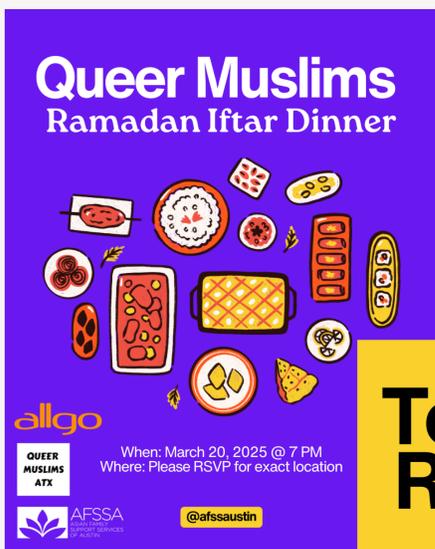
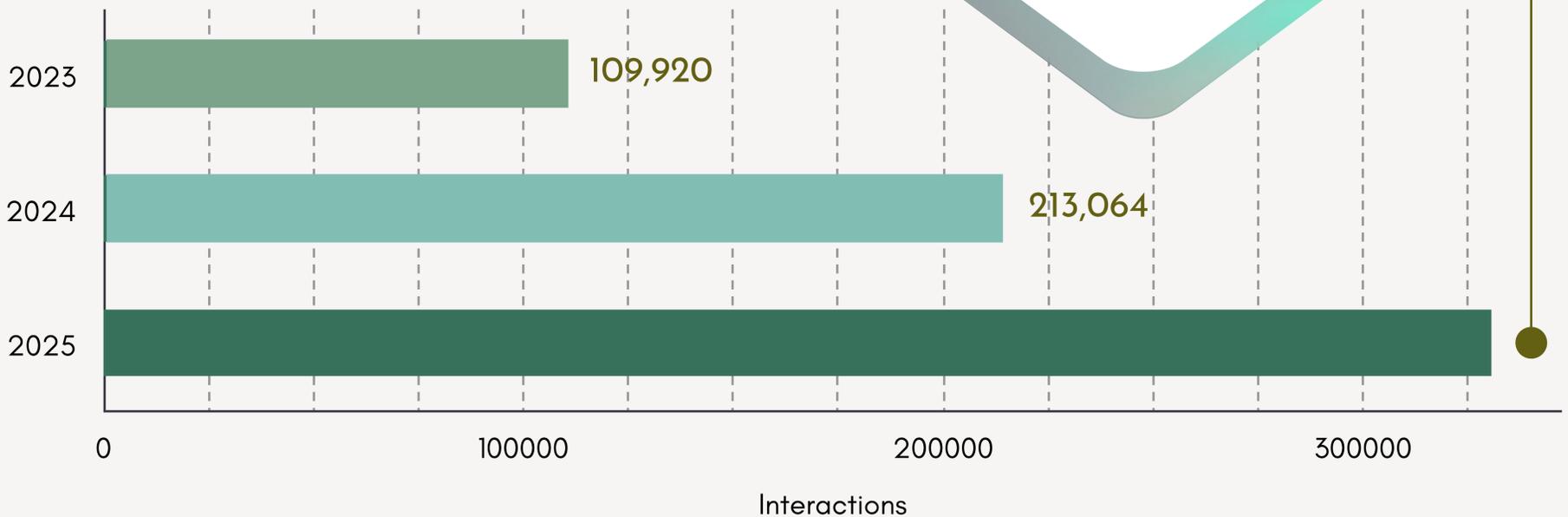


AFSSA staff presenting in Fayette County at the BRIDGE Mental Health Youth Conference Series to talk about boundaries and consent.

AFSSA's social media has a unique voice and aims to address the issues, barriers, and successes unique to the pan-Asian community we serve. Our content is current, educational, engaging, trauma-informed, and can serve as a powerful tool to help you start transformative conversations with your family, friends, and community.

We received **330,839** Interactions across Instagram and Facebook.

Social Media Interactions



You can find the AFSSA Community Education, Outreach, and Prevention team at events all year round. Our community education advocates are happy to share more about AFSSA's services, the resources we have available, ways to get involved with our work, and tips for addressing issues like consent, boundaries, and healthy relationships with your family or community.

To keep up with our events, check out the following resources:

- 
On the web
www.afssaustin.org/events
- 
Instagram
[@AFSSAAustin](https://www.instagram.com/AFSSAAustin)
- 
Facebook
www.facebook.com/AFSSAAustin
- 
LinkedIn
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/asian-family-support-services/>

Our Impact

Systems Advocacy

AFSSA's Systems Advocacy and Training Team exists because our work is rooted in the belief that all survivors deserve safety and support, both within their communities and when they interact with public systems. Supporting Asian and immigrant survivors doesn't stop at direct services. Survivors often interact with many systems, such as law enforcement, courts, and healthcare systems, especially during moments of crisis. How those systems respond can make a real difference in whether survivors feel safe, heard, and supported.

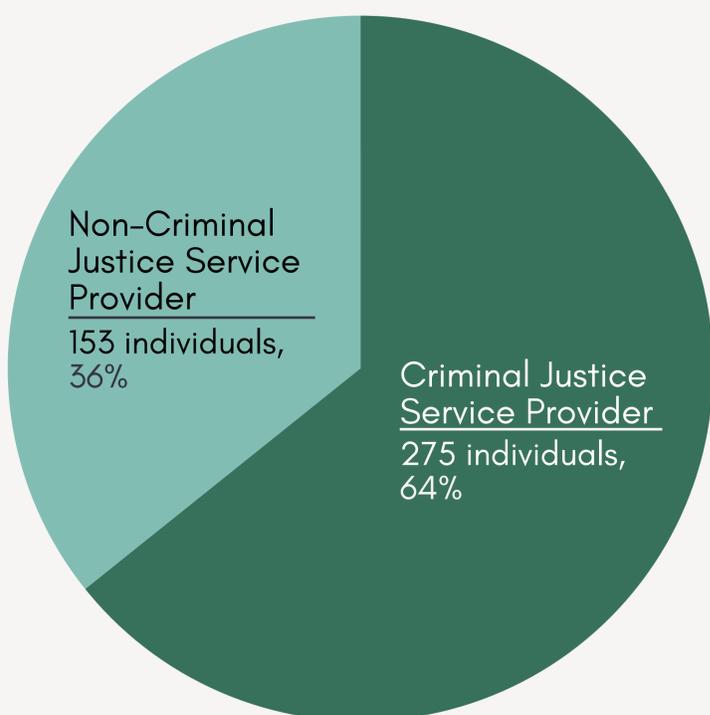
Asian and immigrant survivors may face unique barriers when navigating through various systems. Language barriers, cultural differences, and unfamiliar legal processes can make already difficult situations even more stressful. These barriers can delay access to protection, discourage continued engagement, or result in outcomes that do not reflect survivors' needs or choices.



AFSSA Staff at a training with judges in Travis County.

Through Systems Advocacy and Training, AFSSA helps build stronger partnerships between communities and the systems that serve them. We continue to work to expand the team's work into all 10 counties we serve, including the rural communities. Through education, partnership, and advocacy, AFSSA supports a justice response that is more informed, more equitable, and better able to uphold survivor safety and autonomy. Systems Advocacy and Training is not an add-on to our mission; it is essential to ensure that survivors are believed, protected, and empowered at every point of contact.

Service Providers Trained



Systems Advocacy Events



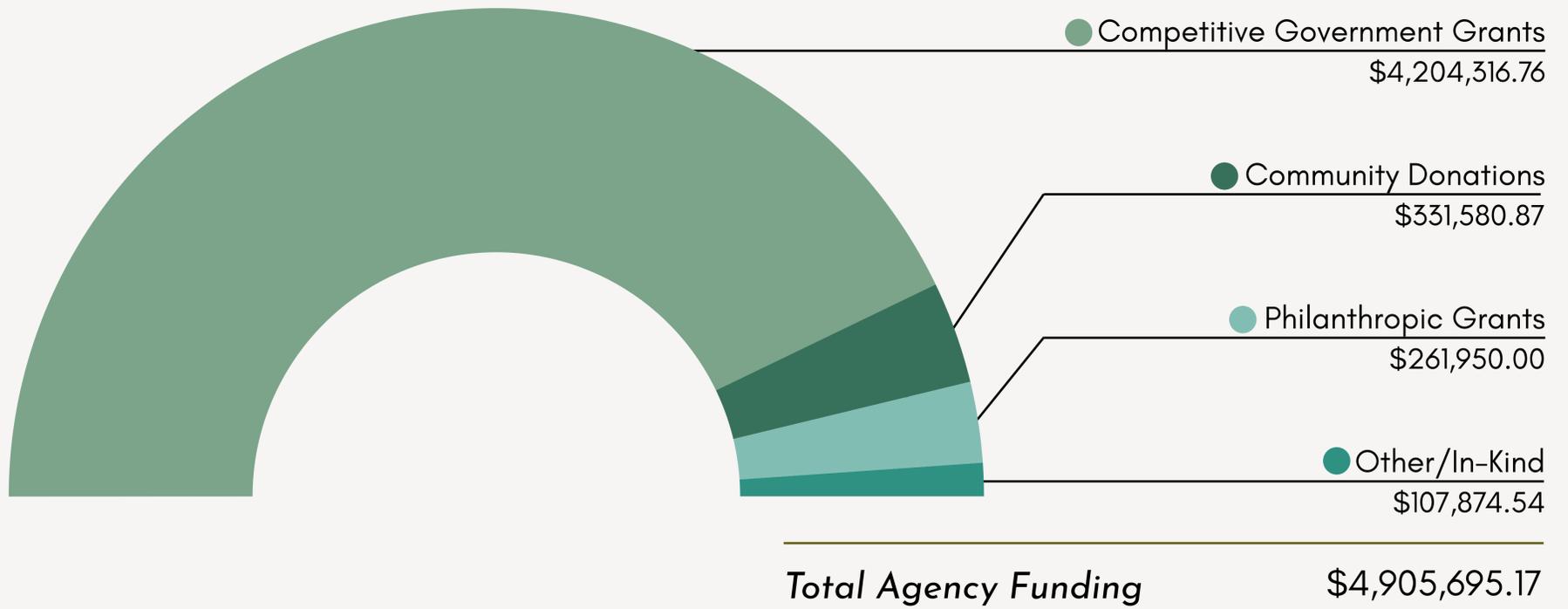
Professional Training and
Technical Assistance
41 Events

In 2025, we presented trainings to **6 police departments, 6 legal organizations, 6 Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs), 2 child advocacy organizations, and 1 healthcare provider.** Presentations were given on the following topics:

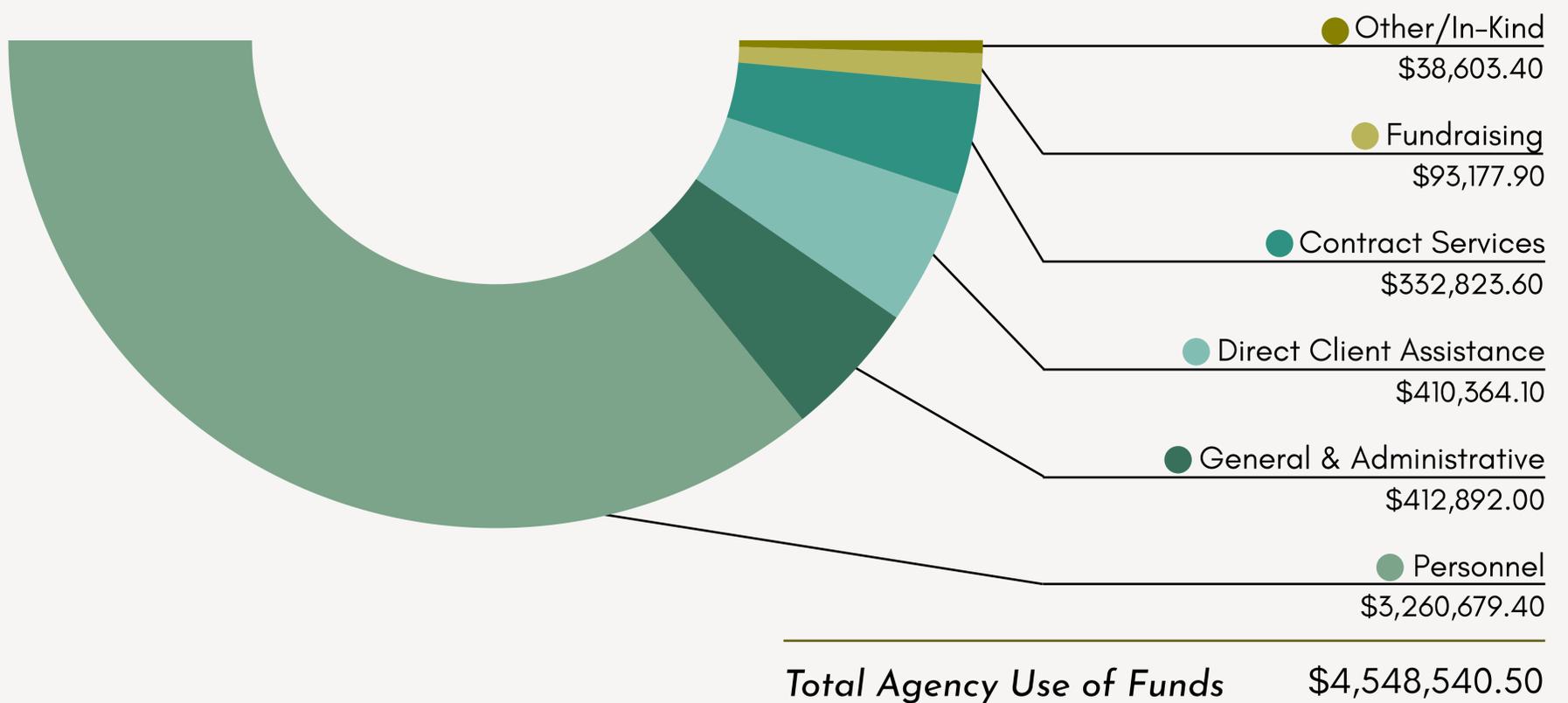
- Working with interpreters,
- Understanding trauma-informed care and cultural humility,
- Language access,
- Stalking awareness and intervention,
- Improving coordination between community-based organizations and the justice system.

Financial Statements

Funding Sources*



Use of Funds*



Financial Summary and Balance Sheet*

Revenue and Other Support	Competitive Government Service Contracts	\$4,204,317.76
	Other Revenue	\$701,378.41
Total Revenue		\$4,905,695.17
Expenses	Direct Program Expenses	\$4,093,686.00
	Support Services (Administrative and Development)	\$454,854.00
Total Expenses		\$4,548,540.00
Net Revenue		\$357,155.17

Total Assets	Total Liabilities	Net Assets
\$4,536,651	\$253,260	\$4,283,391

*All financial statement numbers are unaudited. Reported data is from the 2025 fiscal year, January 1 to December 31.

Thank You to Our Community

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our incredible Board of Directors, whose leadership is a boon for our whole community, as well as to our generous donors at all levels, without whose support we could not continue to do this life-saving work.

Thank you to all the individuals, foundations, community partners, and volunteers who generously supported us in 2025 with their time, contributions, and passion.

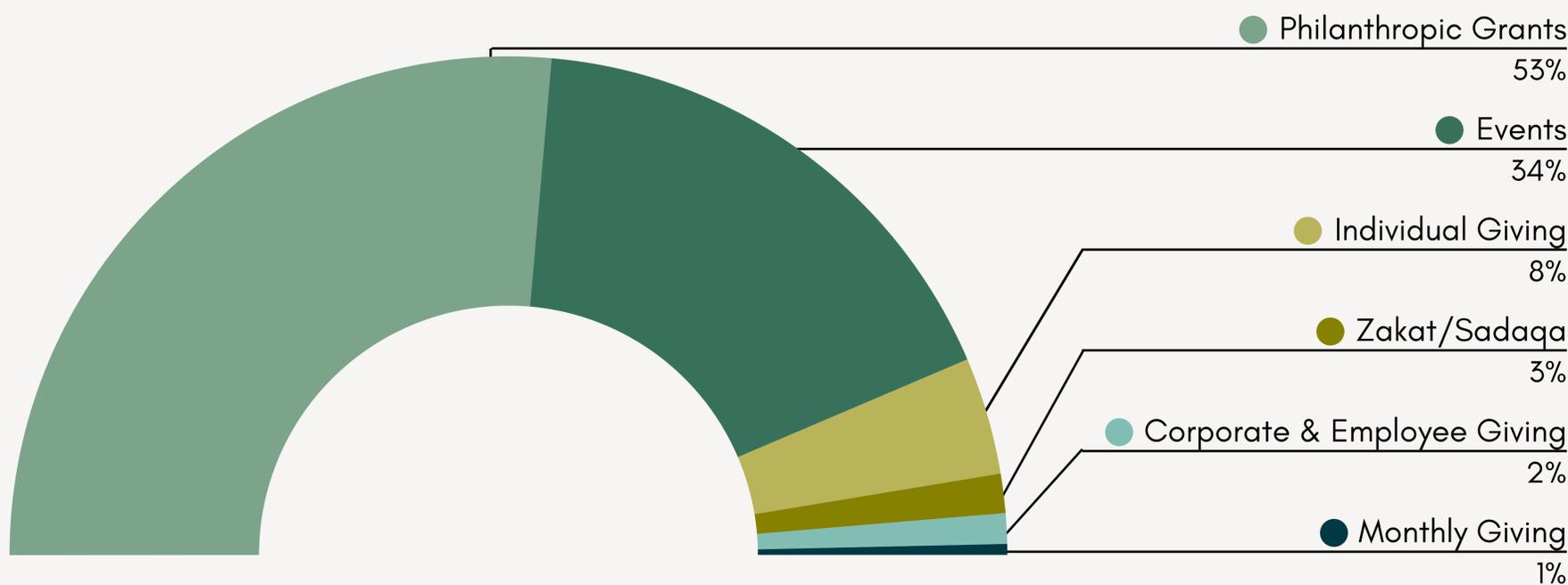
2026 Board of Directors

- Kirtana Banskota**, President
- Lily Huang**, President Elect
- Sandy Eapen**, Secretary · **Adrián Rizo**, Treasurer
- Neeta Ganguly** · **Justin Ong**



2026 AFSSA Board of Directors and Executive Team.

Means of Community Support



Champions, Partners, Community Builders, and Sustainers

Champion (\$100,000+)

- Anonymous Family Foundation
- St. David's Foundation
- WoodNext Foundation

Impact Partner (\$20,000 - \$99,999)

- Austin Community Foundation
- David Layton
- Cinematography
- Shetal and Ashish Gupta
- H-E-B
- Lever for Change

Community Builder (\$10,000 - \$19,999)

- ATX 12
- Ronald Cheng
- Chinatown
- Donald D. Hammill Foundation
- eBay, Inc.
- Lola Wright Foundation

- Sherry Melecki
- Mamata and Jayadev Misra
- The Tang-Ress Family

Sustainer (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

- Vandana & Harish Agarawal
- Alice Kleberg Reynolds Meyer Foundation
- Jamie Amelio
- Amplify Credit Union
- Zeena Angadicheril & Jerry Philips
- APD Victim Services
- Michelle Arishita
- Kirtana Banskota
- Katie Bombra
- The Brotsma Family
- Buddha's Light International Association - Austin
- Savy Buoy
- Elizabeth Chao
- Ashley Cheng
- Sandy Eapen

- Shantanu & Neeta Ganguly
- Greenberg Traurig
- Veena Gondhalekar
- Suchitra Gururaj
- Lily Huang
- Islamic Center of Brushy Creek
- Islamic Center of Greater Austin
- Islamic Center of Greater Austin - Nueces Mosque
- Joyful Heart Foundation
- JP's Peace, Love, Happiness Foundation
- Pooja Kumar
- Anita Lakshman
- Tim Lin
- Aquilla Moosani
- Liane and Mark Noble
- Justin Ong
- Poonam and Chirag Patel
- Arvind Raman & Tracy Thottam
- Adrián Rizo
- Vicki Roberts
- Tarka Indian Kitchen
- Jocelyn & Andy Tau

- Texas Bar Foundation
- Lesley Varghese & Dr. Harry Thomas
- Vinson & Elkins
- David & Rachel Wyatt

2025 Impact Report



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AFSSA
ASIAN FAMILY
SUPPORT SERVICES
OF AUSTIN

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